**ANNUAL REPORT**

**ACM Europe Council**

**For the Period: July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016**

**Submitted by Wendy Hall**

**Council Chair**

BASIC INFORMATION (http://europe.acm.org/)

# Members

## Members of the Council (from June 30th, 2015):

Chair: Wendy Hall, University of Southampton, UK

Vice Chair: Matthias Kaiserswerth, Hasler Stiftung, Switzerland

Secretary: Per Stenström, Chalmers University, Sweden

Treasurer: Joaquim Jorge, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

## Members:

Fabrizio Gagliardi, Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, Spain

Gabriele Kotsis, University of Linz, Austria

Mashhuda Glencross, Loughborough University, UK

Reyyan Ayfer, Bilkent University, Turkey

Hervé Bourlard, Idiap Research Institute, Martigny, Switzerland

Josep Díaz Cort, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, Spain

Michel Yves Cosnard, INRIA, France

Panagiota Fatourou, University of Crete & ICS FORTH, Greece

Judith Gal-Ezer, The Open University of Israel, Israel

Oliver Grau, Intel, Saarbruecken, Germany

Chris Hankin, Imperial College London, United Kingdom

Paola Inverardi, University of L'Aquila, Italy

Joaquim Jorge, Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, Portugal

Matthias Kaiserswerth, Hasler Foundation, Bern, Switzerland

Natasa Milic-Frayling, Microsoft Research Cambridge, UK

Enrico Nardelli, Università di Roma, Italia

Paul Spirakis, University of Patras and the Greek Computer Technologies Institute, Greece

Per Stenström, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

Harald Störrle, Technical University of Denmark, Lyngby, Denmark

Serdar Tasiran, Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

Mateo Valero, Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Spain

Alexander Wolf, Department of Computing, Imperial College London, UK

Informatics Europe Representative: until December 31st 2015 Carlo Ghezzi, Politecnico di Milano, Italy, replaced from 1st of January 2016 by Lynda Hardman, Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica, The Netherlands

# Goals

The ACM Europe Council aims to increase the level and visibility of ACM activities across Europe. The Council comprises European computer scientists committed to fostering the visibility and relevance of ACM in Europe, and is focused on a wide range of European ACM activities, from high-quality ACM conferences in Europe, to expanding ACM chapters, to encouraging greater participation of Europeans in all dimensions of ACM, to establishing a center of reference for national and international funding agencies in Europe above all the European Commission of the EU.

# Main activities

* Collaborate with other computing and scientific organizations in Europe to offer new programs and activities;
* Support the Heidelberg Laureates Forum;
* Work with Informatics Europe to map and monitor education in Computer Science;
* Encourage nominations of ACM European members for the advanced member grades of Senior Member, Distinguished Member, and Fellow, and for ACM Awards
* Work with ACM SIGs to increase the number of ACM conferences in Europe;
* Increase the number of ACM chapters and level of chapter activity in Europe;
* Engage with the European Commission of the EU in relevant activities and initiatives;
* Several meetings with senior EU authorities in the last FY.

# Budget

* Total budget for ACM Europe: $225,000
* European Council: $95,000
* EUACM: $70,000
* CECL: $15,000
* CECE: $20,000
* ACM-W: $25,000

# Subcommittees:

* Chapters CECL: Gerhard Schimpf, George Eleftherakis, Gavin Doherty, Virginia Grande, Bozena Mannová, Reyyan Ayfer, Mashhuda Glencross, Joaquim Jorge, Harald Störrle, Pat Ryan (ACM HQ Liaison).
* Nominations/Awards: Per Stenström (Chair), Marc Shapiro, Paul Spirakis, Carlo Ghezzi.
* EUACM: Fabrizio Gagliardi (Chair), Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis, Michel Beaudoin-Lafon, Hervé Bourlard, Michel Yves Cosnard, Panagiota Fatourou, Judith Gal-Ezer, Oliver Grau, Wendy Hall, Chris Hankin, Lynda Hardman, Paola Inverardi, Joaquim Jorge, Andrew McGettrick, Gerhard Schimpf, Paul Spirakis, Alex Wolf, Bobby Schnabel (ACM-CEO, ex-officio), Pat Ryan (ACM-COO, ex-officio) and Renee Dopplick (ACM-Director of Public Policy, ex-officio).
* ACM-WE: Reyyan Ayfer (Chair), Bev Bachmayer (Vice-Chair), Ralitsa Angelova, Vicki Hanson, Natasa Millic-Frayling.

# Ad-hoc committees:

* CECE (Committee on European Computing Education): From IE: Cristina Pereira, Gérard Berry, Enrico Nardelli, Jan Vahrenhold, From ACM: Michael Caspersen, Judith Gal-Ezer, Michael Kölling, Andrew McGettrick; (Research Assistant – term contract till June 2016: Mirko Westermeier).

# Dates of ACM Council meetings in FY’16:

* September 1st, 2015, London, UK
* March 8th, 2016, Lisbon, Portugal.

# Activity Summary

## Chapters Subcommittee - Council of European Chapter Leaders (CECL)

(http://europe.acm.org/chapters.html)

* Description: promote expansion and creation of ACM chapters in Europe.
* Responsible: Gerhard Schimpf (Chair), George Eleftherakis (Vice Chair)
* Starting date: started in October 2009
* Status: on-going
* Funds: $15,000.

### Activities:

Reorganized as standing committee of the ACM Europe Council, new leadership Gerhard Schimpf (Chair), George Elefhterakis (Vice-Chair).

* CECL Members:
	+ Members from Chapters

Gerhard Schimpf, George Eleftherakis, Gavin Doherty, Virginia Grande, Bozena Mannová.

* + Members from the ACM Europe Council

Reyyan Ayfer, Mashhuda Glencross, Joaquim Jorge, Harald Störrle.

* + ACM HQ Liaison

Pat Ryan.

* Monthly Conference Calls.
* Establish regular face to face workshops of European Chapter Leaders to form a community of European Chapters.
* 3rd Chapter leaders workshop in Prague 08/25 to 08/26/2016.
* 4th Chapter leaders workshop in Barcelona 09/2017 planned.
* Ongoing identification of European experts that should be nominated to the DSP via SIGCHI, and SIGGRAPH led by Gavin Doherty (Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland).
* Ongoing communication between European Chapters using Social media; responsible Virginia Grande.

### Plans:

* Promote networking between chapter leaders, help them build and grow more sustainable chapters, show the ACM value proposition. Towards this the CECL plans to:
* Develop a sustainable programme for identifying and growing key volunteer base in Europe.
* Plan to replicate growth of European DSP speaker list via SIGGRAPH using the same approach as with SIGCHI.
* Encourage student chapters to take part in ICPC and apply for Heidelberg Laureate Forum (HLF).

## Nomination/Awards Subcommittee

* Description: Increase ACM nominations from Europe
* Responsible: Per Stenström (Chair),
* Starting date: October 2009,
* Status: on-going,
* Funds: NA.

### Activities:

* All IEEE Fellows are contacted every year to identify individuals they think are worthy candidates for the advanced ACM grades or for any of the ACM awards. Last year, quite many individuals were identified and a slight increase in the number of successful European nominations to ACM Fellows was noted.

### Plans:

* Continue to leverage the involvement of ACM Fellows. The ACM Fellows working in Europe will be encouraged to be more active in awards committees and in nominations of European ACM members for advanced grades.

## EU-ACM Subcommittee

* Description: It is focused on building privileged two way relations with the European Commission and member states governmental bodies and Informatics and Computer Science communities. The ACM Europe Public Policy Committee (EUACM), is a standing subcommittee of the ACM Europe Council. It promotes dialogue and the exchange of ideas on technology and computing policy issues with the European Commission, member states' governmental bodies, and the informatics and computing communities. Chaired by Fabrizio Gagliardi, the Committee promotes sound public policy and public understanding of a broad range of issues at the intersection of technology and policy. The Committee’s policy statements reflect the expertise of computing professionals from the public and private sectors experienced in informatics, computer science, and other computing-related subjects. Among its recent activities, the Committee is active in promoting the interests of the computing community in the implementation of the Investment Plan for Europe and the policy pillars of the EU Digital Single Market initiative. The Committee works with other ACM entities on publications, projects, and policies related to emergent cross-border issues, such as privacy, cybersecurity, cloud computing, big data, and the Internet of Things.
* Responsible: Fabrizio Gagliardi (Chair), Wendy Hall (Vice Chair), Gabriele Kotsis (Secretary), Mashhuda Glencross (Treasurer)
* Members: Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis, Michel Beaudoin-Lafon, Hervé Bourlard, Michel Yves Cosnard, Panagiota Fatourou, Judith Gal-Ezer, Oliver Grau, Wendy Hall, Chris Hankin, Lynda Hardman, Paola Inverardi, Joaquim Jorge, Andrew McGettrick, Gerhard Schimpf, Paul Spirakis, Alex Wolf, Bobby Schnabel (ACM-CEO, ex-officio), Pat Ryan (ACM-COO, ex-officio) and Renee Dopplick (ACM-Director of Public Policy, ex-officio).
* Starting date: established as a non for profit legal entity in Europe (effective July 1st 2013).
* Status: on-going.
* Funds: $70,000

### Activities:

* After an impressive first year ramping up in 2013-14, last year (2014-2015) was more focused on reinforcing the links with the most relevant parts of the EU Commission. The chair and members of the Committee participated in several meetings and conference calls with representatives of the European Commission, including officers of the Unit Stakeholders, Unit Copyright, Unit e-Infrastructures (DG CONNECT), the Scientific Advice Mechanism (DG RTD) and DG HEALTH.
* An important step was the establishment of a strategic partnership with Science|Business, a policy and outreach independent organisation with a long history of high level relations with the Commission and especially the DG Research and Innovation. The EUACM chair participated in various events organized by them: “Big Data in Healthcare” (January, 26th 2016), “The Horizon 2020 Conference” (February, 16th 2016), where EUACM had a speaking slot in the “Open to the world: Can science diplomacy work?” panel, and their Standing Committee meeting (May, 3rd 2016).
* New members of EUACM were co-opted in the Committee: Hervé Bourlard, Michel Yves Cosnard, Oliver Grau, Chris Hankin, Joaquim Jorge, Judith Gal-Ezer and Gerhard Schimpf, Andrew McGettrick, Panagiota Fatourou, Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis and Lynda Hardman.
* EUACM hired a full time Research Assistant (since July, 27th 2015) based in the Barcelona and hosted by the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre, under the auspices of Prof. Mateo Valero.
* EUACM attended major European Commission events such as ICT2015 (October 20th- 22nd 2015) in Lisbon and Netfutures2016 (April 20th-21st 2016) in Brussels.
* EUACM leadership consulted with its members and provided experts’ names for the Commission Unit e-Infrastructures (DG CONNECT) and for the Scientific Advice Mechanism (DG RTD).
* Participated in the workshop: “Towards a European Framework for the IT Profession”, organized by Capgemini for the European Commission (February, 4th 2016).
* Held a meeting with Science Europe’s President (April, 11th 2016) in Paris and INRIA former and current Presidents. Both organisations committed help.
* Contacts were established with other organizations such as the Research Data Alliance (RDA Europe), LIBER, IEEE, among others.
* After the meeting with the Unit responsible for the Scientific Advice Mechanism (DG RTD) (May, 31st), it was decided to start preparing a white paper on cybersecurity to be published by this fall and to be submitted to the Scientific Advisory Mechanism of the EU Commission.
* The Chair of EUACM participated as an ex officio member in the activities of the ACM Education Policy Committee and the ACM U.S. Public Policy Council (USACM).
* Held regular communications with ACM Director of Public Policy Renee Dopplick and the rest of the ACM global and regional organisations.
* The EUACM Chair participated in USACM’s annual face to face meeting (March 28-29, 2016). An outcome of the USACM Council meeting and an earlier EUACM conference call was for USACM-EUACM to pursue a joint white paper on cybersecurity and other joint projects.
* Wrote an article for the magazine IFIP Insights (http://www.ifipnews.org/euacm-supports-concerns-research-funding-europe/)
* Published monthly electronic newsletters, distributed to the European MemberNet and posted in EUACM’s section at the ACM website.

### Plans

* Increase visibility by participating and organizing policy events with major stakeholders.
* Monitor and react to relevant policy issues in Europe, presenting ACM Europe policy position statements when and if appropriate.
* Release the white paper on cybersecurity through various media channels.
* Participate in an event about cybersecurity in Brussels (organized by Science|Business) and presentation of the white paper on cybersecurity.
* Offer experts’ advice on cybersecurity for the High Level Group of the Scientific Advice Mechanism.
* Facilitate the participation of EUACM members as experts in relevant European Commission programmes: under the H2020 Work Programme 16-17.
* Collaborate in the organization of the ACM Europe event, to be held in Barcelona in 2017.

## The Committee on European Computing Education (CECE)

* Description: The Committee on European Computing Education (CECE) is a joint committee between ACM Europe and Informatics Europe. Collaboration with Informatics Europe (IE). Seats on each other’s boards exchanged.
* Responsible: Steering Committee with members from each organization for a European Observatory on Education in Europe, CECE. From IE: Cristina Pereira, Gérard Berry, Enrico Nardelli, Jan Vahrenhold, From ACM: Michael Caspersen, Judith Gal-Ezer, Michael Kölling, Andrew McGettrick, (Research assistant hired: Mirko Westermeier).
* Starting date: April 2014
* Status: on-going
* Funds: $20,000

### Activities:

* Undertaking a study to determine the status of education in Europe in Digital Literacy and in Informatics; this activity was funded jointly by ACM Europe and Informatics Europe, each contributing $40k and was seen as a two year study. The work began formally in April 2014 but the start was delayed and it is now envisage that this will conclude in summer of 2016 with a report being produced and an interactive map being used to display results
* Having the two organizations (ACM Europe and Informatics Europe) being involved in setting up a high quality distinctive computing / informatics education conference in Europe; it had been anticipated that a federated conference would emerge but this ambition has been replaced by an effort to have both organizations involved on the Organizing Committee of ITICSE, and initially ITICSE 2017

## (ACM-WE)

* Description:ACM-WE (ACM Women in Computing Europe) is a standing committee of ACM Europe. It is setup to carry out the ACM-W mission within the scope of the ACM Europe. The ACM-WE vision is a transformed European professional and scholarly landscape where women are supported and inspired to pursue their dreams and ambitions to find fulfilment in the computing field. The ACM-W Europe mission is to foster women’s education and careers in computing and encourage the European professional and scholarly community to inspire women to take part and realise their potential in computing. It fulfils the ACM-W Mission to support, celebrate and advocate internationally for the full engagement of women in all aspects of the computing field.
* Responsible: Reyyan Ayfer (Chair), Bev Bachmayer (Vice-Chair), Ralitsa Angelova, Vicki Hanson, Natasa Millic-Frayling.
* Starting date: 2012.
* Status: on-going.
* Funds: $25,000

### Activities:

* Organized second ACM-W Europe “womENcourage”, Celebration of Women in Computing, which was held on 24-26 September 2015 in Uppsala, SwedenWebsite: <http://womencourage.acm.org/archive/2015/index.html> Responsibles were Virginia Grande and María Andreína Francisco. The event included keynotes, workshops, papers, posters, career fair and a hackathon. 163 people attended from 25 different countries. 53 students were funded. Support money from companies was more than 40K Euros and the conference had a surplus around 20K USD.
* Organizing the 3rd womENcourage at Linz, Austria on September 12-13, 2016. Responsibles: Gabriele Anders-Kotsis and Reyyan Ayfer. The current amount of funds from supporters is 30K Euros.
* Organizing the 4th womENcourage at Barcelona, Spain on September 6-8, 2017. Responsible: Núria Castell Ariño.
* ACM-WE continues to work to achieve the rest of the initially set goals (http://europe.acm.org/acm-w-europe.html), with the help of working groups Celebrations, Networking, and Empowerment.
* The committee is extending its visibility and building its family of collaborators using the ACM-WE newsletters and social media.

# Future Plans

The ACM Europe Council has now been in existence for three years and is in a steady state in terms of the pattern of meetings and the focus of our activities. Our main aim is to increase the visibility of ACM in Europe, and to encourage European members of ACM to engage more with ACM activities. Increasing membership of the ACM has not been a primary drive but we would expect the increased visibility of the ACM in Europe to lead to an increase in membership numbers. If that isn’t the case then we need to understand why. Many Europeans appreciate the quality of ACM Journals and Conferences but do not seem to appreciate the benefits of membership. Too many still think of the ACM as an American organization and we seem to have done little to change that perception. There is also confusion about whether there is now a separate organization called ACM Europe, which we need to dispel. This was further compounded when we established EUACM (the name having been chosen to mirror USACM), which has been very successful but adds to the naming confusion. Over the next year we must seek to make it clearer to potential members. We must also seek to better understand what European computer scientists want from the ACM and how we can better provide the services that would encourage them to become members.

We plan to continue with all our current activities during the coming year – chapters (CECL), education (CECE joint with Informatics Europe), ACM-WE and EUACM. We also plan to increase our engagement with ACM conferences held in Europe with the introduction of an ACM award for best student paper presented by a member of the ACM Europe Council at conferences being held in Europe. The focus of CECE going forward is under discussion but both the ACM Europe Council and Informatics Europe see this as a priority area.

We will slightly modify our constitution to enable us to appoint leaders of sub-committees who are not elected members of the ACM Europe Council. This is important for issues of continuity of leadership.

We will continue with our drive to encourage more European nominations for fellows, distinguished and senior members, and awards. A main focus for the coming year will be preparations for our technical conference in Barcelona in September 2017. This will include a number of satellite events including an ACM WE womENcourage conference and a fellows reception. We will have to evaluate the success or otherwise of this event before planning future events. We also need to assess the effectiveness of the chapter leaders workshops and how best we engage with chapters going forward.