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INFORMATICS EUROPE – MAIN BENEFITS & SERVICES

As a member of Informatics Europe, you are welcome to take full advantage of being part of a large and influential community, including all the benefits and services of our organisation:

⇨ Be recognized as part of the growing body of institutions raising the voice of Informatics in Europe
⇨ Bring forward your departmental interests, gain international visibility and strengthen your expertise
⇨ Influence decision making on important Informatics agenda topics at the European level
⇨ Network, discuss and share experiences internationally on strategic management issues
⇨ Gain insights into the European Informatics education landscape
⇨ Join one of our Awards committees
⇨ Take advantage of our Academic Leadership course and Department Evaluation services
⇨ Enhance your talent pool and career prospects through our Job Platform and CV Repository
⇨ Access our publications such as reports and recommendations, offering a unique European view
⇨ Get involved in EU funded projects

Be recognized as part of the growing body of institutions raising the voice of Informatics in Europe

Large and small Informatics Europe members have in common the interest in advancing the level of European research and education in Informatics, in improving its visibility and its funding within European universities, and towards European industrial and political stakeholders. Through its membership size and diversity, Informatics Europe is a voice which is heard on national and international level.

Since its creation in 2006, Informatics Europe has grown to close to 200 members. They include top-tier international research universities, as well as research-active departments from Universities of Applied Sciences, and institutions from new EU member countries. Currently, Informatics Europe covers 33 countries on the European continent. Every institution that becomes a member can itself benefit from its increased international involvement; it also increases the potential and value of our organization for the benefit of the Informatics discipline at large.

Informatics Europe members can join any of the monthly Board of Directors meetings, as well as self-nominate to steer the strategic agenda of the organization by becoming themselves Board members.

Bring forward your departmental interests, gain international visibility and strengthen your expertise

As a member, your department or faculty can take over an active role in the association and help shape the agenda of our discipline in Europe; join existing Working Groups or come up with ideas for new ones! The current working groups include Education Research, Diversity and Inclusion, Data Analysis and reporting, Open Science, Ethics, and Green ICT. Specific details about each group are available in our webpage; the general goal is to make a difference for the Informatics community in all those areas, as it happened on the complex matter of having Informatics taught in schools across Europe (see below). Our webinars series, held by Informatics Europe members but open to all, are another example of exchange and visibility boosting opportunities offered to our community.

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Network, discuss and share experiences internationally on strategic management issues with leaders of university departments, faculties, and research labs in Informatics, representing top-level international institutions and developing ones alike.

Besides the pan-European exchange and collaboration inherent to our Working Groups, the annual European Computer Science Summit (ECSS) provides leaders and decision-makers in Informatics research and education in Europe a place to gather once a year and debate strategic themes and trends related to research, education and policies in Informatics. Often, those discussions provide valuable inputs for department growth and extend into long-lasting contacts. Take advantage of our members' special fee, and visit the next ECSS to experience yourself these unique aspects of the Informatics Europe community.

Influence decision making in important Informatics agenda topics at the European level

Together with other organisations, a comprehensive and ambitious plan was devised to establish Informatics as an essential discipline for students in Europe at all levels throughout the educational system. Besides publishing two influential reports and collecting data from essentially all European countries, we have built the Informatics for All Coalition including the organisation of a Workshop in Brussels and the creation of the Rome Declaration currently counting more than 270 signatures. In March 2022 the coalition released the Informatics Reference Framework for School, which supports the advancement of informatics as a fundamental discipline for the 21st century, while indicating how informatics may become a driver for renewal and innovation of other disciplines.

Some other examples of actions taken at the European level include the policy recommendations issued by our dedicated working group, the Digital Talent Gap Workshop jointly organised by Informatics Europe and the EU Commission, or the shared effort with ACM Europe to raising our voice and nominate an Informatics scientist to the ERC Scientific Council. Besides ACM Europe we also have close relations with our other sister organisations ERCIM, CEPIS and most National Informatics Associations in Europe. With them, we work together on different projects whenever there is a common mutual interest.

Gain insights into the European Informatics education landscape

The Informatics Higher Education Data Portal is an Informatics Europe project created to provide members, the Informatics academic community, policymakers, industry and other stakeholders a complete and reliable picture of the state of Informatics higher education in Europe.

The Data Portal offers the exclusive benefit to members of Informatics Europe of viewing and downloading the full data set (over 10 years of data) and provides user-friendly access to a wealth of fundamental data such as statistics of students enrolled and degrees awarded at Bachelor, Master and PhD level, including gender distribution in absolute numbers and percentages, both at Research Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences. Prepared by members of the Informatics Europe Working Group on Data Analysis and Reporting, in 2023 the article "Informatics Higher Education in Europe: A Data Portal and Case Study" was published in the Communications of the ACM Journal, recognising our work on this area.

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Join one of our Awards committees

Self-nominate yourself to review and select the winner of our next Minerva Informatics Equality Award sponsored by Google, the Informatics Europe Best Dissertation Award, sponsored by Springer, or the Best Practice in Education Award (currently on hold, awaiting sponsor).

Examples of good, inspirative work can be found in many institutions, no matter where they are located in Europe. If you know about an endeavour at your institution that has brought benefits or broken new ground in these areas and is worth showing to a larger audience, consider submitting it for one of these awards – apart from a financial reward, the authors get a spotlight at the annual European Computer Science Summit (ECSS).

Take advantage of our Academic Leadership courses and Department Evaluation services

Strong academic leaders in Informatics and Computing disciplines are needed now more than ever, as Informatics has become a key driver in innovation and entangled in all aspects of society. Through online and on-site Academic Leadership courses, Informatics Europe provides unique leadership development opportunities for Informatics current and future academic leaders.

Conducted by internationally recognized researchers in the field, with experience in evaluation, the Department Evaluation service is an exclusive, neutral, peer-review driven evaluation process based on the standards and experiences of Informatics Europe. It offers an unbiased and transparent way of assessing the research activities of a given institution, providing a thorough analysis of strengths, opportunities, and areas for improvement. With a multidimensional approach, where "research" is not limited to research results, aspects such as research management, research policy, research facilities, Ph.D. training, and the societal relevance of research are considered integral parts of the quality of the work of an institution and its programs.

While both services are open to any institution, Informatics Europe members benefit from discount rates.

Enhance your talent pool and career prospects through our Job Platform and CV Repository

Two special membership services aimed at supporting our members' talent search. All members of your department can post unlimited job advertisements free of charge in our online Informatics Job Platform, dedicated to scientific and academic positions in the field in Europe. They can also freely navigate the Informatics CV Repository in search of PhD candidates.

While job offers are open to the broad community, only students and recent graduates from our member institutions are eligible to showcase their experience at the Informatics Europe CV Repository.

Access our publications such as reports and recommendations, offering a unique European view

You can find all Informatics Europe's publications on our website, some of them only accessible to members. Among the most recent ones are:

- European Values for Ethics in Digital Technology
- Bridging the Digital Talent Gap: Towards Successful Industry-University Partnerships
- Recommendation on the Use of IT for COVID-19 Infection Mitigation

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- When Computers Decide: European Recommendations on Machine-Learned Automated Decision Making

Get involved in EU funded projects

Informatics Europe is ready to support its members as a partner in EU funded projects. Our unique strength is the possibility to reach over 30 countries and around 200 members. We contribute to projects by organising networking events, sharing awareness and best practices, providing access to relevant data and experts, and disseminating news about activities and results. We can also rely on the work and expertise of our current working groups. Successful current examples of partnerships are the Erasmus+ Project Ethics4EU - Ethical Computer Science Education for Europe and its sister project Inclusion4EU, as well as the COST Action - European Network for Gender Balance in Informatics (EUGAIN).