

Season's Greetings, 59th Council Outcome, ITPE Anniversary and More –

December 2017

In this issue

- [59\(17\) CEPIS Council Meeting: Outcome Summary](#)
- [Recognising Women in ICT: CEPIS Presents Ada Award to Digital Woman of the Year 2017](#)
- [CEPIS Secretary General Presents ITPE to Eastern Partnership Countries](#)
- [ITPE Marks First Anniversary](#)
- [ITPE Presented in Exhibition at the Digital Skills and Job Coalition Conference](#)
- [European Commission Launches ICT Job Tool](#)
- [€6 Billion for ICT Initiatives in EU Horizon 2020 Funding Between 2018 and 2020](#)
- [Companies Losing Competitive Advantage Because of Poor Digital Skills](#)
- [Cybersecurity a Key Theme at European Defence Agency Annual Conference in Brussels](#)
- [Informatics in Schools Put on the Map by New Study](#)
- [European Council Conclusions Adopted on 'Digital for Development'](#)
- [ENISA Report Considers Data Protection Certification Mechanisms](#)
- [Blockchain's Applications in Education Examined in New European Commission Report](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)



59(17) CEPIS Council Meeting: Outcome Summary

Thank you to all who participated in the 59(17) Council Meeting in Barcelona. We kindly ask you to provide your feedback on the event via [this survey](#) by Friday, 22 December 2017. This Council meeting was convened to elect two members of the CEPIS Board of Directors, and we would like to invite you to join us in congratulating Mr Jos Timmermans, from KNVI, and Mr Luis Fernandez-Sanz, from ATI, on their re-election.

The Council meeting was hosted by the Spanish Computer Society (ATI), which celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The society's treasurer, Jaume Soler, welcomed the attendees and outlined ATI's history and progress throughout the years.

In addition to the usual business, this Council meeting also approved the creation of, and budget for, a new CEPIS Special Interest Group on the Information Society. The group will be co-chaired by Slovakia's Milan Ftáčnik and Spain's Luis Fernandez, and its main aim is to help member societies to keep up-to-date and work with trending ICT topics that impact the society, such as the Digital Single Market, Industry 4.0, accessibility and inclusion, health and assisted living systems, Open Data and eGovernment, and the impact of AI and the Internet of Things on society. The Council also approved the motion of CEPIS joining a coalition with ACM and Informatics Europe to further the cause of ICT education and digital skills in Europe.

The minutes of the Council meeting, as well as all the presentations and related documentation, are available in the [Members' Area](#) of the CEPIS website. The 60(18) CEPIS Council meeting will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, on 14 April 2018.

Recognising Women in ICT: CEPIS Presents Ada Award to Digital Woman of the Year 2017

On 30 November, CEPIS attended the [2017 Ada Awards](#) and Digital Bruxelles Celebration,

Year award to [Ms Pascale van Damme](#), an executive at Dell BeLux, co-founder of BeCentral, and a very active promoter of the inclusion of women in the ICT sector, and of encouraging girls to pursue ICT-related studies.

In addition to the awards, the event showcased initiatives that support women's inclusion in digital innovation, education and employment. Representatives from the Brussels Regional Government, European Commission, Digital Leadership Institute and private sector, presented projects such as [Interface3](#), which works to expand and diversify women's professional involvement in ICT and other professions where women are not strongly represented; [inQube](#), a female digital accelerator network and expert ecosystem promoting women-led, digitally-driven and digitally-enabled enterprise across Europe; and several new projects by young women from Digital Bruxelles' Female Digital Starters programme.

CEPIS has been a partner and sponsor of the Ada Awards initiative since its inception in 2012.

CEPIS Secretary General Presents ITPE to Eastern Partnership Countries

CEPIS Secretary General, Austeja Trinkunaite, attended the Taiex Multi-Country Workshop on Digital Skills to present IT Professionalism and ITPE to Eastern Partnership countries, on 6 December 2017, in Brussels. The event aimed to provide an updated state of play around digital skills, and to elaborate on Taiex's 2018 action plan for Eastern Partnership countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Ms Trinkunaite's presentation 'IT professionalism and ITPE' informed the participants about the importance of IT professionalism in harnessing digital skills for the good of Europe, overviewed the development of e-Competence Framework (e-CF) and presented the IT Professionalism Europe network. The Eastern Partnership countries showed a great interest in ITPE and the benefits offered by the network. If you are interested in learning more, please visit [ITPE webpage](#) for information about ITPE, its activities, its membership, and the community of organisations represented by ITPE.

ITPE Marks First Anniversary

IT Professionalism Europe (ITPE) network, the initiative launched by CEPIS last year, celebrated its first anniversary on 24 November 2017. Since its launch, ITPE has worked to promote IT professionalism, organising briefings on the European e-Competence Framework, and roundtable discussions.

ITPE is a network of organisations that are committed to furthering IT professionalism in Europe. With over 60 member organisations, ITPE is a platform to share knowledge and experience, and support the

ITPE briefings in Malta and Greece, a launch event in the Netherlands and a roundtable discussion in Brussels.

Find out more about ITPE activities on [ITPE website](#).

ITPE Presented in Exhibition at the Digital Skills and Job Coalition Conference

ITPE was showcased at the exhibition at the Digital Skills and Job Coalition annual conference that took place on 7 December 2017 in Brussels. The conference sought to explore the digital opportunities available in Europe, which provided the context for the ITPE exhibition on IT Professionalism.

The European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, Mariya Gabriel launched [the Digital Opportunity traineeship scheme](#) and announced the winners of the [European Digital Skills Awards 2017](#). Following the presentations, conference participants visited the exhibition to learn more about the digital opportunities available. ITPE's stand focused on the four pillars of IT professionalism, benefits offered by our network, and an interactive quiz where participants could test their knowledge of IT professionalism.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit [ITPE webpage](#) for information.

European Commission Launches ICT Job Tool

The European Commission has launched a 'Monitor for ICT online vacancies' tool to register ICT job openings across Europe. The tool was developed to establish a method of visual reporting and analysis of ICT job vacancies in the EU.

The tool is a response from the European Commission to the growing digital skills gap in Europe. The tool functions by mapping job openings across Europe, and it displays the information on a visual map. The information can then be refined to be sorted into specific [ISCO-88](#), a system for classifying and aggregating occupational information, categories. The countries currently supported by the tool are: the UK, the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, and Austria.

You can learn more about ICT vacancies across Europe and the ['Monitor for ICT online vacancies' tool](#) by visiting the Commission's website.

€6 Billion for ICT Initiatives in EU Horizon 2020 Funding Between 2018 and 2020

Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme will be spend in the ICT sector. The money will be spent in the final phase of the programme, between 2018 and 2020, and forms part of an overall €30 billion budget for research and innovation.

The €6 billion will be spent on a range of ICT related projects, including focus on helping European industry and services to digitise, tackling cybersecurity issues, and supporting projects like the 'European Open Science Cloud'.

More information about the Horizon 2020 work programme for 2018 to 2020 can be found on the [website of the European Commission](#).

Companies Losing Competitive Advantage Because of Poor Digital Skills

A new study by CapGemini and LinkedIn has found that half of companies surveyed are not taking the digital skills gap in the workforce seriously. Despite this, the report also finds that more than half of organisations agreed that, "the digital talent gap is hampering their digital transformation programs and that their organisation has lost competitive advantage because of a shortage of digital talent."

The report, published in October, recommends that organisations take steps to attract workers with digital skills, develop digital skills among their existing employees by prioritising and rewarding learning, and work to retain workers with digital skills.

The full report can be downloaded from the [website of CapGemini](#).

Cybersecurity a Key Theme at European Defence Agency Annual Conference in Brussels

Estonian President, Kersti Kaljulaid, highlighted the importance of cybersecurity during an address to the European Defence Agency's annual conference in Brussels. She noted that cyber-attacks are no longer novel, and that implementing basic 'cyber hygiene' is increasingly necessary.

President Kaljulaid said, "Along with all the fancy initiatives, cyber defence programmes and new institutions that we create, we must not forget that the human factor and basic cyber hygiene continue to be things that will cause security breaches and incidents in the future,".

The theme of cybersecurity ran through the conference, which took place on 23 November. Other speakers at the event included Jorge Domecq, Chief Executive of the European Defence Agency, and Federica Mogherini, the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs.

More information can be found on the [website of the Estonian Presidency of the EU](#).

Informatics in Schools Put on the Map by New Study

Informatics Europe and ACM Europe have published a new interactive map that details informatics and digital skills education in schools. The report looks at when school students first encounter informatics, and what percentage of students take informatics courses in secondary education in different European countries.

The map provides a visualisation of data that has been collected over the past year from detailed questionnaires on the status of digital literacy and informatics teaching sent to contacts across all countries in Europe, and in many cases, fills in gaps in data collected for official statistics.

The map can be viewed on the [website of Informatics Europe](#).

European Council Conclusions Adopted on 'Digital for Development'

During its meeting on 20 November, the European Council adopted conclusions on 'Digital for Development' (D4D). Under the conclusions, the EU has committed to support digital technologies and services in developing countries, with the aim of enabling growth and sustainable development.

The European Council has invited the European Commission to implement D4D through actions between 2017 and 2020, and has called on the Commission to scale up a number of pilot projects.

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

ENISA Report Considers Data Protection Certification Mechanisms

A new report that aims to introduce data protection experts to the concept of GDPR certification has been published by ENISA, the EU's Agency for Network and Information Security.

The report looks at the challenges and opportunities for different mechanisms to certify data protection, and recommends that a common EU approach to creating and implementing certification is adopted that ensures a trustworthy and transparent certification process.

The General Data Protection Regulation, which comes into force on 25 May 2018, will bring a number of significant changes to data protection law across the EU, with increased requirements for recording consent to process data, and steep fines for breaches of the rules.

More information can be found on the [website of ENISA](#).

Blockchain's Applications in Education Examined in New European Commission Report

The potential for blockchain technologies in education has been examined in a new report from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). The report looks in detail at the ways that blockchain technologies could disrupt education, and the opportunities for using the technology to improve education.

Blockchain is a decentralised technology that allows records of transactions to be securely made. While it is commonly used in applications such as smart contracts, the JRC's report identifies the potential for its use in recording and validating academic certificates and qualifications, or tracking intellectual property.

The report makes a number of recommendations, including, "the application of blockchain technology to specific educational use cases", and developing an expert consultative committee to inform policy makers of developments in the area.

The full report can be downloaded from the [website of the European Commission](#).

Upcoming Events

23 - 24 January 2018 [International Cybersecurity Forum. Lille, France](#)

24 - 26 January 2018 [Computers, Privacy and Data Protection Conference 2018. Brussels, Belgium](#)

9 March 2018 CEPIS Legal and Security Issues SIN meeting. Brussels, Belgium./p>

14 April 2018 60(18)CEPIS Council Meeting. Istanbul, Turkey.