Europe’s ITC policy-makers and software experts gathered together at Leuven, Belgium, for ITEA’s 4th Annual Symposium (9-10 October). Opened by Patricia Ceysens, the Flemish Minister for Economy, Foreign Policy and E-government, the two-day programme of project demonstrations, seminars and presentations marked the halfway point of ITEA’s eight-year programme. Delegates took the timely opportunity to review achievements to date and preview exciting plans still to come.

The 32 projects on show reflected the cluster’s shared vision for ‘building the digital future’ and demonstrated just how successfully ITEA is driving the strategic development of European embedded and distributed software. The recent sixth call for projects brought ITEA’s project value to €1 billion. “Essentially all industries are on the verge of becoming digital industries and software is the key,” confirmed ITEA’s chairman, Paul Mehring.

Show-time for EUREKA

Milan was this year’s venue for IST 2003, one of the EU’s premier events for promoting information society technologies. High Level Group Chairman Jean-Paul Jacamon led the EUREKA delegation, which included representatives from the EUREKA clusters MEDEA+, EURIMUS, ITEA and PIDEA and representatives from the Italian national office. EUREKA contributed several workshops to the three-day event on topics ranging from ambient intelligence to nanoelectronics for the information society. The event offered an ideal opportunity for promoting the Initiative’s strategic influence in the IST sector.

Meanwhile the EUREKA umbrella EUROENVIRON met at EMAT, the first International Environmental Protection, Eco-technology and Municipal Equipment Fair. The world’s leading manufacturers and end-users of environmental management and protection solutions congregated at the Zagreb-based event to preview the latest technologies, including projects presented by the Croatian and Czech EUREKA Offices.

ITEA: the best is still to come

Europe’s ITC policy-makers and software experts gathered together at Leuven, Belgium, for ITEA’s 4th Annual Symposium (9-10 October). Opened by Patricia Ceysens, the Flemish Minister for Economy, Foreign Policy and E-government, the two-day programme of project demonstrations, seminars and presentations marked the halfway point of ITEA’s eight-year programme. Delegates took the timely opportunity to review achievements to date and preview exciting plans still to come.

The 32 projects on show reflected the cluster’s shared vision for ‘building the digital future’ and demonstrated just how successfully ITEA is driving the strategic development of European embedded and distributed software. The recent sixth call for projects brought ITEA’s project value to €1 billion. “Essentially all industries are on the verge of becoming digital industries and software is the key,” confirmed ITEA’s chairman, Paul Mehring.

A highlight of the symposium was the presentation of the 2003 ITEA Achievement Award to project AMBIENCE. This remarkable new IT concept aims to improve quality of life by providing an ambient intelligent environment that’s conscious of a person’s presence and sensitive and responsive to their needs, habits, gestures and emotions.

See our feature on cluster projects (page 4) for more information about AMBIENCE and ITEA’s ambitious roadmap for the future.