In this issue

We bring you news about the CEPIS Council meeting on 7 May in Athens. Find out about the latest Eurostat figures on ICT in the EU, ICS’ IT Professionals Day 2016 and register for the IT Professionalism Europe Conference. Do not hesitate to send us your feedback or contributions for the next update, to be published in May 2016.

56(16) CEPIS Council Meeting – Registration Now Open

The registration for the 56(16) CEPIS Council Meeting is now open. A Convocation has been sent out to all Members with the necessary information. This 56th CEPIS Council is being convened to discuss changes to the Articles of the CEPIS Constitution and Standing Orders as well as the Execom Election and usual business. The documents concerning the proposed changes as well as the draft agenda of the Council meeting can be found on the Members’ Area of the CEPIS website. This year we are pleased to bring you two exciting keynote speakers: the renowned futurist and author Gerd Leonhard, and Tom Raftery, industry analyst and expert on the Internet of Things, Energy, and CleanTech.

Register here

Registration for the IT Professionalism Europe Conference Now Open

IT Professionalism Europe, which will take place on 16th June in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, is the first conference of its kind, seeking to catalyse the professionalisation of IT personnel and showcase best practice in managing, developing and assessing IT staff across Europe. Organised by the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies (CEPIS), the IT Professionalism Europe Conference will bring together HR managers, staffing agencies, consultancies, commercial testing and training organisations, and professional bodies from across Europe to discuss best practices and new practical tools available. At the heart of the discussions will be the European e-Competence Framework (e-CF), a new pan-European standard that will become the common language across Europe for IT competences and skills from 7 April 2016. Attendees will learn how to use the European e-Competence Framework (e-CF) and other tools like it, how to apply them in their respective companies, and meet with organisations that provide tools and services, such as competence assessment and certification providers. We would like to invite you to register to attend the 1st IT Professionalism Europe Conference in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, on the 16th June 2016. To qualify for our early bird rate, please register here by 1st May 2016.

Visit the Conference website

CEPIS at the eSkills for Jobs Conference
CEPIS attended the high-level “Skilling up for the future of Europe” conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 16 March 2016. Ms Fiona Fanning participated in the panel discussion about ICT Professionalism. This one-day event, organised by DIGITALEUROPE in the framework of the Dutch Presidency and as a part of the eSkills for Jobs 2016 campaign. The conference was centred on the importance of a digitally skilled workforce and the content of the new “Digital Skills Agenda”, expected to be launched in early May. More specifically, the event was focused on how digital and key enabling technologies are providing the basis for innovation across all industrial sectors. The keynote speakers included H.R.H. Prince Constantijn van Oranje, European Commissioner for Industry and SMEs Elzbieta Bienkovska, MEP and eSkills for Jobs Ambassador Marietje Schaake, among others.

See the event website

Professional Ethics for a Digital World

OCG Journal has published an article on “Professional Ethics in a Digital World” by Declan Brady, Chair of the CEPIS IT Professionalism Task Force. He explains that “IT was something that sat in the corner of the room, flashing the occasional light accompanied by a soft background hum. Now it’s on the streets, in people’s pockets, - very much in the consumer domain”. Declan Brady explains the subsequent need to develop professional ethics, and what CEPIS is doing to push the issue forward.

Read the full article

ICS Organizes IT Professionals Day as Part of Tech Week 2016

Organized by the Irish Computer Society (ICS), IT Professionals Day is a dedicated day to celebrate the role and contribution that IT professionals make in advancing business and society. This day gives professionals the opportunity to recognise their value and to support their own professional development by using their talents and innovation to improve society for everyone’s benefit. All IT professionals are invited to get involved by going to the IT Professionals Day website. Tech Week is Ireland’s nationwide festival of technology, and will take place on the 24th-30th April this year. This year’s events includes the final of F1 in Schools challenge, Scratch coding competition, Bebras Computing Challenge and much more. Follow on Twitter @TechWeekIRL and the Tech Week website. To help promote the day, we also welcome all organisations to make a short video similar to the ICS video Happy IT Professionals Day wishing everyone a “Happy IT Professionals Day”. By sending your videos to ITProfessionalsDay@ics.ie videos will be compiled together and shown on the day through social media coverage and on the IT Professionals Day website.

OCG Organizes Conference on Computing in Schools

The Austrian Computer Society (OCG) in cooperation with CEPIS is organizing a conference on Computational Thinking (CT) and Coding in Schools on 18 April, 2016 in Vienna, Austria. The conference will focus on issues such as a strategy for introducing CT in schools, ways to assess CT skills, the benefits of learning programming for all, CT in primary and secondary schools and informatics curriculum in British schools, amongst others. CEPIS is organizing a Computing in Schools SIn meeting the next day.

Explore the conference website
38% of Enterprises had Hard-To-Fill Vacancies for ICT Jobs in 2014
The latest figures from Eurostat reveal that close to 8 million people were employed as ICT specialists in the EU in 2014, amounting to 3.7% of total employment. The ICT profession remains dominated by men, who account for over eight out of ten ICT specialists in the EU. More than half of ICT specialists in the EU have a tertiary education level. The United Kingdom, Germany and France account for almost half of all ICT specialists employed in the EU, although the highest shares of ICT specialists in total employment were recorded in Finland, Sweden and Luxembourg. Between 2011 and 2014, the number of ICT specialists in the EU grew by almost 1.2 million, with the share in total employment rising from 3.2% to 3.7%.
Read the full press release

Share Your Experience as an IT Professional
The eSkills for Jobs team are looking for IT professionals willing to be featured in short videos (1 to 1.5 mins). They will be filmed in their work environment and explain what their job is about, what skills they use and what is the educational path they followed. Specifically we look for: a networks engineer, a UX designer, a technical manager, web developer and a data scientist. If you are interested, or know someone else who would be, please let us know as soon as possible.

Public Consultation on Role of Publishers in Copyright Value Chain Now Open
The European Commission has opened a public consultation on the role of publishers in the copyright value chain and on the ‘panorama exception’. The aim of this consultation is to find out the opinion of all stakeholders of publishing sector and the digital economy about the impact of granting an EU neighbouring right to publishers could have on the publishing sector, citizens and creative industries. Any organization, government authority, online service provider or interested individual is welcome to give their view. The consultation is open until 15 June 2016.
Have your say

First Trends of Public Consultation on Roaming Markets and Policies Now Published
The results of the public consultation on the review of national wholesale roaming markets, fair use policy and the sustainability mechanism have now been made available. The aim of the consultation was to find out stakeholders’ opinion about the wholesale roaming review and the preparation of implementing acts that clarify rules on fair use policy. The consultation was a part of the European Commission’s aim to abolish roaming by June 2017. The Commission is currently analysing the replies, and a full summary will be published shortly. The results will be included in the Commission’s legislative proposals for the acts on fair use policy and the sustainability mechanism, to be adopted at the end of this year.
See the findings

Report on EU Cloud Security Workshop published
The EU cloud security workshop “Building Trust in Cloud Services – Certification and Beyond”
took place on 18 March 2016 in Brussels. The workshop focused on the Network and Information Security (NIS) directive, the complexity of reporting in cloud computing and the problems this presents to effective risk assessment and incident response, a need for international standardisation and the importance of interoperability of eIDs, among other issues. The panellists and the attendees included EU officials, academics and industry representatives, as well as a representative of the CEPIS LSI SIN.

Read the full report

ITU Girls in ICT Day to Take Place in April 2016

The ICT sector is no exception to the popular misconception that “technology is for men”. It is not only men who think that; many women do not even consider entering the ICT field. It is an opportunity missed: the job prospects for highly qualified individuals in the ICT sector are excellent. Girls and young women should be encouraged to pursue ICT studies and careers, and that is exactly what the Girls in ICT initiative, created by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and backed by all ITU Member States, aims to achieve. The biggest part of the initiative is the annual Girls in ICT Day which will take place on 28th April. All stakeholders are encouraged to organize different activities and events on and around that date. Since 2011, when the first Girls in ICT Day was organized, more than 177 000 girls and young women have participated in more than 5,300 events in 150 countries.

Learn more about this exciting initiative

Scientist from ICT Sector Wins 2016 EU Women Innovator Award

The winners of the prestigious 2016 EU Women Innovator Awards were announced on 10 March 2016. The Prize aims to raise public awareness of the need for more innovation and more female entrepreneurs, and to highlight the achievements of the most successful women innovators. This year was particularly special because the top spot went to an outstanding IT professional: Dr. Susana Sargento, co-founder of Veniam in Portugal, a company that turns vehicles into Wi-Fi hotspots and builds city-scale vehicular networks that collect terabytes of urban data. The prized were presented by the European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, Carlos Moedas.

Read the full press release

WHO on eHealth – The Sooner, The Better

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) report on eHealth, significant progress has been made towards eHealth in many Member States of the WHO European Region, with clear benefits to the public. Some of the key statistics include the fact that 93% of Member States have allocated public funding to eHealth, 81% promote health messages through social media, and 80% have legislation to protect the privacy of individual health-related data in electronic records. The report also demonstrates that, although most Member States now use eHealth to deliver healthcare and information, there is ample room for improvement. For example, several countries lack legal protection in eHealth and have weak or no governance. Telehealth (use of mobile health apps etc.) is another area that is in significant need of improvement, given the increasing popularity of use of such services.

Find out more
Important Upcoming Events

18 April Computational Thinking and Coding at Schools. Vienna, Austria. Organised by: OCG & CEPIS

19 April Unlocking the Potential of e-Skills in Europe. Brussels, Belgium. Organised by: Public Policy Exchange


2 May Workshop on Quality Assurance of Informatics Higher Education. Berlin, Germany. Organised by: EQANIE

7 May 56 CEPIS Council Meeting. Athens, Greece. Organised by: CEPIS

8-10 June eHealth Week 2016. Amsterdam, Netherlands. Organised by: European Commission

16 June IT Professionalism Europe Conference. Amsterdam, Netherlands. Organised by: CEPIS

27 - 28 June CIO City 2016. Amsterdam, Netherlands. Organised by: CIONET