**Press release**

**The leading ICT Master School of Europe is looking for computer talents**

Budapest invites applications for two of its international MSc Programmes which offer scholarships and run without tuition fees

**The newly launched international Master School is open to top infocommunication technology (ICT) students, and in addition to high level technical knowledge, provides them with business and entrepreneurial skills. During the two-year instruction, students study at two universities of two different European countries, and attend summer and winter schools between the terms. This geographical mobility is coupled by institutional mobility as part of which students spend a minimum of six months at the industrial partners of the given university. The Programmes are available in nine European countries, of which Hungary is the only one in the Central and Eastern European region. Students with EU citizenship are exempted from paying a tuition fee. The application deadline for the academic year 2013/2014 is June 30th, 2013. A special treat for the students applying now – A free summer school in Trento.**

Students who gain admission to the School choose two universities from the network of 19 universities in 8 European countries, and spend one academic year at each chosen university. The programme is unique in that it trains world class ICT professionals who have the ability and the skill to respond to the needs of the market creatively. The Central and Eastern European region is represented by two universities in the network – namely, the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME). **The EIT ICT Labs Master School invites applications for the Service Design and Engineering (SDE) and Security and Privacy (S&P) majors. Students do their first year (starting in September 2013) in Trento, Italy, and do their second year in Budapest, Hungary.** The Programmes were launched in 2012 by the EIT ICT Labs Knowledge and Innovation Community, which is a Europe-wide network of excellence in ICT, run by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. EU students who gain admission study for free, and may in addition be nominated for a scholarship.

According to Dr Zoltán Horváth, the Dean of the Faculty of Informatics, University ELTE, and director of the EIT ICT Labs Budapest Associate Partner Group, the EIT ICT Labs Master School represents a radically new approach in the Hungarian higher education system: it is based on a model that emerges from the close collaboration of academia and industry, it is geared towards the needs of the labour market, and it combines technical knowledge with entrepreneurial mindset and business skills. The Programmes will be highly popular among the students who are determined to obtain marketable dual degrees, while studying abroad and gaining first-hand experience of laboratory work in the industry. EIT ICT Labs graduates will have attractive career prospects as software developers, and great opportunities for personal fulfilment in various fields. The Programmes provide the students with strong theoretical basics, as well as with the special skills they will need in the many fields of application, such as software technology, information technologies, information security, graphics and multimedia.

Dr László Vajta, Dean of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University BME, considers the usefulness of the EIT ICT Labs Master Programmes as one of their most attractive feature. He noted that “students enrolled in these Programmes have the possibility of working on real-life projects initiated by the industrial partners of the given university. The research and development projects are geared towards innovation, respond to the needs of the market, and use cutting-edge technology. In the case of the Universities ELTE and BME, this translates as project work in cooperation with Ericsson Hungary, Cisco Systems Hungary and GE Healthcare. Students may meet the experts of these companies not only in their positions as researchers, but also in the course of education as instructors elaborating on the practical side of things.”

The EIT ICT Labs Budapest Associate Partner Group encourages applications from students in their final years of BSc education, or with a BSc degree in, informatics, electrical engineering and mathematics. As part of their application, the students need to submit a copy of their BSc degree, proof of their English proficiency, and a motivation letter in which they prove their innovative potential and state their preferred study track. For the remaining application requirements, and for any additional information, students are invited to consult ictlabs.elte.hu or send an email to the xeurope@ictlabs.elte.hu. For the academic year 2013/2014 the application deadline is June 30th, 2013.

**Special treat for the students applying now – A free summer school in Trento**

* **The first 5 students** to hand in an application will be **invited to participate in a two-week Summer School in Trento.**
* **Time and venue:** Trento, Italy, from Sunday 22nd of July to 4th of August 2013.
* **Theme** of the Summer School: “Design and services for the culture and quality of life.”
* Free accommodation is to provided.
* The travel costs are to be reimbursed by the EIT ICT Labs.
* **More information about the Summer School:** <http://www.eitictlabs.eu/news-events/events/article/eit-ict-labs-master-school-presents-summers-school-2013-in-trento/#gridView>
* **The EIT ICT Labs is a network of national consortiums, which in their national centres (nodes) bring together education, research and industry.**
* **Out of the total 8 consortiums, 6 – namely, Berlin, Eindhoven Helsinki, Paris, Stockholm and Trento – are full members of the network, while 2 consortiums – namely, London and Budapest – hold an associate partner group status.**
* **The EIT ICT Labs Budapest Associate Partner Group is a consortium of two local universities – namely, the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME) – and their leading industrial partners in informatics and telecommunications – namely, Cisco Systems Hungary, Nokia Siemens Networks, General Electric Healthcare and Ericsson Hungary. The consortium is led by the University ELTE.**
* **An integral part of the knowledge and innovation communities is the so-called co-location centres (CLCs), which imply a co-located cooperation of the academia and industry. The CLCs are home to the local management and are a meeting place for the representatives of the consortium partners.**
* **The CLC of the EIT ICT Labs Budapest Associate Partner Group is located in the Infopark, in the vicinity of some of the biggest telecommunication and ICT companies, the Faculty of Informatics, University ELTE, and the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University BME (H-1117, Bogdánfy utca 10/a).**
* **In the area of research, the EIT ICT Labs aims to integrate researchers and top ICT talents into multidisciplinary research groups, which, equipped with skills for creativity, risk-taking and entrepreneurial capacity, may successfully proceed towards transforming their ideas into breakthrough innovations on the markets.**

**Balint Molnar**

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