

A presentation of SPECIF

Christine Choppy (U. Paris 13 - Int. VP SPECIF)
Pierre Lescanne (ENS Lyon - Pr SPECIF)

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions

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What is SPECIF ?



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

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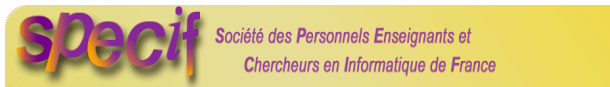
SPECIF future actions

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What is SPECIF ?

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

Two societies

Two societies for Informatics

- ▶ with specific activities
- ▶ working in synergy.

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Two societies

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

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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**.

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Two specificities of SPECIF

- ▶ open membership,
- ▶ action towards *Research and Education*

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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.

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SPECIF sister associations

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In the USA

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

In the UK,

the **The UK Computing Research Committee**

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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 ?

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

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The SPECIF WEB site

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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*.

What is SPECIF ?

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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.

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 - ▶ *International.*
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The president and the vice-presidents represent SPECIF vis-a-vis

- ▶ the administration,
- ▶ others association.

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Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

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

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Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

No

- ▶ The number of students went up and down,
with a current **dramatic decreasing**,

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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.

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

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- ▶ The support (in term of hardware) has improved,

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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.**

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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.

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- ▶ 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**.

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- ▶ Career

- ▶ Promotions,
- ▶ Jobs openings,
- ▶ Premiums.

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▶ 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).

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- ▶ Involvement in the French Information Science and Technology Society :

ASTI

**Association française
des sciences et technologies
de l'information.**

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- ▶ **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

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- ▶ **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**.

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And tomorrow ?

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

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- ▶ Making the LMD accepted by French companies,
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- ▶ Tightening the links between national association for Research and Education in Informatics.

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- ▶ Tightening the links between national association for Research and Education in Informatics.
A European federation for Research and Education in Informatics ?

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