A presentation of SPECIF

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Plan

What is SPECIF?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions
What is SPECIF?
What is SPECIF?

Strictly speaking SPECIF stands for Society of the teacher and researcher employees in Informatics of France.
What is SPECIF?

**SPECIF** is the French Society for Education and Research in CS.
Two societies

Two societies for Informatics

- with specific activities
- working in synergy.
Two societies

Two societies for Informatics
  ▶ with specific activities
  ▶ working in synergy.

**SPECIF**, the French Society for *Education and Research*. like **CRA** or **UKCRC**.
Two societies

Two societies for Informatics

- with specific activities
- working in synergy.

**SPECIF**, the French Society for *Education and Research*. Like **CRA** or **UKCRC**.

**ASTI**, the French *Science and Technology* Society like

- the **ACM**
- or the **British Computer Society**
- or the **GI**.
Two specificities of SPECIF

- open membership,
- action towards *Research and Education*
Two specificities of SPECIF

- open membership,
- action towards *Education and Research*
Three aims of SPECIF

- promoting Education in informatics in Universities,
- promoting Research in informatics in the academic world,
- promoting the specificities of academic jobs in informatics.
SPECIF sister associations

In the USA
the **Computer Research Association** aka CRA.

In the UK,
the **The UK Computing Research Committee**
CRA and UKCRC are not like SPECIF. They have similar activity, but
- UKCRC deals only with research,
- CRA deals with research and PhD education,
- CRA and UKCRC has a restricted membership access.
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The origin

SPECIF has been created in 1985, i.e., 20 years ago, for offering a solution to the critical situation of that time:

- an increasing number of students,
- a lack of educators,
- a multiplicity of administrations
  - Ministry of Research,
  - Ministry of Education
and agencies
  - CNRS,
  - INRIA,
  - CNET (research in Telecommunication).
- non coordinated actions
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How does SPECIF work?

- A yearly conference in January on a theme,
- A yearly general assembly,
- A bulletin and an information leaflet,
- A well documented WEB site,
The SPECIF WEB site

The site is located at http://specif.org/. Basically four headings:

- **News**, 
- **Education**: list of education departments, access to teaching documents, proceedings of SPECIF’05 conference, reports
- **Research**: list of research departments, SPECIF PhD award, repository of PhD’s, master’s etc., proceedings of SPECIF’04 conference, reports
- **Career**: opening of positions, promotion, reports,
- **News about SPECIF**.
How does SPECIF work?

- A council of 24 members.
- A president.
- 4 vice-presidents.
  - *Education*,
  - *Research*,
  - *Other associations*, especially ASTI,
  - *International*.
- 4 sub-committees associated with each vice-presidents.
How does SPECIF work?

- A council of 24 members.
- A president.
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  - Education,
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  - Other associations, especially ASTI,
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The president and the vice-presidents represent SPECIF vis-a-vis
- the administration,
- others association.
Plan

- What is SPECIF?
- SPECIF in the past
- SPECIF today
- **SPECIF current actions**
- SPECIF future actions
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?

Yes and No
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?

No

- The number of students went up and down, with a current dramatic decreasing,
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?

No

- The number of students went up and down, with a current dramatic decreasing, like in any other scientific field.
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?

No

- The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**, like in any other scientific field.

- The number of teaching positions went also up and down, with an irregular age pyramid for professors no steady policy.
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?

No

- The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**, like in any other scientific field.
- The number of teaching positions went also up and down, with an irregular age pyramid for professors no steady policy.
- The status of informatics has changed in the right direction,
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?

No

- The number of students went up and down, with a current dramatic decreasing, like in any other scientific field.
- The number of teaching positions went also up and down, with an irregular age pyramid for professors, no steady policy.
- The status of informatics has changed in the right direction,
- The support (in term of hardware) has improved,
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?

No

- The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**, like in any other scientific field.

- The number of teaching positions went also up and down, with an irregular age pyramid for professors no steady policy.

- The status of informatics has changed in the right direction,

- The support (in term of hardware) has improved, like everywhere.
Is the situation the same as 20 year ago?

Yes

- Still many administrations to talk to. Still a heavy bureaucracy.
- The situation vis-a-vis support has changed but not dramatically:
  - lack of staff support,
  - lack of financial support.
- National challenges have been replaced by international challenges.
Current actions

- The yearly PhD in Informatics award,
- Implementation of the Bologna agreement known as **LMD** for **Licence-Master-Doctorat**, for **Bachelor-Master-PhD**.
  - Conference SPECIF’05 on **L & M**,
  - Conference SPECIF’06 on **D**.
Current actions

- Career
  - Promotions,
  - Jobs openings,
  - Premiums.
Current actions

- Research
  - Status of Research in the Nation,
  - Status of Research in ITS in the Nation,
  - The new bill for Research,
  - The reform of CNRS (the main agency for research).
Current actions

- Involvement in the French Information Science and Technology Society:
  - ASTI
  - Association française des sciences et technologies de l’information.
Current actions

- **European and International** Aspects of Research and Education in Informatics:
  - Contact with sister associations:
    - UKCRC,
    - CRA,
    - ACM,
    - *other*?
  - Participation to conferences on Research and Education in Informatics:
    - CRA Conference at Snowbird (2006),
    - 1st European Computer Science Summit Zurich, 20-21 October 2005
SPECIF and LMD

- Information,
  What does Europe offer?
- Mutual information,
  What do the other French Universities offer?
  How X has implemented a bachelor degree in the University Y?
  One of the goals of SPECIF’05 Conference.
- The minimal curriculum requirement for Bachelors in Informatics,
- An Bridge for European cooperation.
- Professional master vs Research Master.
Plan

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And tomorrow?

- Making the LMD accepted by French companies,
  Does L, M or D open new career opportunities?
And tomorrow?

- Making the LMD accepted by French companies.
  Does L, M or D open new career opportunities?
- Tightening the links between national association for Research and Education in Informatics.
And tomorrow?

- Making the LMD accepted by French companies, Does L, M or D open new career opportunities?
- Tightening the links between national association for Research and Education in Informatics. A European federation for Research and Education in Informatics?