Future of the European Scientific Societies in Informatics

Milan Agreement

November 7, 2011

Preamble

At ECSS 2010 in Prague, a panel was formed on 'The Future of the European Scientific Societies in Informatics'. The panel met subsequently in Brussels on March 17th, 2011. In this meeting it was resolved that a joint committee should develop a blueprint for an 'open' but low overhead organization, that should clarify the goals and targets for a possible cooperation between (a number of) the Informatics/ICT societies in Europe. On July 18th, 2011 the joint committee reported its finding in the document *European Forum for ICST - Platform for Information and Communication Science and Technology in Europe.*

Milan meeting

On November 7th, 2011 the panel on 'The Future of the European Scientific Societies in Informatics' met again, at the Politechnico di Milano. The panel consisted of representatives of the *ACM Europe Council* (F. Gagliardi), *CEPIS* (N. Scarabottolo), *EASST* (T. Margaria), *EAPLS* (M. van den Brand), *EATCS* (B. Monien), *ERCIM* (D. Laforenza), and *Informatics Europe* (C. Ghezzi). The Panel meeting was moderated by J. van Leeuwen (*Informatics Europe*, *EATCS*, *ACM Europe Council*). Observers at the meeting were: Chr. Choppy (*Informatics Europe*), A. Petit (*ERCIM*), P. Van Roy (*EAPLS*) and J. White (*ACM Europe Council*).

Decision

During its meeting on November 7, the above panel decided unanimously to establish a joint *European Forum for ICST* as outlined in the blueprint document of July 18th.

The mission of the Forum is: *the development of common viewpoints and strategies for ICST in Europe and, whenever appropriate or needed, a common representation of these viewpoints and strategies at the international level.*

The panel decided to establish the Forum for an initial period of two years. It was also decided to follow 'scenario C' of the blueprint report in this initial period, to support the functions of the Forum in a practical but low overhead manner.

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee of the Forum will consist of the named members of the panel, or board representatives of their associations whom they will name in their place.

The Coordinating Committee appointed the moderator, J. van Leeuwen, as acting chair of the Forum for the initial period. The Committee also accepted a proposal by *ERCIM* to provide the basic support for the functioning of the Forum as foreseen in 'scenario C'.

Actions

The Coordinating Committee intends to meet in January/February 2012 for a first meeting, to form a core team including one or two vice-chairs, discuss common issues of strategic importance and decide on a first priority list of key platform problems and actions.

Status

The Milan Agreement is considered to be ratified by each association represented in the panel unless reported otherwise before the first meeting of the Forum.

Documentation:
http://www.cs.uu.nl/groups/AD/societies.html