



Forum

Newsletter of the Federation of Telecommunications Engineers of the European Union

February 2016

FITCE 2015 - Wroclaw



Last year in September 2015, the 54th annual FITCE Congress took place in the beautiful city of Wroclaw, Poland. Wroclaw is the fourth largest city in Poland and the largest in Lower Silesia.

The city has a population of 630,000 and a rich history; having swapped hands numerous times over the past thousand years and this is echoed in the architecture and historical sites. Wroclaw has a fine town centre, dominated by open squares, some excellent restaurants (with wonderful locally brewed beer) and an active night life.

The Congress that was attended by 53 people and 11 accompanying partners was comprised by a one day technical program followed by a social day that allowed delegates to network whilst visiting some of the captivating local history. The technical program consisted by a

balanced group of presentations that were focused on current trend technologies in the ICT field and a group of key note presentations on future edge technologies including 5G architectures and services.

FITCE Forum

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<http://www.fitce.org>

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FITCE values and aims

- Keeping in touch with leading edge ICT developments.
- Ensuring that our members benefit from the experience acquired by other members in all ICT fields.
- Building strong cultural and business ties between European ICT professionals.
- Ensuring that Young

Professionals are able to
use FITCE as a valued resource

in their career development

FITCE 2015 Technical Program

The FITCE Congress opened with a tutorial covering “How to use formal modelling techniques for networks and protocols evaluation?” by Ed Smith from the UK. This was followed by a key note speech examining “Expanding the human possibilities through 5G mobile communications” by Patrick Marsch of Nokia R&D, which asserted that whilst the prime focus existing mobile systems is human-to-human communication, 5G will provide better options for machine to machine. The morning then progressed to a session covering Power Grid and ICT Applications, with presentations from Jarosław Tworóg of KIGEIT (Poland’s National Chamber of Electronics and Telecommunications), and Miguel Hernandez of Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs. Both presentations highlighted the savings that intelligent control of power grids can give, and the importance of using optical fibre to business and domestic premises meters. This was followed by a session with Bernd Liebscher looking at how Telecom Austria Group (TAG) were deploying smart metering. The morning ended with a debate on smart ICT applications, which

included the memorable quote: “The network is the smartest application ever and no one wants to pay for it.”

During the lunch session, there was a tour of the anechoic chambers and research labs of the Wroclaw Technical University where the conference was held.

The afternoon session continued the theme of automatic meter reading with a paper by Gregory Casier of Ghent University, Belgium George Agapiou, of OTE Research in Greece, then presented “Advances in Integrated Satellite and Terrestrial Infrastructures, which had a significant focus on NFV. Mauro Ugolini of Roma Tre Univ and Ed Smith, discussed technology-based business cases, in their paper: “Hybrid approach to enterprise business models”. Following a technical paper on energy-efficient telecom devices the subject of application of the IoT in subterranean environments (e.g. coal mines) was addressed by Kamil Staniec of Wroclaw University of Technology. However, beyond doubt the prize for the most energetically delivered paper must go to Magnanil Goswami, Sudakshina

Kundu, of West Bengal University of Technology in India, who managed to elicit considerable interest in his highly technical paper.

Copies of all the presentations are available at <http://www.fitce2015.pl/index.php?id=summary>.

Friday’s social networking session was held in a variety of exciting locations, including the Panorama Raclawicka, which is a huge cylindrical painting with an unbelievable field of depth, commemorating the victory of the Poles over the Russians in the 19th century. No less impressive was the Peace Temple in Świdnica, a magnificent protestant church built entirely of wood in the 17th century; the town elders stipulated that it had to be completed in a year and use no nails in its construction. The resulting structure is truly impressive. Finally with tales of lost trains full of Gold Bullion, we visited the Castel Książ. No FITCE conference is complete however without the traditional Gala Dinner, which was a highly enjoyable event.



General Assembly

The following day saw the FITCE General Assembly. This, among other things, discussed co-operation in the Mediterranean region between Spain, Italy and Greece, initiatives in other areas

such as Croatia and the benefits of the relationship with IEEE communications. Andy Valdar was announced as the new FITCE President, and the conference ended with the expectation of a

busy year ahead, culminating in the next conference in Athens in September 2016.

FITCE EUROPE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear members of FITCE,

At this year's General Assembly, 3rd September in Wroclaw, Poland, I had the honour of receiving the chain of office from the outgoing President Wojciech Halka. After thanking Wojciech for his outstanding leadership and drive during his term of office, I addressed the following key points in my acceptance speech.

Back in 2013 a commission on the future of FITCE was set up by its governing board (CD). It was recognised that over the previous few years there had been a progressive decline in the number of attendees at the congresses, far fewer papers were being offered and the interest from sponsors and the industry in general was much reduced. At the same time the FITCE organisation started to lose money as the number of individual members dropped, and the number of national associations in the federation fell from 13 to 8. It was concluded that there was no future for the original version of FITCE if it continued to lose individual membership, National Associations within the Federation, and support from the

industry. The world of telecommunications had changed dramatically since FITCE was established, some 50 years ago. Therefore, some radical redesign of our federation was needed, covering its role, method of working, and financial model. The commission identified three future scenarios for FITCE, and I presented these to CD in August 2013 to facilitate a structured debate on how we should go forward. The first scenario, known as '**FITCE Sunset**' defined a future where the federation was elegantly closed down in a managed way. In contrast, the second scenario – '**FITCE Central**' – defined a future where our federation acted as a vibrant hub within Europe recognised by the industry as a focus for expert opinion and consultation, as well as the provider of a respected annual congress. Finally, the third scenario defined a federation which was stripped down to the minimum administration while overseeing just an annual or bi-annual congress which was fully funded by the organising national associations. This last scenario was known as '**FITCE 2.0**'. The CD

agreed that we should aim for a new form of FITCE – to be known as '**FITCE 2015**' – which is modelled on a mix of the last two scenarios.



Moving toward this new version of FITCE required a number of changes which were authorised by the General Assembly in 2014. The first wave of changes has already been introduced, namely: membership of FITCE is automatic for all members of its national associations, and cost savings and simplification in the running of FITCE's organisation. The aim is to move first towards the FITCE 2.0 model then later to progressively introduce new (FITCE Central-type) activities as they become appropriate.

In taking over the Presidency of FITCE I am aware that it is still active because people want it to survive. Its many long-time members hold a great affection for FITCE, which is something that we can exploit in building the new model. Whilst gaining interest from younger people is, of course, vital we should also recognise that the senior members of FITCE can bring a lot of experience and advice to today's

telecommunications and ICT industry.

The other worrying trend that we have to address is the lack of support by employers for their staff's attendance at conferences such as ours. Furthermore, people are expected to take control of their own career development. Therefore, my personal view is that we should reposition FITCE as a way of providing personal enrichment (learning and networking within the industry)

for individuals – i.e., part of their 'continuous professional development' (CPD). This is just one of several areas where I expect we need to refocus the congresses to meet the new circumstances.

I look forward to working with the CD Board on the challenges ahead. My best wishes to all,

Andy Valdar
President
21st October 2015

News from FITCE Netherlands President: Jos Gerrese

Since September 2014 when FITCE agreed the new regulations concerning membership the situation in the Netherlands changed as follows.

We had within the Royal Institute of Engineers (KIVI) section Telecommunications a sub-section FITCE Netherlands. With about 70 members. Per September 2014 we have abandoned this sub-section. Per the same date all members of KIVI-Telecommunications have

become effective members of FITCE, about 700 members.

The board of KIVI-Telecommunications, of which Jos Gerrese is the FITCE representative, decided to give the new FITCE a trial period of 2 years, of which one year has passed.

The activities of KIVI Telecommunications are mainly the organisation of lectures and excursions, which are usually

during evenings. Since the presentations/lectures are mostly given in the Dutch language this may only be of interest for Belgium colleagues. These activities take place at least once a month.

We started a campaign to further promote FITCE under our members so that they can try and enjoy the benefits of FITCE like congresses, paper presentations; information on Brussels EU activities etc.

News from FITCE U.K.: Edward Smith

The main events that took place at the FITCE U.K. for last quarter of 2015 were:

Software Defined Network (SDN) and Network Functions Virtualisation (NFV) Seminar 16th September 12:30-16:30 London -

This seminar looked at software defined networking; key speakers from across industry examined the latest trends and futures.

Celebrating 30 years of the mobile phone Saturday 12th September 09:00 - 17:00 - This one day colloquium organised by University of Salford in

partnership with the ITP, Vodafone, O2, EE and 3.

Ordnance Survey Research Centre Southampton 23rd September 10:30 - 14:30 - This included demonstrations of survey technology, remote sensing, cartography and 3D mapping technology.

BT's Research Centre Adastral Park, Ipswich 30th September 13:00 - 16:00 - As part of BT's Innovation week, celebrating 40 years of innovation at Adastral Park, this looked at current

research activities and included a tour of the innovation facilities.

Bawdsey Radar Station, Suffolk, 30th September 17:30 - 19:30 - followed on from the Adastral Park innovation day; it was arranged an evening visit to the world's first operational radar station.

BT's Network Management Centre, Oswestry, 12th November 10:45 - 15:00 - A visit to BT's network management centre in Oswestry where BT controls their UK telephone network took place.

FITCE Congress 2016, Athens- Greece



We are delighted to announce that the 55th annual FITCE congress will be held in Athens between 1st September 2016 and 3rd September 2016. This year the theme will be: 'Towards a Smart Interconnected Society'. As usual, the FITCE Congress will present an ideal opportunity for ICT professionals to examine the latest developments in the sector, across a wide range of capabilities, and from multiple viewpoints. Papers, presentations, and round-table discussions will be delivered by both industry and academic speakers, providing the widest possible industry view from around Europe.

The three day event, comprise two days of technical sessions followed by excursions on the third day.

The official opening and keynote presentation on the Thursday morning will be followed by the presentation of submitted papers on the Thursday and Friday. There will be a gala dinner on the Friday evening. Saturday will see the FITCE general assembly followed by an excursion allowing delegates to see some of the inspiring sights of this historic city.

There will be five main technical sessions and 3 workshops covering the following topics:

Technical Program of Congress

- Session1: Modern Telecommunication Technologies (5G, SDN, NFV)
- Session 2: IT Applications and Social Media
- Session 3: Security in ICT

- Session 4: Contribution of Telecommunications in Energy and Transport
- Session 5: Applications of ICT in Education, Environment, Culture and HR
- Workshop 1: 5G Architectures, innovations, advanced services
- Workshop2: Backhauling wireless infrastructures
- Workshop 3: Optical networks

Prospective authors are requested to submit a 300- 500 word abstract by **14th March, 2016** and they will be notified of acceptance of their paper by April 4th, 2016. They will then have until June 6th to provide the final version of their paper.

Congress Venue: Amphitheater of Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks in Athens



Fees for the congress will be:

- Delegate: 250 € (including gala)
- Companion: 100 €
- Student: 50€
- Gala: 50€

This is an excellent opportunity to spend time understanding the hot

topics and latest developments in our industry and to exchange your views with fellow professionals across Europe. This should especially appeal to those who wish to build an international dimension to their career or indeed bring the wider perspective of the European communications industry to their

every-day work. For more details please see the conference web site <http://www.fitce2016.gr/>

We look forward to seeing you in Athens on the 1st September 2016!