

CEPIS Calls for Best Practice Framework for National Cybersecurity Strategies &**more - June 2018****In this issue**

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CEPIS Calls for Best Practice Framework for National Cybersecurity Strategies

CEPIS' Legal and Security Issues Special Interest Network (LSI SIN) has published a

new paper, *Best Practices for a Journey Towards Secure Cyberspace*, which evaluates the approach of different National Cybersecurity Strategies (NCSS) within the EU. The paper calls for a common European evaluation framework to help ensure a long-term strategy for reducing risks to cybersecurity between EU Member States.

By comparing a selection of Member States' NCSS, the paper finds that 38% of 21 analysed European national strategies fail to represent a holistic, long-term approach to cybersecurity, only focusing on operational issues, while they also need new methods to assess and monitor the institutions dealing with this area. It is noted that many of the national institutions that currently handle cybersecurity enforcement are still dependent on the state, which is problematic as the state institutions are stakeholders themselves with regard to cybersecurity and should therefore be separated from the pertaining authority.

The full paper can be downloaded from the [CEPIS website](#), and members are encouraged to share it through their networks.

Have your say on the priorities of the new CEPIS Information Society Group

At the 59(17) CEPIS Council meeting in Barcelona, the Council members approved the creation of the Information Society Special Interest Group (ISG). Milan Ftáčnik (SSCS, Slovakia) and Luis Fernandez (ATI, Spain) were appointed co-chairs of the group. The group's main purpose is to keep Member Societies updated on the trending topics of ICT in the general society, such as the Digital Single Market, Industry 4.0, accessibility and inclusion, health and assisted living systems, and others.

As part of its operational plan before starting the activities, the coordinators of ISG are compiling the perception of experts and representatives of CEPIS Member Societies to guide the lines of action of the group, helping in deciding priorities and analysing opportunities. To that end, we would like to kindly ask you to take a moment and fill in [this short survey](#) by Friday 29 June.

This survey is aimed at collecting the opinion of CEPIS Member Societies' official representatives and experts interested in the analysis of the impact of IT on the society. At the same time, this survey also serves for compiling expressions of interest from experts who would like to join the ISG for participating in its future activities.

Appskil project completed together with ATI and AICA

The [Appskil project](#) has been the first project focused on the ICT sector funded by the Sector Skills Alliance program of Erasmus+. The project was aimed at the identification of the skills most needed but missing from the mobile apps' labour market and at the development of a suitable curriculum and MOOC to offer industry-specific training to mobile app developers. ATI, the Spanish member society of CEPIS, and AICA, the Italian member society of CEPIS, participated as partners representing the

ICT profession and industry.

ITPE holds its first expert workgroup meeting – *IT Professionalism: Moving Forward*

The IT Professionalism Europe (ITPE) network held its first Digital Competences Expert Group meeting in Brussels on June 5, 2018. The meeting, titled *IT Professionalism: Moving Forward*, presented the recently established network to key stakeholders in IT professionalism. Among other topics, the aim of the expert workgroup is to provide a platform for stakeholders to continue working on topics previously debated in the CEN Workshop on ICT Skills.

The meeting was attended by a range of representatives from associations on both national and EU levels, as well as the private sector. Austeja Trinkunaite, Secretary General of CEPIS and representative of ITPE, informed the attendees of the future plans of ITPE, stating that she is looking forward to further support and promote IT professionalism through this new platform. Mary Cleary, the Deputy CEO of the Irish Computer Society (ICS), was appointed Chair of the expert group. She also gave her insights on the recent positive developments within the ICS, which is currently growing the membership substantially. Speakers also included Jutta Breyer, Project Leader of e-CF and ICT professional profiles, André Richier, "Politiques, Analyses & Conseil", DG Grow of the European Commission, Rocco Francesco Defina of the Politecnico di Milano and Juan Pablo Peñarrubia of the Spanish IT Professionals network, CCII.

The meeting is the first in a range of planned work group sessions for furthering IT professionalism in Europe.

ITPE holds e-CF Briefing in Paris

ITPE co-organised a briefing on the e-Competence Framework with Wild Code School in Paris at on the 31 May. The event, which took place in central Paris, brought together stakeholders in IT professionalism to hear a range of speakers.

Participants in the event had the opportunity to see presentations from Austeja Trinkunaite, Secretary General of CEPIS and representative of ITPE, Jutta Breyer, Project Leader of e-CF and ICT professional Profiles, André Richier, "Politiques, Analyses & Conseil", DG Grow of the European Commission, Sébastien Sigiscar, Sector Unit Manager, AFPA Engineering Department, Samia Gholzane, Director of Grande Ecole du Numérique, Frédéric Lau, Mission Director from CIGREF, and Anna Stépanoff, CEO of Wild Code School. The presentations were followed by group discussions on the following topics: "Does a European / global competence framework make sense? Is it feasible?", "How to ensure agility of competence frameworks?", "Which competence framework to use for recruitment?".

The event is part of ITPE briefing series across Europe to discuss the topical issues

around IT professionalism with stakeholders on the national level.

Video interviews with the speakers will be released shortly [on the ITPE website](#).

European Commission Publishes New DigComp Guide

The European Commission has published a new user guide to the European Digital Competence Framework (DigComp). The guide is intended to highlight “inspiring DigComp implementations.” It provides a comprehensive overview of existing examples, describing their aims and achievements, as well as the benefits and challenges of using this framework.

DigComp helps organisations to identify digital competence gaps and understand how to fill them. As a common reference for digital competence in Europe, it also helps policy makers to develop policies on digital skills and competences and can assist education and training providers in improving the digital competence of various target groups.

ECDL Poland's initiative to map the ECDL programme to DigComp is also highlighted in the guide.

The full guide can be downloaded from [the website of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre](#).

New Political Agreement on the Cybersecurity Act Proposal Welcomed by European Commissioner and Vice-President

The Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for the Digital Single Market, Andrus Ansip, has issued a joint statement along with Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, which welcomes the political agreement made on June 8 by the Telecommunications Council on a general approach for a new Cybersecurity Act.

The statement emphasises that the agreement ‘opens the door’ to transform and strengthen the mandate of ENISA (the EU’s Cybersecurity Agency) to help tackle the different threats and attacks in cyber space. The agreement also supports establishing an EU framework for cybersecurity certification of ICT products and services and boosting security of online services and consumer devices.

The proposal for a Cyber Security Act was first presented in 2017’s State of the Union Address by the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker. The full joint statement can be found on [the website of the European Commission](#).

€9.2 billion investment in digital challenges announced by European Commission

A new programme to invest €9.2 billion in meeting digital challenges has been announced by the European Commission. The Digital Europe programme proposes the investment as part of the EU's long-term budget for 2021 to 2027.

The Digital Europe programme aims to reinforce the existing digital areas where Europe is strong, including high-performance computing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and advanced digital skills. Under the programme, €700 million will be used to make sure that the workers have the chance to build advanced digital skills through a variety of methods, regardless of which EU Member State they live in. Specially targeted programmes, called Digital Innovation Hubs, to help SMEs and the public sector to equip their workers with necessary skills will also be implemented under the programme.

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

EU Commissioners Mariya Gabriel and Tibor Navracsics encourage European schools to take part in the EU Code Week mid-October 2018

EU Commissioners for Digital Economy and Society, and for Education, Culture, Youth and Sport, Mariya Gabriel and Tibor Navracsics, have written a letter to the Education Ministers in EU Member States encouraging them to involve at least 50% of all schools within the EU, including all primary and secondary schools, in the EU Code Week initiative. EU Code Week was launched under the Digital Single Market strategy and is an annual event that seeks to promote coding among European citizens. It will take place on 6-21 October this year.

The letter emphasises the major opportunities and challenges of the digital transformation, and that Europeans will have to develop the necessary skills to thrive in this new environment.

The full letter can be read on [the Code Week blog](#).

DESI data highlights concerning lack of digital skills across

Europe

The latest edition of the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) has been published by the European Commission. DESI summarises key indicators on the continent's digital performance, including on digital skills, providing a tool to track progress of Member States in digital competitiveness.

The latest edition of the Index highlights the general low level of digital skills across Europe, with 43% of people in Europe lacking a sufficient level of digital skills, and 17% having none at all. When looking at the active workforce in Europe, 35% lacked "at least basic digital skills", with the highest percentage of workers without these skills in Romania and Bulgaria, and the lowest percentage in Denmark and Sweden.

The data shown in DESI emphasises the importance of efforts to develop the digital skills of workers across the continent, in order to ensure that Europe remains digitally competitive in the world.

The full Index can be viewed on [the website of the European Commission](#).

Barriers to preparing workforce for digital economy identified in new Nesta report

Nesta, a UK charity promoting science and technology innovation has published a new guide that looks at how to prepare, "the workforce for an inclusive digital economy." The guide provides an overview of barriers to upskilling the workforce and suggests policy steps that could be taken by governments to overcome those barriers.

Among the five barriers identified in the guide are a lack of recognition that digital skills are needed, limited resources, a perception that learning is for the young, a lack of clear leadership, and poor access to training possibilities. In its policy recommendations, the guide proposes promoting accreditation of training courses, to enable learners to know which courses they can trust to provide key skills.

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

Call for Proposals on Upskilling Pathways Published by European Commission

A call for proposals on 'support for the deployment of skills assessments in the implementation of "Upskilling Pathways"' has been published by the European Commission. The call for proposals aims to help national and regional authorities to implement the EU's Recommendation on Upskilling Pathways in the area of providing individual skills assessments.

The Upskilling Pathways initiative helps low-skilled adults who need to strengthen their

basic skills, including digital skills. Support under the initiative is given in three steps: a skills assessment; a learning offer; and validation and recognition of skills gained.

The call for proposals is open until 13 July 2018. More information, including a webinar on the call, can be found on [the website of the European Commission](#).

Upcoming Events

19 June 2018 [Digital4Her Conference](#). Brussels, Belgium.

20 June 2018 Women in ICT Task Force meeting. Brussels, Belgium.

25-26 June 2018 [Digital Assembly 2018](#). Sofia, Bulgaria.

4 July 2018 Ethics SIN Meeting. Brussels, Belgium

14 September 2018 CEPIS Legal and Security Issues SIN meeting. Brussels, Belgium.

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

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

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