



# **Towards a Long Term e-Skills Strategy in Europe**

**Leonardo da Vinci Thematic Conference**  
***“Competences, Learning outcomes, Qualifications:  
Transparency contributing to Employability”***  
**Workshop 5 - Sectoral approaches to qualifications**

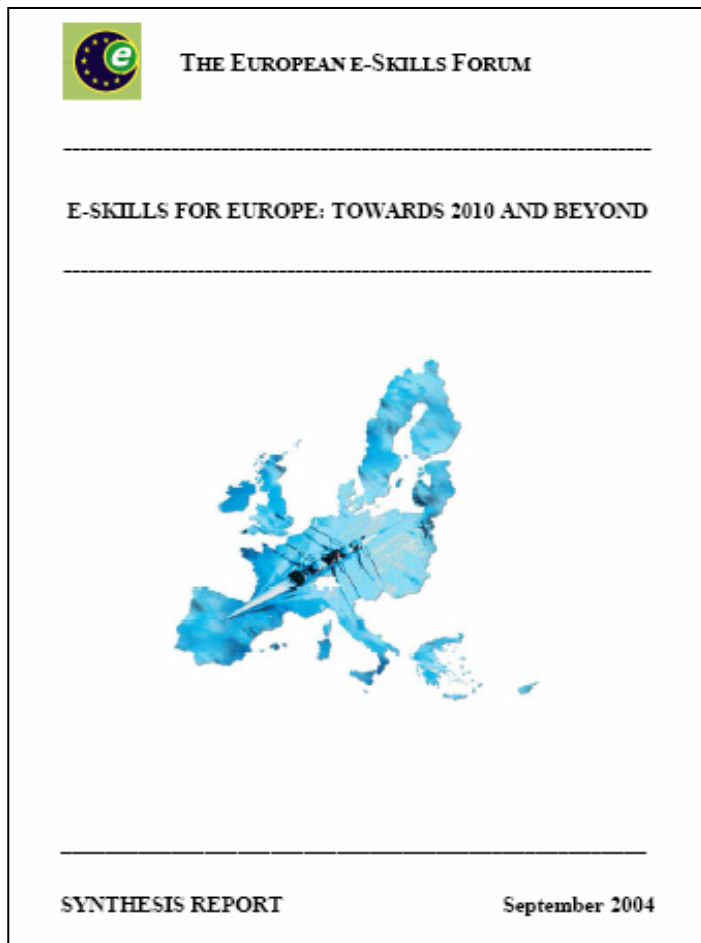
Rome, 6 July 2007

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## European e-Skills Forum e-Skills in Europe: Towards 2010 and Beyond



- Long-term strategic approach
- Multi-stakeholders partnerships
- Improving data availability
- **EU e-competence framework**
- Bridging “parallel universes”
- Promoting e-learning solutions
- Promoting e-skills for all

See: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/policy/doc/e-skills-forum-2004-09-fsr.pdf>



5-6 October 2006

Cedefop  
Europe 123  
GR-57001, Thessaloniki

### The Conference 2006: Towards a Long Term e-Skills Strategy

The **European e-Skills Summit** of October 2002 was instrumental in the setting up, with Council endorsement, of the European e-Skills Forum. Its report "e-Skills in Europe: towards 2010 and beyond" was endorsed by the **European e-Skills 2004 Conference**. Its recommendations have been followed up by well focused projects. An accurate picture of the supply and demand of e-skills is available and the ground has been cleared in particular for the development of foresight scenarios and a European e-competence framework.

The **European e-Skills 2006 Conference** is a high-level conference on e-skills and a key milestone. The outcomes of the conference will be used to prepare a long term strategy in Europe to ensure adequate e-skills for the future across both workforce and population. The conference is organised by the European Commission and Cedefop in partnership with leading ICT companies and stakeholders. It will bring together 150 leading participants from government, ICT industry, social partners, academia and other stakeholders.

#### Send your comments:

as discussed at the final concluding session on 6 October to:  
declaration@e-skills-conference.org

#### Latest News:

- > Concluding remarks of David White
- > Draft of the Conference Declaration as discussed at the conference (pdf 25 kb)
- > Find the presentations online now
- > The TOPIC PAPER of Working Group 5 (Skills and Employability) of the ICT Task Force on ICT Competitiveness and ICT Up-take is now online
- > Find out more about the conference speakers
- > New information on the venue, hotels, and on travelling to Thessaloniki
- > Detailed information on the cultural programme (7 Oct. 2006)
- > Press release from DG Enterprise and Industry (01 June 2006)
- > European e-Skills Newsletter (First Semester 2006)



**Günter Verheugen**

Vice-President of the European Commission

"E-skills make a key contribution to growth, jobs and social cohesion, which are high in the agenda of the European Commission. We may face severe e-skills mismatches in the coming years. This problem calls for a strong stakeholder co-operation."



**Aviana Bulgarelli**

Director of Cedefop

"Knowledge, skills and competences will be the main capital of European citizens. E-skills as a key competence have become central in the context of lifelong learning."



**David White**

Director for Innovation Policy, DG ENTR, European Commission

"The availability of e-skills is a key condition for successful innovation and for the competitiveness of European enterprises"



**European e-Skills Conference (Oct. 2006)**  
See: [www.e-skills-conference.org](http://www.e-skills-conference.org)



## ICT Task Force Report (2006) Recommendations on e-skills

*FOSTERING THE  
COMPETITIVENESS OF  
EUROPE'S  
ICT INDUSTRY*

*EU ICT TASK FORCE REPORT  
NOVEMBER 2006*

The ICT Taskforce calls upon the European Commission to present a **policy Communication** addressed to EU Member States and designing a long-term e-skills strategy and a corresponding e-skills action plan proposing targeted actions for the years ahead

See: <http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/ict/taskforce.htm>



## Key components of a long term e-skills strategy

- **Longer term cooperation:** strengthening cooperation between public authorities and industry, academia, unions and associations through the promotion of multi-stakeholder partnerships and joint initiatives including monitoring supply and demand, anticipating change, adapting curricula, attracting foreign students and highly skilled ICT workers and promoting ICT education in a long-term basis.
- **Human resources investment:** ensuring sufficient public and private investments in human resources and e-skills and appropriate financial support and fiscal incentives as well as developing an e-competence framework and tools facilitating mobility, mutual recognition, transparency of qualifications and credit transfer between formal, non-formal and industry ICT education.
- **Attractiveness:** promoting science, maths, ICT, role models, job profiles and career perspectives with a particular focus on young people. Information campaigns are necessary to provide parents, teachers and pupils, notably girls, with an accurate understanding of opportunities arising from an ICT education and the pursuit of an ICT career.
- **Employability and e-inclusion:** developing digital literacy and e-competence actions tailored to the needs of the workforce both in the public and the private sector, with a particular emphasis on SMEs and also to the needs of the unemployed, elderly people, people with low education levels, people with disabilities and marginalised young people.
- **Lifelong acquisition of e-skills:** ensuring that workers can regularly update their e-skills and encouraging better and more user-centric ICT-enhanced learning and training approaches (e-learning). Good practices for the training of employees, with a particular emphasis on SMEs, using e-learning should be promoted together with successful solutions and business models.



## e-Skills Industry Leadership Board Launch Event, 7 June 2007, Brussels



### Mission Statement

- The mission of the e-Skills Industry Leadership Board is to lead the ICT sector's contribution to the development and implementation of a long term e-skills and digital literacy agenda in Europe.
- It will work in partnership with public authorities across Europe, other industry sectors, SME and all relevant stakeholders, building upon the recommendations and other reference initiatives on e-skills



## **The Five Main Action Lines**

ICT Task Force WG on Skills and Employability  
European e-Skills 2006 Conference Declaration

- Promoting a long term cooperation and monitoring process
- **Developing supporting actions and tools**
- Raising awareness
- Fostering employability and social inclusion
- Promoting better and greater use of e-learning

e-Skills Policy Communication (2007)  
e-Inclusion Initiative (2008)



## Developing supporting actions and tools

- **European e-competence framework within CEN/ISSS in line with the proposal for a European Qualifications Framework**
- European e-skills and career portal
- European handbook (guidelines to promote appropriate legal and financial frameworks for multi-stakeholder partnerships)
- Europass Initiative and online e-skills self-assessment tool
- Fast track admission schemes for third country ICT practitioners
- Quality criteria for e-skills industry-based training and certifications
- E-competence curriculum guidelines
- Services sciences, management and engineering
- IT Girls shadowing exercise
- e-training in rural areas
- Appropriate financial and fiscal incentives



## What the European e-Competence Framework aims to provide

- International HR management and a planning tool for ICT Industry (both vendor and user companies, large companies and SME)
- Common reference point between existing national ICT competence frameworks like CIGREF, AITTS, SFIA, bringing them added value by a European dimension of competence definition
- Cross-national communication and cooperation tool for the ICT industry, public sectors, training bodies, certification institutions and individuals
- Neutral, EU-wide recognised benchmarking tool for the ICT sector



## Main Characteristics

- Focused on ICT practitioners
- Respond to European ICT employers' needs (both vendor and user companies, large companies and SME)
- Based upon a commonly defined and shared „European language“ for ICT competences description
- A catalogue including typical ICT competences (e.g. project and risk management, enterprise architecture) as well as wider competences (e.g. communication skills, innovation ability)
- Linked to national frameworks such as e.g. SFIA, CIGREF, AITTS
- Linked to the European Qualifications Framework (level 3 - 7)
- Linked to a future European ICT Qualifications Framework (e.g. sharing definitions and levels)

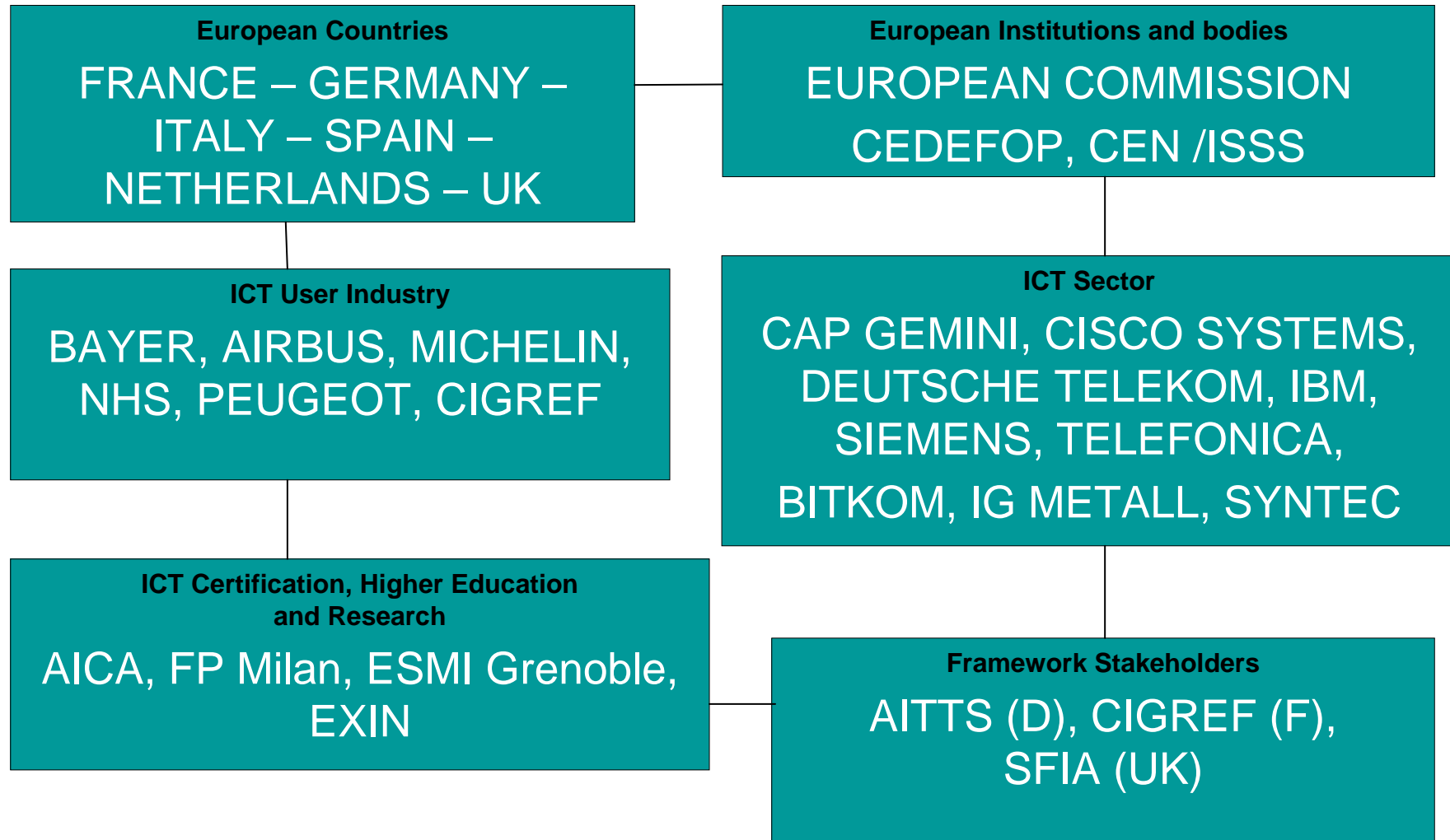


## A Europe-wide working tool for

- ICT practitioners with clear guidelines for developing their competencies in accordance with their position and future evolution
- ICT managers with inputs to anticipate and plan the competence needs in correspondence to their company make or buy policy
- Higher Education, Vocational Training and Certification Providers for designing their Curricula

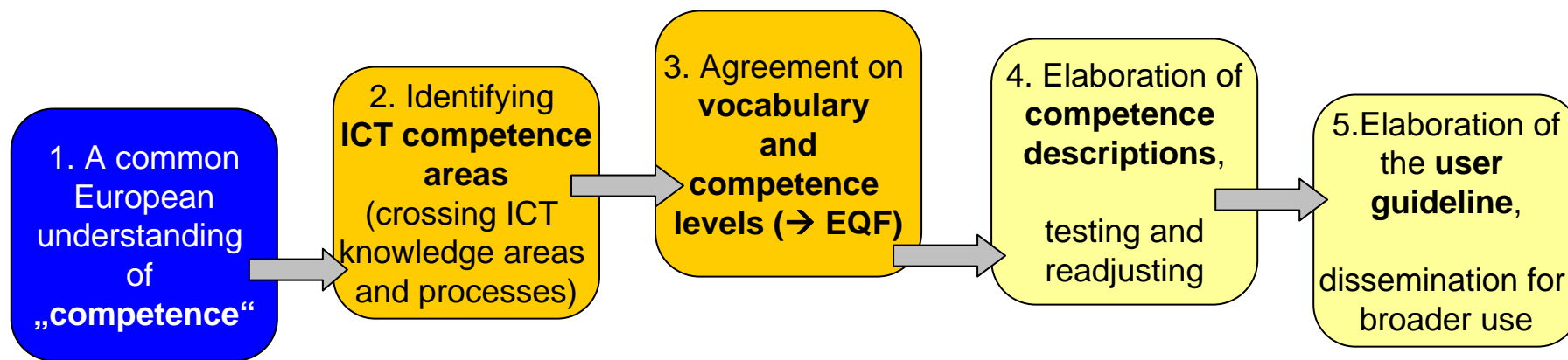


## Main Organisations Involved





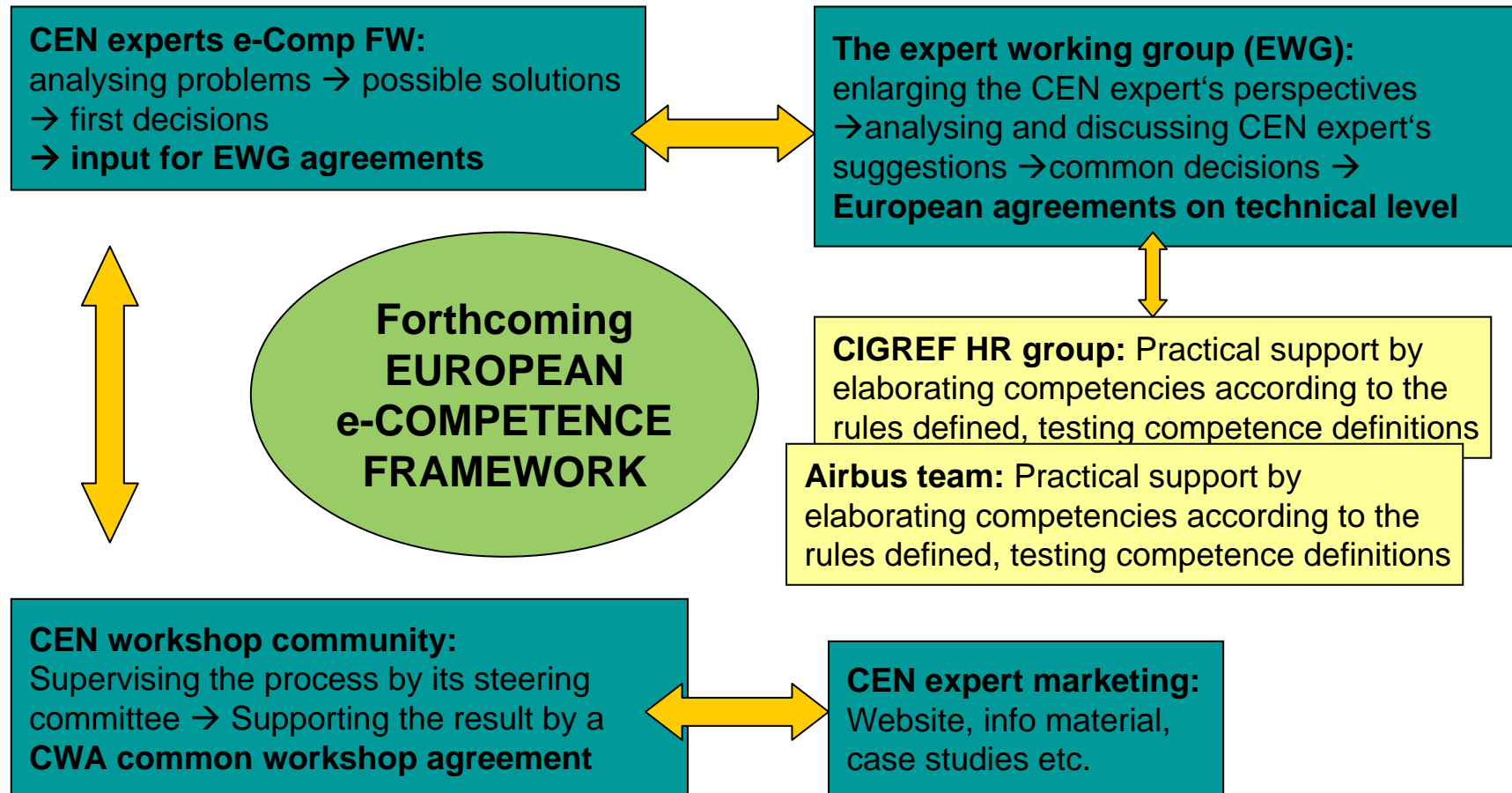
## Main Steps of the Work



Step by step improvement by testing and readjusting during the work in progress



# Working Structure





# CEN/ISSS: Towards a comprehensive European e-Competence Framework (2007-2008)

Aim: Ability to create, manage, plan and develop e-competences that will be needed in a long term perspective across Europe

European Commission:

Policy making (European Qualification Framework (EQF) and e-Skills Policy Communication) and Funding Programmes

CEN/ISSS: EU-wide Standardisation Body

Stakeholders (Industry, Social partners, Universities, Training Institutions etc.): multi-stakeholder partnerships for actions

## European e-Competence Framework

an EU-wide tool for planning and developing ICT practitioner competences across Europe in line with the EQF  
(providing ICT competence definitions needed and applied by industry)

## European e-Skills Portal Feasibility Study (2007)

followed (if positive) by future platform operated by stakeholders

## ICT Qualifications Framework

ICT Lane project: a shared European model for reading ICT qualifications across Europe  
(providing a common language for understanding ICT qualifications)

**EU-wide e-Competence and Career Tools and Services**

## EU-wide ICT User Competence Framework

## Methodological study

## EU-wide e-skills certifications quality criteria and map

See: <http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/businessdomains/businessdomains/iss/activity/wsict-skills.asp>



**Thank you !**

And Join the e-Skills Virtual Community:

<http://communities.trainingvillage.gr/esf>