

IFIP C 2003 Bilbao (Tab 2c)

REPORT of the IFIP-UNESCO Liaison Officer

This report covers the period September 2002 - February 2003

The most significant developments during the reported period are outlined below:

1. Follow up on UNESCO's participation in IFIP Congress 2002

The UNESCO Assistant Director General responsible for Information and Communication will be a keynote speaker at WCC. Another UNESCO representative was actively involved in the preparation and adoption of the UNESCO-IFIP WCC 2002 Declaration on Youth and in the organization of two sessions related to UNESCO's Draft Recommendation Concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace and the Information for all Programme.

After the Congress the Declaration [http://www.ifip.or.at/minutes/ga2002/youth_declaration.pdf] was translated into French and Spanish and widely disseminated within UNESCO and IFIP and would consist a special topic of the work of WITFOR Commission 4 [<http://www.ifip.or.at/mail/msg00216.html>]. It was sent as a contribution to the work of WSIS.

2. Consultations with other NGOs for the preparations of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) – IFIP continued to be actively involved in the NGO communities efforts related to WSIS [<http://www.ifip.or.at/mail/msg00206.html>]

3. UNESCO Participation Program for the period 2002-2003

All member societies were advised to contact their National Commissions to inquire about possibilities under this program.

The IFIP-UNESCO Liaison officer prepared an application for the support of WITFOR, which was submitted via the Lithuanian National UNESCO Commission within the Lithuanian quota and resulted into a significant UNESCO support for this activity. Another application was submitted in support of participants from developing countries to attend IFIP events which resulted into the IFIP-UNESCO grant scheme [<http://www.ifip.or.at/mail/msg00213.html>]

4. IFIP's status with UNESCO

IFIP as an organization in formal relations with UNESCO is subject to a periodical evaluation of its contributions to UNESCO activities. Such an evaluation was carried out and the IFIP-UNESCO Liaison Officer prepared and submitted an analysis of the relations between the two organizations. At its 165th session, UNESCO's Executive Board decided to renew the formal consultative relations between UNESCO and IFIP for another period of 6 years.

In this regard the IFIP-UNESCO Officer proposes the following draft statement for IFIP's Council to adopt:

“IFIP’s Council warmly welcomes the decision of UNESCO’s Executive Board to renew its formal consultative relations with IFIP. On it’s part, IFIP gratefully accepts the continuation of these relations and the obligations and advantages that this relationship entails and looks forward to continuing its fruitful cooperation with UNESCO”.

5. WITFOR

The World IT Forum (WITFOR) Conference, August 2003 in Lithuania is an IFIP Event that has particularly benefited from the excellent cooperation with UNESCO. It will be held under the auspices of UNESCO with several UNESCO representatives directly involved in the program.

6. Other Activities

We are currently making arrangements that the Chairperson of WG 13.3 on Human-Computer Interaction and Disability joins a UNESCO Expert group as the IFIP representative. The experts are expected to prepare a position paper on ICTs and people with disabilities to be discussed during an expert meeting, which will take place at UNESCO in Paris in May 2003.

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IFIP's proactive policy is bearing fruit and this contributes to IFIP's high profile and continued participation in activities and projects of interest to the IFIP Community. For the second year in a row the IFIP-UNESCO partnership is singled out as one of the most important IFIP activities.

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5 February 2003, Laxenburg