

ERAI 2015 update

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Summary

One of the challenges in the ever-faster changing world of technology is how to stay competitive. The need for continuous improvement and agility for higher education IT requires knowledge about in-sector and out-of-sector trends. While organizations like Gartner are excellent resources for pushing out our field of vision to garner knowledge about out-of-sector trends. The presentation will focus on the latest developments of the EUNIS project ERAI - Eunis Research and Analysis Initiative. What has been done since the launch at EUNIS2014? Where will the project move next and perhaps most importantly how can the community contribute and get involved.

ERAI

EUNIS started the EUNIS Research and Analysis Initiative (ERAI) to provide a platform for IT leaders to understand the uses and trends of IT for the European Higher Education system. The overall mission of EUNIS is *“to help member institutions develop their IT landscape by sharing experiences and working together.”* As of 2015 ERAI will begin to produce action-oriented publications based on research, case studies, and comparative analysis to inform technology decisions in higher education. The session will focus on the challenges and opportunities of an international higher ed tech research initiative. We will also highlight some of the results that ERAI has been able to show so far, describe our work and vision but also provide a backdrop to further highlight cross-hemisphere perspectives on Higher Education IT.

Organisation

In order to secure success there needs to be people involved in this project. Like all other EUNIS activities the work with ERAI is purely on a voluntary basis. We've tried to overcome this challenge by creating a fairly large organisation (or at least that's the ambition). As of now, there are 2 concrete organisational entities: The ERAI executive team and the Editorial committee.

The **executive team**, now consisting of the authors of this abstract, are responsible for the overall governance of the project with the goal of running and developing the concept.

The **editorial committee** (EC) is a group of individuals from the EUNIS community with the responsibility to bring their expertise and networks to ERAI. The EC is doing reviews of submitted content, selecting topics to work with within ERAI but also to create own content.

Each year, a number of “hot topics” will be selected. This is to give a guide into how the work with ERAI will be conducted. A number of content would then be selected or created to fill that space. However there is no reason why additional content can be presented.

Content

This year (2015) the main content will circulate around the work of the Task Forces. The tentative content release plan looks like this:

Topic	Published by
Benchmarking	content released Q1
Congress proceedings	May/ June
BI	Aug/Sept
E-learning	Oct/Nov
Interoperability	Jan 2016

The content will, apart from articles, revolve around interviews, case studies, blogs. These could be pan-european in nature or national. The goal is, however, to attract readers from all European countries with any kind of content.

Next steps

We wish to engage the community to collaborate through ERAI. To further understand our sector through applied research and analysis. We are heavily reliant on the input from Hi-Ed leaders with an interest in international aspects of High Ed IT. Concretely this will be done through the creation of a reference group made up of IT and University leaders from all over Europe.

We will start producing own content, apart from the work created by the task forces. The long term goal is to present a Top-ten list of sorts. If that is IT challenges or Tech trends will have to left unsaid at the moment.

We are also seeking continued support and wider collaboration by growing our community. We will do so by finding new partners in defining the direction our research and analysis should take, by growing our Editorial Committee with individuals who are willing to contribute in different ways and finally by identifying writers and thinkers from the Higher Education context who can bring their expertise and experiences.

AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHIES

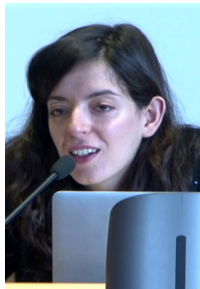


Johan Bergström, Msc Computer Science, is working as an International Business developer for ICT Services and System Development (ITS) - Umeå University. Johan was the congress

organiser of the 20th annual EUNIS congress in 2014. Johan is also a programme committee member the Terena Networking Conference in 2015 as well as a Senior Reviewer ERO (Educause Review Online)



Michele Mennielli is working as an external Relations and International Affairs Manager for CINECA, Italy. His primary focus is on Research Informations systems. He is also a board member of both EUNIS and EuroCris, two pan-european organisations focusing on IT for Higher Education.



Amandine Alehyane is a Project Manager at The Digital University Paris, France where she focuses on research and analysis on the higher education sector in France. Predominantly in the field of cloud computing.

All three authors were involved in the creation of the Eunis Research and Analysis Initiative (ERAi) in 2014.