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MEMBER SOCIETY REPORT FOR CITS (CROATIA)

by Marijan Frkovic

The Croatian Information Technology Society (CITS) celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2005. Leading Croatian companies established Society in 1975.

Our Vision is to stay the main umbrella organization with the task of gathering of all IT organizations, companies and individuals, and especially young generations in Croatia that are in IT area because these are the conditions for faster and easier transformation to the information society.

Our Mission is to participate in development of IT sector in Croatia, in close cooperation with governmental, businesses, scientific and educational institutions.

Croatian IT Society is umbrella organization with following members: IT individuals, IT companies and IT departments from different companies, academic organizations, forums and IT societies:

Forums:

- [HrGIS](#) (Geographic Information Systems)
- [HrQA INFO](#) (Quality Assurance)
- [HrPUG](#) (Progress Users Group)
- [HrUSKO](#) (SAP Users Group)
- [SportHIS](#) (IT in Croatian Sport)

Societies:

- [HrOpen](#) (Croatian Society for Open Source and Internet)
- [HrOUG](#) (Croatian Society of Oracle Users)
- [HSIN](#) (Croatian Society of Young informatics)
- [HULK](#) (Croatian Society of Linux Users)

The total membership at the end of 2005 was ca. 8.000, from these ca. 250 were company members. The professional coverage of the CITS personal membership has been satisfactory level in Croatia as the total number of people working in IT professions counts ca. 12.000

CITS is an organization of Croatian informatics whose one of primary task is education of IT professionals and users of IT . Since there is no possibility for development of the modern society without digital literacy, specially without e-business, CITS's primary goal is providing longlife learning solutions for IT professionals and IT users. The field of

longlife learning for IT users includes all user ages from basic and secondary schools, students, employers and senior citizens.

Very good cooperation among governmental institutions , Croatian chamber of economy, CITS and other organizations resulted in a very short period of time with creation of critical mass for launch of IT users educational programs in Croatia.

CITS is active in organizing and teaching of IT professionals in the area of Open source and Internet, Geographic Information Systems, Oracle Users, SAP users, Quality assurance in IT, Linux users and especially in the gathering of younger generations. Only one of organizations under CITS umbrella is the Croatian Society of Young Informatics which has gathered more than 7000 young people from basic, secondary and high schools and its members are winning different medals on Informatics gatherings and Olympics. Last month they were a host for the 13th Central European Olympiad in Informatics. The International Olympiad in Informatics will held in Mexico this year, with representatives from 90 countries. Next year, World Olympiad in Informatics will be held in Croatia under organization of CITS, Croatian Government and City Council of Zagreb. Croatian representatives has earned lots of medals in different IT Olympic games worldwide, which is the proof of high level of IT education in Croatia.

ECDL in Croatia has started very well because we have created the critical mass in Governmental bodies, Education, Economics and other targeting groups. The results of efforts made in this area will be much more visible with the coming years.

Together with societies of some neighboring countries CITS is also participating to IT STAR, a regional IFIP project aimed at the development of common initiatives.

CITS continues to be involved, as the Croatian corresponding association in **CEPIS**, in the dissemination of the European Computing Driving License (ECDL). At the present there are over 30 test centers with 340 dislocated departments , most of them in secondary schools , while over 14.000 skill cards have been issued. Using a new on-line test system, ALGEBRA , that it had developed Croatian TC Algebra Zagreb is able to cope with over 20,000 examinations per month. CITS has been contributing also to the Advanced ECDL program for "ECDL Experts"

At the country level, CITS organized three major annual Conferences . During the last year these were marketed as Top Professional conferencies.

During celebretion of 30 years of CITS , CITS delivered several special awards to the most active members. At the same time the most active ECDL test centres and the representatives of the govermental institutions and ECDL users had received Crystal globes.

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CITS 's officers for the current year are:

President: **Mladen Glasenhardt**

Vice-president for int. affairs : **Marijan Frkovic**

Secretary: **Kresimir Sikulin**