

Newsletter



Vol. 1, no. 2, October 2002

<http://www.ifip.or.at/it-star>

MESSAGE FROM THE IT STAR COORDINATOR

IT STAR continues to grow and since the first issue of this Newsletter there have been some promising developments. The Slovenian Society "Informatika" (SSI) hosted IFIP's Council meeting in Bled on 4-7 March 2002. During a special session dedicated to ICT in Slovenia, Council participants were briefed on recent developments in Slovenia. Dr. Pavel Gantar, Minister of the Information Society, welcomed Council and highlighted the achievements and challenges of his Ministry in paving the road towards the Information Society. Everyone appreciated the natural beauty of the Bled region and the venue, overlooking the crystal clear waters of the lake with the island and its church.



From l. to r.: P. Bollerslev, W. Grafendorfer, N. Schlamberger, D. Hayden and P. Nedkov during the Council '02 reception

A month later, again in Slovenia, this time on the Adriatic coast in Portoroz, IT STAR held its regular meeting during the Annual Conference of SSI. Croatia was admitted to IT STAR membership and a preliminary report for the establishment of a regional IT Pool of experts and institutions was reviewed and accepted. The Conference itself had a section dedicated to IT STAR country reports from Austria, Croatia, Hungary and Slovenia. [The Czech member society recently delivered its national report and

we publish a part of it in the current issue.] These reports are a valuable source of reference information and are posted at <http://www.ifip.or.at/it-star>.

In September, representatives of IT STAR member societies took part in the IFIP General Assembly in Montreal [<http://www.ifip.or.at/minutes/ga2002.htm>] where CITS – the Croatian Information Technology Society was admitted as IFIP full member.

On 18 and 19 October, Messrs. B. Domolki [HU], N. Schlamberger [SI] and P. Nedkov [IFIP] met in Budapest for a working meeting related to the project for an IT STAR Pool of Experts. The detailed proposal along with other organizational issues, would be considered at the forthcoming regular IT STAR meeting on 15 – 16 November in Bratislava, Slovakia.

We are now happy to present the second issue of the IT STAR Newsletter.

Plamen Nedkov

Newsletter Correspondents: B. Domolki [HU], M. Frkovic [HR], G. Occhini [IT], I. Privara [SK], V. Risak [AT], N. Schlamberger [SI]

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The IT STAR Newsletter is published online by the IFIP Secretariat: Hofstrasse 3, A-2361 Laxenburg, Austria; Tel: +43 2236 73616 Fax: +43 2236 736169; <http://www.ifip.org/>

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

CITS – Croatian Information Technology Society



The IFIP General Assembly in Montreal admitted the Croatian Information Technology Society (CITS) to IFIP membership.

CITS is an open, independent association for Croatian IT professionals, advanced IT users, faculties, research and development institutions, and IT producers. The society is representative of the Croatian IT Sector. CITS is a self-financed society with more than 1000 registered members and more than 800 company members. It was founded in 1975 and its mission is to advance professional excellence in IT. This year it was admitted as member of CEPIS. Detailed information on CITS is available at <http://www.hiz.hr/CITA.htm>.

ICT in the Czech Republic: Institutions, Regulations, Challenges and Applications in Academia, Industry and the Public Sector

CSKI

[P.N. - The full report is posted at the IT STAR website at <http://www.ifip.or.at/it-star> Only the part describing the Czech institutions in ICT field is included below]

The organizations in the ICT field in the Czech Republic are:

- * The Association for Electronic Commerce (APEK) – the aim of APEK's activity is to create conditions for the development of electronic commerce in the Czech Republic.

- * The Association of the Public Telecommunication Network Operators (APVTS) – the purpose of APVTS is to establish optimal conditions for the development of activities of public telecommunication network operators in the Czech Republic.

- * Center for Electronic Commerce (CEO) – is a non-profit membership-based organization bringing together both institutions and individual professionals working in the area of e-business, Internet and wider aspects of information society development. Now CEO represents the common platform for more than 150 partners.

- * The Czech Society for Cybernetics and Informatics (ČSKI) associates academic institutions and individuals from universities and the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic working in the ICT field (ČSKI is the member of international organizations, such as IFIP, CEPIS).

- * The Association for the Information Society (SPIS) has been set up in 1998 to provide interaction between government and companies active in the field of ICT in the Czech Republic. SPIS represents the major leading IT manufacturers and software developers, coordinates the integration program with the EU and assists local businesses in development of IT capabilities.

- * The Office for Personal Data Protection (ÚOOÚ) was established by the government in 2000 as an independent agency, which supervises the observance of legally mandated responsibilities in the processing of personal data, and maintains a register of instances of permitted personal data processing.

Banking and national public administration are two of the most demanding sectors for IT products. According to IDC, the banking sector spent USD 90.5 million on information technologies in 2000, while the public sector spent around USD 71.8 million. Additionally, education, information, and entertainment industries will gradually need multimedia applications.

Software development is a major driver of the IT industry in the Czech Republic. There is a growing trend towards e-business applications and Internet connectivity, ERP-based solutions, and networking software. Along with international IT companies [Sun Microsystems, Microsoft, IBM, SAP, Siemens, Hewlett-Packard and Compaq] the major software companies in the Czech Republic are:

- * AEC Ltd., Alwil Software, and Grisoft in anti-virus software;

- * Software 602, FBL Group, PJSoft, PragoData in CAD, GIS, and multimedia education applications;

- * PVT, ICZ in system integration and software security products.

Currently, the incumbent operator, Czech Telecom, dominates the Czech telecommunication market. Industry analysts expect that even after full liberalization only a few major telecom companies will be significant players in the next four to five years. The USD 2.2 billion share of Czech Telecom's market is one of the largest and most dynamic in Central Europe. Companies like GTS, Aliatel, Contactel, eTel, British Telecom, and Nextra have all positioned themselves to take advantage of the newly liberalized market.

Mobile telephony, which has seen penetration rates grow from 0.55 % in 1996 to over 60 % in 2002, has been the leading engine for growth. In 2001 the number of mobile phones exceeded the number of fixed lines for the first time. Three operators, Eurotel, T-Mobile and Czech Mobile now are operating on the Czech market.

Internet access is readily available for both consumers and business users in a variety of forms including dial-up access, ISDN, leased lines, frame relay, wireless and cable. The number of Czech Internet users has grown from 5% in 1998 to over 20% at the end of 2001. Internet penetration is expected to reach 30% by 2003. In 2001 the government initiated a program to connect all Czech schools to the Internet (as a part of the State Information Policy Project). Almost all Czech universities provide IT educational programs. Currently over 40,000 technical university students and around 14,000 university graduates in technical and scientific subjects enter the workforce every year, more than 9,000 of which studied primarily engineering or informatics.

Representatives of the Czech Republic took part in the project of Council of Europe "Lifelong Learning for Equity and Social Cohesion: a New Challenge of Higher Education". This project reflects the changing situation in the higher education, ICT development, changing structure of studying people, lifelong learning concept and it is seeking the role of higher education institutions in this process.

ADVERTISEMENTS ☺

For sale by owner: Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica. 45 volumes. Excellent condition. US \$ 1,000 or best offer. No longer needed. Got married last weekend. Wife knows everything.

IT STAR SOCIETY REPORTS TO THE IFIP GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2002 (Excerpts)

OCG - Austrian Computer Society



EVENTS

15.1.2002 eGOVday 01 (an international conference on e-government), Vienna
 3 - 6.6.2002 ERCIM Conference in Vienna
 2 - 5.7.2002 ICDCS Conference (22nd International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems) in co-operation with IEEE Computer Society.
 15-20.7.2002 8th ICCHP (Int. Conf. on Computers Helping People with special needs), Linz

12 -13.9.2002 Österreichtag in St. Pölten (Lower Austria)

27. 09. 2002 Women@Work, Congress on the career opportunities of women in IT

29-31.10.2002 EurAsia-ICT 2002 - First Eurasian Conference on Advances in Information and Communication Technology, Vienna

27.11.2001 AT21-Congress at Vienna City Hall

PUBLICATIONS

Computer Kommunikativ (the society's journal): Five issues per year. In the June 2002 issue there was a 1- page announcement for the 17th IFIP Congress.

Computer AKTIV (a newsletter dealing with ECDL-related topics): Five issues per year.

OCG Book Series (Published since August 2001):

* ComputerVision, Computer Graphics and Photogrammetry – a Common Viewpoint

* Third International Conference on Information Integration and Web- Based Applications and Services (IIWAS)

* Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) in the 21st Century


* Intelligent Systems in Patient-Care

* 7th International Conference on Reverse Engineering Technologies for IS (RETIS)

* Eurologo 2001, A Turtle Odyssey and Informatik 2001 Network Economy

A new OCG Working Group on Diagnostics and Configuration was established in 2002.

NJSZT – John von Neumann Computer Society

In June 2002 the President, Peter Bakonyi  was appointed Deputy State Secretary of the new Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication. An important political event in the computing field was the creation of a permanent Parliamentary Committee on Information Technology as a forum of the political parties on actual problems in the ICT field. NJSZT has the status of a permanent observer to this Committee.

NJSZT continues to play a significant role in supporting the development of the Information Society in Hungary through its activities for the education of citizens in IT skills. The most important vehicle of this activity continues to be the European Computer Driving License (ECDL) program. Recent achievements include the acceptance of ECDL in secondary school examinations and in entry requirements for universities. A new initiative is to provide ECDL training to people with special needs: the first 8

blind persons passed a successful ECDL examination in July 2002.

The Hungarian participation in the Internet Fiesta (organized worldwide by the Internet Society in 2002) focused on the role of libraries in promoting the services of the Information Society. Several international conferences are organized in Hungary with the direct or indirect participation of NJSZT:

TC-5 PROLAMAT Conference, November '01
6th European Conference on Software Maintenance and Reengineering (CSMR), March '02
EuroCASC: European Conference of Information System Auditors, March '02
MIE 2002: 17th Congress of the European Federation of Medical Informatics (EFMI), August '02.

In 2003, the NJSZT activities would be devoted to the "Neumann Year" marking the centennial anniversary of John von Neumann. There will be a series of events, including

March: Internet Fiesta

May: Twelfth International World Wide Web Conference (in coop. with W3C and IFIP)

June: EFITA, international conference on the applications of IT in agriculture

October: the 8th Congress of NJSZT with international participation

AICA - Associazione italiana per l'Informatica ed il Calcolo Automatico



Since last May, AICA is involved in the Advanced ECDL program for "super users" while continuing to work on EPICS, the ECDL for computer professionals. Its certification role has given AICA a significant visibility with regard to the ministries of Education and Research and of Innovation and Technology. In November '02 AICA will present the first comprehensive report on ICT "alphabetization" in Italy.

As of December 2001 AICA terminated "Rivista di informatica" and started a new publication, "Mondo digitale". The new publication, issued in cooperation with the Polytechnic of Milan, comprises four issues per year and is distributed to AICA members and to the members of "sister" societies active in informatics and telecommunications.

Every year in autumn AICA organizes a 3-days National Conference, which has recently focused on specific topics. The 2001 event was held in Como on "Technologies, innovation and society" and the 2002 conference, on "ICT: globalization

and localism", was organized in Conversano, near Bari, 25 – 27 September. AICA and its territorial sections and working groups also organize specialized events, typically in the form of workshops on specific areas of interest. Among these is "Didamatica", a yearly meeting devoted to the applications of computers in education and teaching.

SSI - Slovenian Society "INFORMATIKA"



* In December 2001, the executive council of SSI organized a ceremony to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the society. All founding members were invited and were awarded with a certificate of honorary membership.

* In the regular December 2002 SSI executive council meeting a motion was passed to nominate Professor Dr. Jože Gričar as candidate for a Slovenian Ambassador of Science.

* In March 2002, SSI hosted the IFIP Council and related events. The event was partially sponsored by the Slovenian Ministry of Information Society (MIS) and Minister Dr. Pavel Gantar addressed Council. Dr. József Györkös, Deputy Minister, hosted a reception on behalf of MIS.

* The SSI, in collaboration with the Association for Computing and Informatics (at the Chamber of Economy of Slovenia) and company INFOS, held its annual conference "Days of Slovenian Informatics" in Portorož, Slovenia, in April 2002. The IFIP acting president Dr. Walter Grafendorfer and the Minister of information society Dr. Pavel Gantar were guests of honor. The IT STAR Committee meeting was held during the conference and was attended by IFIP acting president Dr. W. Grafendorfer, IFIP Executive Director Plamen Nedkov, and representatives of computer societies of Austria, Hungary, Croatia (a newly admitted country), Slovenia, and Slovakia.

* In July 2002, SSI opened the first Croatian ECDL test center in Zagreb. The request had come from a Croatian company and the ECDL Foundation agreed SSI to assist.

* A SSI General Assembly is due in the fall of 2002. A major reconstruction of statutes, resulting in a new (and a less numerous) executive council, is expected.

LETTER TO THE IT STAR COORDINATOR

[From Veith Risak, Austrian representative to IT STAR]

Dear Plamen,

Now in my vacation I found time to read your presentation of the former IFIP-presidents. It was interesting to learn about the history of IFIP. I

understood for the first time, how important IFIP is for peacekeeping and holding contacts, even in time of cold war. I think positioning IFIP at Laxenburg, nearby another international organization - the IIASA - connecting east and west was a very good idea. I did not think about this, when OCG proposed the change to Laxenburg. I learned too, how different people, with very different background guided IFIP through not always easy times. It was interesting to read the proposals for the future of IFIP. Many important ideas ...

Perhaps I will think about my time as OCG-president from some distance sometimes. I now work on an article, which could have importance for saving the continuity of IT-future. The working title is "Langfristige Informationsspeicherung". Perhaps "Saving the accessibility of digital information for a long future" will be a better title.

My main concern is, that beginning with ca. 1950, the digitization of information and the change away from paper to magnetic materials brought (with the advent of the internet) the global accessibility of information. But the price is high. In case of an interruption of the working of the servers and the net for > 10 years we will experience a total loss of information, because the (then not regularly updated) storage-media could not be read any more. We had such a cultural-break already once at the end of the Roman Empire (ca. 450), which lasted much longer, but some written papers, scrolls, ... survived in the desert (Qumran) or in monasteries.

I try to describe ways to counter this danger by using very durable storage-media readable by man and machines. (Good work is done at the LongNow - Organization (www.longnow.org) and by UNESCO (Memory of the World)). The advent of XML can help at the reconstruction of partially lost media ("mice-eaten begins or ends of lines"). I think this problem should be an important topic for IFIP too. Or is there a TC/WG considering those problem areas? If you know such groups, please inform me by email.

IFIP has started more than a year ago IT-STAR. We have a lot of partner-countries. But we need more activities (in the background, in public and in active cooperation). You know this problem, when you say that not all member-countries gave their papers for our newsletter in time. How many people read them? What could we do to make this group more attractive?

From the viewpoint of Austria/OCG we now have two organizations:

IT-STAR: AT, CZ, HU, IT, SI, SK, HR represented by their computer-associations cooperate. I-12: (www.i-12.org) In this group there are individual organizations from AT, CH and DE. In IT-STAR, CH and DE are missing; in IT-STAR other computer-associations of the partner-countries are missing. I see this problem, because I represent Austria (in IT-STAR) and OCG in i-12. (For i-12 I am the webmaster and update their site regularly.) I think that the members of both groups do not know much of the other group. (I informed all i-12-members and provided a link but I think this is not enough. Perhaps you have some ideas...

V. Risak

FUTURE IT STAR MEETINGS

15-16 November 2002 - Bratislava, Slovakia

Spring 2003 - Croatia

15-17 October 2003, Budapest, Hungary in conjunction with the John von Neumann's 100th anniversary.

IFIP NEWS AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

By Dorothy Hayden, IFIP Events Facilitator

There are many ways to keep abreast of IFIP news. Perhaps the easiest is to visit the IFIP Newsroom at <http://www.ifip.or.at/mail/maillist.html>. It contains information releases on major developments in IFIP, events, new publications and a variety of other information of interest to the IFIP community. All registered Events with IFIP involvement are included in the IFIP Calendar - http://www.ifip.or.at/cal_even.htm#act and information on IFIP publications is available at <http://www.ifip.or.at/dl.htm>. A lot of other useful information can be obtained from the IFIP website and we encourage everyone to visit <http://www.ifip.org>.

The following IFIP (TC & WG) business meetings in IT STAR countries are currently planned:

WG 2.6	12 – 13 January 2003	Sienna, IT
WG 6.10	3 – 5 Feb 2003	Budapest, HU
TC 5	30 – 31 May 2003	Semmering, AT
WG 2.5	15 – 21 Jun 2003	St. Wolfgang, AT
WG 10.4	2 – 6 July, 2004	Sienna, IT
WG 8.3	July, 2004	Prato, IT

The IFIP Calendar of major future events is published on page 6. The events in IT STAR countries are highlighted.



Calendar of Events

Event	Date	Location	Org Contact
Work.Conf.on Communication and Multimedia Security 2002	26-27.9.2002	Portoroz, SI	http://www.setcce.org/cms2002/
Work.Conf.on Meeting Global IT Skills Needs - The Role of IT Prof.	25-27.10.2002	London, GB	http://www.globalITskills.org
Electronic Publishing Conference	6-8.11.2002	Karlovy Vary, CZ	http://www.tu-chemnitz.de/elpub02
5th IFIP WG11.5 Work.Conf.on Integrity and Internal Control in Information Systems	11-12.11.2002	Bonn, DE	http://sirius.cs.ucdavis.edu/IICIS2002/
Intl.Conf.on Formal Techniques for Networked and Distributed Systems	11-14.11.2002	Houston, TX, US	http://www.ece.utexas.edu/FORTE/
Is Theory Any Use for Information Security Managers?	15-15.11.2002	London, GB	csrc@lse.ac.uk, Fax: +44 207 9557335
5th Intl.Work.Conf.on Design of Information Infrastructure Systems for Manufacturing	18-20.11.2002	Osaka, JP	http://www6.mapse.eng.osaka-u.ac.jp/DIISM2002/
5th Smart Card Research & Advanced Application Conference	20-22.11.2002	San Jose, CA, US	http://www.cardis.org
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/
Work.Conf.on Quality Education at a Distance	3-6.2.2003	Geelong,VIC, AU	http://www.deakin.edu.au/education/QED/
8th IFIP/IEEE Intl.Symp.on Integrated Network Management	24-28.3.2003	Colorado Springs, CO, US	http://www.im2003.org
3rd Workshop on Issues in the Theory of Security	5-6.4.2003	Warsaw, PL	http://www.dsi.unive.it/IFIPWG1_7/wits2003.html
HOIT 2003	6-8.4.2003	Irvine, CA, US	http://www.crito.uci.edu/noah/hoit2003/
12th Intl.World Wide Web Conference	20-24.5.2003	Budapest, HU	http://www2003.org
Intl.Conf.on Testing of Communicating Systems	26-29.5.2003	Sophia-Antipolis, FR	http://www.testcom2003.org
18th IFIP Intl. Information Security Conference	26-28.5.2003	Athens, GR	http://www.sec2003.org
IS Perspectives and Challenges in the Context of Globalization	15-17.6.2003	Athens, GR	http://www.aueb.gr/ifip-isglob03/
1st Conf.on History of Nordic Computing	16-17.6.2003	Trondheim, NO	http://web.plu.ntnu.no/ansatte/janwib/ifip/conference/
Conf.on E-Training Practices for Professional Organizations	7-11.7.2003	Pori, FI	http://www.pori.tut.fi/etrain/
21st IFIP TC7 Conf.on System Modelling & Optimization	21-25.7.2003	Sophia Antipolis, FR	http://www.devinci.fr/cs/ifip/
5th Joint Modular Languages Conference	25-27.8.2003	Klagenfurt, AT	http://jmlc-itec.uni-klu.ac.at
Intl.Conf.on Parallel and Distributed Computing	26-29.8.2003	Klagenfurt, AT	http://europar-itec.uni-klu.ac.at
World IT Forum	27-29.8.2003	Vilnius, LT	http://www.witfor.org/
9th IFIP TC13 Intl.Conf.on Human-Computer Interaction	1-5.9.2003	Zurich, CH	http://www.interact2003.org
12th Advanced Research Work.Conf.on Correct Hardware Design and Verification Methods	21-24.10.2003	L'Aquila, IT	http://www.di.univaq.it/charme2003/