

## GI and OCG sign an agreement of association and more – February 2019

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## **GI and OCG sign an agreement of association**

The [German Informatics Society](#) (GI) and the [Austrian Computer Society](#) (OCG), both members to the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies, have signed an agreement of association on January 31, 2019.

Under the agreement, already existing professional and technical ties between the two organisations are strengthened and their members are encouraged to cooperate across borders, too. Both organisations remain independent entities. Another objective is to work on more joint positions of the DACH-countries, together with the Swiss Informatics Society (SI). The three organisations combined represent the biggest group of IT professionals in Europe.

## **Giovanni Adorni elected the new President of AICA**

On January 15, AICA's Steering Council elected Giovanni Adorni as the new President for the term 2019-2021.

Giovanni is a full professor at the University of Genoa and the Italian National Representative in IFIP's TC 12 "Artificial Intelligence".

Nello Scarabottolo, full professor at the University of Milan and Past President of CEPIS, has been appointed as the first Vice-President of AICA.

Paolo Schgör, CEPIS Board member, was confirmed as Treasurer and Managing Director.

## **EU Proposal on the Prevention of Terrorist Content Online**

The German Informatics Society (GI) supports an open letter that criticises the EU proposal on the prevention of terrorist content online. The main points of criticism are that proposed automated filters on online content might harm users' rights, and that the proposal attributes law enforcement duties to the private sector, namely hosting services.

GI points out that the rule of law has to have primacy in democratic societies. Rather than imposing new regulations, already existing laws should be properly executed online by state authorities. Additionally, the EU proposal demands data retention for six months – a practice that has been outlawed by the European Court of Justice for EU legislation. The open letter was sent to German members of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

The open letter can be downloaded [here](#) (only in German).

## **CEPIS to participate in EU4Digital project**

The European Commission has launched a project, [EU4Digital: supporting digital economy and society in the Eastern Partnership](#). CEPIS has partnered with the winners of the tender, Ernst&Young Baltic, and will provide expertise in the area of digital skills, by working on defining a common competence framework for SMEs and microbusinesses in the Eastern Partnership region. Selected experts will work on developing the framework, and CEPIS will review the experts' work and evaluate the final deliverables.

The project will implement concrete recommendations and action plans agreed in the key areas of the digital economy and society in the Eastern Partnership region. The main focus points are, among others, digital trust and security, eTrade, ICT innovation, eHealth and eSkills.

## **CEPIS co-organises conference on e-skills for diversity**

On 7 February 2019, over 100 experts from Europe and beyond gathered in Brussels to discuss diversity and inclusion in ICT. The event, co-organised by empirica, JP Morgan and CEPIS, featured high-level experts from all sectors, and involved discussions on topics such as fostering diversity in Europe, methodologies of ICT training, scalability and sustainability of projects, and the way forward.

Priska Altorfer, a member of the CEPIS Women in ICT Task Force, spoke at the panel that discussed the future challenges and opportunities to ensure that the ICT workforce becomes more diverse and inclusive.

the [DiversITy](#) project. The project, led by empirica and supported by JP Morgan, carried out an assessment of effective e-skills and ICT training programmes supporting access to the labour market for diverse populations. The key finding of the project was that, although there are plenty of successful inclusive training programmes, they need to become more widespread and sustainable.

The full press release can be found [here](#).

## **ITPE Professional Ethics Expert Group kicks off in Brussels**

The first meeting of the ITPE Professional Ethics Expert Group [took place on 30 January 2019](#) in Brussels. The participants discussed the initiatives of the European Commission and CEN TC 428 on Professional IT Ethics, shared best practices on using e-CF in companies, held a workshop on creating a code of professional ethics and explored collaborative opportunities between the group members.

The speakers included Juan Pablo Penarrubia and Jose Garcia Fanjul from the Spanish Computer Engineering Society (CCII), Wilfried Berlin from Airbus and Poul Erik Rasmussen from euro.digital. The workshop was facilitated by Peter Paul Verroen from KNVI.

This initiative is the second expert workgroup created by ITPE and will work in parallel with our other group on Digital Competences. The next meeting of the professional ethics group is planned to take place later in 2019. ITPE members interested to join the group are invited to get in touch with [ITPE team](#).

## **Make a difference: get involved in ALL DIGITAL Week 2019!**

For the ninth year in a row, ALL DIGITAL is organising an awareness raising campaign on digital competences: [ALL DIGITAL Week](#). This year it will take place from 25 to 31 March. Every year it reaches over 100,000 Europeans through different events and activities focusing on digital transformation, digital skills, media literacy and other relevant topics.

We at CEPIS, as a strategic partner of the campaign, invite your member societies to become national partners, as well as to

campaign by organising events in your country. And don't forget to add them to the [event map](#), so that everyone can be inspired by your initiatives!

## **Save the date: Internet Governance Forum 2019**

The 14th Internet Governance Forum is going to take place on November 25 – 29, 2019 in Berlin. Stakeholders from governments, international organisations, academia, civil society, private businesses, and the technical community are going to discuss policy developments regarding the internet and digitisation topics. The Forum is hosted by the German Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy. Participation in all steps of the process is encouraged, free of charge, and open to all interested organisations and individuals. More information can be found [here](#).

## **Mariya Gabriel kicks off 'Women4Cyber' in Brussels**

On 22 January, the Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya Gabriel, kicked off the 'Women4Cyber' initiative in Brussels, which was launched by the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO) in November last year. ECSO had invited several top European female leaders from the cybersecurity field, including from the European Commission, to become the founding members of the initiative, which aims to increase the involvement of women in the development and promotion of European cybersecurity.

More information can be found on the [European Commission's website](#).

## **Commissioner Gabriel opens exhibition on outstanding women in the arts and sciences**

On 18 January, Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, launched an online series on outstanding historical women in the arts and sciences. Once a week, from mid-January until International Women's Day in the first week of March,

extraordinary historical European woman.

The first story publication tells the story about Maria Skłodowska-Curie (1867–1934), the Nobel Prize-winning scientist famous for her pioneering discoveries in physics and chemistry.

To learn more, please visit the [European Commission's website](#).

## **EU Code Week achieves new record in 2018**

In 2018, EU Code Week achieved a new record with 2.74 million participants, 43,657 events and over 10% of schools in Europe involved, including the Western Balkans countries. When EU Code Week started in 2013, events took place in 26 European countries, whereas in 2018, activities took place in 72 countries.

The overarching goal is for EU Code Week to involve at least half of all European schools by 2020, and Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya Gabriel, continues to encourage more organisers to offer coding activities during the next Code Week in 2019.

More information can be found on the [Commission's website](#).

## **Demand for computer science courses exceeds supply in US schools**

In the United States, a surge in student demand for computer science courses is outstripping the supply of college and university professors, according to an article in the New York Times.

While more students aim for a degree in computer science in hope of high pay and prestige, the low supply of teachers is, in large part, due to private companies attracting them to their organisations and holding them back from academic institutions. The situation has led some universities to take up 'dual-appointments', where professors split their time between teaching and a job in a private corporations. Another initiative is a programme where PHD. students in math, biology and physics are taught to teach computer science and thereby offering more courses.

[website](#).

## **New study looks at European approaches to skills audits**

A new study identifies the main types and different methods used in skills audits in 16 EU countries.

The main findings include that there are significant differences in terminology, and it is recommended to establish an alternative formulation to the term 'skills audit', while also clarifying the concept. Furthermore, it suggested that the audit processes should be tailored to different target groups, which, for example, means creating different versions of an audit requiring a certain level of autonomy for highly educated profiles and persons with low literacy skills.

The full report may be downloaded from the [European Commission's website](#).

## **Romania takes over the EU Presidency**

Romania has taken over the rotating EU Presidency, as of January 2019. The country will focus on 'cohesion, a common European value' and will include provisions for vocational education and training (VET), digital skills and mobility. Their programme also highlights digitalisation and cybersecurity as key parts of the four priority areas.

See all the highlights on [the presidency's webpage](#) – or go directly to their full programme [here](#).

## **New tool for matching skills presented by Cedefop**

Cedefop has presented '*Matching skills: Inspiring policies for anticipating and matching skill needs*', which shows education and training as well as labour market policy instruments in the different EU Member States.

This overview the tool is able to match individuals' skills (jobseekers and students) to current and anticipated labour market needs. The

as 31 anticipated future policies across the EU.

More information can be found on the [Cedefop's website](#).

## **eSkills Malta Foundation promotes digital skills through new initiatives**

The eSkills Malta Foundation held a range of activities in 2018, including new initiatives, to promote the digital skills that are needed to meet the competitive challenges facing Malta's economy.

One of the major initiatives was the launch of the 'Guidelines to increase and retain women in ICT', which highlights the issue of low participation of women in the ICT sector. The Foundation has also pledged to reach out to 60 teachers every year to help them give career guidance and counselling for students pursuing a career in ICT. At the same, one of their main goals is also to develop the IT profession, and last year the two-day training course on the e-Competence Framework (e-CF) was carried out in collaboration with CEPIS and ITPE.

To find out more about the Foundation's activities, please find the full article [here](#).

## **Upcoming Events**

**19 February 2019** Computing in Schools SIN meeting. Brussels, Belgium

**20 February 2019** Informatics for All Coalition Workshop. Brussels, Belgium

**6 March 2019** CEPIS Digital Skills Policy group meeting. Brussels, Belgium

**8 March 2019** Legal and Security Issues SIN meeting. Brussels, Belgium

**25 – 31 March 2019** ALL DIGITAL Week. Europe-wide

**11 May 2019** CEPIS 30th anniversary Council meeting and Presidents' strategy meeting. Brussels, Belgium



**13 – 14 June 2019** Annual Privacy Forum 2019. Rome, Italy

**25 – 29 November 2019** Internet Governance Forum 2019. Berlin,  
Germany