

61st CEPIS Council registration, IT Professionalism Conference, and more –

October 2018

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61(18) CEPIS Council: Register today

The [registration](#) for the 61(18) CEPIS Council meeting is still open. Thank you to those already registered. If you are not able to attend this Council meeting, you have an option to appoint a proxy to represent your society at the meeting. Please find the proxy form [here](#). It is also available on the [members' area](#) of the CEPIS website. Please kindly return the completed form to the CEPIS Secretariat by 22 November 2018.

The agenda will include the election of two CEPIS Board members, reports from CEPIS special interest groups, and other interesting items. It will be circulated to the members in due course.

[Register for the Council meeting](#)

Conference on "Digital Transformation and IT Professionalism" taking place next month in Brussels

A conference on digital transformation and IT professionalism, to be held on November 15 in Brussels, will discuss major themes addressing the digital maturity levels of enterprises and SMEs, and the shortage of IT professionals.

A key highlight of the event will be the presentation of the proposal for a Digital Capability Reference Framework for Enterprises (also referred to as DIGIFRAME). IT Professionalism Europe will also be presented during the session "European IT professionalism standards supporting industry on their digital journey", moderated by CEPIS

Secretary General, Austėja Trinkūnaite.

Other speakers include CIO's of leading European companies and associations, European Commission officials, and recognised experts in the field of digital skills development and IT professionalism.

To see the full programme, and for registrations, please visit the event website [here](#) and [here](#).

Share your view on web accessibility: new survey from European Commission

On behalf of the European Commission, Capgemini Consulting is conducting a study on the status of the accessibility of public sector websites. Its purpose is to establish a baseline for assessing the effects of the Web Accessibility Directive, which entered into force on 26 December 2016, and which will oblige Member States to make their public-sector bodies' websites and mobile applications more accessible. The survey results will provide information on the experience of users with any type of disability when accessing websites and mobile applications of public sector bodies in their respective countries.

You are welcome to provide your input until 21 October. The survey is available in all European Union languages. The link to the survey in English can be found [here](#). Should you wish to disseminate this information further in your networks in your native language, [please contact the research team](#) for the survey link in your own language.

European Cyber Security Month has started

For the 6th year in a row the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) is organising the European Cyber Security Month, a Europe-wide campaign that aims at raising awareness of cybersecurity threats and promoting cybersecurity among citizens and organisations through education and sharing of good practices. More than 300 activities are taking place throughout October, and include trainings, info sessions, seminars and other initiatives to promote and practice cyber hygiene, recognise scams, and safely embrace new technologies.

Find out more on [the European Commission's website](#).

Commission proposes to create a European Network of Cybersecurity Competence Centres

Building on previous initiatives on cybersecurity, the Commission has now proposed the creation of a Network of Cybersecurity Competence Centres to better target and coordinate available funding for cybersecurity research and innovation.

The work of the new network would be coordinated by a new European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre, which will facilitate joint investment by the Union, Member States and industry into research and innovation projects.

By pooling resources with the Member States, the initiative's key aim is to identify and support projects that are crucial for increasing the competitiveness of the European cybersecurity industry while turning cybersecurity into a competitive advantage of industries across different sectors.

For more details, see the full article on [the Commission's website](#).

CEOs can now sign online declaration on gender balance in tech companies

A declaration on gender balanced work culture has been made available for CEO's who are committed to equal access and career opportunities in the tech sector between men and women to sign.

This initiative was launched by Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya Gabriel, as part of the actions to promote gender balance in the digital sector at the Digital4Her event in June 2018.

The declaration can be found on the [Commission's website](#).

More women in tech is also “a

business case”

On 25 September, CEPIS attended a debate on Gender in Tech, organised by the European Internet Forum. The panel featured officials from the European Commission and Parliament, as well as industry and NGO representatives. The participants shared the views on the main reasons why there is a lack of women professionals in the ICT field. Unconscious bias, inflexible working conditions and the image of the profession as ‘not for women’ were named as the main challenges.

The participants emphasised the need for role models, awareness-raising and policies to improve work conditions and promotion prospects for women. The European Parliament representative stressed that more women professionals in the ICT sector, especially in top positions, would also be very beneficial to the European economy, since it is proven that diverse boards in companies correlate to better performance. Women are also a huge untapped talent pool, and attracting and retaining more women to the profession would help minimise the gap of supply and demand for ICT professionals in Europe. This ties in exactly with the conclusions and recommendations of the CEPIS Women in ICT Task Force.

Take a look at the [CEPIS infographic](#) for some interesting figures, and read our policy proposals on attracting and retaining women professionals in this [position paper](#).

European Economic and Social Committee adopts opinion on the digital gender gap

An opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which was requested by the European Parliament to feed into a debate on ‘Digitalisation and the women's role’, looks into the digital gender gap in the education system and labour market. It analyses the reasons behind this occurrence and makes proposals on how to increase the participation of girls in STEM and ICT studies and boost the presence of women in the digital sector.

Among its list of conclusions, the opinion stresses that the digital gender divide is not only a technological issue, but also economic, referring to the potential boost to the economy by including more women in STEM fields.

The full paper may be found on the [EESC website](#).

Digital jobs can help young women overcome constraints in the workforce, says report

Digital jobs can bring new employment opportunities for young women in developing countries, according to a new report by the Solutions for Youth Employment (S4YE) coalition. The report, titled Digital Jobs for Youth: Young Women in the Digital Economy, incorporates insights drawn from 19 case studies and lays out how jobs in the digital economy can increase young women's productivity, earnings, and financial independence.

S4YE is a multi-stakeholder coalition, housed in the Social Protection and Jobs Global Practice of the World Bank, that aims to provide leadership and resources for catalytic action to increase the number of young people engaged in productive work.

More information about the report can be found on the [World Bank's website](#).

European Commission launches the European Digital Skills Awards 2018

With the launch of the European Digital Skills Awards, the European Commission seeks to highlight projects that contribute to the development of digital skills in Europe. The Awards will be presented by Mariya Gabriel, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, on 6 December 2018.

The projects will be assessed according to the following five categories:

1. Digital skills for all – developing digital skills to enable all citizens to be active in our digital society
2. Digital skills for the labour force – developing digital skills for the digital economy, e.g. upskilling and reskilling workers, jobseekers; career advice and guidance

3. Digital skills for ICT professionals – developing high-level digital skills for ICT professionals in all industry sectors

4. Digital skills in education – transforming the teaching and learning of digital skills in a lifelong learning perspective, including the training of teachers

5. Digital skills for girls and women – taking actions to develop digital skills for women and girls

As a prize, winners will be invited to exhibit their project at the ICT 2018 conference in Vienna to be held from 4 to 6 December. The final deadline for the submission of projects is 21 October 2018.

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

4th Annual Public Sector Transformation Conference 2018 held in Brussels

The 4th Annual Public Sector Conference was held in Brussels on 18 September 2018. The event focused on the impact of AI and High-Performance Computing (HPC) on European society. Of particular note in the discussions was healthcare, with Director General of DG CONNECT, Roberto Viola, telling participants that 20% of government spending could be saved in this sector by leveraging the opportunities of AI. To ensure this potential, he also emphasised the importance of the ongoing 'EuroHPC'- project, which is a joint initiative between Member States and the EU to develop exascale supercomputing in Europe by 2022/23.

Other high-profile speakers included Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Digital Affairs, Karol Okonski, Mario Campolargo of DG DIGIT, and Mattia Fantinati, Under Secretary of State for Public Administration in Italy.

10.9 million people reached by upskilling activities of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

Between December 2016 and July 2018, members of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition offered 10.9 million Europeans a chance to

improve their digital skills, according to a recent result overview.

In total, 7.4 million digital skills trainings were provided, 1.9 million certifications delivered, while 1.6 million people were reached through awareness-raising campaigns. The report also notes that 23 National Coalitions are now working on the ground, promoting digital skills policies and actions.

Until now, 102 members have pledged their support to the Coalition, including CEPIS, and taken concrete actions to provide Europeans with more, and better, digital skills. The "Pledge viewer" website collects information about the progress of the pledges, which may be found [here](#).

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

European Parliament publishes study on digital skills in the 21st century

The European Parliament has published a study on Digital Skills in the 21st century, which aims to identify potential blind spots in the field of digital skills and competences that are not addressed by the European Commission's Action Plan for skills and mobility or any other existing initiatives at EU level.

Most of the recommendations suggest that EU institutions should increase support and cooperation with Member States and have a more cohesive approach to solving common issues. One issue, which the paper addresses, is the likely loss of competitiveness if there is a failure to give Europeans of all ages the right digital competences.

The full report can be found on [the Parliament's website](#).

CEDEFOP launches new tool for evaluating skills systems on a national level

On 27 September, CEPIS attended the European Skills Index (ESI) launch event. The ESI is a new tool to evaluate countries' skills systems' performance. The Index consists of three pillars: skills

development, skills activation, and skills matching. It covers not only people's skills and competences, but also factors like integration into the job market, which groups of the population are economically active, and how well people's skills match the labour market demands and people's own expectations.

The main results from the study based on the ESI showed that the Czech Republic, Finland, Sweden and Luxembourg scored highest in the overall effectiveness on their skills systems. Half of the EU countries, mostly eastern, central and western Europe, achieved scores in the mid-range, and countries from the south and south-east scored below 45 out of 100.

Thanks to its structure, the ESI allows countries to see which areas they need to focus on to improve their skills systems, and provides information for informed policy-making.

Explore the methodology and findings of the ESI on [the CEDEFOP website](#).

New motion brought before European Parliament on 'education in the digital era'

The Committee on Culture and Education, with Yana Toom MEP as rapporteur, have proposed a new motion on 'education in the digital era - challenges, opportunities and lessons for EU policy design'.

The proposal stresses the need for transforming educational and training systems at all levels, as Member States need to ensure digital learning content, tools and solutions are available, and accessible for all citizens. It also encourages Member States to collaborate with businesses, education and training centres and civil society stakeholders to identify existing skills gaps, expand digital literacy, enhance media literacy.

More details can be found in the full report on the [Parliament's website](#).

Upcoming Events

October 2018 [Cybersecurity Month](#). Europe-wide

6-21 October 2018 [EU Code Week](#). Europe-wide.

11 October 2018 [e-CF Alliance Final Conference](#). Brussels, Belgium.

24 October 2018 [ITPE Digital Competence Expert Group Meeting](#).
Brussels, Belgium

25 October 2018 [Labour Market and Digitisation-session with Agoria](#).
Brussels, Belgium.

15 November 2018 [Digital Transformation and IT Professionalism](#).
Brussels, Belgium.

22 November 2018 CEPIS Information Society Group meeting.
Brussels, Belgium.

29 November 2018 61(18) CEPIS Council Meeting. Berlin, Germany.

4-6 December 2018 [ICT 2018](#). Vienna, Austria.