



Welcome to the latest issue of the S-Cube newsletter. S-Cube is the European Network of Excellence on Software Services and Systems. S-Cube has now been going for 18 months, and continues to produce important results that you can access at <http://www.s-cube-network.eu/>.

We hope you enjoy reading this and future newsletters,
Klaus Pohl (S-Cube Coordinator) and Mike Papazoglou (Scientific Director)

Why S-Cube?

Industry is increasingly seeking to adopt service-oriented architectures (SOA) to build dynamic, distributed and adaptive software systems. However, although different communities have addressed business process management, service composition and coordination, and services infrastructure, important challenges are still to be overcome. These challenges include managing the complexity of service-centric systems, specifying, monitoring and enforcing service qualities and service-level agreements, and developing systems that can proactively adapt to changing requirements and contexts.

Developing baseline solutions to these challenges is best achieved through collaborations between different academics in different communities who are researching business process management (BPM), grid computing (GRID), service-oriented computing (SOC) and software engineering (SE). S-Cube aims to establish an integrated, multi-disciplinary research community that will achieve worldwide scientific excellence by defining a broader research vision to shape the software-service based Internet of the future.

A New International Masters in Service Engineering

The Universities of Tilburg, Crete and Stuttgart are launching a joint International Masters in Service Engineering (IMSE) to be funded by the prestigious Erasmus Mundus program.

IMSE is a multi-disciplinary education program at the interface of software service systems and business processes that will prepare students with business and information technology backgrounds to become the new generation of service engineers. IMSE is unique: it is the only Erasmus Mundus program awarded in the Services Science, Information Systems or Computer Science areas and – to our knowledge – it is the first worldwide international joint program in Service Engineering. Being selected as an Erasmus Mundus course enables us to offer a number of scholarships to top-ranked students from all over the world to pay for their course fees and living expenses. Our funding also allows us to invite leading scholars and academics to participate in the course and in the education of future services professionals. Through IMSE, students will learn about all aspects of service engineering, from the design, development and monitoring of software services through to the analysis of service-enabled business processes.

The consortium is led by the new European Research Institute in Services Science (ERISS) in Tilburg. In addition to Crete and Stuttgart, three other renowned international academic institutes will participate: the University of California at Berkeley, Tsing-Hua University, China, and the University of New South Wales, Australia. Multinational companies like IBM, ForthNet, Software AG, Accenture and PriceWaterhouseCoopers will also provide input to the curriculum and provide opportunities for IMSE students to benefit from a variety of real-world knowledge and expertise.

IMSE will use and contribute to material from S-Cube's Virtual Campus activity, led by University of Vienna, which will provide a collaboration platform, as well as background and course material for students.

More information can be found on the IMSE portal at <http://www.erasmusmundus-imse.eu/>