European Informatics Conference 2023

The future of European Informatics Education – How to counter the skills shortage without compromising on quality?

14/15 December 2023
Valencia, Spain

When	14/15 December 2023

Where	**[AC Hotel Valencia by Marriott](#)** **Avenida de Francia, 67** **46023 Valencia, Spain**

Who	**ASIIN in cooperation with CEPIS, DIGITALEUROPE, and EQANIE**

What	Hardly any other industry is as affected by the shortage of specialists and skilled workers as the IT sector. Today, more than half of all European companies have great difficulties filling vacancies with trained specialists, a trend which will accelerate in upcoming years. At the same time, the educational skill set in the field of computer science/informatics is developing with lightning speed, as is the nature of educational programs and providers, radically transforming the traditional education market. How can these challenges be tackled? Can a harmonization of IT education on a European and global level be the solution? Will new educational providers replace "classical" studies of computer science? How can computer science education be adapted and changed according to (emerging) needs and trends (mentioning only a few buzz words such as artificial intelligence, data science, and big data) while still guaranteeing a high standard of quality in higher education? In this international informatics conference, we have assembled all major European and global stakeholders from academia as well as industry. Together we will analyze the state of the art of European computer science education and present different ideas and approaches to deal with the problems described above. To what extent can computer science education benefit from (new) quality standards, how can clear recognition schemes support the academic and professional mobility and students and graduates, and how can alternative learning programs "revolutionize" and complement computer science education now and in the future without compromising on quality? Finally, how can the European informatics community (re)-unite and work collaboratively in order to overcome the current challenges and work towards common goals? The conference will feature presentations, plenary sessions and forum discussions that will stimulate in-depth discussion and networking between the participants. It addresses, in the first place, representatives of the higher education community, representatives of the international business world and employers' associations, quality management staff of HEIs, representatives of recognition authorities as well as political stakeholders.

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Wednesday, 13 December 2023 – Special Program for Early Arrivals

16.00 – 18.00   Guided city tour through Valencia

Day 1: Thursday, 14 December 2023

10.00   **Registration and Networking**

Opening Session

10.45   **Opening Speech**
                 Professor Gerald Lüttgen, University of Bamberg & Representative ASIIN Board

11.00   **Welcome Speech**
                 Professor Eduardo Vendrell Vidal, former President EQANIE

                 Introduction into the program and moderation
                 Dr. Iring Wasser, Managing Director ASIIN

Session 1 Informatics skills for the future of Europe
(20 minutes each + 10 minutes QA session)

11.15   **Quality standards for informatics in European Higher Education – where are we at this stage?**
                 Professor Ulrike Lucke, University of Potsdam & Vice President German Society for Computer Science

11.45   **Current trends in computer science education: policy background, skills gaps and challenges**
                 Dr. José Martinez-Usero, Interim Director of Projects DIGITALEUROPE

12.15   **Increasing the number of IT professionals: how to attract more female students to computer science degrees**
                 Dr. Raquel Lacuesta Gilaberte, University of Zaragoza

12.45   ***Lunch break***

Session 2: Alternatives to the traditional computer science education as a solution to the skills shortage?
(20 minutes each + 10 minutes QA session)

14.00   **The role of academic and non-academic up- and re-skilling – status quo and future needs/prospects**
                 Professor Gregor Engels, Paderborn University & Board Member Informatics Europe

14.30	**A university for the digital tomorrow**
	Professor Christoph Meinel, Former CEO and Director Hasso Plattner Institute (HPI)
15.00	**Academic and non-academic informatics education – aiming together at a moving target**
	Professor Jörg Desel, FernUniversität Hagen & Board Member German Society for Computer Science
15.30	**End of Day 1**
20.00	***Social Dinner***

Day 2: Friday, 15 December 2023

Session 3: Quality assurance initiatives for computer science education in support of academic and professional recognition and mobility
(20 minutes each + 10 minutes QA session)

10.30	**Quality assurance of computer science programs in Europe – good practices and lessons learned based on a practical example – the Euro-Inf® label**
	David Witt, Secretary General EQANIE & Sophie Schulz, former Secretary General EQANIE
11.00	**Recognition and accreditation – What's going on outside Europe? – The Seoul Accord as a non-European counterpart**
	Gerald Caissy, Vice Chair Seoul Accord & Director of Accreditation CIPS – Canada's Association of Information Technology
11.30	**Skills frameworks and labor market analysis to align talent in industry and higher education across the EU**
	Professor Luis Fernandez-Sanz, University of Alcalá & President CEPIS
12.00	**A vision about future professional ICT roles and capacities from academic and industry perspectives**
	Dr. Niels Selling, Senior Research and Innovation Manager DIGITALEUROPE
12.30	**Long-term sustainability: presenting an example of a successful cooperation agreement in another discipline**
	Ralph Appel, President Engineers Europe
	Closing remarks
	Dr. Iring Wasser, Managing Director ASIIN
13.00	***Farewell lunch***