

## Genzano Declaration

*We, the participants of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IT STAR Workshop on University - ICT Industry (UNICTRY '07) held on 26 May 2007 in Genzano di Roma, Italy,*

**Identifying** with the mission of universities to preserve, transfer, assess and expand knowledge,

**Appreciating** the importance of this particular event to promote an open exchange of views and further collaboration related to multi-stakeholder partnerships in higher education,

**Understanding** the role of professional non-governmental organizations in providing independent opinion and advice on important matters,

### **Have agreed to the following:**

1. We recognize the value of the Bologna process as a means of convergence and comparability of university study programs leading to an intensive exchange of experience and knowledge. In this vein, we realize that there are important accomplishments in the process but also weaknesses. Further consideration at the national level would be important and we recommend IT STAR's member societies to be actively involved in the discussion.
2. We recommend European universities to focus on innovativeness, which deals with knowledge, but more so with the way knowledge is used. University studies are not simply an individual endeavor but also a process of attaining professional excellence and innovativeness, group work, establishing trust and open exchange of ideas.
3. We encourage stronger collaboration between informatics departments and business/application communities. Multi-stakeholder partnerships in which universities play a major role in extending the provided products and services by utilizing and combining the respective strengths and resources of government, the private sector and civil society. We recommend strong engagement in multi-stakeholder partnership projects as the combination of governmental support, academic knowledge and business motivation positively influences the emergence of new products and services and increased European competitiveness.
4. Governments have an important role and responsibility in supporting public universities and other higher education and research institutions. At the same time, every effort should be made to make the use of public finances transparent. It is also their responsibility to create an innovativeness-friendly environment.
5. Cooperation between universities and industry in defining competence profiles is essential to supply the labor market with professionals capable of satisfying industrial needs but also able to benefit from technological evolution.
6. We realize that there exists an under-estimation of the fact that user IT-ignorance represents a major obstacle in implementing and operating successfully innovative IT solutions in business and public administration. Consequently, we strongly recommend that the highly recognized and vendor neutral IT literacy such as ECDL program is supported in the process of attaining the e-Europe 2010 goals.
7. We recommend the integration of new programs and tools for certification of professional competence, for example the European EUCIP program, into university computer science courses. Respectively, industry recognition of ICT certifications is critical in supporting diffusion of certifications within universities.

**We suggest** IT STAR member societies to inform of this Declaration their constituencies, governments, universities and major industry players, as well as international organizations with which they are affiliated. Likewise, we expect that the Declaration is published in the IT STAR Newsletter.