

The membership of the Czech Republic and of the ČSKI in the IFIP

IFIP – the International Federation for Information Processing has existed since 1960 and the Czechoslovakia was present at its birth. To coordinate cooperation with the IFIP it established a special body, which was in the years 1960-1993 represented by the **Commission for Technical Cybernetics of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences**. The competent authority gradually changed name: in the early nineties, Czech Republic was represented by the *Committee for Data Processing* or also the *Committee for the International Federation for Information Processing* (hereinafter called the **Committee for IFIP**) headed by Ing. Jaroslav Doležal, CSc., thanks to whom the ČSKI became *the member organization in the IFIP for the Czech Republic*. The ČSKI was accepted as a member into the IFIP organization already in 1993, and since then the Committee for IFIP develops its activities under the working section of the ČSKI. In 2004, a new national delegate in the IFIP and chairman of the Committee for IFIP prof. J. Pokorný from MFF UK was elected, who has represented the Czech Republic and the ČSKI in the IFIP since then.

The activities of the IFIP are of two types - global and distributed. The global activities include, e.g., sponsoring scientific and professional conferences (about 100 annually). Popular programs include the *IFIP International Professional Practice Partnership (IP3)* leading to a certified professionalization of IT, which may play a role in the accreditation efforts of science in a global context. The IFIP runs its own publicly accessible **digital library** that offers all the IFIP publications.

Distributed activities are represented by 13 Technical Committees (TC) and 101 Working Groups (WG). In this structure most IT domains are covered, new WG arise or disappear according to IT development. Over the past 10 years, the Czech representation in most of the TC and WG was consolidated. Currently, the Czech Republic has representatives in 12 TC and 14 WG.

The Committee for IFIP focuses on its cooperation with the IFIP. In a given period, the committee chairman participates in most general meetings (General Assembly - GA) of the IFIP, which are held usually once a year in a place where the IFIP organizes the WCC (World Computer Congress) or the WITFOR (World Information Technology Forum). In 2011, prof. Pokorný organized the IFIP GA session in Prague. For his work in the GA he received the Silver Core Award from the IFIP President in 2010.

Other activities of the Committee for IFIP include a work of the IFIP representative in the Czech Republic. Its mission is to inform about the activities of the IFIP GA at meetings of ČSKI and communicate with the IT community through TC members. They occasionally attend relevant conferences organized by the IFIP and often are involved in the organization of such conferences in the Czech Republic. Thus, they provide more opportunities for domestic presentation of scientific results. In similar events, the ČSKI is also active (see, e.g., the ČSKI participation on the organization of CEE-SET 2009 in Krakow). **Through collective membership of the ČSKI in the IFIP all ČSKI members are entitled to a discount on conference fees for all events sponsored by the IFIP organization.**

In the years 2011-2016, 8 international IFIP conferences (ISESS, Networking, ARES Software Composition, ARCS, CONFENIS, AIMS, WSCG) were held in the Czech Republic, which can be seen as promoting Czech science and indirect support for young Czech researchers who so receive a significantly higher chance to participate in a truly international event and get a useful platform to establish useful contacts. For organizing all its events, the IFIP provides not only funding, but also offers possibilities for publication in the IFIP editions.

The ČSKI through the Committee for IFIP fulfils its societal mission, i.e., it provides a vital link of the Czech Republic to the world IT organization and its activities.

In Prague, 27.9. 2016

Prof. RNDr. Jaroslav Pokorný, CSc.
Chairman of the Committee for IFIP

Prof. RNDr. Olga Štěpánková, PhD.
President of ČSKI