

59(17) CEPIS Council, Latest Statistics on ICT Professionals, and More – August**2017****In this issue**

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Save the Date: 59(17) CEPIS Council Meeting on 16 November in Spain

The 59(17) CEPIS Council meeting will take place at the Hotel Catalonia Plaza Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain, on Thursday 16 November. Elections for the CEPIS Board of Directors will take place during this Council meeting, with two positions on the Board open. There will be a welcome reception in the hotel at 19:00 on Wednesday 15 November, the evening prior to the Council Meeting. We will notify you when registration opens.

The draft agenda and additional supporting documentation will be available prior to the Council in the [Members' area](#) of the CEPIS website. The draft minutes of the 58(17) CEPIS Council meeting can be downloaded [here](#).

8 Million Not Sufficient: EU Still Lacking ICT Specialists

In a recent news release by the EU's official statistics agency, Eurostat, it is reported that

more than 8.2 million ICT specialists were employed in the EU during 2016, which accounts for 3.7% of all employment in Europe. However, according to Eurostat, 41% of companies struggle to recruit ICT professionals. The data also demonstrates a significant gender gap within the ICT field: approximately 80% of those that found employment were male. The average ICT specialist is also highly educated, with 60% having obtained tertiary education. The report also offers a valuable insight into ICT professionals' recruitment and demographic statistics across the EU. This information is notably used to inform several EU policies, in particular the initiatives under the Digital Single Market strategy.

[Read here](#)

Register for Conference on Future of Digital Education and Training in the EU

Dlearn, along with the European Association of Career Guidance and the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators, have conducted a [survey](#) on future development in Education and Training in the era of digital transformation. The survey collected data on current and future use of digital tools in education, from digital games to learning content management systems, as well as to ascertain key factors and challenges in ICT-related excellence in school education systems.

The findings of the survey will be presented at a public conference on 19 October 2017 in Brussels, Belgium. The attendance is free of charge.

[Register here](#)

Funding Opportunity: Case Studies on Innovation in Higher Education

The Joint Research Centre recently announced a call for tenders on identifying case studies on innovative Training and Development practices in Higher Education. The objective of the contract is to identify and analyse 6-10 case studies of how digital innovation in higher education teaching methods can be organised as part of their Training and Development. The overall goal is to develop a deeper understanding of the associated challenges and opportunities. The deadline for registration is September 12th, 2017 and launch date is September 19th, 2017.

[Read here](#)

Participate in Consultation on Digital Transformation of Health and Care

The European Commission has launched a public consultation on the digital transformation of health and care today that will remain open until October 12th, 2017. The consultation aims to investigate the need and scope for policy measures on digital health and care. Furthermore, the European Commission hopes that the consultation will promote digital innovation for better health and care in Europe. The consultation will focus on cross-border access to and management of personal health data, joint European exploitation of resources to advance health care and research, and measures to increase digital innovation in relation to citizen feedback. The consultation is open to the views of all stakeholders and citizens.

[Have your say](#)

Evaluation of the National Qualification Frameworks Required

Cedefop, in cooperation with the European Commission and Quality and Qualifications Ireland, is currently organizing a conference/peer learning activity on the impact of the national qualifications frameworks (NQFs). The event aims to stimulate an open and critical reflection on the current and future role of NQFs. Given that the NQFs are increasingly becoming operational across Europe, questions regarding their added value and their impact are important. The conference will take place in Thessaloniki, Greece, on 9-10 November 2017. More information regarding registration will be released in September.

[Read here](#)

Become a Vocational Skills Week Ambassador

The European Commission is currently putting in place a network of European Vocational Skills (VET) Week Ambassadors. Candidates should be well-known in their country or sphere of influence, have a VET background and/or be invested in promoting skills' development. The role of the Ambassadors is to promote the European Vocational Skills Week and its objectives. They will also be responsible for reaching wide audiences in their home countries and facilitating strong participation. Ambassadors should also highlight one or several of the sub-themes of the Skills Week which are: mobility of learners and apprentices, sectoral skills approaches, and business-education partnerships.

[Read here](#)

New Annual Country Reports on Open Internet Released

The European Commission has made the annual country reports from national regulators on the open internet available. The reports are significant as they will be used as the basis for the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications's Report on the implementation of the net neutrality rules, which is expected by the end of the year. Furthermore, the European Commission will use them to evaluate the next Europe's Digital Progress Report in 2018. The reports were prepared by the national regulatory authorities, and they cover the first 12 months after the open internet rules came into effect on April 30th, 2016.

[See the reports](#)

SEDEC to Publish Opinion Factsheet on Building a European Data Economy

The Commission for Social Policy, Education, Employment, Research and Culture (SEDEC) is currently preparing an opinion factsheet on building a European data economy and the challenges ahead. The factsheet comes as a response to the increasing efforts in Europe to establish the Digital Single Market. The opinion factsheet will include digital skills within the contexts of digital infrastructure, data security, and increasing employability. A draft version is currently available, with the final version being published on 10 October 2017.

[Read here](#)

Job Creation and Growth Needs Change, Says European Parliament

The European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs recently published proposed amendments to the report on combating inequalities as a lever to boost job creation and growth. One of the significant changes, made on behalf of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, highlights the importance of further encouraging and supporting female digital entrepreneurship. The amendment recommends that the EU Member States focus on boosting women's e-skills, e-literacy and digital inclusion, both in the ICT sector and beyond. This comes as a response to the growing demand for e-skills in Europe.

[Read here](#)

Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia Launches Digital Health Society Declaration

As of July 1st, Estonia assumed the office of the EU Presidency. As such, many priorities have been outlined as part of the presidential programme, including advancing the Digital Single Market and the Digital economy. As a response, the Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia has launched a Digital Health Society (DHS) Declaration as a call for actions focusing on Health in the Digital Society and the Digital Society for Health. The declaration will integrate inputs from all the stakeholders interested in the development of Digital health. Furthermore, a DHS Task Force has been established to assemble high-level experts from across Europe. The results will be presented at the conference on Health in the Digital Society, which will take place in Tallinn on October 16th to 18th, 2017.

[Read here](#)

Upcoming Events

29 September 2017 [European Data Ethics Forum](#). Copenhagen, Denmark. Organised by: Dansk IT and DathaEtics.eu

7 - 22 October 2017 [EU Code Week](#). Europe-wide initiative. Organised by: Young Advisors Group and the European Commission

16 - 18 October 2017 [Conference on Health and Digital Society](#). Tallinn, Estonia. Organised by: Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia, ECHAlliance and HIMSS Europe

19 October 2017 [Public Conference on Future of Digital Education and Training in the EU](#). Brussels, Belgium. Organised by: Dlearn and European Association of Career Guidance and the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators.

October 2017 [European Cyber Security Month 2017](#). Brussels, Belgium. Organised by: European Commission, ENISA and partners

16 November 2017 59(17) CEPIS Council meeting. Barcelona, Spain. Organised by: CEPIS

19 - 20 November 2017 [ICT Proposer's Day](#). Budapest, Hungary. Organised by: European Commission

20 - 24 November 2017 [European Vocational Skills Week](#). Europe-wide initiative. Organised by: European Commission and partners.