**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the ACM Europe Council

For the Period: July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Submitted by Chris Hankin

1. BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 Members of the Board

## Executive:

Chair: Chris Hankin, Imperial College London, UK

Vice Chair: Judith Gal-Ezer, The Open University of Israel, Israel

Secretary: Joaquim Jorge, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

Treasurer: Panagiota Fatourou, ICS FORTH, Greece

Past Chair: Wendy Hall, University of Southampton, UK

## Members:

Hervé Bourlard, Idiap Research Institute, Martigny, Switzerland

Michel Yves Cosnard, HCERES, France

Tom Crick, Swansea University, UK

Oliver Grau, Intel, Germany

Yannis E Ioannidis, University of Athens, Greece

Valerie Issarny, INRIA, France

Natasa Milic-Frayling, University of Nottingham, UK

Enrico Nardelli, Università di Roma Tor Vigata, Italy (Informatics Europe representative)

Chiara Petrioli, Università di Roma La Sapienza, Italy

Harald Störrle, QAWare Software Engineering, Germany

Mateo Valero, Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Spain

## Invited Observers:

Jos Baeten, CWI, The Netherlands (ERCIM representative) (from July 2018)

George Eleftherakis, University of Sheffield International Faculty, Greece (CECL)

Andrew McGettrick, University of Strathclyde, UK (Informatics4All)

Ron Perrott, University of Oxford, UK (Nominations)

1.2 Standing Committees

Informatics4All: Wendy Hall, 2017-

Europe TPC: Oliver Grau, 2018-

Committee of European Chapter Leaders (CECL): George Eleftherakis, 2017-

ACM-W Europe: Natasa Milic-Frayling, 2017-

1.3 Ad Hoc Committees

Nomination Committee for 2019 Elections: Chris Hankin (chair), Michel Cosnard and Judith Gal-Ezer.

2. PROJECT SUMMARY

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. It 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 in education, research issues and policy matters for national and international funding agencies in Europe above all the European Commission of the EU.

Our main activities are designed to:

* Collaborate with other computing and scientific organizations in Europe to offer new programs and activities (in particular Informatics Europe, ERCIM, CEPIS);
* 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;
* Make the ITiCSE conference THE European education conference, changing the Steering Committeee and terms and the Organisation and Governance;
* 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.

The ACM Europe Council has two face-to-face meetings per annum. In 2018/2019 these took place in Frankfurt (September 2018) and Rome (March 2019). The Council sponsored a summer school on Data Science that took place in Athens in July 2018; in July 2019 we are supporting two schools, one in Data Science (Athens) and a second in HPC (Barcelona). We edited the first Special Section on Europe in the CACM (April 2019).

3. PLANS

There have been elections during summer 2019 and a new Executive will take over from our next face-to-face meeting in October 2019. The majority of our activities are carried out by the Standing Committees; please see the appendix for details of their forward planning.

4. COMMENTS

None.

# **APPENDIX**

# **Europe TPC (Oliver Grau)**

**Membership:**

Oliver Grau (chair)

Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis, Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Michel Yves Cosnard, Mario Fritz, Fabrizio Gagliardi, Amalia Hafner, Wendy Hall, Chris Hankin, Lynda Hardman, Paola Inverardi, Joaquim Jorge, Bran Knowles, Andrew McGettrick, Alejandro Saucedo, Gerhard Schimpf, Paul Spirakis

The Europe Technology Policy Committee (Europe TPC) was renamed in July 2018, formerly known as EUACM with Oliver Grau, Intel taking over the chair from Fabrizio Gagliardi. The committee has now about 20 active members and continued to inform and influence policy makers in Europe. In the past year the committee met about bi-monthly online and at two physical meetings, co-located with the ACM Europe Council meetings (Frankfurt and Rome) to shape and execute the committee agenda. The activities focus on informing on societal issues of computing topics like AI, security, smart cities and climate change.

Committee members also were invited to present at two events in FY 2019 to audiences that included significant numbers of senior staff to the European Commission. In October of 2018, Oliver Grau was one of two keynote “briefers” on AI technology at an official side event of the 40th Anniversary [Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners](https://www.privacyconference2018.org/en/40th-international-conference-data-protection-privacy-commissioners.html) organized by the non-profit [Future of Privacy Forum](https://fpf.org/). In March of 2019, Wendy Hall participated in a one-on-one keynote interview on a range of topical issues at Politico’s annual “AI Summit: Innovation and Governance.” Both speaking opportunities (generated by ACM Policy Office outreach to the sponsoring organizations) took place in Brussels, as did the [Science|Business](https://sciencebusiness.net/) annual conference attended by multiple Committee members in May of 2019.

Europe TPC will work with the new chair of the ACM Technology Policy Council to further extend the impact of our work. The Europe TPC will also collaborate with the Informatics4All Coalition to ensure greater dissemination of their outputs.

# **Informatics4All (Andrew McGettrick)**

**Membership:**

Wendy Hall (chair)

ACM Europe: Judith Gal-Ezer, Andrew McGettrick

Informatics Europe: Enrico Nardelli, Michael Caspersen

CEPIS: Bob McLaughlin, Austeja Trinkunaite

Informatics for All is a Coalition involving ACM Europe, CEPIS and Informatics Europe. The Coalition is managed by a Steering Group with Wendy Hall as the chair. This group also benefits from the support of Bobby Schnabel who acts as an Advisor.

One of the main tasks undertaken by the Coalition was making arrangements for, and then running, a major workshop. The workshop took place on 20th February 2019 in Brussels. There were 50 attendees from across Europe and all with a serious interest in education in Informatics. The workshop took the form of a number of presentations to set the scene, these being from Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Poland, Portugal, the UK and the US. This was followed by interactive group activity aimed at producing an Action Plan to be used in charting the way ahead for the Coalition. The workshop was deemed a considerable success with a report on the event being produced as well as an Action Plan. These are available as required.

Following the workshop, the next face-to-face meeting took place at the end of March in Rome around the time of the ACM Europe Council meeting. At that meeting it was agreed to formulate the **Rome declaration**. In brief, this called upon all European national and international institutions*to exercise their moral suasion power so that the principles of Informatics are included as part of school curricula at all levels*. It went further in calling for appropriate levels of funding to be made available essentially to support the aims of Informatics for All.

A major item in the Action Plan was producing an Informatics for All web site. ACM Europe, CEPIS and Informatics Europe have agreed to share equally the costs of the necessary resources. A first version of the web site went live in May 2019.

In looking at future activity:

* it is intended to extend the Coalition to broaden impact and reach; a draft document has been prepared setting out terms and conditions;
* there will be continuing efforts to make contact with the OECD/Pisa group as well as the new European commissioners; and
* efforts will be made to run additional, but smaller and more local, workshops building on the Brussels event.

# **ACM-WE (Natasa Milic-Frayling)**

**Membership:**

Natasa Milic-Frayling (Chair)

Bev Bachmayer (Vice-Chair), Gabriele Anderst-Kotis, Ralitsa Angelova, Panagiota Fatourou, Ruth G. Lennon, Reyyan Ayfer (Past Chair), Jodi Tims (ACM-W Chair, ex-officio), Erika Abraham (Informatics Europe, ex-officio)

ACM-WE strategy in Europe is focused on three enabling factors for professional women in computing: awareness, skills, and initiative. It uses the ACM Professional Code of Ethics as the main instrument to engage in discussions and to guide ACM-WE actions, particularly on issues that are identified as gender related. At the same time, ACM-WE have outlined an agenda for engaging with a broader professional community by focusing on **interdisciplinary aspects of computing** and **societal impact**. These two aspects are selected for their increased relevance, considering that computing is becoming a driver for innovation in many disciplines, including those with a significant participation of women (life sciences, medicine, humanities, etc.) and their strong alignment with interests and affinity of women towards enterprises focused on social good.

Awareness, skills and initiatives are currently fostered through two types of activities:

* Regular communication through Web presence (ACM-WE Web site, partner web sites), social media (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram), newsletters (ACM-WE Newsletter and ACM-W communication) and presentations about ACM-WE cause and activities.
* Chapter Celebrations and womENcourage
  + womENcourage 2018 successfully organized in Belgrade, Serbia, thus expanding its presence in Eastern Europe
  + womENcourage 2019 in preparation, aiming for 250+ attendees (raised +100,000 EUR in sponsorship and secured scholarships for students)
  + 9 out of 23 ACM-W Celebrations worldwide are organized in Europe, in 7 European countries. They range from community celebrations of women in computing to workshops in specific areas, including robotics and maker activities.
* In order to broaden the reach and influence, ACM-WE has started to promote ‘ACM-WE sessions’ at events organized by other professional communities.
* ACM-WE works with an event’s organizers to include ACM-WE branded sessions that may involve a workshop/tutorial, panel discussion, or a hackathon on a mutually agreed topic.
* Events in 2019 are:
  + ACM-WE Panel on Interdisciplinary Research and Diversity in HPC at the ACM HPC Summer School (24 July 2019)
  + ACM-WE Panel at the “Advances in Computational Biology Conference” Computational Biology Conference (<https://www.iscb.org/advcompbio2019>, Nov 28-29’19, Barcelona).

# **CECL (George Eleftherakis)**

**Membership:**

George Eleftherakis (Chair)

Mashhuda Glencross (Vice-Chair), Gavin Doherty, Bozena Mannová, Taras Panchenko, Joaquim Jorge, Harald Störrle, Panagiota Fatourou.

The objective of CECL is to promote expansion and sustainability of ACM chapters in Europe and increase visibility of ACM among young people in Europe, particularly practitioners aiming to attract/sustain younger people and overall members to ACM.

With a new leadership structure and an updated vision and strategy, CECL following its strategy, actively supported ACM events in Europe (“Being Human with Algorithms”, ACM Summer schools in Europe, womENcourage 2018 and womENcourage2019) and continued mentoring efforts to newly-created and existing ACM chapters in Europe (even by physically visiting several of them). CECL performed a qualitative study on the substantial amount of knowledge regarding the chapters’ needs and the best practices that it gathered through the three (3) workshops for chapters leaders organized by CECL in the past, and the experience gained though mentoring, in order to identify the needs of ACM Europe members. Its goal is to disseminate this knowledge but also carefully design new approaches to work with ACM members in Europe examining and exploring the idea of ACM meetups in Europe. CECL is in the process of identifying the first pilot cities (Berlin, Netherlands, Thessaloniki) having discussions with local people.

CECL was also involved in the initiative of ACM best paper awards and contributed to the successful recruitment of more DSP speakers in Europe.