

Promoting New Ways for Certification, Accreditation and Assessment

Workshop 7h & 8h: 14:00, 16:00 Thursday 20 October 2005

Background

The ICT profession has and in the future will have considerable impact on employment, business and society. The competitiveness of European industry relies on both the effective use of ICT for industrial and business processes and the required continuous update and transfer of relevant knowledge, skills and competences of existing and new employees. Thus the global performance of European enterprises will depend increasingly on differences between the rates of take-up and effective functioning of new technologies in European enterprises compared with those in their competitors in other economies.

The ICT field today is characterised by shortening technology cycles and continuously changing requirements due to emerging new ICT technologies, related trends and paradigms. Therefore it is essential for companies and ICT workers, respectively, to uptake newly emerging ICT technologies and keep up with new developments in order to stay competitive. Due to these aforementioned developments companies and employees preferably choose a competency-based approach which seems more adequate analysing the e-skills stock as well as assessing demand and supply; and describing existing and future job requirements. One key to success for the European economy in the future might turn out the ability of companies and society as a whole to implement and offer continuous Lifelong Learning training and qualification opportunities for ICT workers.

e-Skills summarising ICT Skills, for both practitioners and users, as well e-Business Skills still remain a major challenge for stakeholders in Europe (European e-Skills Forum Synthesis Report, September 2004). The goal of ensuring that Europe's workforce and population is adequately e-skilled for the future should be seen within this longer-term strategic framework. A continuously open dialogue between all relevant stakeholders and partnership is required for implementing the conclusions drawn by the European e-Skills Conference from September 2004 in Thessalonica (see www.eskills2004.org).

For ICT workers it is essential to ensure portability of qualifications and to create appropriate European-wide skills frameworks at both professional and vocational level. At present, Europe's citizens who try to improve their e-skills face a wide range of competing qualification and certification schemes, both vendor and non-vendor specific, public and private-commercial ones. Steps need to be taken to support efforts to put in place broadly accepted and transparent European-wide certification schemes (see Workshop in March 2004 on Industry e-Skills Certifications). It is also important to **bridge formal, non-formal and informal learning by promoting new ways for certification, accreditation and assessment.**

This workshop aims to discuss the state of play and activities of current initiatives and to draw conclusions on the way forward. The workshop aims promoting relevant stakeholders to work actively together and contributing to the current debate by inviting high-level speakers and linking ongoing initiatives and activities. The workshop embedded in eChallenges e2005 helps identifying initiatives and related activities in the field of e-Skills. Participants of the workshop will be invited to actively contribute to the current debate e.g. by attending future events in the addressed field or joining the virtual communities promoted by Cedefop.

The workshop session involves primarily high-level speakers from stakeholders as the European Commission, Cedefop and Cepis, representing current initiatives and future developments as e.g. the follow-up of the European e-Skills Forum, the e-Skills Certification Consortium (eSCC) and the CEN/ISSS ICT Skills Workshop and other available resources in form of studies and reports. The session will present practical results of present activities, available best practices, projects and achievements on national and international level.

This workshop has become an important milestone discussing state of play and current developments in the domain of e-skills. The workshop was organised for the first time by Cepis at the eChallenges e2003 in Bologna. After having organised another workshop together with

Cedefop in Vienna at the eChallenges e2004 Conference, now Cepis and Cedefop organised this year's workshop – the third in this series.

CEPIS (www.cepis.org, secretary@cepis.org) and Cedefop (www.cedefop.eu.int, bs@cedefop.eu.int) are supporting with different workshops, projects and activities the efforts of the European Commission and Member States to establish a platform providing the opportunity to improve the quality of and access to continuing vocational training and the lifelong acquisition of ICT skills and competences with a focus on certification arrangements. The workshop helps to promote and set-up with public and private partners respective and specific targeted working groups embedded in a network of interest involving key players and representatives of training providers, certifying institutions, content managers, public authorities, industry and social partners and additional players outside these target groups which may be further identified.

Workshop Co-ordinators: Peter Weiß, Institute AIFB, University of Karlsruhe (weiss@aifb.uni-karlsruhe.de) and Franz Gramlinger, Cedefop (fgr@cedefop.eu.int).

Objectives

The workshop intends to discuss the situation and future developments related to e-skills and qualifications in Europe. The skills and competences of employees, who gained their expert knowledge in Information Technology through work experience or self-organised learning shall get full access to certification and qualification. The latter ought to be made compatible and portable throughout Europe and beyond (the European Commission action plan for skills and mobility, European e-Skills Forum Synthesis Report, European e-Skills Conference 2004, etc.).

The different views, knowledge and information of the invited presenters and of course the expected interaction as well as discussion with the audience is expected to back up current and future measures and to steer follow-up activities. Policy, challenges, projects and future developments will be presented and discussed by the workshop participants.

The work and contributions of the workshop will draw from the outcomes of deliberations of the **European e-Skills Forum**¹ established by the Commission in 2003, from the outcomes of studies and activities of Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of VET and from the activities of the **European Committee for Standardisation, the CEN/ISSS ICT-Skills workshop currently working on the development of a European ICT Skills Meta-Framework**² in 2005.

Target Audience

The workshop addresses the following target audience:

ICT Industry, public and governmental bodies, other field stakeholders, ICT professionals and students (learners), ICT workers, test centres, accreditation and standardisation bodies, training and learning providers, ICT development and professional associations, certifying bodies and networks of interest in the addressed domain.

Outcome

The workshop yields a set of possible measures and follow-up activities. The results of previous events feed into this workshop and communicated to the participants and to the wider "e-Skills" expert community. CEPIS and Cedefop will take care that the workshop participants will continuously receive information concerning achievements and future activities.

CEPIS and Cedefop jointly established the annual workshop (this year the third in a series at the eChallenges Conference) as one in a series of regular events of the stakeholders to meet and discuss. The workshop aims at facilitating and catalysing an information exchange between the participants and the wider "e-Skills" expert community. The workshop tends to deliver a continuing

¹ <http://www.eskills2004.org/index.htm> or <http://communities.trainingvillage.gr/esf>

² <http://communities.trainingvillage.gr/cen-ict>

dialogue and support to the current activities of the European Commission and Cedefop as well as of all other interested bodies.

Programme

The programme brings together a number of high-level speakers from the European Commission, Cedefop, Cepis and ICT industry. The workshop provides the opportunity to exchange information about current initiatives and discuss issues and needs towards new ways for learning, training, certification, accreditation and assessment. The presenters depict their views on the problem and present possible contributions and measures to achieve the intended objectives on a European level.

The selection of speakers reflects the range of needs and requirements from national and international level and is focusing at needs to agree on European level standards and common frameworks for e-skills and relevant qualifications.

14:00 – 15:30 Workshop 7h: Skills Certification, Accreditation & Assessment I

Chair: Wolfried Stucky, CEPIS & AIFB, Germany

1. ICT Skills in Europe: State of Play and the Way Forward

Mr. André Richier, European Commission, DG Enterprise, Belgium

2. Policies, Initiatives, Activities and Projects

Mr. Angelos Ktenas, European Commission, DG Information Society, Belgium

3. European ICT-Skills Meta-Framework

Mr. Franz Gramlinger, Cedefop, Thessaloniki, Greece

4. Developments towards a European ICT Skills Meta Framework

Mr. Yosh Beier/ Mr. Matthew Dixon, CEN/ISSS Workshop ICT Skills

Coffee Break, Exhibition & Networking

16:00 – 17:30: Workshop 8h: Skills Certification, Accreditation & Assessment II

Chair: Burkart Sellin, Cedefop, Greece

5. e-Skills Certification in Europe Towards Harmonisation

Mr. Alexander Bojanowsky/ Mr. Peter Weiß, CEPIS and University of Karlsruhe, Germany

6. e-Competences and Certifications Observatory (eCCO)

Ms. Clementina Marinoni, Fondazione Politecnico Di Milano, Italy

7. European-Wide Recognition of e-Skills Certification from an Industry Perspective

Mr. Michiel van der Voort, EXIN and eSCC e-Skills Certification Consortium

8. IT-Certifications as career path in industry - lifelong learning to stay up to date

Mr. Markus Schwertel, Cisco