

# A presentation of SPECIF

at LMDIEE

30 May 2005

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SPECIF

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Plan

## What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions

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### What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# What is SPECIF ?



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**What is SPECIF ?**

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# What is SPECIF ?



Strictly speaking **SPECIF** stands for  
*Society of the teacher and researcher employees in  
Informatics of France.*

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# What is SPECIF ?



**SPECIF** is the French Society  
for Education and Research.

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Two societies

## Two societies for Informatics

- ▶ with specific activities
- ▶ working in synergy.

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SPECIF

at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Two societies

Two societies for Informatics

- ▶ with specific activities
- ▶ working in synergy.

**SPECIF**, the French Society for **Education and Research**.  
like **CRA** or **UKCRC**.

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Two societies

Two societies for Informatics

- ▶ with specific activities
- ▶ working in synergy.

**SPECIF**, the French Society for **Education and Research**.  
like **CRA** or **UKCRC**.

**ASTI**, the French **Science and Technology** Society  
like

- ▶ the **ACM**
- ▶ or the **British Computer Society**
- ▶ or the **GI**.

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Two specificities of SPECIF

- ▶ open membership,
- ▶ action toward *Research and Education*

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Two specificities of SPECIF

- ▶ open membership,
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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Three aims of SPECIF

- ▶ promoting **Education** in informatics in Universities,
- ▶ promoting **Research** in informatics in the academic world,
- ▶ promoting the specificities of **academic jobs** in informatics.

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# SPECIF sister associations

In the USA

the **Computer Research Association** aka **CRA**.

In the UK,

the **The UK Computing Research Committee**

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# SPECIF sister associations

**CRA** and **UKCRC** are not like **SPECIF**.

They have similar activity, but

- ▶ UKCRC deals only with research,
- ▶ CRA deals with research and PhD education,
- ▶ CRA and UKCRC has a restricted membership access.

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Plan

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

**SPECIF in the past**

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# The origin

SPECIF has been created in 1985, i.e., 20 years ago, for offering a solution to the critical situation of that time:

- ▶ an increasing number of students,
- ▶ a lack of educators,
- ▶ a multiplicity of administrations
  - ▶ Ministry of Research,
  - ▶ Ministry of Education
- and agencies
  - ▶ CNRS,
  - ▶ INRIA,
  - ▶ CNET (research in Telecommunication).
- ▶ non coordinated actions

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Plan

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

**SPECIF today**

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

**SPECIF today**

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# How does SPECIF work ?

- ▶ A yearly conference in January on a theme,
- ▶ A yearly general assembly,
- ▶ A bulletin and an information leaflet,
- ▶ A well documented WEB site,

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# The SPECIF WEB site

The site is located at <http://specif.org/>.

Basically four headings:

- ▶ *News*,
- ▶ *Education*: list of education departments, access to teaching documents, proceedings of SPECIF'05 conference, reports
- ▶ *Research*: list of research departments, SPECIF PhD award, repository of PhD's, master's etc., proceedings of SPECIF'04 conference, reports
- ▶ *Career*: opening of positions, promotion, reports,
- ▶ *News about SPECIF*.

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# How does SPECIF work ?

- ▶ A council of 24 members.
- ▶ A president.
- ▶ 4 vice-presidents.
  - ▶ *Education,*
  - ▶ *Research,*
  - ▶ *Other associations, especially ASTI,*
  - ▶ *International.*
- ▶ 4 sub-committees associated with each vice-presidents.

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# How does SPECIF work ?

- ▶ A council of 24 members.
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The president and the vice-presidents represent SPECIF vis-a-vis

- ▶ the administration,
- ▶ others association.

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

**SPECIF current actions**

SPECIF future actions

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

**SPECIF current actions**

SPECIF future actions



# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

**SPECIF current actions**

SPECIF future actions



# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

Yes and No

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

**SPECIF current actions**

SPECIF future actions



# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

## Yes

- ▶ The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**,

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

**Yes**

- ▶ The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**, like in any other scientific field.

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

## Yes

- ▶ The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**, like in any other scientific field.
- ▶ The number of teaching positions went also up and down, with an irregular age pyramid for professors no steady policy.

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

## Yes

- ▶ The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**, like in any other scientific field.
- ▶ The number of teaching positions went also up and down, with an irregular age pyramid for professors no steady policy.
- ▶ The status of informatics has changed in the right direction,

# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

## Yes

- ▶ The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**, like in any other scientific field.
- ▶ The number of teaching positions went also up and down, with an irregular age pyramid for professors no steady policy.
- ▶ The status of informatics has changed in the right direction,
- ▶ The support (in term of hardware) has improved,

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

## Yes

- ▶ The number of students went up and down, with a current **dramatic decreasing**, **like in any other scientific field.**
- ▶ The number of teaching positions went also up and down, with an irregular age pyramid for professors no steady policy.
- ▶ The status of informatics has changed in the right direction,
- ▶ The support (in term of hardware) has improved, **like everywhere.**

# Is the situation the same as 20 year ago ?

## No

- ▶ Still many administrations to talk to.  
Still a heavy bureaucracy.
- ▶ The situation vis-a-vis support has changed but not dramatically:
  - ▶ lack of staff support,
  - ▶ lack of financial support.
- ▶ National challenges have been replaced by international challenges.

# Current actions

- ▶ The yearly PhD in Informatics award,
- ▶ Implementation of the Bologna agreement known as **LMD** for **Licence-Master-Doctorat**, for **Bachelor-Master-PhD**.
  - ▶ Conference SPECIF'05 on **L & M**,
  - ▶ Conference SPECIF'06 on **D**.

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Current actions

- ▶ Career
  - ▶ Promotions,
  - ▶ Jobs openings,
  - ▶ Premiums.

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

**SPECIF current actions**

SPECIF future actions



# Current actions

## ▶ Research

- ▶ Status of Research in the Nation,
- ▶ Status of Research in ITS in the Nation,
- ▶ The new bill for Research,
- ▶ The reform of CNRS (the main agency for research).

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

**SPECIF current actions**

SPECIF future actions



# Current actions

- ▶ Involvement in the French Information Science and Technology Society:

**ASTI**

**Association française  
des sciences et technologies  
de l'information.**

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

**SPECIF current actions**

SPECIF future actions



# Current actions

- ▶ **European and International** Aspects of Research and Education in Informatics:
  - ▶ Contact with sister associations:
    - UKCRC,
    - CRA,
    - *other* ?
  - ▶ Participation to conferences on Research and Education in Informatics:
    - CRA Conference at Snowbird (2006),
    - 1st European Computer Science Summit Zurich, 20-21 October 2005

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# SPECIF and LMD

- ▶ **Information**,  
What does Europe offer ?
- ▶ **Mutual information**,  
What do the other French Universities offer ?  
How X has implemented a bachelor degree  
in the University Y?  
One of the goals of SPECIF'05 Conference.
- ▶ The minimal **curriculum requirement** for Bachelors in Informatics,
- ▶ An **Bridge** for European cooperation.
- ▶ **Professional master vs Research Master**.

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# Plan

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

**SPECIF future actions**



# And tomorrow ?

- ▶ Making the LMD accepted by French companies,  
Does **L**, **M** or **D** open new career opportunities ?

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# And tomorrow ?

- ▶ Making the LMD accepted by French companies,  
Does **L**, **M** or **D** open new career opportunities ?
- ▶ Tightening the links between national association for Research and Education in Informatics.

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at LMDIEE

What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions



# And tomorrow ?

- ▶ Making the LMD accepted by French companies,  
Does **L**, **M** or **D** open new career opportunities ?
- ▶ Tightening the links between national association for Research and Education in Informatics.  
A European federation for Research and Education in Informatics ?

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What is SPECIF ?

SPECIF in the past

SPECIF today

SPECIF current actions

SPECIF future actions

