Newsletter

A NOTE FROM THE IT STAR COORDINATOR

In April 2000 I was invited by the President of the Slovenian Society "Informatika" (SSI) to their annual conference in Portoroz to address the participants on behalf of IFIP. During that conference Mr. Schlamberger and I spent some time to consider ways to encourage regional cooperation in the IT field. The President offered to host a meeting during next year's conference of SSI and I agreed to communicate with IFIP's members in the region and to help coordinate such an initiative.

The 2001 meeting was convened in Portoroz under the auspices of IFIP with the participation of representatives from Austria, Italy, Hungary, Slovenia and IFIP. The meeting adopted a Statement to establish an IT STAnding Regional (IT STAR) Committee. In September 2001, during the IFIP General Assembly in Brazil, some of the founding participants met to prepare an action plan intended to be considered and adopted during a forthcoming IT STAR meeting on 21 September in Como, Italy.

IT STAR meets during IFIP GA in Natal, Brazil

The Como meeting was organized during the Annual AICA conference and the IT STAR Committee agreed to proceed with the establishment of a web site and a Newsletter.

Soon after, the web-site was up and running at http://www.ifip.or.at/it-star and it provides links, documents and minutes of IT STAR meetings. The Newsletter is conceived as a biannual on-line publication with contributions from IT STAR member societies.

This is the first issue of the Newsletter with presentations of IT STAR member societies. We realize that there is much to be desired with respect to style and language but we remain enthusiastic. It is a new beginning and the editorial board and the societies supporting this initiative hope to acquire the skills and the experience as the project continues.

Plamen Nedkov

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Hungary, B. Domolki, Past-President, NJSZT
Italy, G. Occhini, President, AICA
Slovakia, I. Privara, President, SSCS
Slovenia, N. Schlamberger, President, SSI

Contents:
This issue contains presentations of the following national member societies:

IT STAR member societies are encouraged to print in hard copy and to distribute among their membership.

AUSTRIA
Austrian Computer Society (OCG)
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A-1010 VIENNA, Austria
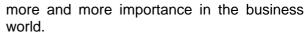Tel. +43 1 512 0235
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The Austrian Computer Society (OCG) provides a forum for the promotion of information technology and sustains a unique network of experts from Austria's IT economy, research and education. Among the OCG members you will find Austria's IT university elite as well as young talents, established IT companies and start-ups, important federations and interest groups. The OCG, a non-profit organization, maintains intensive contacts with international federations and groups and it represents the interests of its members.

The OCG programs take into account the sociopolitical initiative AT 21 - 'AT' for Austria and '21' for the 21st century.

OCG Initiatives:

- AT21 – OCG's IT-initiative for the 21st century: AT 21 comprises measures to enhance Austria's competitiveness as an information technology country; education and further training, encouraging the gifted, women and IT, marketing strategies for IT studies and IT-oriented study programs, event forums for the IT economy and education initiatives for school children.
- IA –Informatics Academy of the OCG: The Informatics Academy strives to provide top level further education programs in information technology for key players, computing experts and management staff from the economy, the industry and the public sector.
- Forum e-Government: With the Forum e-Gov the Austrian Computer Society promotes the introduction and implementation of new concepts of e-government and e-democracy in Austria.
- ECDL® and ECDL® ADVANCED: The European IT certificates for users. The European Computer Driving License - ECDL® is the only independent and standardized IT certificate recognized throughout Europe that shows basic knowledge and practical computer skills. That makes it a proof of know-how that is gaining

more and more importance in the business world.
- tec – Tomorrow's Experts in Computing: tec is a university program for interested and gifted students from the age of 14.
- it4u – further education data base on the web: it4u is an internet based information system about possibilities for IT education and continuous training in Austria.
- Ambassador-Program: Vocational and study information for school children. It is a program for visits and lectures by representatives of established IT companies in schools and is organized on the whole territory of Austria.
- e-table: The OCG event forum for the IT economy. The forum e-table aims at providing 'to-the-point' IT information and is a new event program of the OCG.
- Further education for teachers: In co-operation with the pedagogical institutes and academies, the OCG endeavors to offer inexpensive further education training in informatics for teachers.
- IT4her – IT-career initiative for girls and women: IT4her targets girls and women to inform them comprehensively about the IT-sector and their wide range of professional opportunities in order to counteract any possible entrance barriers.
- Publications under 'books@ocg.at': The OCG publishes books in the series 'books@ocg.at' (see: http://books.ocg.at)

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Founded in 1968 NJSZT currently has a membership of 2500 individual and 200 corporate members. Its objectives are to study and promote computer technology, to disseminate information and to popularize practical applications and results, to promote the role of the profession, to assist lifelong education of computer professionals and to represent the professional interests of the computer community.

Who is the NJSZT eponym?

Neumann János was born in 1903 in Budapest, he received his secondary education in the capital of Hungary. In 1925 he obtained his degree in chemistry from Zurich University and in 1926 graduated at Budapest University as a mathematician. By 1930, when he arrived at Princeton University (USA) he was already recognized as one of the outstanding mathematicians of this century. From then on he called himself John von Neumann. Participating in the design work on ENIAC he made essential contributions to the theory and architecture of computers. John von Neumann died in 1957 in Washington.

NJSZT is a scientific organization with an important national role in the area of "computer literacy". NJSZT supports the activities of leading personalities and companies of the industry by organizing conferences aiming to promote the exchange of experience and information among computer professionals. It was through the initiative taken by the Society that the first Copyright Act, protecting also software authors, was passed in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. NJSZT initiated a law on data base security. Furthermore, a Code of Ethics of the Society is binding for its membership. The computer education of young people is particularly important to NJSZT. There are regional branches of the Society in 19 counties and six major townships in Hungary.
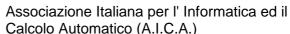
The premium Hungarian conference in informatics is the Neumann Congress, held every 3rd year. A number of other conferences are organized periodically such as "Computer Technology in Medical Sciences" since '69, CON (a joint Austrian-Hungarian event) since '84, Governmental and Municipal Information Systems '87 & '91, Networkshop since '91, International Olympiad on Informatics '96, European Conference on Artificial Intelligence '96, XVth IFIP World Computer Congress' 88 (Vienna-Budapest) and other. The XVIIth International Congress for Medical Informatics 25-29 August '02. (http://www.mie2002.hu/) and the IXth Neumann Congress and centenary celebration of John von Neumann's birth (October '03) are major forthcoming events.

The Society represents Hungary in a number of international organizations of high prestige, among them IFIP, CEPIS, the European Federation for Medical Informatics, the International Association for Pattern Recognition, the European Coordinating Committee for Artificial Intelligence, IEEE, IEEE CS and ECDL Foundation. A well-sustained close cooperation with ÖCG is pursued since 1984.

Hungary is the first Eastern European country to join the international ECDL. NJSZT is responsible for introducing and operating the ECDL and is the exclusive owner of all rights related to ECDL in Hungary. There are more than 170 accredited Test Centers. Hungary also has accredited Test Centers in neighboring countries such as Romania, Slovakia, Yugoslavia and Ukraine.

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AICA is the Italian association operating in the field of computing and communications, covering all ICT areas, from theoretical foundations to practical applications. Established in 1961, the Association currently has over 1500 members from among Academia, manufacturing companies, software houses, users and students. AICA is governed by a Council elected by its members and comprises 5 territorial sections and a variable number of working groups that address specific areas or problems in the computing field.

As an IFIP member society, AICA has been contributing to IFIP's programs by circulating information on its activities, by promoting the participation of Italian experts in IFIP's technical committees and working groups and by supporting various activities. Italian representatives are present in all but one of the TCs and there are over ninety Italian experts in the various working groups. Together with societies of some neighboring countries AICA is also participating in a regional IFIP project aimed at the development of common initiatives.

AICA has been involved, as the Italian corresponding association in CEPIS, in the dissemination of the European Computing Driving License (ECDL). This initiative supported by the European Community aims at spreading

computer literacy in all sectors of society. At present, there are over 2000 test centers in Italy, half of them in high schools and universities. 40,000 diplomas and 190,000 skill cards have been issued. AICA has developed an on-line test system, named ALICE, that is finding very good acceptance. An AICA task force continues working with members of other European associations on Advanced ECDL and on EPICS, the certification program for computer professionals.

Since 1970 AICA publishes "Rivista di Informatica" with papers of general interest written in Italian or English. Currently, the magazine appears three times a year, and a specific committee is charged with the job of rethinking the role of the magazine. A brand new format of the magazine will appear in the second quarter of 2002.

AICA internal news, book reviews, product announcements and forthcoming events together with a section on world news are published on-line in "Notiziario AICA" monthly, except in August. The Notiziario is available via the AICA web site.

Each autumn, AICA organizes a 3-days National Conference, focused on specific topics. The theme of the 2000 conference was "Internet and its implications on our lives" and in 2001 the theme was "Technologies, innovation and society". The 2001 event was held in Como from the 19 to 21 September. The 2002 edition will take place in Bari and will be dedicated to the ICT impact on globalization and localism.

AICA and its territorial sections and working groups also organize smaller events and workshops.

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The Slovak Society for Computer Science (SSCS) was founded in 1993 after the split of the Czecho-Slovak Society for Computer Science. Its members come from academia and industry. SSCS represents the Slovak informatics community in international associations such as IFIP and CEPIS and maintains contacts with similarly

oriented foreign professional societies. It organizes many international conferences, symposia and seminars and is one of the co-publishers of the scientific journal „Computing and Informatics". SSCS is involved in the initiative for preparing a national policy and strategy of the Information Society (including the eEurope+ program), the Slovak e-signature legislation, the ECDL program and other projects. A significant part of the SSCS's activities are organized by special interest groups on Computer Graphics, Education in Informatics, Information Security, Theoretical Computer Science and Neural Networks.

SSCS Events
ADBIS 2002 -
http://www.dcs.elf.stuba.sk/adbis2002
The main objective of the ADBIS (Advances in Databases and Information Systems) series of conferences is to provide a forum for the dissemination of research results and to promote the exchange between the database and information systems research communities in Central and East Europe and the rest of the world. The 6th ADBIS conference will be held on 8 - 11 September 2002 in Bratislava, Slovakia. It is organized in co-operation with the Moscow ACM SIGMOD Chapter and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, Slovak University of Technology Bratislava. Conference proceedings will be published in the LNCS series of the Springer Verlag.

SSCG 2002 - http://www.isternet.sk/sccg
The conference will be held in Budmerice Castle, Slovak Republic (about 30 km from Bratislava) on April 24 – 27 April 2002 during the COFAX Exhibition. This event is the oldest regular annual meeting of the computer graphics (CG) community in Central Europe. The spring conference aims to cover an array of issues in computer graphics, image processing and their applications. SCCG brings together leading experts and young researchers in CG and provides a forum good for an East-West exchange of ideas.

SOFSEM – http://www.sofsem.cz/
SOFtware SEMinar is an annual international computer science and computer engineering conference of general and multidisciplinary nature. It originates in the former Czechoslovakia. The first conference was organized in 1974 and now it has some distinctive characteristics. It is a combination of a winter school and a conference consisting of a series of invited talks, contributed talks and poster sessions and is held at reaso-

nably remote and picturesque sites in Bohemia or Slovakia. Since 1991 the official language of the seminar is English and since 1995 the SOFSEM Proceedings are published in the Springer Verlag LNCS series. The 29th SOFSEM 2002 conference will be held in the Czech Republic.

Activities for students

- Correspondence Seminar in Programming for secondary school students, organized since 1983 (http://www.ksp.sk/ksp/english/)
- Slovak National Olympiad in Informatics (http://www.ksp.sk/mop/english/)
- Programming with Cofax, a competition since 1992 (http://www.edi.fmph.uniba.sk/cofax/)
- World Wide Problem Solving Contest (http://ipsc.ksp.sk/)
- Participation in ACM Programming Contest (http://icpc.baylor.edu/icpc/) and IEEE CS Design Competition (http://www.computer.org/csidc/)

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The Slovenian Society INFORMATIKA (SSI) is a non-profit society of individuals who work in various areas of information technology and information sciences -- in business, universities and administration -- and who, among other concerns, care to exchange their experience and make it publicly available. Its membership consists of individual members only. The SSI officers are the president, the honorary president and two vice-presidents. An elected Executive Board manages the society and as of October 1997 there is also an Advisory Board whose members are selected from among respectable professionals and chaired by a member of the Executive Board. The members of the Advisory Board represent the major Slovenian users and providers of information technology goods and services. In 1999 a code of professional ethics was elaborated and adopted by an extraordinary general assembly. The Society has three charters: for operational research, for information systems research and for language.

SSI was established in 1976. In December 2001 it had just over 500 members including honorary members. The membership is not limited to Slovenian citizenship.

SSI maintains regular and special publications. The regular ones are a quarterly professional journal "Uporabna informatika" (Applied Informatics) in Slovenian [the Slovenian translation of The Bangemann Report was published here], and a scientific periodical "Informatica" in English. There are special publications of conference proceedings of and special journal issues.

The principal SSI event is the annual conference "Dnevi slovenske informatike" (The Days of Slovenian Informatics) which has the reputation of the most comprehensive event of the year in the field of information sciences in Slovenia. It is a national conference with international participation and every year notable domestic and foreign guest speakers are invited. The 2002 conference is scheduled to take place in Portoroz during the period 17 – 19 April. There will be a special international session with contributions from IT-STAR member countries. A regular IT-STAR committee meeting is also planned.

The Charter of Operational Research holds an international bi-annual conference, the last one having been organized in 2000.

The Society is a member of IFIP and is represented in all IFIP technical committees. It is also a member of CEPIS since 1998 and a member of the ECDL Foundation since 2000. In 2001, jointly with the Researchers' Association of Slovenia, it co-founded the Slovenian Forum for the Information Society to provide independent views on IT related issues.

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Future IT STAR meetings
17-19 April 2002   Portoroz, Slovenia
November 2002   Bratislava, Slovakia
October   2003   Budapest, Hungary

IFIP Calendar of Events 2002

A regularly updated calendar is available at **http://www.ifip.or.at/cal_even.htm**

Event	Date	Location	Contact
IFIP/IIASA Workshop on Dynamic Stochastic Optimization	11-14.3.2002	Laxenburg, AT	http://www.unibw-muenchen.de/campus/LRT/LRT1/ frame/professur1/WS_2/workshop.html
14th Intl.Conf.on Testing of Communicating Systems	19-22.3.2002	Berlin, DE	http://www.fokus.gmd.de/events/testcom2002
Work.Conf.on Formal Methods for Open Object-Based Distr. Syst.	20-22.3.2002	Enschede, NL	http://trese.cs.utwente.nl/conferences/fmoods2002/index.html
Intl.Conf.on Architecture of Computing Systems: Trends in Network and Pervasive Computing	8-11.4.2002	Karlsruhe, DE	http://www.uni-karlsruhe.de/~arcs02
7th Conf.on Intelligence in Networks	8-10.4.2002	Saariselka, FI	http://www.lut.fi/~jhyvarin/Smartnet2002.htm
Conf.on Network Operations and Management	15-19.4.2002	Florence, IT	http://www.noms.org/2002/
7th Intl.Workshop on Protocols for High-Speed Networks	22-24.4.2002	Berlin, DE	http://www.fokus.gmd.de/research/cc/glone/pfhsn2002/
Intl.Conf.on Enterprise Integration Modell.Techn.	24-26.4.2002	Valencia, ES	kosanke@cimosa.de, Fax: +49 7031 276698
OIKOS 2002	28-30.4.2002	Irvine, CA, US	avenkate@uci.edu, Fax: +1 9498248091
3rd IFIP Work.Conf.on Infrastr.f.Virtual Enterprises	2-3.5.2002	Sesimbra, PT	http://www.uninova.pt/~prove
10th Intl.Symp.on Hardware/Software Codesign	6-8.5.2002	Estes Park, US	http://www.ece.uci.edu/~codes/
Conf.on Security Visions and Persp.in the Bright Age of Inf.Soc.	7-9.5.2002	Cairo, EG	http://www.sec2002.eun.eg
11th Intl. World Wide Web Conference	7-11.5.2002	Honolulu, HI, US	http://www2002.org/
Intl.Workshop on Entertainment Computing	14-17.5.2002	Chiba, JP	http://www.graphic.esys.tsukuba.ac.jp/iwec2002/
Intl.Conf.on Nonlinear Problems in Aviation & Aerosp.	15-17.5.2002	Melbourne, FL,US	http://www.ICNPAA.com
24th Intl.Conf.on Software Engineering	19-25.5.2002	Buenos Aires, AR	http://www.icse-conferences.org/2002/index.html
Networking 2002	21-23.5.2002	Pisa, IT	http://www.cnuce.pi.cnr.it/Networking2002
3rd Workshop on Knowledge Mgmt.in Electron.Governm.	23-24.5.2002	Copenhagen, DK	http://falcon.ifs.uni-linz.ac.at/KMGov2002/
IFIP WG9.4 Work.Conf.on ICTs and Socio-economic Development: Balancing global and local priorities	29-31.5.2002	Bangalore, IN	http://is.lse.ac.uk/ifipwg94/Conference2002/first_call.htm
IFIP WG2.6 Work.Conf.on Visual Database Systems	29-31.5.2002	Brisbane, AU	http://www.csee.uq.edu.au/~vdb6/
1st IFIP/ACM Work.Conf.on Component Deployment	20-21.6.2002	Berlin, DE	http://swt.cs.tu-berlin.de/cd02/
Intl.Conf.on Dependable Systems and Networks	23-26.6.2002	Washington D.C. US	http://www.dsn.org
Work.Conf.on Learning with Techn.in School, Home & Community	1-5.7.2002	Manchester, GB	http://www.did.stu.mmu.ac.uk/conference/ conferences.shtml
Intl.Conf.on Decision Making and Decision Supp.in the Internet Age	4-7.7.2002	Cork, IE	http://afis.ucc.ie/dsiage2002/
Work.Conf.on Generic Programming	8-10.7.2002	Dagstuhl, DE	http://www.generic-programming.nl/wcgp/index.html
IFIP WG3.2 Work.Conf.on Informatics Curricula, Teaching Methods and Best Practice	10-12.7.2002	Florianopolis, BR	http://www.inf.ufsc.br/ifip2002/
Conf.on Social, Ethical and Cognitive Issues of Informatics and ICT	22-26.7.2002	Dortmund, DE	http://seciii.cs.uni-dortmund.de
16th WG11.3 Work.Conf.on Database Security	29-31.7.2002	Cambridge, GB	km@cl.cam.ac.uk, Fax: +44 1223334678
5th IFIP Work.Conf.on Information Techn.in Educational Mgmt.	18-22.8.2002	Helsinki, FI	http://ifip-item.hkbu.edu.hk/itemcallforpaper2002.html
IFIP Congress 2002 - 17th World Computer Congress	25-30.8.2002	Montreal, CA	contact-wcc2002@cips.ca, http://www.wcc2002.org
Euro-Par 2002	27-30.8.2002	Paderborn, DE	http://europar.upb.de
Symposium on Integrated Circuits and System Design	9-14.9.2002	Porto Alegre, BR	http://www.sbc.org.br/sbcci
Conf.on Formal Techniques in Real-Time and Fault-Tolerant Systems	9-12.9.2002	Oldenburg, DE	http://www.informatik.uni-oldenburg.de/ftrtft02/
Conf.on Analysis and Optimization of Differential Syst.	9-14.9.2002	Constanza, RO	oltiba@imar.ro
World Telecommunications Congress 2002	22-27.9.2002	Paris, FR	http://www.wtc2002.org/
5th IEEE/IFIP Intl.Conf.on Inf.Technology for Balanced Automation Systems in Manufacturing and Services	25-27.9.2002	Cancun, MX	marik@labe.felk.cvut.cz, Fax: +420 2 24357224
Work.Conf.on Communication and Multimedia Security 2002	26-27.9.2002	Portoroz, SI	http://www.setcce.org/cms2002/
5th Intl.Conf.on Management of Multimedia Networks and Services	6-9.10.2002	Sta.Barbara, US	http://www.cs.ucsb.edu/conferences/MMNS02/
2nd IFIP Conf.on E-Commerce, E-Business and E-Gov.	7-9.10.2002	Lisbon, PT	lavt@civil.ist.uti.pt, Fax: +351 218409884
Workshop on Internet Technologies, Applications and Societal Impact	10-11.10.2002	Wroclaw, PL	http://www.ists.pwr.wroc.pl/witasi/
6th Intl.Symposium on Communications Interworking	13-16.10.2002	Perth, AU	http://www.ee.uwa.edu.au/~ifip2002/
Intl.Conf.on Personal Wireless Communications	23-25.10.2002	Singapore, SG	http://www.cwc.nus.edu.sg/pwc2002/
Asia-Pacific Conf. on Computer-Human Interaction	1-4.11.2002	Beijing, CN	guozhong@admin.iscas.ac.cn, Fax: +86 1062562533
Work.Conf.on Global and Organizational Discourse about Information Technology	12-14.12.2002	Barcelona, ES	http://is.lse.ac.uk/staff/whitley/resources/discourse/