



Springtime Awakening

Please have another glance at the photo above. This is a travelling open-air exhibit of friendly bears, each representing a country of our World. It's springtime awakening and if you listen hard you might hear Winnie the Pooh saying, "You can't stay in your corner of the Forest waiting for others to come to you. You have to go to them sometimes."

This Spring issue comes to you with the following leading stories:

- CEN/ISSS Workshop on ICT Skills
- CER-10, the first digital electronic computer built in ex-Yugoslavia
- European Commission President receives the 9 millionth ECDL Skills Card
- New IT STAR book on National IS
- John V. Atanasoff IEEE Medal

The Second announcement with a call and program for IT STAR's WS on ICT Skills, Education and Certification, 27-28 November 2009 in Rome is also there. We have a new column on MultiCulti in the CESE region, which we intend to develop in future.

Take the Journey,

Plamen Nedkov

IT STAR representatives

Austria/OCG - V. Risak, **Bulgaria/BAS** - K. Boyanov, **Croatia/CITS** - M. Frkovic, **Czech Rep./CSKI** - J. Stul-ler, **Greece/GCS** - S. Katsikas, **Hungary/NJSZT** – B. Domolki, **Italy/AICA** – G. Occhini, **Lithuania/LIKS** - E. Telešius, **Macedonia/MASIT** - P. Indovski, **Poland/PIPS** – M. Holynski, **Romania/ATIC** – V. Baltac, **Serbia/JISA** – D. Dukic, **Slovakia/SSCS**- I. Privara, **Slovenia/SSI** - N. Schlamberger

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People



Bruno Lamborghini

The Automobile industry is in a decline, but that does not affect Mr. **LAMBORGHINI**, who is in 7th gear as Chairman of the Advisory Board of the European IT Observatory (EITO) and President of AICA, the leading Italian ICT Association.

Bruno will be a keynote speaker at the forthcoming IT STAR event in Rome [see p. 16] and is candid to say:

"The issues of ICT-skills, education and certification are central to Europe's industrial competitiveness. I attended the last IT STAR WS on "Universities and the ICT Industry" in Genzano di Roma, in 2007, and have no doubt that the forthcoming event on ICT Skills, Education and Certification will be a milestone.

As President of AICA, I am pleased to extend a warm invitation to all wishing to contribute to the conference topics". ■

Joke of the Issue



D.Co. March'09 ■

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Ex officio: IT STAR MS representatives (see page 1)

EDITORIAL POLICY

This Newsletter maintains a world-class standard in providing researched material on ICT and Information Society activities from the perspective of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe (CESE) within a global context. It facilitates the information and communication flow within the region and internationally by supporting a recognized platform and networking media and thus enhancing the visibility and activities of the IT STAR Association.

The stakeholders whose interests this newspaper is addressing are

- IT STAR member societies and members
- ICT professionals, practitioners and institutions across the broad range of activities related to ICTs in government, business, academia and the public sector in general
- International organizations.

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Special arrangements for the production and circulation of the Newsletter could be negotiated.

The newsletter is circulated to leading CESE ICT societies and professionals, as well as to other societies and IT professionals internationally. Everyone interested in CESE developments and working in the ICT field is welcome to contribute with original material. Proposals for articles and material for the Newsletter should be sent two months before the publication date to editor@starbus.org. ■

ICT Skills

Setting European Standards on ICT Skills

by Paolo Schgör



Paolo Schgör is ECDL & EUCIP Certifications Manager at AICA and Chairman of the CEN/ISSS ICT Skills Workshop

Are standards desirable?

Although I'm chairing a workshop aiming at standardization, I admit that standards are not one of the most absorbing subjects: for instance, I do not perceive any intellectual satisfaction in discussing whether cars must keep at the right or at the left hand side of a road.

Moreover, some subjects are not fit at all for standardization: in a conference¹ organised by EMF-UNI Europa at the European Parliament last fall, some remarks were made about the importance of keeping diversity in humanistics; the mere idea of "one standard culture" would be awkward. When speaking of very practical and technical aspects, such as formats for digital contents, the discussion is usually not influenced by strong personal opinions, but there can be conflicts and pressures by lobbyists supporting specific interests. Nevertheless, it is important that some standards exist, and the fact that there are sometimes different (and irreconcilable) conventions about practical aspects of life and business is certainly an unpleasant inconvenience. Every traveler knows the frustration related to the absence of one global standard for electric power plugs; if you carry a laptop computer or any other mobile device, it is usually much easier to get connected to the Internet (by wired or wireless access protocols) than getting your device's battery recharged!

In this sense a standard cannot normally be judged to be "right" or "wrong" from a user's perspective; it can only be more or less widespread, and hence valuable. In other words, standards are a sensible way of simplifying issues. This applies to the definition of ICT skills too: a shared model to measure competences could bring huge benefits to all stakeholders, including education & training providers, employers, candidates and agencies for employment, freelance professionals, ICT associations, governmental and statistical institutions, and – not least – the ICT industry at large.

CEN/ISSS and its activities on ICT Skills

CEN is the European Committee for Standardization, and

the specific ISSS line of business focuses on an Information Society Standardization Structure.

CEN members are the national standards bodies of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

CEN describes itself as a business facilitator, removing trade barriers for European industry and consumers. Its mission is to foster the European economy in global trading, the welfare of European citizens and the environment. Through its services, it provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical specifications.

CEN's main products are the European Standards (ENs): each of the 30 Members must transpose the final text into national standards without deviation or alteration, and retain both the prefix EN and the identifying number in the national designation. Thus the number and technical content of the standard are exactly the same throughout Europe.

In addition to ENs, CEN produces:

- CEN TS – Technical Specifications – normative documents where the state-of-the-art is not yet stable enough.
- CEN TR – Technical Reports – for information and transfer of information.
- CWA – CEN Workshop Agreements – for consensual agreements in open workshops.

Within CEN/ISSS a stable workshop² is dedicated to ICT skills; it is managed with the support of the European Commission (DG Enterprise), Cedefop (the Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, a EU agency) and CEPIS. Since 2004, the CEN/ISSS ICT Skills Workshop involved several stakeholders, and reached consensus about some intermediate results:

1. The endorsement of the main outcomes generated by **Career Space**; this was a consortium created by some of the major ICT multinationals in early 2000's, when they had very serious problems in finding new graduates to hire; they specified 18 Generic Skills Profiles, both to describe the characteristics of some typical ICT jobs in an interesting way (so as to attract young people), and to drive the attention of universities to the most critical subjects that the ICT employers could hardly find in a graduate's preparation. A very practical approach led to a set of deliverables which are interesting in terms of ICT skills requirements (directly described from the demand side of the job market), yet poor in terms of scientific rigor; however, the results produced by this consortium were adopted and incorporated in CWA 14925 and CWA 15005.

¹ <http://www.emf-fem.org/Industrial-Sectors/ICT/Activities/EMF-UNI-Europa-ICT-conference>

² <http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/sectors/sectors/iss/actvity/wsict-skills.asp>

2. A document on an “ICT Skills Meta-Framework” (CWA 15515) recognizing the relevance of various national frameworks, namely SFIA in the UK, AITTS in Germany, and CIGREF Nomenclature in France.
3. Two more documents on a “European e-Competence Framework” (CWA 15893) defining a first sectoral view of the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

The Workshop achieved a significant amount of work so far. Its activities culminated in 2008 with a high degree of visibility and recognition of the most recent projects on the development of a European e-Competence Framework as well as on e-skills services and certifications. Workshop representatives were invited to present their work both at the European e-Skills 2008 Conference in Thessaloniki³ and at the previously mentioned conference organized by EMF-UNI Europa in the European Parliament. The European Commission's Vice-President Günter Verheugen mentioned the European e-Competence Framework during his introductory speech to the audience in Thessaloniki, stressing the relevance of CEN's work for EU e-skills policies. In addition to this support at EU level, the Workshop had interesting contacts with Japan and with international organizations such as ISO and IFIP, who are working on ICT skills standards at worldwide level.

The current workplan is quite dense: in the next few months, two new CWAs about “e-Certification”⁴ and “e-Services interoperability” are expected to be released. Moreover, two new projects are starting right now (March 2009):

- End User e-Skills Framework
- e-Competence Framework in Action

Is it worth participating?

The Workshop is open to all stakeholders, and various forms of participation are allowed, ranging from full membership (with associated voting rights), to free attendance to selected meetings and submission of remarks to the draft documents during the public consultation phase. At present, AICA is the only national computer society which decided to participate directly in the Workshop with a full membership status; CEPIS and the ECDL Foundation are full members as well.

In my humble opinion, the direct involvement of other national computer societies would be beneficial for several reasons. The new projects could pave the way towards a comprehensive standard on ICT skills, including both user skills and professional competences; the relevance of this subject to our mission is obvious. In a few years, all EU member states will have to define their National Qualifications Framework (NQF) in compliance with the EQF⁵;

3 <http://eskills.cedefop.europa.eu/conference2008/>

4 See article by John O'Sullivan in this issue of the IT STAR Newsletter

5 http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc44_en.htm

in particular, they could consider the opportunity to refer to the ECDL and EUCIP syllabi for ICT-related qualifications; this option would be reinforced by a preliminary study at European level and by a possible CWA. Moreover, in my personal view, it is almost a duty for our societies to contribute to such standardization process. The idea of establishing a European common ground for the definition of ICT professionalism and for the classification of related professional skills dates back to 1988. In that year, a 'historical' meeting in London set the basis both for the foundation of CEPIS and for the development of a European Informatics Skills Structure, EISS⁶, then published in May 1992 with the following subtitle: “A Set of Performance Standards Covering all Functional Areas of Work Carried out by Professionals in Informatics”.

European standards on ICT skills were therefore conceived by the same computer societies that were founding CEPIS: the need for an international standard was conditioned by expectations on the convergence of 12 independent states into the European Union in 1992.

International standardization efforts are fostered by the larger market space for ICT-skilled workers. This standardization process started in 1988 having in mind the EU, but the current globalization makes it much more urgent at worldwide level.

CEPIS's efforts were inspired and supported by parallel activities promoted by the British Computer Society (ISM, the Industry Structure Model, and SFIA, the Skills Framework for the Information Age)⁷. Each single project had (or still has) its own goals, but we can now interpret all of them as a continuous and coherent development activity both in a UK-centric view and at European level, with a strong involvement of experts from almost all European countries.

In particular, the EUCIP model synthesizes two decades of work done by CEPIS through internal task forces exploiting the expertise of a number of ICT professionals, university professors and managers of international certification programmes, who had in mind both the theory of informatics and the business view of ICT; many other parallel works that were taken into consideration, such as Career Space, APO/AITTS, CIGREF Nomenclature, just to mention a few. When defining EUCIP contents, the experts could draw from the ECDL/ICDL experience and from constant research on the ICT certification market.

6 CEPIS Task Force on Professional Qualifications and Development (led by the British Computer Society, 12 EU countries represented), European Informatics Skills Structure, CEPIS, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (1992)

7 A more detailed explanation is contained in my article published in the proceedings of the World Computer Congress 2008: Schgör, P., 2008, *The need for a standard qualification of ICT professional competences*, in IFIP International Federation for Information Processing, Volume 280: *E-Government; ICT Professionalism and Competences; Service Science*, (Boston, Springer), pp.123-132

The result is very *ICT specific, vendor independent* (though recognizing the value of industry certification), *business oriented*, and *practical-minded*, as competence requirements were specified having in mind how to test and certify them. EUCIP offers a comprehensive set of concepts (including a body of knowledge for the whole scenario of ICT professions) and tools for an effective management of the human capital.

In conclusion, the European Commission is willing to support the creation of new standards in the area of ICT skills: considering our mission, our experience and our assets (syllabi and skills measurement standards), it would be a real pity if our computer societies were not contributing enough to this praiseworthy effort.

A European Partnership for e-Certifications

by John O'Sullivan



John O'Sullivan is Managing Director of Thames Communications and a director of some related businesses. Formerly, he was Industrial Advisor Telecoms at the UK Department of Trade & Industry, Group IT Director at BT, and Personnel & Resources Director at British Aerospace Military Aircraft Ltd. He has spent the last 14 years working on UK and EU skills activities.

CEN, one of the official standards bodies for Europe, is leading this project on ICT certification, using its well-established CEN Workshop Agreement process to achieve consensus amongst all stakeholders. The Workshop is supported by IT STAR, CEPIS, IFIP, European Commission and many others including IT and user industry.

The project follows on from an earlier CEPIS project HARMONISE www.cepis-harmonise.org/harmonise which conducted substantial research on the topic. This current project seeks to achieve an agreed structural framework for e-certification in Europe.

The work started in March 2008, and runs to July 2009, so we are already well over half way. It was reported at the WCC in Milan in September last (as mentioned in the previous edition of this newsletter) and at I-PROF09 in Arnhem in February.



R. Bellini (IT) & P. Weiss (DE) – members of the project team

The landscape is different

The project has held focus groups in the three major markets of UK, Italy and Germany in order to establish an accurate picture of the certification landscape in those countries. It is already clear that that is quite different in different countries, because of political, legal, regulatory, education and culture issues. France is very different again, with an underdeveloped certification market. With help from the ILB Certification Council, we will be holding a European level focus group in the coming weeks. One of the results of the project will be the series of country landscape maps.

The universes are converging

HARMONISE, adopting earlier language from nine years ago, described the “certification jungle” of hundreds of certifications from dozens of suppliers. It described how the “parallel universe” of market-led industry qualifications had grown up alongside but unconnected to the national public education systems of schools, colleges, and universities. This characterisation, whilst a convenient shorthand, is now seen as outdated, and a more mature view sees industry certification as a “vibrant ecosystem” supporting the overall ICT labour and product markets, and thus the whole European economy. There are now many examples in many countries of successful collaboration involving industry certifications and public national education. The universes are indeed coalescing. But this convergence is not fully embedded and far from being the rule in many EU Member States, there remains resistance in some political and academic quarters. Further mechanisms are needed to achieve and reinforce full awareness, recognition, understanding and inter-operability. Our CEN project is aiming to assist that.

The market is large, hidden, and growing

Another aim of the CEN project is to update market statistics on industry certifications, in order to provide stakeholders with a better understanding of the market development. Earlier research back in 2000 reported 2 million certifications worldwide. There was then no reliable data until HARMONISE reported the mid-2007 figure of 7.2 million, nearly a four-fold increase. Our provisional figure for mid-2008 is 9 million, a one-year increase of 25%. But even this substantially understates the volume of learning involved. Industry sources suggest a test-to-train ratio of 20%, and pass ratio of 30% to 50%, so the actual volume of learners for industry certifications is many tens of millions.

Another problem is that these figures are worldwide totals, and it might be that the bulk of the growth is from Asia/Pacific or the Middle East. The ILB Certification Council has agreed in principle to support the collection of regional statistics, so that the position in Europe can be better understood.

Navigating the jungle

One of the key requirements of prospective users of certification, be they learners, employers, teachers or customers, is to understand where a particular qualification fits. How do they choose which to go for? What does it lead to next? Our solution to this is to propose a methodology for positioning each qualification against the new European e-Competence Framework, (e-CF), www.ecompetences.eu, recently adopted by CEN. This will in turn provide a relationship to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the overall reference framework for all qualifications in Europe. In order to establish this positioning, we have been very impressed with the technique pioneered by CompTIA's Certification Roadmap www.comptia.org with the support of several vendors.

The way ahead

The envisaged CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) provides a consensus building process for all potential stakeholders concerned. The CWA will document the findings of the project, including the country and European landscapes, the market metrics, and the positioning methodology. With the support of users and providers of industry certifications, it will provide a reference model and market structure for e-certifications in Europe. It will include recommendations on information on scope, maintenance criteria for users, and quality assurance. This process by itself will enhance awareness of the value of certifications, and of their inter-relationships and comparability, and thus improve and increase the recognition of certifications.

Further information is available on the project web-site: www.ict-certification-in-europe.eu ■

Computer History

CER-10 – The First Digital Electronic Computer in Serbia

by Dusan Hristovic



Mr. Dusan Hristovic is a computer hardware engineer (retired) and consultant at M. Pupin Institute, Belgrade, Serbia. He graduated in electrical engineering from Belgrade University in 1956 and specialized with Fed. British Industries (course on Digital system logic design with the ICL Ltd. Advanced Systems Group in London). Dusan is co-author of six books and author of some 50 scientific papers, has served as Secretary General and President of the ETRAN Society of Serbia (1980-1992) and is a founding member of the Serbian Informatics Society (DIS).

Mr. Hristovic was designer of the CER-10, CER-22, HRS-100 and TIM computer line PC systems.

CER-10 is the first digital electronic computing machine, originally designed and produced in Serbia and the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia, in the "Vinča" Institute, during the period 1956- 1960. Due to an addition of a functional extension of the so-called Statistical Unit, the final construction took place in the "Mihailo Pupin" Institute in Belgrade at the end of 1962. CER-10 began its operational life at the TANJUG building in Belgrade in 1963. CER-10 was used for scientific and technical research for solving various mathematical problems in the SKNE "Vinča" and for statistical cryptological processing of information for the Yugoslav Federal Government (SSUP and TANJUG Agency). In fact, by structure, CER-10 is the universal, electronic, one-address, dynamic computer. Its average speed of processing was about 50,000 simple operations per second (i.e. it means, about 1,600 additions per second).

The author-team of designers and constructors of the CER-10, in the "Vinča" Institute, was: Academician Rajko Tomović PhD, Professor Tihomir Aleksić, Professor Ahmed Mandžić, Engineer Petar Vrbavac, Vukašin Masnikosa PhD, Engineer Dušan Hristović and Milojko Marić PhD. In the development of all system parts and the construction of CER-10 70 persons (engineers, programmers, technicians and specialist- workers) have taken part in the course of three years.

Only six states in Europe: England, Germany, Russia (USSR), France, Yugoslavia and Poland had their own original computing electronic digital machines developed over the period from 1949 to 1959.

Technology and Technical characteristics of the CER-10

- Primary operational memory with a capacity of 2x12 Kbytes, 2 subsystems of matrix ferrite memory with memory cores type Philips 6D3 pfi 2mm and switching cores 6E2. Memory word is 30+1 bits, of changeable length word (max 6 characters: numbers, letters, symbols of 5 bits). Access time for the ferrite memory was 10 micro-seconds.
- Control Unit, named CPU (24 basic instructions in total) and Arithmetic Unit were composed from the standard logic circuitry modules made by electronic vacuum tubes, transistors, Ge-diodes and R,L,C discrete components.
- Input/Output Units: Photoelectric Reader of punched paper tapes Ferranti type TR 2B (speed 300 char/sec); Paper tape Puncher Creed type 25 (max. 100 char/sec); Teleprinter - teletype Siemens model T-100 (printing speed of 8 -10 char/sec).
- Power Supply system: an independent motor-generator with nominal power 20/15,5 KVA, produced by "Rade Končar" company, Zagreb. Rectifiers with three-phase circuitry had Si-diodes types 14R2 and 10R2 (Th. Houston). There was automatic regulation, relay protection and signalisations for all power units (i.e. for 12 positive and negative voltages in CER-10).
- The computer room in the TANJUG building had 80 m², with double flooring and air conditioning. The metal rack dimensions were 2m x 2m x 0,70 meters for each of the seven rack units.

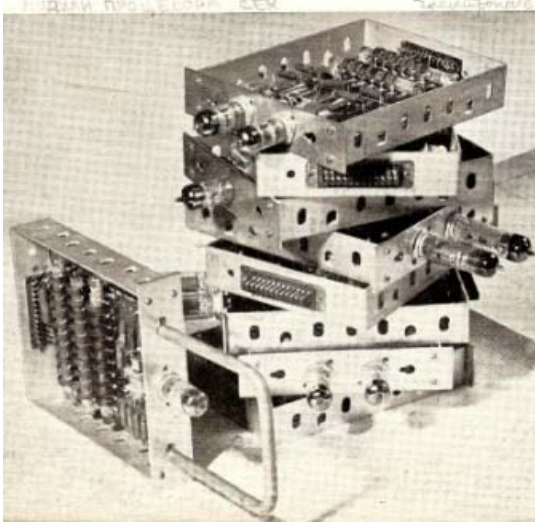
- Technology: Philips electronic tube types ECC 81, EL 83 etc. (approx. 1.750 pieces); Transistors: 2N396, OC 76, OC 44 (1.500 pieces); Ge-diodes OA 85 Philips, for logic circuitry, (approx. 14.000 pieces); Electronic relays type Schrack (approx. 650 pieces); Pulse transformer core D25 (approx. 1.700 pieces); Delay pulse Lines (approx. 850 pieces), etc.

Literature (Reference publications)

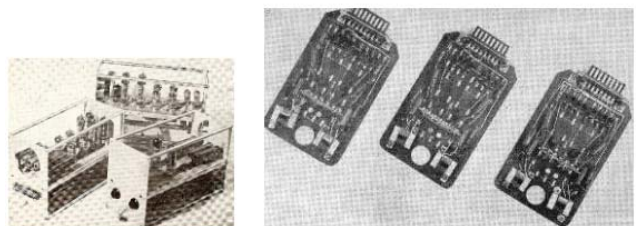
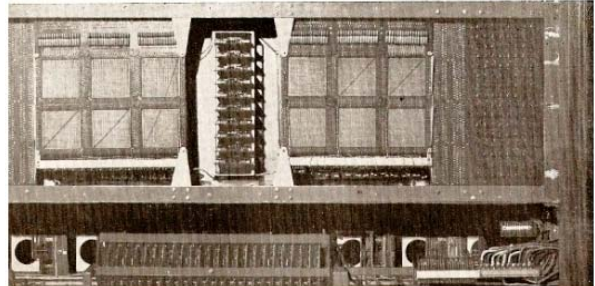
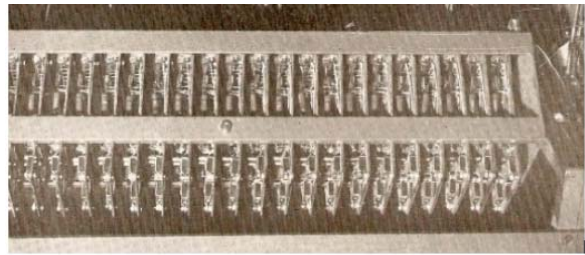
- 1) R.Tomovic, A.Mandzic, T.Aleksic, P.Vrbavac, V.Masnikosa, D.Hristovic, M.Maric: *"Digital Electronic Computer CER10 Inst. BK-Vinca"*, Proc. of V Conf. ETAN-1960, vol.1, pp. 305-330, Belgrade Novem.18th 1960;
- 2) "CER-10", a booklet, separate edition (24p.), Forum-M. Pupin Institute, Belgrade 1963. (in Serbian);
- 3) V.Paunovic, D.Hristovic: *"Preview and Analysis of CER Computers"*, Proc. of the 44.Conf. ETRAN-2000, tom 3, pp.79-82, Sokobanja June 26th 2000. (in Serbian);
- 4) M.R. Williams: *"A History of Computing Technology"*, Prentice-Hall, 1985.
- 5) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CER_Computer; (CER-10, CER-22, CER-203, CER-12, HRS-100, TIM-100, etc.)



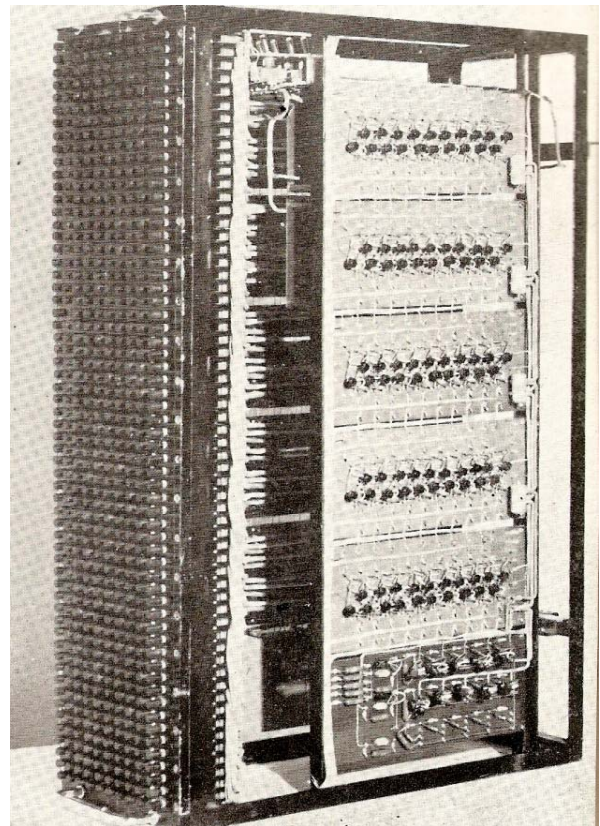
CER-10, at the Tanjug-building, 1963



CPU Logic Circuitry Modules



Core Memory subsystems



Statistical Unit

President Barroso receives 9 Millionth ECDL Skills Card to highlight the importance of digital literacy for employability and sustainable economic growth

Brussels, February 2009: José Manuel Barroso, President of European Commission received the 9 millionth ECDL Skills Card at a ceremony highlighting both the success of the ECDL programme and the necessity of keeping investment in digital skills high on the public policy agendas of all Member States in order to increase employability and build a competitive European economy.

Accepting the ECDL Skills Card, President Barroso stressed that **digital literacy skills are essential for Europeans and stated that the Commission is proud to have been at the origin of the 'great work of the ECDL programme' and its 'amazing' progress in reaching 9 million Skills Cards.** President Barroso noted that 'digital literacy is part of basic competences such as reading and writing and that this is the message the Commission is conveying to all European citizens; in this difficult economic situation many workers will need to be re-trained and the digital competences they can gain will help them find new opportunities for a better life'.



During these challenging economic times, **it is essential for Member States to increase investment in digital literacy training to ensure the competitiveness and sustainability of the European economy in the medium and long-term.**

To help address the economic situation, the Commission has launched the European Economic Recovery plan which calls for 'smart investment' to yield higher growth and sustainable prosperity in the longer-term. **It calls on Member States to invest more in education and re-training to protect Europe's citizens from the worst of the economic crisis.**



As part of this plan, the European Commission has proposed a €1 billion investment to bring broadband to rural areas. However unless this investment is supplemented with IT training, **Europe risks an additional widening of the digital divide in areas where digital literacy levels** already lag behind the European average according to a 2008 Eurostat report which indicated that in 2007, 49% of citizens in sparsely

populated areas never used the internet.

Prior to the presentation ceremony, in a meeting on the contribution of digital literacy to making Europe a leading knowledge-based economy, the ECDL Foundation delegation welcomed President Barroso's view that digital skills training enables society to fully reap the benefits of technology.

Speaking at the event, Jim Friars, Chairperson of the ECDL Foundation Board, noted that ECDL is a true European success story, outlining how the original concept was developed with the support of EC funding. By presenting the ECDL Skills Card to President Barroso, the ECDL Foundation recognises the Commission's work to empower individuals by creating better employment opportunities and an inclusive information society. ECDL Foundation Board Member, Byron Nicolaides, called upon governments, business and civil society to work together to address the current challenges and remain focused on the objectives of the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs.

Damien O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of the ECDL Foundation noted that the ECDL Foundation is proud to present the 9 millionth skills card to President Barroso to highlight the organisation's success in delivering digital literacy to Europe. **Yet with 40% of Europeans still without the basic skills needed to use the Internet, much remains to be done.** Mr O' Sullivan underlined the commitment of the ECDL Foundation to the objectives of the i2010 Strategy as digital literacy is a key enabler for building an inclusive information society and a knowledge-based economy.

The video of the event is available at: <http://www.ecdl.org/barroso>

For further information please contact:

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About ECDL Foundation

The ECDL Foundation is the global standards and certification body for the ECDL and ICDL end-user computer skills certification programmes. It's a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to raising the level of computer skills in society and providing access for all to the Information Society. With over 9 million candidates participating in a range of programmes, the ECDL Foundation has set the global benchmark in end-user skills certification.

What is an ECDL Skills Card?

The ECDL Skills Cards is the first step in the obtaining the internationally-recognised ECDL / ICDL certification. It denotes the candidate's registration and is used to record progress through the various modules that make up the programme, the successful completion of which leads to a certification in the relevant ECDL / ICDL programme.

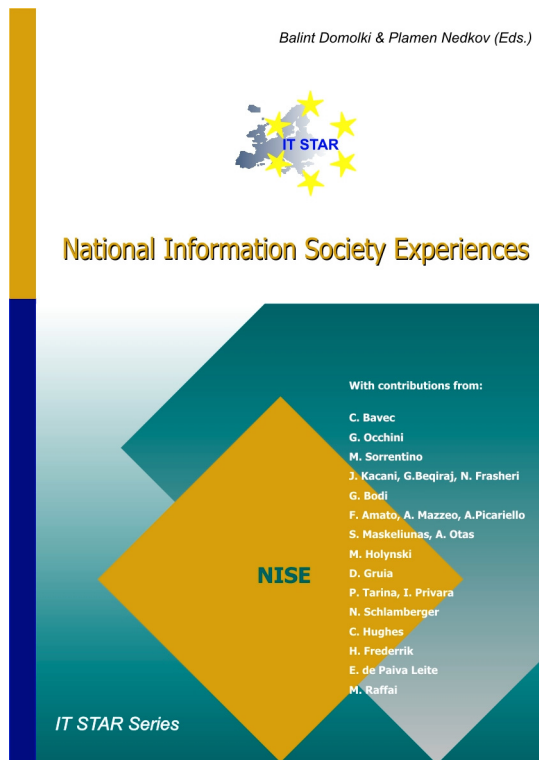
New IT STAR Publication

National Information Society Experiences

Editors: Balint Domolki & Plamen Nedkov

ISBN 88-901620-2-3

Expected date of publication: end of March 2009



This volume includes the revised and edited presentations and proceedings of the 3rd IT STAR Workshop on National Information Society Experiences (**NISE 08**) held on 8 November 2008 in Godollo, Hungary, with the following contributions:

- Stimulus for the Use of Public Information Services in the European Union (*Cene Bavec, SI*)
- Strategies in Developing IT Skills: National and International Experiences (*Giulio Occhini, IT*)
- E-Government: Which Interpretive Key? (*Maddalena Sorrentino, IT*)
- Albania: Reflections on National ICT Strategies (*Jorgaq Kacani, Gudar Beqiraj, Neki Frasheri*)
- Hungary: Digital (R)evolution (*Gabor Bodi*)
- Italy: E-Government Strategy in Italy (*Flora Amato, Antonino Mazzeo, Antonio Picariello*)
- Lithuania: Development and Application of Information Society Strategies (*Saulius Maskeliunas, Alfredas Otas*)
- Poland: Polish ICT Strategies (*Marek Holynski*)
- Romania: E-Government – One Step Further (*Daniel Gruia*)
- Slovakia: On the (winding) Road to Information Society (*Pavol Tarina, Igor Privara*)
- Slovenia: Strategy of Development of the Information Society (*Niko Schlamberger*)

- The International Professional Practice Partnership (*Charles Hughes, UK*)
- Professionalism in ICT: Who is Accountable and to What Extent? (*Hans Frederrik, NL*)
- The Importance of E-Skills for Employability in Europe (*Elzbieta de Paiva Leite, PL*)
- Knowledge Economy and IT Education in Hungary (*Maria Raffai*)

The book contains analyses and factual information on policy issues and information on concrete projects and cooperative activities, success stories and shortcomings falling within the broad scope of Information Society (IS) development. A section of the book is devoted to ICT skills and policies.

The publication presents useful information to academics, corporate representatives and politicians in promoting further debate and in facilitating decisions with respect to strategies and policies in the IS field. ■

MultiCulti



Several of our previous articles on destinations and tradition in the IT STAR countries were appreciated by our readers and with this in mind we are pleased to start a new column with short reports related to travel, society and culture in the IT STAR countries. Dorothy Hayden has kindly agreed to take

responsibility for this column – PN

Greetings everyone,

I am delighted to help with this column. A first contribution is a short personal impression of Verona, which I recently visited.

Destination – Verona

The city is well known, not least due to the works of a famous communicator – William Shakespeare.



A great way to explore it is to buy a daily Verona card (EUR 10 – www.veronacard.it) giving access to most of the sites, museums and churches. Juliet's house was naturally crowded by hordes of tourists. The Arena on the central square where tens of thousands come in summer for opera performances looked a bit barren now but the Castelvechio on the Adige banks and its museum with some great pieces from Tintoretto, Veronese, Morone and other Italian masters is impressive.



My pick for a church to visit is St. Anastasia with fine frescoes and architectural elements. For a “birds eye” view, one could go via the Pietra bridge over the Adige and then up the stairs next to the Roman amphitheater to Castel S. Pietro, or climb the 368 stairs of the Torre del Lamberti (or take the elevator) located immediately next to the Piazza dei Signori and Piazza delle Erbe.

Lake Garda is a 20 minutes drive from Verona and offers splendid possibilities for a daily outing.

Hotels/Wining & Dining: My personal experience with hotel Corte Ongaro – www.corteongaro.it (great value for money) located close to the Fiera Verona and with a bus stop on the front door (with buses getting you in the center of Verona in about 10 mins.) is worth a recommendation. A great tip for a restaurant is San Matteo (Vicolo del guasto 4) incorporated in a church complex with great pizza, pasta, seafood and Italian specialties ... not too many tourists there but obviously a valued place with the locals. The white open wine is worth a try though the wine-list will soothe every taste.

Verona website – www.tourism.verona.it

My rating – on a scale of 10, I have no hesitation to assign 8 to Verona. It does not get the full 10 points mainly due to the fact that this is the first destination, to be followed by other wonderful places in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe.

You can contact me at d.hayden@gmx.at for comments and suggestions with respect to this column.

Be in touch,

Dorothy

Member Society News

John Vincent Atanasoff IEEE Medal Donation

by John V. Atanasoff II



John is a member of the IT STAR Newsletter Advisory Board

The Bulgarian people have made a generous donation of \$1,000,000 USD for the John Vincent Atanasoff IEEE Medal to be awarded starting in 2010 periodically for Innovative Information Technology contributions to the welfare or enhancement of mankind.

In December 2008, the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria ordered the transfer of 1 million US dollars from the state budget to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences for the joint award fund of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Iowa State University, USA. The establishment of the fund shall enable the distribution of awards named after John Atanasoff by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

This donation once it is consummated will allow the John Vincent Atanasoff Initiative to move forward with the organization's objectives.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has made a contribution and supported this effort.

A personal note from the Editor

John V. Atanasoff (JVA) - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Vincent_Atanasoff

John Atanasoff was a foreign member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and in 1985 visited Bulgaria by invitation of the Academy and also as a speaker at the International Conference “Children in an Information Age”.



JVA and PN in 1985

I had the privilege to accompany JVA and his wife Alice during their stay (his son John also joined us in the second part of the trip). We traveled around the country, including

to Boyadzhik in southeastern Bulgaria, the birthplace of his father where many of his relatives continue to reside. It was an emotional experience, not only because JVA then was already a household name in Bulgaria and a source of pride for the country but also due to his openness, which allowed friendship between us despite the age gap. I felt as part of the family during those memorable days of numerous visits and meetings with leading governmental and state officials but also with ordinary town and village folks.

Here is an episode of the visit to Boyadzhik that still remains vivid. We arrived and were greeted by the village folks with flowers and according to their hospitable customs. After the formal welcome and speeches we were taken by JVA's relatives to a private house for a family reunion. A feast of feelings and culinary delights followed. When the turkey was brought in JVA was invited to carve it as he had done during his previous visit. JVA asked his son John to do the ritual instead as he must have felt that this was his last visit and he wished to ensure the relay with the next of kin.

Croatia

An invitation was extended by the Information Technology Society of Croatia (CITS) to IT STAR to hold its 2010 business meeting and 5th Workshop in Zagreb or in another Croatian city. IT STAR is grateful to CITS for this invitation, which will be considered during the next IT STAR business meeting in Rome.

Italy

DIDAMATICA 2009, the annual congress organized by AICA dedicated to Informatics applied to education and teaching, will be held from April 22 to 24 in Trento. It is organized in cooperation with the local University.

All further information is available at <http://services.economia.unitn.it/didamatica2009/>

Poland

Polish ICT Skiing Championship

by Marek Holynski



Marek Holynski is President of the Polish Information Processing Society. After graduating from Warsaw Institute of Technology he received his Ph.D. at the Polish Academy of Sciences. In 1981-99 he was professor at Boston University, research fellow at MIT and computer graphics workstations designer in Silicon Valley.

Giant slalom and elegant skiing were included as disciplines in the 10th Polish ICT Alpine Skiing Championship on 7 March 2009 in Szczyrk, a popular skiing resort in southern Poland.

The Championship, annually organized by the Polish Information Processing Society (PIPS), is a major winter event for the country's ICT community. Over 200 participants took part – ICT professionals, sympathizers/families and top managers (CEOs of national branches of international companies, heads of public administration and local government responsible for IT related activities, the Minister responsible for IT and presidents of NGOs involved in computer related projects). An additional category, judged by an *ad hoc* esthetics committee, was the smoothness and elegance of the performance on the slope.

Many valuable prizes were handed out by the sponsoring organizations, so the overall scoring had to be further subdivided in individual and team ranking, men and women, participants less than 35 years old, between 36 and 50, and over 50. Since many participants were members of sports teams in the past, the rivalry was keen.



Skiing is a favorite sport among ICT specialists in Poland and events such as this one provide great opportunities for professional come-together.

Slovenia

16th Conference Days of Slovenian Informatics (DSI)
15 - 17 April 2009
Congress Centre Grand hotel Bernardin, Portoroz`
Web-site: <http://www.dsi2009.si>

The Days of Slovene Informatics conference is the largest independent meeting of Slovenian IT professionals. The conference is aimed at gaining new knowledge, exchanging experience and presentation of best practices. There are a lot of opportunities at the conference for business cooperation and social gathering.

The main objective of the conference is the meeting of IT professionals from different environments (companies, universities, institutes, Public Administration). This way, a circulation of knowledge and research results, done by IT professionals in the academic environment, can appear into practice. On the other hand, IT professionals from companies and Public Administration can brief their colleagues with challenges they come across in practice. Another objective of the conference is to include future IT professionals into a society of Slovene IT professionals and enable them to get acquainted with the up-to-date challenges. Participants of the conference, besides IT professionals, are also IT users and young IT professionals at the beginning of their professional path.

DSI 2009 will be dedicated to **Deploying Intelligent Systems for Strategic Advantage**. Evolution of information technology has contributed to quality support of transactional and operational level of business systems. Comprehensive information systems (such as ERP systems) efficiently support both key and supporting business processes in accordance with more or less predefined mechanisms and procedures. Intelligent systems have, with evolution of artificial intelligence (and also of statistical methods, operational research etc.), only in the last decade become available to business users and are being built in commercially available tools and products.

This raises the level of support on tactical and strategic level of business systems where the key decisions are made for strategic development and increasing of competitive advantage. Intelligent systems may operate in real time, in rhythm with business events or as a tool for in-depth analysis at making strategic decisions. A higher level of intelligence with the use of such systems, aside from business intelligence systems, can be noted also at business process automatization, in systems for assuring

revenue, at discovering errors and frauds, at production automatization, at traffic management etc.

The conference will not be limited to only this subject. The program of the conference will cover up-to-date topics and also themes that are already a permanent part of the program. Those topics will be presented within round tables, workshops, invited presentations (by domestic and foreign well-known experts) and over hundred presentations in different sections. We have included a new topic into a program: **IT in Public sector**, and renamed some topics. A more detailed description of all sections is available at the conference's web page www.dsi2009.si. For future IT professionals, a student's forum will be organized, where students will present results of their work (such as successful diplomas).

DSI 2009 also introduces a novelty: **the Award for the best project in the ICT field** for 2009. This way, the Slovenian Society Informatika is encouraging and promoting project innovation, successfulness, efficiency and quality in the field of informatics. It is expected that this prize-award will become as traditional as the conference itself. ■



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SNAPSHOT

REGIONAL ICT ASSOCIATION IN CENTRAL, EASTERN & SOUTHERN EUROPE



Type of organization

Regional non-governmental and non-profit professional association in the ICT field.

Date and place of establishment

18 April **2001**, Portoroz, Slovenia

Membership

Countries represented (*see next page for societies*), year of accession, representatives

- Austria (2001) V. Risak, G. Kotsis
- Bulgaria (2003) K. Boyanov
- Croatia (2002) M. Frkovic, M. Glasenhardt
- Czech Republic (2001) O. Stepankova, J. Stuller
- Greece (2003) S. Katsikas
- Hungary (2001) B. Domolki
- Italy (2001) G. Occhini
- Lithuania (2003) E. Telesius
- Macedonia (2003) P. Indovski
- Poland (2007) M. Holynski
- Romania (2003) V. Baltac
- Serbia (2003) G. Dukic
- Slovakia (2001) I. Privara, B. Rovani
- Slovenia (2001) N. Schlamberger

Statutes

IT STAR Charter <http://www.starbus.org/download/charter.pdf> adopted on 23 October 2004 by the IT STAR Business Meeting in Prague, the Czech Republic.

Mission

“To be the leading regional information and communication technology organization in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe which promotes, assists and increases the activities of its members and encourages and promotes regional and international cooperation for the benefit of its constituency, the region and the international ICT community.”

Governance

IT STAR is governed according to the letter of its Charter by the **Business Meeting** of MS representatives:

- 2008** Godollo, **Hungary** (November)
- 2007** Genzano di Roma, **Italy** (May)
Timisoara, **Romania** (October)
- 2006** Ljubljana, **Slovenia** (May)
Bratislava, **Slovakia** (November)
- 2005** Herceg Novi, **Serbia & Montenegro** (June)
Vienna, **Austria** (November)
- 2004** Chioggia, **Italy** (May)
Prague, **the Czech Republic** (October)
- 2003** Opatija, **Croatia** (June)
Budapest, **Hungary** (October)
- 2002** Portoroz, **Slovenia** (April)
Bratislava, **Slovakia** (November)
- 2001** Portoroz, **Slovenia** (April)
Como, **Italy** (September)

Coordinators

- 2006 –** Giulio Occhini
- 2003 – 2006** Niko Schlamberger
- 2001 – 2003** Plamen Nedkov
(currently Chief Executive)

Major Activities

- 3rd IT STAR WS and publication on National Information Society Experiences – NISE 08 <http://www.starbus.org/ws3/ws3.htm>
- 2nd IT STAR WS and publication on Universities and the ICT Industry http://www.starbus.org/r_d_ws2/r_d_ws2.htm
- 1st IT STAR WS and publication on R&D in ICT http://www.starbus.org/r_d_ws1/r_d_ws1.htm
- IT Professional Pool Database (in progress)
- Workshop and publication on National Experiences related to the EU's 5th and 6th FP <http://www.starbus.org/download/supplement.pdf>
- Joint IT STAR – FISTERA Workshop on ICT and the Eastern European Dimension <http://fistera.jrc.es/pages/roadshows/prague%2004/FINAL%20REPORTrevised.pdf>
- Support to Member Society initiatives and events

Periodicals

The IT STAR Newsletter (nl.starbus.org) published quarterly.

Web-site

www.itstar.eu ■

IT STAR Member Societies

<p>Austrian Computer Society – OCG Wollzeile 1-3, A-1010 VIENNA, Austria Tel. +43 1 512 0235 Fax +43 1 512 02359 e-mail: ocg@ocg.at www.ocg.at</p> 	<p>Bulgarian Academy of Sciences – BAS Institute for Parallel Processing Acad.G.Bonchev str.Bl.25A SOFIA 1113, Bulgaria Tel +359 2 8708494 Fax +359 2 8707273 e-mail: boyanov@acad.bg www.bas.bg</p> 
<p>Croatian Information Tech. Society – CITS Ilica 191 E/II, 10000 ZAGREB, Croatia Tel. +385 1 2222 722 Fax +385 1 2222 723 e-mail: hiz@hiz.hr www.hiz.hr</p> 	<p>Czech Society for Cybernetics and Informatics – ČSKI Pod vodarenskou vezi 2, CZ-182 07 PRAGUE 8 – Liben Czech Republic Tel. +420 266 053 901 Fax +420 286 585 789 e-mail: cski@utia.cas.cz www.cski.cz</p> 
<p>Greek Computer Society – GCS Thessaloniki & Chandri 1, Moshato GR-18346 ATHENS, Greece Tel. +30 210 480 2886 Fax +30 210 480 2889 e-mail: epy@epy.gr www.epy.gr</p> 	<p>John v. Neumann Computer Society – NJSZT P.O. Box 210, Bathori u. 16 H-1364 BUDAPEST, Hungary Tel.+36 1 472 2730 Fax +36 1 472 2739 e-mail: titkarsag@njszt.hu www.njszt.hu</p> 
<p>Associazione Italiana per l' Informatica ed il Calcolo Automatico – AICA Piazzale R. Morandi, 2 I-20121 MILAN, Italy Tel. +39 02 760 14082 Fax +39 02 760 15717 e-mail: g.occhini@aicanet.it www.aicanet.it</p> 	<p>Lithuanian Computer Society – LIKS A.Goštauto 12 – 123 LT-01108 Vilnius, Lithuania Tel. +370 2 62 05 36 Fax +370 2 61 99 05 e-mail: liks@liks.lt www.liks.lt</p> 
<p>Macedonian Association for Information Technology – MASIT Dimitrie Cupovski 13 1000 SKOPJE, Macedonia e-mail: indovski.p@gord.com.mk www.masit.org.mk</p> 	<p>Polish Information Processing Society Al. Solidarności 82A m.5 01-003 Warsaw Tel./Fax +48 22 838 47 05 e-mail: marek.holynski@gmail.com www.pti.org.pl</p> 
<p>Asociatia pentru Tehnologia Informatiei si Comunicatii – ATIC Calea Floreasca Nr. 167, Sectorul 1 72321 BUCAREST, Romania Tel +402 1 233 1846 Fax +402 1 233 1877 e-mail: info@atic.org.ro www.atic.org.ro</p> 	<p>Informatics Alliance of Serbia – JISA Zmaj Jovina 4 11000 BELGRADE, Serbia Tel.+ 381 11 620374 Fax + 381 11 626576 e- mail: dukic@jisa.org.yu www.jisa.org.yu</p> 
<p>Slovak Society for Computer Science – SSCS MFF UK, Mlynska dolina SK-842 48 BRATISLAVA, Slovak Rep. Tel. +421 2 65426635 Fax +421 2 65427041 e-mail: SSCS@dcs.fmph.uniba.sk www.informatika.sk</p> 	<p>Slovenian Society INFORMATIKA – SSI Vozarski pot 12 SLO-1000 LJUBLJANA, Slovenia Tel. +386 123 40836 Fax +386 123 40860 e-mail: info@drustvo-informatika.si www.drustvo-informatika.si</p> 



2nd ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS 4th IT STAR Workshop

ICT Skills, Education, and Certification: the Multi-stakeholder Partnership 27 – 28 November 2009, Rome, Italy

Host Society: Associazione Italiana per l'Informatica ed il Calcolo Automatico - **AICA**

Conference Venue: **Villa Aurelia** (www.villaaurelia.net)

The two-day event will gather senior representatives of academia, government, industry and international organizations with the Mission to investigate the current state, problems and challenges with respect to ICT skills, professional education and certification in order to identify best practices and key issues of common interest and facilitate policymaking within the Region and the European Union. Current EU and national SEC policies, certification programs, ICT professionalism and the Bologna process would be some of the topics for consideration.

Tentative Program

Opening on Friday, 27 November at 10.00; Closing on 28 November at 13.00

Opening Session	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representative of the local authorities as Opening speaker 	
Keynote Speakers	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bruno Lamborghini, Chairman of EITO, President of AICA Representative of the Holy See (t.b.c.) Representative of the EC (t.b.c.) 	
National Presentations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and other countries (t.b.c) 	
Roundtable on Governmental Policies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of national governmental institutions in the Region 	
Industry Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EC-DG Enterprise and Industry (t.b.c.) Representatives of Italian Industry (t.b.c) H. Lueders, CompTIA 	Panel on Activities of International Bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EC-DG Information Society and Media (t.b.c.) UNESCO, FAO (t.b.c) N. Schlamberger CEPIS President P. Schgör, CEN/ISSS ICT-Skills WS Chairman
Closing Session and Adoption of the Conference Resolution	

Participation

The objective is to have a maximum of 80 participants attending this high-profile event, of which 2 participants (including speakers) will be designated by each IT STAR member society and their local costs for the conference will be borne by the organizers.

The rest will be selected on a first applied & confirmed basis. A registration fee of EUR 150 would apply and will include the Conference dinner and buffet lunch, conference material and post-conference publication.

Representatives from the region and internationally are invited to submit expressions of interest to attend and proposals for papers. Short abstracts should be e-mailed to Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@utanet.at> by 20 May. Confirmations of acceptance will be sent by 20 June and the full presentations (max. 6,000 words) would be expected by 1 October.

Contacts and further information (incl. participation form)– www.itstar.eu

Organizing and Program Co-chairs

Giulio Occhini <g.occhini@aicanet.it> (local arrangements, program)

Plamen Nedkov <nedkov@utanet.at> (international coordination, program)