



**4th IT STAR WS on ICT Skills, Education and Certification: the Multi-stakeholder Partnership
27 – 28 November 2009, Rome, Italy**

We, the participants of the 4th IT STAR Workshop on ICT Skills, Education and Certification: the Multi-stakeholder Partnership, held on 27–28 November 2009 in Rome, Italy,

Appreciating *IT STAR's role in providing a forum for an open exchange of views and partnership and thanking AICA for the provided organizational support,*

Identifying *with the mission of specialized bodies of the EU, national authorities, and a large number of stakeholders from academia and industry, professional non-governmental organizations and social partners in promoting ICT literacy and professionalism,*

Recognizing *that the EU programs and initiatives in the ICT field are of primary importance to the countries of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, and indeed to all EU member states,*

Have agreed to the following:

1. ICT concepts, tools and methodologies are similar across all sectors and all over the world, and the ICT domain is mature to provide its definition of competence standards.
2. There is a need to ensure that the e-competence, knowledge, skills and creative thinking of managers, ICT practitioners and users meet high standards, as these are crucial for Europe's competitiveness, productivity and innovation and directly relate to professionalism and employability of the workforce.
3. Many useful EU initiatives have been launched such as the "e-Skills for the 21st Century" strategy and agenda. The e-Skills Industry Leadership Board was established and an e-Skills Careers Portal launched. The CEN WS on ICT Skills, supported by DG Enterprise and Industry, CEDEFOP and CEPIS, was instrumental in organizing several successful projects, including the currently running "End User e-Skills Framework Requirements" and the "European e-Competence Framework in Action (e-CF)".
4. The e-CF is a neutral reference framework for ICT professional competences that are aligned with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). It can become a major asset for universities, industry, government and social partners in recognizing ICT competences as needed and applied at the workplace and sustaining a long-term multi-stakeholder partnership, thus assisting transparency and mobility in the EU labor market.
5. The EUCIP model offered by CEPIS for ICT professional knowledge & skills management is already used in Ireland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Romania and Spain, and of interest to other countries; a further alignment between EUCIP and the e-CF would facilitate the identification of common professional profiles and the convergence of e-competence supply (by university courses and other less formal learning paths) and demand (by multinational and local organizations).
6. The ECDL, a vendor independent activity managed by the ECDL-Foundation, is committed to improving digital skills proficiency within society by the development, promotion and delivery of quality certification programs, with remarkable success in the IT STAR region, notably in Italy, Greece, Austria, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Croatia, Lithuania and Cyprus.
7. The "new" EU-member states have some significant achievements in ICT education and the promotion of e-skills but much more remains to be done. These countries need to continue increasing the Internet penetration and content in national languages, to work on digital literacy and the use of uniform competence standards and a common European qualification system on all computer literacy levels. In these efforts a stronger participation in European and international programs is recommended.
8. The **IT STAR Declaration from Genzano di Roma (2007)** highlights the importance of a multi-stakeholder University-ICT Industry partnership and the need of internationally recognized certification programs and we reiterate our support to the conclusions of this document.

We invite IT STAR member societies and other European professional organizations to support this Declaration by providing further visibility within their constituencies and countries.