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# ERCIM

European Research Consortium  
for Informatics and Mathematics

**Cooperating for Excellence  
in Research**

## About ERCIM

ERCIM – the European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics – aims to foster collaborative work within the European research community and to increase cooperation with European industry. Founded in 1998, ERCIM currently includes 20 leading research establishments from 18 European countries. Encompassing over 10 000 researchers and engineers, ERCIM is able to undertake consultancy, development and educational projects on any subject related to its field of activity.

ERCIM members are centres of excellence across Europe. ERCIM is internationally recognized as a major representative organization in its field. ERCIM provides access to all major Information Communication Technology research groups in Europe and has established an extensive program in the fields of science, strategy, human capital and outreach. ERCIM publishes ERCIM News, a quarterly high quality magazine and delivers annually the Cor Baayen Award to outstanding young researchers in computer science or applied mathematics. ERCIM also hosts the European branch of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C).

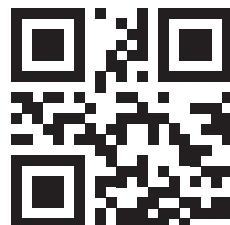
## Objectives

ERCIM's aim is to play a leading role in Information and Communication Technology in Europe by:

- Building a Europe-wide, open network of centres of excellence in ICT and Applied Mathematics;
- Excelling in research and acting as a bridge for ICT applications;
- Being internationally recognised both as a major representative organisation in its field and as a portal giving access to all relevant ICT research groups in Europe;
- Liaising with other international organisations in its field;
- Promoting cooperation in research, technology transfer, innovation and training.

**Interested in joining ERCIM?  
Please contact:**

**ERCIM Office**  
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<http://www.ercim.eu>



## Current members



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy



Czech Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics, Czech Republic



Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica

Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica, The Netherlands



Fonds National de la Recherche Luxembourg

Fonds National de la Recherche; Luxembourg



FWO & F.R.S.-FNRS, Belgium

FWO & F.R.S.-FNRS, Belgium



FORTH

Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas Institute of Computer Science, Greece



Fraunhofer ICT Group, Germany



INESC, Portugal



Inria, France



Industrial Systems Institute

I.S.I. – Industrial Systems Institute, Greece



Norwegian University of Science and Technology Faculty of Information Technology, Mathematics and Electrical Engineering, Norway



SBA Research gGmbH, Austria



SICS Swedish ICT, Sweden



Spanish Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics, Spain



Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Számítástechnikai és Automatizálási Kutató Intézet, Hungary



University of Cyprus



University of Southampton United Kingdom



University of Warsaw, Poland



University of Wrocław, Poland



VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd

## Benefits of membership

Institutions, as members of ERCIM AISBL, benefit from:

- International recognition as a leading centre for ICT R&D. ERCIM, a European-wide network of centres of excellence in ICT, is internationally recognised as a major representative organisation in its field;
- More influence on European and national government R&D strategy in ICT. ERCIM members team up to speak with a common voice and produce strategic reports to shape the European research agenda;
- Privileged access to standardisation bodies, such as the W3C which is hosted by ERCIM as to other bodies with which ERCIM has also established strategic cooperation. These include ETSI, the European Mathematical Society and Informatics Europe;
- Invitations to join projects of strategic importance;
- Establishing personal contacts among executives of leading European research institutes during the bi-annual ERCIM meetings;
- Invitations to join committees and boards developing ICT strategy nationally and internationally;
- Excellent networking possibilities with more than 10.000 high-quality research colleagues across Europe. ERCIM's mobility activities, such as the fellowship programme, leverages scientific cooperation and excellence;
- Professional development of staff including international recognition;
- Publicity through the ERCIM website and ERCIM News, the widely read quarterly magazine.

**“Through a long history of successful research collaborations in projects and working groups and a highly-selective mobility programme, ERCIM has managed to become the premier network of ICT research institutions in Europe. ERCIM has a consistent presence in European Community funded research programmes conducting and promoting high-end research with European and global impact. It has a strong position in advising at the research policy level and contributes significantly to the shaping of EC framework programmes. ERCIM provides a unique pool of research resources within Europe fostering both the career development of young researchers and the synergies among established groups. Membership is a privilege.”**  
***Dimitris Plexousakis, ICS-FORTH***

## How to become a member

- Prospective members must be outstanding research institutions (including universities) within their country;
- Applicants shall address a request accompanied by short description to the ERCIM Office. The description must contain:
  - Name and address of the institute;
  - Short description of the institute's activities;
  - Staff (full time equivalent) relevant to ERCIM's fields of activity;
  - Number of European projects currently involved;
  - Name of the representative and the alternate.
- Membership applications will be reviewed by an internal board and may include an on-site visit;
- The decision on admission of new members is made by the General Assembly of the Association, in accordance with the procedure defined in the Bylaws ([https://bscw.ercim.eu/pub/bscw.cgi/d1058814/ERCIM\\_AISBL\\_Bylaws\\_2013-11-01.pdf](https://bscw.ercim.eu/pub/bscw.cgi/d1058814/ERCIM_AISBL_Bylaws_2013-11-01.pdf)), and notified in writing by the Secretary to the applicant;
- Admission becomes effective upon payment of the appropriate membership fee in each year of membership;
- New membership fees for 2016 are €5.000;
- Membership is renewable as long as the criteria for excellence in research and an active participation in the ERCIM community, cooperating for excellence, are met;

## Science Coordination

A major activity within the scope of the Association's mission is related to the promotion of excellence in research and the maintenance of a strong portfolio of scientific activity, materialized in the form of ERCIM-led and coordinated joint research projects and ERCIM-hosted Working- and Expert Groups. The Members participate in the Science Task Group to enable, encourage, sustain and coordinate scientific activities in the form of collaborative research projects and working groups in areas of ICT and Mathematics within which significant research activity is taking place at institutions within and beyond ERCIM.

**“ A European project can be a richly rewarding tool for pushing your research or innovation activities to the state-of-the-art and beyond. Through ERCIM, our member institutes have participated in more than 80 projects funded by the European Commission in the ICT domain, by carrying out joint research activities while the ERCIM Office successfully manages the complexity of the project administration, finances and outreach. ”**

***Jessica Michel Assoumou, project manager at the ERCIM Office***

### Research Projects

In addition to many projects involving ERCIM member institutes, ERCIM is itself participating in several European-Commission-related activities and projects as coordinator or partner. In these projects, several member institutes carry out the research while the ERCIM Office takes care of administrative and financial tasks.

<http://www.ercim.eu/activity/projects>

### Working Groups

ERCIM Working Groups are networks of ERCIM researchers in a particular scientific field. The activities of a Working Group can be divided into several areas: workshops to build the community and maintain its vibrancy, projects designed to advance research and innovation in the particular area of the group, and human mobility to assure the appropriate trained human capital.

<http://www.ercim.eu/activity/workgroup>

### Expert Groups

Expert Groups are established on the initiative of ERCIM board to investigate current topics for a limited period with the aim to produce strategic papers or to coordinate relevant activities of common interest. Expert Groups have been established in the fields of “Big Data”, “Security and Privacy” and “Open Access”.

<http://www.ercim.eu/activity/expert-groups>

## Human Capital

Human Capital is a central concern within all organizations. In ERCIM its main focus is the European cooperation of different entities with their own HC policies. To this end we are currently building on two key activities. The first is the ERCIM post-doc fellowship programme that has been successful for a long time. This programme facilitates the participation of young scientists in research teams within ERCIM member institutes by organising postdoctoral fellowships. The second activity is the Cor Baayen Award that acknowledges the achievements of young research scientists from European teams in informatics or mathematics.

### Fellowship Programme

The PhD Fellowship Programme has been established as one of the premier activities of ERCIM. Since its inception in 1991, over 400 fellows have passed through the programme. The programme has greatly supported the exchange of knowledge across Europe. Regardless of their future career, fellows will always be able to build on their networks and relations established during their fellowship in the ERCIM member institutes.

Another valuable specificity of the Fellowship Programme is the visit in an ERCIM member institute in a different country through the Research Exchange Programme. As a consequence, the fellow's research agenda involves research teams of different countries which often leads to a new cooperation between research teams in ERCIM member institutes.

<http://fellowship.ercim.eu>

### Cor Baayen Award

ERCIM members can nominate candidates for the Cor Baayen Award, given to a promising young researcher in computer science and applied mathematics. The award was created in 1995 as an honour to the first ERCIM President and is open to young researchers having completed their PhD thesis in one of the "ERCIM countries". The award consists of a cheque for €5.000 together with an award certificate.

<http://www.ercim.eu/activity/cor-baayen-award>

**“The Fellowship Programme is a fantastic opportunity to start active collaborations all around Europe. It broadens your research, your network, and most importantly, your perspective. I am very grateful to have taken part in it.”**

**Mesrob Ohannessian,  
ERCIM postdoctoral fellow at Inria**

**“As scientific coordinator, I have only had very positive experiences with the Fellowship Programme. Fellows are very motivated to make a quick start into a research career, and their visits have been very rewarding for the research in our group. Specifically, we managed to increase visibility and research output in the area of recommendation systems, a field that is close to the core work in our group (on information retrieval). Working with these fellows has contributed to understanding the relationships between these areas of computer science in much more detail. Through our most recent fellow, I have had the chance to return to work on images and text, a research visit that resulted in my first publication in computational linguistics. All in all, the fellows have been very inspiring for my own work, and I believe that the opportunity provided by the programme has had a very positive effect on their respective careers.”**

**Arjen P. de Vries, CWI**

## Outreach

ERCIM has an Outreach Task Group responsible for the communication between ERCIM and its wide range of stakeholders. They include national and international funding bodies, the research community in informatics and applied mathematics, with a focus on senior scientists and young researchers, as well as industrial R&D. ERCIM considers its outreach activities as an important tool for community building. These include publications such as the ERCIM News magazine, strategic reports, the ERCIM web site and the support and organisation of scientific events.

**“ERCIM News contains stimulating information. Thank you for presenting informed articles describing the big EU initiatives. I look forward to each ERCIM issue and I often share them with colleagues.”**

**Janet L. Peasant, Senior Operations Research Analyst, U.S. Air Force**

### ERCIM News

ERCIM members participate in the ERCIM News editorial board and decide about the content of this well-established quarterly magazine. It has successfully contributed to reputation of ERCIM and its members in the scientific community. It is also a good example of the close cooperation between all ERCIM institutes. ERCIM News reaches about 10.000 readers and is published in printed and electronic version.

<http://ercim-news.ercim.eu>

### Strategic reports and consultancy

ERCIM member also contribute to strategic reports published by ERCIM. These reports include for example the recently published White Papers on Big Data Analysis and on Cyber-Security and Privacy. Furthermore, ERCIM is consulted by the European Commission on strategic topics as a leading player able to make recommendations for future European research programmes. The strategic reports and consultancy aim at fostering future agenda for European research in Information Technology and Applied Mathematics.

