

LETTER

RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATICS (ICI)

Bucharest, Romania

It is high time now, when we see the institution enter its 25th year of activity, to attempt to draw a sketch profile. One needs show clear what one works to, even if only as a sign of gratification for all those taking pains to move it forward, and having the sense of their efforts and involvement.

For twenty five years now, ICI has been one of the most powerful and active centres for advanced researches in the field of computer science and automatic control via computer. Its prestige is a matter of course.

ICI was set up in 1970 as the main centre for advanced researches in informatics.

ICI is subordinated to National Commission of Informatics (an interministerial body) and scientifically co-operates with the Ministry of Education, Ministry for Research and Technology, and the Romanian Academy (IT Section). Good co-operation relationships have been established with the Romanian Government and Presidency of Romania for developing information systems in public administration.

ICI is now the most powerful expertise centre in Romania in the field of Information Technology. Its specialists carry out the following activities:

- Advanced and Applied Researches in Information Technology,

- Analysis, Design, Programming and Implementation of Large Scale Information Systems,
- Consultancy in Informatics, Automatic Control and Management (Feasibility Studies, Technical Specifications for Tenders, Modernization Studies, etc.),
- Delivery of "Turnkey" Systems Developed upon Customers' Request,
- Development of Applied Software with High Generalization and Applicability Characteristics,
- Training and Specialization in Informatics,
- Performance/Cost Evaluation for Computer Technique,
- Technical Assistance on Implementing ICI Software or Other Companies' Software,
- Information and Documentation in Informatics.

Our technical staff includes:

- 126 research workers
- 20 candidates to doctoral degree
- 12 Ph.D holders
- 2 academicians

By profession they are:

- mathematicians: 60
- engineers: 162
- economists: 38

The computer platform includes: SUN SPARC workstations, IBM RISC 6000 and DIGITAL ALPHA workstations, 150 IBM-PC compatible computers, 3 DEC VAX 11 compatible 32 - bit minicomputers, NOVELL LAN, DECNET network (VAX 11, PDP 11, IBM-PC), internal terminal network.

We owe confidence to all those who have while being with the institute made their research activity substantial and held its level as high as the European research level. They are distinguished scientists working in such fields as: distributed processing (dr. M. Guran, dr. F. Paunescu, dr. E. Staicut, I. Popa), large scale systems (dr. F.G. Filip, dr. F. Stanciulescu, dr. N. Andrei), DSS (dr. F.G. Filip, D.A. Donciulescu, G. Neagu), mathematical modelling and fuzzy systems (dr. C.V. Negoita, dr. M. Sularia, dr. D. Radulescu), CAD of advanced control and identification systems (dr. V. Sima, dr. Th. Popescu, dr. A. Varga), AI, expert systems and computational linguistics (acad. M. Draganescu, acad. G. Tecuci, dr. D. Tufis, dr. M. Barbuceanu, dr. S. Trausan-Matu).

A simple statement like that about six Academic Prizes being won for significant contributions to analysis and design of information systems, industrial robots control, national computer network, learning systems, natural language processing, and mathematical modelling and optimisation, will say about the professionalism of our people.

At the European level, the institute participates, as associate partner, in several EC-PECO and ESPRIT joint research projects, working groups and networks of excellence in advanced IT fields: multimedia, expert systems, genetic algorithms, virtual reality, intelligent control and IMS, DSS, process monitoring, computer networks, simulation.

A distinct non-profit department devoted to basic and advanced researches as well as to postgraduate education (Ph.D) has been organized at ICI.

ICI is the national operator of the Research and Academic Computer Network (RNC).

There are five ICI-based Technology Transfer Centres. They are concerned with R&D results dissemination and modern technology use in the following domains:

- CIME (Computer Integrated Manufacturing and Engineering)
- DSS (Decision Support Systems)
- Open Systems
- IT Methodologies and Technologies (including CASE)
- Standards

A new laboratory was created for testing the software compatibility with international standards on IT.

ICI publishes two professional journals:

- Romanian Journal of Information Technology and Automatic Control (in Romanian);
- Studies in Informatics and Control (in English, with an international Editorial Board).

All these combined, through change and restructuring, enable development in the future and actual positioning among akin research institutions.

Florin-Gheorghe Filip