

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the European ACM Council  
For the Period: July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

Submitted by Fabrizio GAGLIARDI  
Council Chair

1. BASIC INFORMATION (<http://europe.acm.org/>)

1.1 Members of the Council (all appointed with a 3 year mandate starting in 2009)

1. **Fabrizio Gagliardi**, Microsoft Research (Council Chair), Cambridge, UK
2. Alain Chesnais, Scenecaster, Canada (ACM President)
3. David Harper, Google, Zurich, Switzerland
4. Paola Inverardi, University of L'Aquila, Italy
5. Matthias Kaiserswerth, IBM Research, Zurich, Switzerland
6. Gabriele Kotsis, Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria
7. Bertrand Meyer, ETH Zurich, Switzerland
8. Burkhard Neidecker-Lutz, Research Division, SAP AG, Germany
9. Gerhard Schimpf, Chair, German ACM Chapter, Pforzheim, Germany
10. Paul Spirakis, University of Patras
11. Andrew McGettrick, University of Strathclyde, Scotland
12. Mateo Valero, Polytechnical University of Catalonia, Spain
13. Ricardo A. Baeza-Yates, Yahoo! Research, Barcelona Spain
14. Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Universite Paris-Sud, France
15. Carlo Ghezzi, Politecnico di Milano, Italy
16. Jan van Leeuwen, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
17. Avi Mendelson, Microsoft Research, Israel
18. Marc Shapiro, INRIA and LIP6, France
19. Alexander Wolf, Imperial College London, UK

1.2 Task forces

Chapters: **Gerhard Schimpf** (Chair), Marc Shapiro, Avi Mendelson

Conferences: **Avi Mendelson** (Chair), Michel Beaudouin-Lafon, Carlo Ghezzi, Alexander Wolf

Nominations/Awards: **Marc Shapiro** (Co-Chair), **Jon Crowcroft** (Co-Chair), Jan van Leeuwen, Paul Spirakis, Mateo Valero, Carlo Ghezzi

Membership Growth: **Fabrizio Gagliardi** (Chair), Ricardo A. Baeza-Yates, Alain Chesnais, David Harper, Matthias Kaiserswerth, Burkhard Neidecker-Lutz

2. Activity summary

Chapters Task Force (promote expansion and creation of ACM chapters in Europe):

Gerhard Schimpf, started in October 2009, status: on-going, funds: NA.

This task force carried out a survey in April 2010 (results available on our ACM Europe secure web site) and concluded with the following actions:

1. A scholarship will be provided to any ACM European Student Member who engages with ACM in one of the following ways: Organizes an ACM Student Chapter at their university and/or Translates the ACM Student Chapter Start-up Kit into their native/local language
2. The ACM European Student Scholarship Program will provide funding for conference registration and subsistence to attend the ACM Special Interest Group (SIG) Conference of their choice taking place in Europe
3. Scholarship will be advertized on ACM's homepage, ACM Europe homepage, and the ACM Student Membership homepage
4. ACM will promote the scholarship in MemberNet, announce the scholarship to Student Chapters in Europe of the "translating" option
5. ACM will send a special Student Bulletin to ACM European Student Members, and a message to ACM European Faculty, including a list of ACM Conferences in Europe to generate interest and curiosity

Conferences Taskforce (Increase ACM conferences in Europe): Avi Mendelson, started in October 2009, status : on-going, funds : NA.

Reviewed the upcoming ACM conferences in Europe

Facilitated "in-cooperating" status with CMSB - International Conferences on Computational Methods in Systems Biology

Considering an ACM Europe Federated Research Conference

Current level of conference activity in Europe

Sponsoring 34 conferences in 2010

Cooperating on 40 conferences in 2010

Nomination/Awards Task Force (increase nominations from Europe): Marc Shapiro (Co-Chair), Jon Crowcroft (Co-Chair), started in October 2009, status: on-going, funds: NA.

The TF identified a fundamental problem in Europe: Soliciting awards is not in the European culture and tradition. The input/output ratio of the nomination is too high, needs improvement. Focus on Fellow to jump-start the process:  $\leq 2008$ : 22 UK, 11 Switzerland, 6 Israel, 4 other

Identify 10 European "individuals we are surprised are not already Fellows" (and not UK-CH)

Contact their department head, encourage nomination

Response from 6; 3 followed through

2009 Fellows: 1 DE, 2 IL, 1 IT, 1 PT, 1 ES, 1 CH, 1 UK

From our list: 1 Fellow, 1 Distinguished Member

Actions performed so far: CACM advertisement + flyer; Fellow-only sub-committee on

Fellows; as last year, to identify individuals: either nominate or encourage nomination with focus on distinguished member;

E-mail sent to every Fellow in Europe: "The Council invites every ACM Fellow [...] to nominate at least one candidate for one of the ACM Awards or Advanced Member Grades."

Membership Growth Task Force (Increase ACM membership in Europe): Fabrizio Gagliardi, started in October 2009, status: on-going, funds: NA.

Geographical expansion explored with initial contacts with RAS (Russian Academy of Sciences), and other Academies in CEE. Often ACM is perceived as an American institution. Discussions with the EU and participation in ICT2010 (with a ACM booth and a Computing Professional societies networking sessions + senior meeting with EU officials).

Potential from Industry identified. Considered approach of corporate champions, custom ACM/corporate websites and possibly build a “council” of corporate champions. There are a large number of SME’s (small to medium size enterprises) that employ high-end developers. ACM needs to be able to reach them – either through software developer conferences or lists. This approach would also work in the U.S. A joint marketing effort with organizations that reach the software developer community might prove successful in attracting members.

Examples of such organizations are: SAP (and the Developers Eco Group), Microsoft (and the Microsoft Developers Network), IBM, and Google. These lists contain millions of names of software developers. The industry representatives in the ACM Europe council are pursuing this, but of course it must be made clear what the value proposition is.

Other activities: besides the activities carried out by the above specific task forces the Council all together carried out a review of the ACM council composition with the aim of expanding the representation geographically especially towards East of Europe and increasing the gender diversity. A revamp of the DSP programme with additional funding provided by Microsoft Research was also decided. The council chair (Fabrizio Gagliardi) represents the ACM Europe Council in the ACM DSP.

### 3. PLANS

- 3.1 All the task forces will continue to pursue their respective goals.
- 3.2 An expansion of the membership in the board is foreseen.
- 3.3 An ACM federated conference in Europe is being investigated.

### 4. COMMENTS

Is there any major issue which we miss to promote further ACM in Europe and European participation in ACM senior bodies? Is cooperation with the other regional councils (India, China...) something that ACM Europe should actively pursue? What are the plans for a regional council in LatAm? There is a growing CS community there which could justify a focused effort in the region.

## **APPENDIX**

Address list of all committee members, subcommittee or subunit chairs and members, and other persons responsible for projects. Use this format:

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Responsibility within the Committee: Chair Taskforce on Chapters