

# ANNUAL REPORT

## of the ACM Europe Council

*For the Period: July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022*

**Submitted by Valérie Issarny**

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## BASIC INFORMATION

### Members of the Board

#### Executive:

**Chair:** Valérie Issarny, Inria, Paris Research Center, France

**Vice Chair:** Rosa Badia, Barcelona Super Computing Center (BSC), Spain

**Secretary and Treasurer:** Bran Knowles, Lancaster University, UK

**Past Chair:** Panagiota Fatourou, University of Crete and ICS FORTH, Greece

#### Members:

Anastasia Ailamaki, EPFL, Switzerland

Oliver Grau, Intel Cooperation, Germany

Rute Sofia, Fortiss, Germany

Harald Storrle, QAware, Germany

Julie Williamson, University of Glasgow, UK

#### Invited Observers:

**Informatics4All:** Wendy Hall, University of Southampton, UK; Andrew McGettrick, University of Strathclyde, UK

**ACM-W Europe:** Rukiye Altin (New chair), Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany; Ruth Lenon (Past chair), Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Ireland

**Informatics Europe representative:** Enrico Nardelli, Università di Roma "Tor Vergata", Italy

**ERCIM representative:** Björn Levin, RISE-SICS, Sweden

### Standing Committees

**Informatics4All:** Wendy Hall, University of Southampton, UK

**ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee:** Chris Hankin, Imperial College London, UK

**ACM-Women Europe:** Rukiye Altin (New chair), Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, Germany; Ruth Lenon (Past chair), Letterkenny Institute of Technology, Ireland

### Working Groups

**ACM European Fellows Working Group:** Anastasia Ailamaki, EPFL, Switzerland (since October 2019)

**ACM Europe Research Visibility Working Group:** Panagiota Fatourou, University of Crete and FORTH, Greece (since April 2021)

**ACM Europe Seasonal Schools Working Group:** Yannis Ioannidis, University of Athens, Greece – Till end June 2022 – nomination of the new chair under way

## SUMMARY

*The ACM Europe Council focuses on a wide range of ACM activities and on encouraging greater participation of Europeans in all dimensions of ACM. It aims to promote dialogue and the exchange of ideas on technology and computing policy issues between the European Commission and other governmental bodies and funding agencies in Europe, and the informatics and computing communities. It also aims to foster education in the computer science field in Europe, to award and disseminate the achievements of European computer professionals, to support gender equality and more generally inclusion in the European computing landscape, and to promote access to the computer-related scientific frontiers.*

According to the above, the main activities (see referenced appendices for detail) of the *ACM Europe Council* include:

- Engagement with the European Commission of the EU and other national and international funding agencies, as well as with the European Parliament and other policy bodies in relevant activities and initiatives (see Appendix on **ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee**).
- Advocating for the inclusion of Informatics as a foundational discipline in schools across Europe (see Appendix on **Informatics for All**).
- Support gender equality in the European computing landscape (see Appendix on **ACM-Women Europe**).
- Increasing nominations of ACM European members for the ACM member grades (see Appendix on **ACM European Fellows Working Group**). The Working Group has contributed to have 3 European researchers being elevated to the rank of ACM Fellows.
- Ensuring greater visibility of European research and a higher degree of recognition of the achievements of European ACM Researchers, notably through the ACM Awards. In a complementary way, the working group aims to improve the visibility of ACM among European researchers. Activities also aim to include working with ACM SIGs and HQs to increase the visibility of ACM in Europe and to strengthen Europe's presence in ACM (see Appendix on **ACM Europe Research Visibility Working Group**).
- Support ACM Seasonal Schools in Europe. In 2021/22, the Council sponsored The *ACM Europe Summer School on HPC Architectures for AI and Dedicated Applications*. In addition, recognizing the importance of seasonal schools for the younger generation and based on last year contribution by Yannis Ioannidis on *a strategy for organizing seasonal schools*, the Council launched a dedicated Working Group in 2021/22 (see Appendix on **ACM Europe Seasonal Schools Working Group**). The Working Group was initially chaired by Yannis Ioannidis who stepped down end June 2022 after being elected ACM President; the appointment of the new chair is underway.
- Collaboration with other computing and scientific organizations in Europe to offer new programs and activities (in particular Informatics Europe and ERCIM), with representatives being invited to the biannual plenary meetings of the *ACM Council*.

The *ACM Europe Council* holds biannual plenary meetings, the Autumn and Spring meetings. As in previous year, in 2021/2022, due to the covid19 pandemic, both meetings took place online on October 18, 2021 and on May 25, 2022, respectively. At the Autumn meeting held on 10/18/2022, the chair of the *ACM Europe Council* reported that the **Committee of European Chapter Leaders** (CECL) has been disbanded due to some overlapping objectives with newly created Working Groups, leading to assign the activities previously handled by that committee to other working groups such as RAISE and Seasonal Schools.

The *ACM Europe Executive committee* further holds monthly online meetings.

Further to the activity of the *ACM Europe Council* in 2020/21 on strengthening its communication mechanisms with the ACM members in Europe, related activity in 2021/22 includes the publication of a revised **quarterly ACM Europe Newsletter**, which has been re-designed, with Julie Williamson (University of Glasgow, UK) as Editor. The last edition of the newsletter was published end March 2022 (see the overview of the contents below) and the next one is expected in September 2022.

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## ACM MemberNet Europe

March 2022

### CONTENTS AT A GLANCE:

- **ACM, Open Access, and cOAlition S**  
*A Conversation with Johan Rooryk and Julie Williamson on the work of cOAlition S to publish publicly-funded research Open Access immediately without embargo*
- **Informatics for All – A Progress Report**  
*Andrew McGettrick reports on the efforts of Informatics for All to develop an Informatics Reference Framework for Europe*
- **ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee Update**  
*Chris Hankin provides an update on the Europe Technology Committee's responses consultations conducted by the European Commission*
- **2021 ACM Fellows and Distinguished Members**  
*Congratulations to the 12 European members who were named ACM Fellows and 10 members who became ACM Distinguished Members in 2021*
- **Upcoming In-person and Virtual Conferences**  
*Connect with colleagues and the latest research results at in-person and virtual conferences happening across Europe this spring*
- **Opportunity to Join ACM Europe RAISE Working Teams**  
*ACM Europe RAISE is dedicated to improving the visibility of European computing research and European researchers within ACM*
- **ACM Europe Council**  
*The ACM Europe Council aims to increase the level and visibility of ACM activities across Europe*

ACM MemberNet Europe covers news of people and activities of the computing community in Europe.

#### Are you interested in contributing to the ACM Europe Newsletter?

We are seeking contributions to this quarterly newsletter from members of the computing community in Europe. If there is a topic you would like to see addressed or a topic you would be interested in writing about, please email the newsletter editor, Julie Williamson, at [europenewsletter@acm.org](mailto:europenewsletter@acm.org).

## PLANS

Following up on last year plans, the Council will be working on stronger collaboration with the ACM SIGs to better fulfil its priorities. The Council also plans to further enhance its communication and networking mechanisms, as well as to strengthen links with the industry.

The appendices provide additional information on the forward planning of the Council's Standing Committees and Working Groups, which carry out the major ACM Europe Council activities.

## APPENDICES

### Europe TPC

Chris Hankin, Chair for the reporting period

#### Status of the Committee

Members (14 + ex officio):

- Chris Hankin (Chair), Paola Inverardi (Vice Chair), Oliver Grau (Past Chair), Fabrizio Gagliardi, Manuel Hermenegildo, Bran Knowles (Chair, Climate Change WG), Alejandro Saucedo (Chair, AI WG), Gerhard Schimpf (Chair, Autonomous Systems WG), Tom Crick, Wendy Hall, Andrew McGettrick, Enrico Nardelli, Gurkan Solmaz, Julie Williamson
- Ex officio: Gabriele Kotsis (ACM President), Jim Hendler (TPC Chair), Michel Beaudouin-Lafon (Vice Chair TPC), Jeremy Epstein (Chair USTPC), Natasa Milic-Frayling (ACM-W Europe), Vicki Hanson (ACM CEO), Pat Ryan (ACM COO), Adam Eisgrau (ACM Director of Global Policy)

Hankin, Inverardi, Grau, Gagliardi and Hermenegildo form the **ACM Europe TPC Executive** and met virtually about once every other month. The full committee met virtually about once every four months. We have not had any physical meetings in the reporting period. It is likely that, in future, we will use our travel budget for targeted interventions on particular policy issues, continuing to convene the full committee virtually.

#### Work of the committee

The committee worked on four areas that were agreed by the **Europe TPC** in 2020: (1) Security & privacy of smart cities; (2) IT in the light of climate change; (3) AI; and (4) Autonomous Systems. We have a standing Working Group for each area chaired by the committee members identified above in the Members list (Hankin chairs the Smart Cities WG). At the beginning of 2022, we decided to retire the Smart Cities WG and replace it by a Cyber Security WG and to launch a new Data Science WG. Hankin chairs the Cyber Security WG and we are seeking a chair for the Data Science WG. Europe TPC members led on two Tech Briefs as outputs from WG1 (<https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3534515>) and WG2 (<https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3483410>). WG4 has developed a draft white paper on autonomous systems in public spaces. Currently this is being reworked into a shorter statement and possible article or tech-brief. In addition to these activities, we have been very active in responding to EU consultations. Through a series of articles in ACM MemberNet, we have recruited 10 new members of the Europe TPC; these new members are recruited to join the WGs.

Throughout the period we have employed a part-time consultant, Francisco Medeiros, to help promote our policy outputs and maintain a network of contacts with key EU policy makers.

#### Dissemination of statements and white papers

##### 2022

- [Comments in the European Commission High Value Dataset Consultation](#), ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee (June 21, 2022)
- [Questionnaire Responses to European Commission Consultation on Cyber Resilience](#), ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee (May 25, 2022)
- [Comments in the European Commission Data Act Consultation](#), ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee (May 13, 2022)
- [Comments on the European Commission Chips Act Semiconductor Ecosystem Framework](#), ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee (May 9, 2022)

**2021**

- [Comments on the Draft Decision on Establishing 2030 Policy Programme “Path to the Digital Decade](#), ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee (December 10, 2021)
- [Comments in the European Commission "Digital Principles" Consultation](#), ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee (September 1, 2021)
- [Comments to the European Commission Proposed AI Regulation](#), ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee (August 5, 2021)
- [Questionnaire Responses to the European Commission Consultation on Digital Health Data Services](#), ACM Europe Technology Policy Committee (July 23, 2021)

**Liaisons with other initiatives**

The Committee is in close collaboration with several other initiatives or committees. With ‘**14All - Informatics for All**’ the committee maintains a very close collaboration, with 3 members who serve on both committees.

Through our consultant, we have maintained contact with the EU Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Committee and attended (virtually) a number of their sessions.

**ACM Europe TPC** has been accepted as a supporting partner for the European Green Digital Coalition and is engaging with some of their working groups.

**Plans**

We have had a busy year and plan to continue this momentum. For the next year, we will continue our relationship with the Brussels-based consultant.

We expect to finalize the white paper on autonomous systems and are exploring the possibility of publishing a version of it, possibly in CACM.

We plan to make more use of ACM Fellows based in Europe to comment on our various policy drafts.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

We have met with the Chair and Vice Chair of **ACM Women in Europe** (ACM-WE) with the aim of supporting their policy work and increasing the involvement of women in the Europe TPC; they both attend our full committee meetings. The members of the committee are from the UK, Germany, Italy, Spain and Switzerland with one of the ex officio members coming from France; we seek to get members from Scandinavia and Central Europe to join the working groups.

## **Informatics for All**

Andrew McGettrick

Much of the recent activity of the **Informatics for All** Consortium has revolved around the production of three related reports. The first of these, the Informatics Reference Framework for School, is seen to be the most significant document and pivotal in terms of charting the way ahead. Following its production, the document was reviewed extensively and comments received were used in the production of the final version.

### **The first document.**

On 6th April 2022, **the Informatics for All** Consortium gave a public presentation of their Informatics Reference Framework for School at a meeting convened by the EU in Brussels; the host for the meeting was Georgi Dimitrov who heads the unit dealing with the development of the European Digital Education Action Plan.

This meeting was seen to be very successful. To quote from the report of that meeting, under the heading of ‘Suggested Actions’:

*A decision on making a **certain number of hours in informatics compulsory for all students** would help in strengthening the value of the discipline and addressing the professional development of teachers. The **adoption of a common European reference framework** or a clear statement on the foundational aspects of informatics for curriculum design and teacher qualification would also help in developing a common language and meaningful pedagogical practices. In this context, participants highlighted **the value that the EU has in connecting people, sharing practices, promoting mutual learning**. Participants moreover highlighted that more needs to be done at European level as there is high demand for exchange from almost all countries that are working to strengthen informatics in school education.*

This statement falls short of identifying EU policy but the report will feed into the development of formal EU policy later in the year. It is very significant in that:

- Informatics is recognized as the discipline at school level
- A certain element of compulsory education in informatics is recommended
- The Informatics Reference Framework is cited as providing help and support for the development of meaningful curricula.

The **Informatics for All** Consortium saw this as achieving all their objectives for the day.

### **The second document.**

The aim of this document is to provide guidance and support for those wishing to use the Framework as the basis for the creation of curricula.

### **The third document.**

In their Informatics Reference Framework for School certain topics were highlighted in bold italics. Yet they are not developed as topics for attention. The purpose of this third document is to use these topics as the basis for further development, and to do so in such a way that the concept of a framework is retained although learning outcomes and aspirations are less formally addressed. In discussion of the various topics, attention will be devoted to the role of policy makers, curriculum designers and teachers. The various topics are data science, programming languages, artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer graphics, virtual reality, augmented reality, social networks, automated decision-making and robotics.

### **The way ahead.**

Of the three documents listed above, the first two are complete and preparation is being made to mount these on **the Informatics for All** website at <http://www.informaticsforall.org>. Drafts of the third document exist and are under review.

In the meantime, steps are being taken to increase exposure of the Framework document and bring it to the attention of a wider audience worldwide. Efforts are also under way to translate the documents into various languages to make them more widely accessible across Europe.

The education of teachers who can assist with implementing appropriate curricula is a vital matter and active consideration is being given to mounting workshops in different countries, both for teachers and for policy makers.

### On ITiCSE

Members of the **Informatics for All Steering** Committee are on the organizing committee of the ACM conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education (ITiCSE). ITiCSE was held this year in Dublin, Ireland. A presentation on the Framework was given at ITiCSE on 11th July in Dublin. This was reported as being an excellent presentation. Moreover, the best paper award was appropriately presented. ITiCSE 2023 will take place in Turku, Finland and in 2024 it will be in Milan, Italy.

## **ACM-Women Europe**

Rukiye Altin, ACM-W Europe Chair & Ruth Lennon, ACM-W Europe Past Chair

**ACM-WE (ACM Women in Computing Europe)** Committee that was set up to fulfill the ACM-W mission in Europe is in its 10th year.

### **Membership**

#### **Executive Committee**

- Rukiye Altin, Germany (Chair)
- Ruth G. Lennon, Atlantic Technological University, Ireland (Past Chair)
- Dorota Filipczuk, Norway (Vice Chair)
- Alexandra - Cristina Dediu (Pătrașcu), UK (Communications Chair)
- Maria Ribera Sancho, Spain (ACM-W Chapters Chair)
- Virginia Grande, Sweden (Celebration Chair)
- Araz Yusubov, Azerbaijan (Project Chair - Wikipedia, Digital Badges)

#### **Ex-Officio**

- Jodi Tims, ACM-W Chair, OH, USA
- Valérie Issarny, ACM Europe Chair, Inria, France
- Reyhan Ayfer, Bilkent University, Turkey (ACM-W Regional Chair)
- Arati Dixit (Regional Chair)
- Pat Ryan, ACM Headquarters, New York, USA

### **Activities**

#### **Celebrations of Women in Computing in Europe**

The main activity of **ACM-WE** is womENCourage™ ACM Celebration of Women in Computing. The 8th womENCourage™ will be hosted in hybrid format by University of Central Lancashire, Cyprus (UCLan Cyprus) Larnaka, Cyprus (<https://womencourage.acm.org/2022>). The theme of the event is “*Drawing New Lines in Science*”, which focuses on creative thinking, problem solving and experiential, immersive learning, mathematics).

The 2020 event had so many great supporters that included:

- SIGCHI (Diamond)
- Barclays (Platinum)
- Skoda (Platinum)
- Google (Platinum)
- Avast (Silver)
- Honeywell (Bronze)
- Informatics Europe (Bronze)

We had great success at the event thanks to the amazing Organizing Team. There were more than 350 participants from 38 different countries. The Organizing Committee of 2021 are guiding the 2022 team with the mentoring of the Steering Committee which shows that the event has a successful impact on participants for the continuity.

#### **ACM-W Europe womENCourage™ Steering Committee**

The work of steering and overseeing the event has been carried out by a working group of the **ACM-W Europe**. The **ACM-W Europe** womENCourage™ Steering Committee is Chaired by Nuria Castell Ariño who was one of the hosts of the womENCourage™ event.

The steering Committee members for 2021/22 are:

- Nuria Castles (Spain)
- Beverly Bachmayer (Austria),
- Ruth Lennon (Ireland),
- Dorota Filipczuk (Norway),
- Rukiye Altin (Germany),
- Araz Yusubov (Azerbaijan),
- Taras V. Panchenko (Ukraine),
- Paloma Diaz (Spain).

We are proud to say that our members include greater regional diversity and include two men onto our committee.

We are also proud to say that our 2023 host country applications were closed at the beginning of the year as we are taking the 2024 applications now. That shows the interest in womENCourage™ is increasing yearly.

### **ACM-W Europe in Social Media**

Alexandra Dediu as new chair of Communication and Outreach has a great experience as she has been working with Cigdem Sengul (Past Communication and Outreach Chair). The representation of ACM-W Europe in Social Media is as follows:

- **Blog:** Available through the website: <https://acmweurope.acm.org/blog>; Running a Reflections on womENCourage blog series from the scholarship winners of each event
- **ACM-W Europe Website:** <https://acmweurope.acm.org>
- **ACM-W Europe monthly newsletter:** <http://europe.acm.org/acm-w-europe-newsletter-archives.html>
- **Social Media:** Currently coordinated by Bedour Alshaigy (coordinator). Social media outlets include:
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ACMWomENCourage>
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/womencourage>
  - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5138577>

The company page can be found here: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/acm-w-europe/>

- **Wikipedia:** The Wikipedia Working Group, chaired by Marjana Prifti Skenduli continues to work on promoting women in computing in Europe. Marjana is joined by Ruth, Elif AK and Begum Genc.

### **10th Year Anniversary of ACM-W Europe**

We are happy to celebrate our 10th year anniversary. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we had to have a last-minute change for our 2020 which was planned as physical but went virtual. As we had seen at the site-visit how great the organizing was planned, we wanted to have our Gala Event at ADA University, Baku, Azerbaijan. Thanks to Araz Yusubov and the school's Dean Prof. Sencer Yeralan, we are confirmed that ADA university will be our host.

The event was planned to be held on the evening of Monday, 12th December. There is also a panel and some sessions are planned to be included so we may increase the number of participants and include the public to this celebration as well.

### **ACM-W Europe Grad Cohort 2022**

The Grad Cohort is planned as virtual. We are focusing on the topics below:

- Academic Route v Industry Route
- Interview with the women in computing
- What makes a good mentor/supervisor
- Mental health and academic work
- Making the most of your professional network through chapters

We have been in communication with the invited speakers. Each of them will record their talk and all will be published at our YouTube channel. The process is still ongoing and planned to be finished in mid-October.

### **Future Plans**

The ACM-W Europe will keep working hard to spread the word of gender diversity in informatics. Our goals for the future plans are:

- Expanding the number of volunteers, at least having two for each working group for the continuity.
- Work on increasing the visibility of women in computing through our blog, video series, wikipedia
- Using Social Media actively to reach more people
- Communicating with the other regions and having some collaborative activities.
- Promote the ACM-W Europe through an increased focus on our branding.

## **ACM Europe Fellows Working Group**

Anastasia Ailamaki, chair

### **Membership**

- Anastasia Ailamaki, EPFL, CH (chair)
- Xavier Leroy, Collège de France, FR
- Hagit Attiya, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, IL
- Luca Benini, ETHZ, CH
- Elena Ferrari, University of Insubria, IT,
- Georg Gottlob, University of Oxford, UK
- Pablo Rodriguez Rodriguez, Telefonica Research and Alpha, ES
- Per Stenström, Chalmers University of Technology, SE
- Reinhard Wilhelm, Saarland University, DE

The mission of the **ACM Europe Fellows Working Group** is to ensure the elevation of excellent European ACM members to the ACM fellow and to Distinguished Member grades. The candidates will be awarded for their outstanding achievements in computer-related science and technology.

The workgroup is comprised of 9 well-established European Researchers, all ACM Fellows, who have been carefully selected to guarantee, as a group, wide scientific and geographical coverage. In particular, the Workgroup's members are located in eight different countries in Europe and their expertise covers a wide spectrum of scientific areas: Hardware Aware Data Management, Real-Time Intelligent Data Systems, Database theory, Finite model theory, Distributed and Concurrent Computing, Computer Architectures, Embedded Systems, Security, Privacy and Trust in IoT, Blockchain, Security and Privacy for Big Data, Networking, High-performance Computer Architecture, Timing Analysis for Real-Time Systems, Compiler Construction.

The main tasks of the workgroup can be summarized as follows:

- To identify eligible potential candidates.
- To maintain an updated list of potential candidate/nominator pairs.
- To establish contact with proposed nominators of approved candidates in a timely manner.
- To overall manage the nomination process.

### **Activity**

In the workgroup meeting of March 2022, the members discussed potential candidates for this year and the distinguished members nominations (self-nominations). As members do not have to be distinguished members to become Fellows, it is challenging to motivate people to apply for the grade. We identified the following issues:

- ACM still asks for 15 years of professional experience for distinguished members while Fellows do not have any limit like this.
- Early career achievements need to be recognised more
- Distinguished members of ACM have a total lack of visibility from the group's experience.

This is definitely a problem at the source of the definition. We are going to need to make the grade more clear, we are going to need to separate the opportunities for elevations for qualifying for early career, mid career and seniors.

Regarding the nominations it is very important to inform the nominators for Fellows that their letters should include their own points of view on the candidate and not copy/paste text from other sources

## Future Planning

Once the appropriate procedures for increasing the number of nominations for the ACM Fellows grade will have been established and stabilized, the focus of the Working Group will be put on increasing the number of nominations of European researchers for the ACM Distinguished Member grade. A concern has been raised about some people considering the Distinguished Member grade as a consolation prize instead of the Fellow grade, but the working group is working to change this impression. Another concern is that there is virtually no feedback as to the reasons for rejected fellow applications, which would be invaluable feedback to the working group.

A longer-term and more ambitious goal is to change the culture toward encouraging people worldwide to think about nominations.

## **ACM Europe Research Visibility (RAISE) Working Group**

Panagiota Fatourou, Former chair

The **ACM Europe Research Visibility working group (ACM Europe RAISE)** of the ACM Europe Council was established on April 2021. Its mission is to achieve greater visibility of the European research and ensure a higher degree of recognition for the achievements of European Researchers within the scope of ACM Europe.

**Website:** <https://europe.acm.org/raise>

**Meetings:** Regular meetings once a month

### **Membership**

<p><b>Members</b> (in alphabetic order)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rosa M. Badia, Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Spain</li> <li>• Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Université Paris-Saclay, France</li> <li>• Panagiota Fatourou, FORTH and University of Crete, Greece (Chair)</li> <li>• Valerie Issarny, Inria, France (till May 22)</li> <li>• Georgia Koutrika, Athena Research Center, Greece (liaison with ACM Europe Seasonal Schools Working Group)</li> <li>• Christian Pilato, Politecnico di Milano, Italy</li> <li>• Alejandro Saucedo, Institute for Ethical AI, UK</li> <li>• Marc Shapiro, Sorbonne-Université and Inria, France</li> <li>• Per Stenstrom, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden (liaison with ACM Europe Fellows Working Group)</li> <li>• Sabine Susstrink, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contributing ACM Europe Council Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bran Knowles, Lancaster University, UK</li> <li>• Rute Sofia, fortiss GmbH, Germany</li> </ul> <p><b>External Collaborators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sara Vinco, Politecnico di Torino, Italy</li> <li>• Antonio Fernandez Anta, IMDEA Networks Institute, Spain</li> </ul> <p><b>Management Structure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair:</b> Panagiota Fatourou</li> <li>• <b>Secretary:</b> Christian Pilato</li> <li>• <b>Liaison with ACM Europe Fellows Working Group:</b> Per Stenstrom</li> <li>• <b>Liaison with ACM Europe Fellows Working Group:</b> Georgia Koutrika</li> </ul>
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### **Goals of ACM Europe RAISE**

- 1) Boost visibility of European research excellence, by increasing the number of successful nominations of European researchers for ACM Awards,
- 2) Increase the role of Europe as a hub of research by organizing and promoting events,
- 3) Collaborate with the ACM management and the SIGs to make Europe more visible in the various ACM bodies and activities,
- 4) Increase awareness about existing opportunities for recognition of the work of European researchers through the ACM programs and activities,
- 5) Enhance existing activity of the ACM Europe Council targeting European research/researchers, and create new opportunities for the recognition of the professional achievements of European researchers, if needed.

### **Events**

#### **Webinar “Getting Recognized by ACM Awards and Honors”**

ACM Europe RAISE organized the webinar “Getting Recognized by ACM Awards and Honors”, which took place on October 1, 2021. The webinar aimed at informing researchers, practitioners and educators about the ACM

member grades and awards, and enabling them to communicate directly with members of the ACM Awards and Member Grades Committees. Moreover, it aimed at exploring the reasons that Europeans are willing to participate or not in ACM programs, and understanding the support that professionals find necessary in order to become more actively involved in these programs. The webinar featured an open discussion with *Gabriele Kotsis*, who was serving as the ACM President, and *Panagiota Fatourou*, who was serving as the ACM Europe Council Chair, as well as a panel comprised by the following members of the ACM Awards and Member Grades Committees: 1) *Jim Larus*, Chair of ACM Fellows Committee, 2) *Roy Levin*, Co-Chair of ACM Awards Committee, 3) *John R. White*, Co-Chair of ACM Awards Committee, 4) *Nuria Oliver*, Member of ACM Fellows Committee, 5) *Geraldine Fitzpatrick*, Member of ACM Distinguished Member Committee, and 6) *Anastasia Ailamaki*, Chair of ACM Europe Fellows Working Group.

The webinar received **335 registrations** and it was very well received by its **170 attendees**. The video of the webinar can be found here.



**Webinar: Getting Recognized by ACM Awards and Honors**  
 ~330 registrations, ~170 attendees  
**Available on Youtube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSpdIWExjIU&list=PLn0nrSd4xjibukwwcAqZ62vJr8il40KhM>

**1st Winter School on Fairness in AI**

ACM Europe RAISE supported the 1st Winter School on Fairness in AI which was organized by the Greek Chapter of ACM-W (ACM’s Council on Women in Computing). The winter school was the first of a series of schools which are to be held annually with the goal to offer the opportunity to young computer science professionals to learn about timely topics from top scientists from around the world. The topic of the inaugural edition was “Fairness on AI” and took place online on February 24-25, 2022.



**1st Greek ACM-W Chapter Winter School**  
**Fairness in AI**  
 24 - 25 February 2022  
 online

**Meet the Speakers**

**Winter School: Fairness in AI**  
 ~ 150 applications from around the world  
 ~ 70 accepted  
 ~ 100 participants in total  
**Streamed on Youtube**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mC4yqhy7M>

Speakers listed include: Sibeh Yanni (France), Ricardo Baeza-Yates (Chile), Tamas Falders (Belgium), Carlos Castillo (Spain), Athina Anagnostou (Greece), Marina Moutrika (Greece), Sophie Kyriakou (France), Katharina Kinas (Austria), Birini Moutsis (Germany), and others.

In the winter school, well-renowned leaders in the field presented the exciting on-going work on the school’s topic. The school featured seminars, talks, small working group sessions, and a panel. The school received **more than 150 applications** from around the world, all of very high quality. After a reviewing process, **70 of them were accepted**. The school was a very active event and based on feedback from its participants, it was a very successful event.

**ACM Europe Best Paper Awards in Conference**

This activity has been undertaken by ACM Europe RAISE in May 2022. In the past, the Committee of European Chapter Leaders (CECL) was in charge of the activity. In the context of ACM Europe RAISE, Bran Knowles (Lancaster University, UK) is in charge of it. For the reporting period, the ACM Europe Council best papers awards were granted as described below:

- *21st edition of the ACM Interaction Design and Children (IDC) Conference*, Braga, Portugal, June 27–30, 2022. Paper that won the Best Paper Award: Gabriella Tisza, Kshitij Sharma, Sofia Papavlasopoulou, Panos Markopoulos, and Michail Giannakos, "[Understanding Fun in Learning to Code: A Multi-Modal Data approach](#)".
- *16th ACM International Conference on Distributed and Event-Based Systems (DEBS)*, Copenhagen, Denmark, June 27–30, 2022. The Best Paper Award was split to the following two papers: 1) Steven Purtzel, Samira Akili, and Matthias Weidlich, "[Predicate-Based Push-Pull Communication for Distributed Complex Event Processing](#)", 2) Liuyang Ren, Paul Ward, and Bernard Wong, "[Toward Reducing Cross-Shard Transaction Overhead in Sharded Blockchains](#)".
- *Platform for Advanced Scientific Computing (PASC) Conference*, Basel, Switzerland, June 27–29, 2022. Paper that won the Best Paper Award: Martin Berzins for his paper "[Porting Uintah to Heterogeneous Systems](#)".
- *14th ACM Web Science Conference*, Barcelona, Spain, June 26–29, 2022. The Best Paper Award was split to the following two papers: 1) Kristina Hristakieva, Stefano Cresci, Giovanni Da San Martino, Mauro Conti, and Preslav Nakov, "[The Spread of Propaganda by Coordinated Communities on Social Media](#)".
- *15th ACM International Systems and Storage Conference (SYSTOR)*, Haifa, Israel, June 13 - 15 , 2022. Paper that won the Best Paper Award: Nanqinqin Li, Mingzhe Hao, Huaicheng Li, Xing Lin, Tim Emami, and Haryadi S. Gunawi, "[Fantastic SSD Internals and How to Learn and Use Them](#)".

### Increase awareness in Europe of opportunities for recognition via ACM programs and activities

With regard to improving the visibility of ACM among European researchers, the Council offered free ACM membership to ERC grantees in the domain of computer science (PE6 Panel). **17 ERC grant holders took advantage of the complimentary membership offering.**

Moreover, ACM Europe RAISE has created a repository containing lists of stakeholders (and their contact details), to whom information about relevant ACM programs and activities can be disseminated at a regular basis.

### Current Activity

One of the main objectives of ACM Europe RAISE is to create a **strategic document** which will propose specific directions to work on in order to achieve each of the goals of the working group. ACM Europe RAISE is currently finalizing this document which is expected to be out by the beginning of October, 2022. Some preliminary findings, based on statistics that ACM Europe RAISE collected, and some suggestions for action are summarized below.

**Preliminary Findings.** European membership represents close to 20% of professional ACM members, compared to close to 45% for US members. Interestingly, the corresponding population numbers are very different: the population of Europe (746M overall, 447M for EU28, 385M for EU15) is larger than that of the US (330M), and similarly for ICT professionals<sup>1</sup>. These statistics indicate that there is a large potential for growing ACM European membership. This requires to change the perception of Europeans about ACM and make ACM activities more relevant to European professionals. Statistics show that Europeans do not exploit existing ACM opportunities for professional recognition, indicating that Europeans do not see enough value in ACM. European researchers often consider ACM to be US-centric. Based on statistics, this does not seem to be an unrealistic consideration. The representation of Europeans within ACM (committees, awards, activities, etc.) is in many cases proportional and often inferior, to the *current representation* of European professionals as members. In whatever regards geographical coverage for prestigious conferences, many of them alternate between North America, Europe,

<sup>1</sup> The proportion of “ICT specialists” is approximately 3.5–4% of total employment, in both the US and Europe [Source: OECD, [ICT Skills and Employment : New Competences and Jobs for a Greener and Smarter Economy](#)].

and other locations, but this is not a universal practice. No ACM staff is dedicated to (nor located in) Europe, despite the profound cultural differences between Europe and the US and within Europe.

**Suggestions for action.** An effort is required to make ACM activities more relevant to European professionals and to change the European perception of ACM:

*Boost the visibility of European research excellence:* nominate European scholars for ACM awards; increase European representation in award committees; establish target lists of nominators and potential candidates.

*Highlight the role of Europe as a hub of research:* assist SIGs to ensure geographical balance; help with organization and sponsorship of conferences in Europe. Organise focused events in Europe, e.g., ERC workshop, "Future of research" panels, etc. Empower PhD students through targeted events, both research- and career-oriented.

*Make European Informatics more visible throughout ACM:* have specialized staff for Europe at ACM HQ; open an European Office; ensure European representation throughout all ACM bodies. Increase European representation in the SIG board; each SIG should have a Europe liaison person. Ensure diversity in conference committees and locations; facilitate organization of conferences in Europe. Grow publications in languages other than English; support translation of conferences and publications. Improve communication with European universities and industry.

*Increase awareness of opportunities for recognition via ACM programs and activities:* identify and prioritise stakeholders and awards to maximise impact; actively motivate European scholars of opportunities; help both nominees and nominators navigate the nomination process, with tutorials and supporting material. Increase ACM Europe presence in social media and the Internet.

*Enhance ACM Europe Council's existing recognition activities, and create new ones:* publish interviews of European researchers; target and grow the existing ACM Europe Council best-paper awards program; introduce new awards.

## Future Planning

The future planning of ACM Europe RAISE includes setting priorities on the actions proposed in the strategic document and start implementing those that are expected to be the most influential. This will include finding the appropriate resources for implementing the chosen actions, assessing the situation (if not done so already), identifying the appropriate stakeholders, and designing and implementing the chosen actions. Specifically, The working group plans to:

1. Nominate Europeans for at least 3 ACM Awards by December 2022.
2. Initiate collaboration with the SIGs, offering to assist them in creating balance across different continents, regarding the organization of conferences and events, and ensuring that there is European presence even when such events occur outside Europe.
3. Organize at least one focused event in Europe that will enable researchers to present ideas and exchange views with peers from Europe and across the world. Continue endorsing events organized by ACM chapters in Europe.
4. Initiate discussions with the ACM management and the SIGs to contribute and assist towards making ACM more international.
5. Enhance its repository of stakeholders and disseminate to them information about ACM programs and activities at a regular basis.
6. Come up with a strategy for increasing impact of ACM Europe Council conference such as best paper awards.
7. Publish a collection of interviews from European Researchers.

## ACM Europe Seasonal Schools Working Group

Yannis Ioannidis, WG Chair till 30 June, 2022

The **ACM Europe Seasonal Schools Working** is being defined in accordance with the Appendix on the "*Global Strategy for ACM Europe Seasonal Schools*" provided last year.

The following is a quote<sup>2</sup> from last year's strategy document, as it will guide the operation of the working group once the new chair is appointed.

*This writeup represents the thoughts of the author on how to come up with a comprehensive strategy for Seasonal Schools, organized by ACM Europe, based on his experience with organizing several of Seasonal Schools on the topic of Data Science the last years.*

*Seasonal Schools are a separate instrument for serving the computing community, achieving different goals from those of typical conferences and their various tracks and workshops. They last longer (one or two weeks) than the other traditional meetings, they focus on educating, and in particular, educating young researchers, they can be on a general or specialized topic, and they involve a small number of students (50-100). Usually, all students stay together in the same place, the venue of the Seasonal School lectures, and ideally this is the case for all the instructors as well. This co-existence of everyone during lectures as well as social activities facilitates learning, leads to the formation of groups that may continue to interact way beyond the duration of the Seasonal School, and brings upcoming researchers and other computing professionals closer to ACM.*

*Within ACM in general, currently SIGCHI organizes Seasonal Schools in a systematic way, while other Seasonal Schools are organized by other ACM nodes more or less on an ad hoc and/or circumstantial basis. ACM Europe could follow suite, design a regular Seasonal School program with a well-chosen portfolio, and implement it in a staged fashion in the years to come.*

*Some suggestions by the author on how to come up with such a program are as follows:*

**Content:** *Some topics may be chosen top down, by the Council choosing a topic it thinks is important (and finding a person to run it) or choosing a person who works in a broad area (who would then find the particular topic within his/her area for a Seasonal School). After the program has matured a bit, some topics may be chosen bottom-up as well: The Council may have a yearly open call for Seasonal Schools and then choose the best among (short) proposals that would be submitted. A topic that has been successfully repeated a few times may lead to the establishment of a Seasonal School Series that will take on a life of its own, always under the ACM Europe umbrella. Even established Series should be evaluated each year, based on the educational and financial results of its last edition and the plans for the next one.*

*As seeds for this program, one should consider Seasonal Schools on "Data Science" that have occurred these past two years, chaired by the author, and on "HPC Architectures for AI and Dedicated Applications", chaired by Fabrizio Gagliardi (see Annual Report of the Council for FY 2019/2020 for more details). They were both very successful based on student evaluation scores and other indicators. Successful Seasonal Schools can become Series and continue yearly, with decreasing (and soon reaching zero) sponsorship from ACM.*

**Finances:** *With multiple Seasonal Schools taking place within a single year in the future, investment in each one should be decided comprehensively by the Council based on certain criteria. New Seasonal Schools should be helped more to get off the ground, while those running longer should become increasingly more sustainable through their student fees and other sponsorships (from SIGs,*

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<sup>2</sup> For the sake of clarity, there are some exceptions with respect to terminology such as the introduction of the term 'seasonal school' instead of 'summer school,' which would be restrictive.

*academic/research institutions, and industry). Any surplus that a Seasonal School may have should be maintained and earmarked for funding follow-up editions, in the case of a Seasonal School Series, or returned to the ACM Europe accounts, in the case of an individual Seasonal School. Overly successful established Seasonal School Series should be giving part of their surplus to ACM Europe.*

**Series Invariants:** *Unlike conferences, a Seasonal School Series may keep invariant one or more of its parameters: topic (which should be typically the case), main organizers, location, duration, etc. Examining existing Seasonal Schools series, one sees a great variety of approaches used: Some Seasonal Schools are always on the same topic, held in the same venue, and organized by the same people, while others are every year on a different topic, held in a different location, and organized by different people.*

*ACM Europe should be flexible in this regard, let each Series be built on the most appropriate invariants and grow accordingly, evaluating each time the success of each Series' model and intervening when adjustment may be necessary.*