

Informatics Europe

EUROPEAN COMPUTER SCIENCE SUMMIT - ECSS 2008

October 10, 2008, 15:15 – 16:15

PANEL

Towards European Standards for Graduation, Accreditation and Certification in Informatics

Chair: Gregor Engels, University of Paderborn, Germany.

Panelists:

- 1) Vasile Baltac (CEPIS, Vice-President for Education and Research)
- 4) Gordon Davies (ACM/IEEE representative)
- 2) Enrico Nardelli (Universita di Roma "Tor Vergata", and President of GRIN))
- 1) John O'Sullivan (CEN/ISS)
- 5) Wilhelm Schäfer (University of Paderborn, Germany)

The ICT industry in Europe needs highly skilled people to cope with the increasing market and customer pressure, the increasing complexity of IT solutions as well as the increasing frequency of technology updates. Thus, in order to be able to produce high-quality IT products today and in the next decades, highly qualified experts are needed. They have to master the challenges of today and should be prepared to adapt themselves to the demands of the future. At the same time, highly qualified researchers are needed who are skilled to investigate complex fundamental as well as application-oriented research questions in the ICT domain.

It will be the topic of this panel to discuss how we can ensure at European universities that we educate the right people with the right skills in a high quality, and whether we need ICT industry-driven certification programmes in addition or instead of academic education programmes. Moreover, it will be discussed whether European accreditation standards and/or certification programs are required to ensure a comparable quality across the various countries' educational systems and professional/specialists training schemes.

It is now the time to discuss these questions and to yield a common understanding between industry and academia. The Bologna process and the ongoing discussions on bachelor-/master-programmes in informatics offer the unique chance to shape the academic education in informatics in the right way, and to understand the role of ICT-driven certifications in this context.

The invited panelists represent different opinions on these questions, which will (surely) lead to controversial and interesting discussions.