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(The full schedule of UPGRADE is available at our website)



The European Journal for the Informatics Professional
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Vol. IX, issue No. 4, August 2008

- 3 Editorial. European Certification of Informatics Professionals — *Niko Schlamberger*

Monograph: "EUCIP: A Model for Definition and Measurement of ICT Skills" (published jointly with Novática*)

Guest Editors: *Renny Bakke Amundsen, Neil Farren, and Paolo Schgör*

- 4 Presentation. Introducing EUCIP — *Renny Bakke Amundsen, Neil Farren, and Paolo Schgör* (with contributions by *Niko Schlamberger*)

- 7 EUCIP General Overview — *Michael Sherwood-Smith and Giovanni Franza*

- 12 Exploring the EUCIP Certification Range and Progression Options — *Paolo Schgör, Frank Mockler, and Neil Farren*

- 17 Advanced Experiences in Norway — *Renny Bakke Amundsen*

- 20 Advanced Experiences in Italy: The University Approach to EUCIP — *Marco Ferretti and Nello Scarabottolo*

- 27 Advanced Experiences in Italy: EUCIP as a Shared Model in the ICT Community — *Roberto Bellini, Franco Patini, and Antonio Teti*

- 32 Ireland Implementation Model — *Mary Cleary*

- 34 Estonia Implementation Model — *Jaan Oruaas*

- 36 Spanish Implementation Model: Current Situation — *José O. Montesa-Andrés, José-María Torralba-Martínez, and Manuel Rodenas-Adam*

- 39 A Web-based Computer System as a Main Tool of Certification Processes Automation in EUCIP Poland — *Grzegorz Szyjewski*

- 44 Implementing EUCIP IT Administrator in Romania — *Ana Dulu*

- 46 An Overview of Recent Adoption in Croatia — *Kristijan Zimmer and Enola Knežević*

- 49 CISCO and EUCIP Co-operation in ICT Professional Competencies Development — *Fabrizio Agnesi*

- 52 EUCIP Services for Organizations — *Roberto Bellini*

- 55 E-Learning Tools and Projects on EUCIP Core — *Marco Ferretti and Jaan Oruaas* (with contributions by *P. Prinetto, A. Chianese, P. Salomoni and Lily Loidap*)

UPENET (UPGRADE European NETWORK)

- 67 From **Novática** (ATI, Spain)

Mobile Technologies

ICING: Building the Cities of the Future — *Joan Batlle-Montserrat, Irma Merino-Zapirain, and Carlos Paternain-Soler*

CEPIS NEWS

- 72 CEPIS Working Groups

Thinking Ahead on e-Skills in Europe: Matching Supply to Demand — *Consortium Team led by CEPIS*

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Implementing EUCIP IT Administrator in Romania

Ana Dulu

This article provides an overview of the approach taken by ECDL Romania in the roll out of EUCIP. In particular, the Romanian EUCIP operations relate to the EUCIP IT Administrator programme and the relationships with suitable test centres with experiences of offering similar programmes for IT professionals.

Keywords: EUCIP, International Certification, IT Administrator, IT Certification, Networks, Security.

EUCIP is a pan-European qualification scheme for people entering the IT profession and for IT professionals wishing to continue their professional development. It has been developed as an independent, European recognized scheme for IT professionals and was created by CEPIS, the Council of European Professional Informatics Societies. The European Certification of Informatics Professionals (EUCIP) is a professional certification and competence development scheme aimed at IT practitioners and undergraduates.

The objective of the EUCIP programme is to offer a recognized certification of IT competence at a standard prescribed by CEPIS (The Council of European Professional Informatics Societies) for IT professionals, to meet the demands of the increasing market for IT professionals across Europe, to offer a vehicle for life-long learning and competency enhancement for the IT profession.

In Romania the qualification was aimed at practitioners working in industry, government and public organisations alike as well as students from high schools.

The advantages that we promote in Romania for EUCIP certification program are:

- A European qualification (EUCIP is a European qualification sponsored and guaranteed by CEPIS).
- Flexibility (candidates are offered a flexible delivery and examination approach).

In Romania, promotion of EUCIP is currently focused on the EUCIP IT Administrator certification. EUCIP IT Administrator is a standalone certification program that certifies practical and theoretical knowledge of computer technicians. ECDL Romania chose this certification because it covers a wide range of Hardware, Software and Networks knowledge areas.

In Romania we attempted to create a network of suitable Test Centres to offer the programme. This involved working with government, academies and CISCO Academies to ensure the growth of the programme and widespread adoption of EUCIP as a national standard. ECDL Romania began the implementation of EUCIP IT Administrator in December 2007 and to date the response from the

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market has been quite low.

The first EUCIP IT Administrator Testing Centre in Romania is CREDIS Academy¹, an Academy that has been offering other technical courses for more than three years; mainly Cisco Networking Academy related courses. CREDIS Academy decided to become a EUCIP testing centre after having heard about the success it had in other countries that already decided to get involved in the programme. Furthermore, the academy had to find another method to certify their high-school students that were mostly unable to pay the price of testing their knowledge by applying for the CompTIA A+ certification. The Cisco Networking Academy Programme promoted the first three exams of the EUCIP IT Administrator Certification by inserting a chapter that presented the benefits of the certification into the IT Essentials course and also gave a mapping about what the students should study from this course in order to prepare for the exam.

The first students that applied for the certification declared that they have chosen this certification mainly because of its high development in other European Countries. In order to find a good job in Romania it is highly impor-

¹ CREDIS Cisco Academy, the largest Cisco Academy in Romania. <<http://cisco.credis.ro/en/>>.

tant that you acquire as many certifications as you can, because most employers are adopting the western methods of evaluating the candidates when hiring somebody (ensuring that they are certified). Also, the certification is expected to become a standard in a similar fashion as was seen with the ECDL certification in Romania. Therefore candidates could take the advantage of passing the exams at the beginning of the programme in the country.

The target audience for the EUCIP certification in CREDIS Academy are principally youngsters, because they are the main target for employers in the IT market and because the population in Romania is already demographically aged. For now CREDIS Academy are mainly promoting the IT Administrator certification to the high school segment, but have also kept it available for other potential candidates.