

From AFCET to AFSCET

More than fifty years devoted to the deepening of the cybernetic paradigm.

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A brief AFCET historic (1968-1996).

At early sixties, a new paradigm arouses in Europe, the *Cybernetics* one. Inspired by *Norbert Wiener's* works, it drove both emerging computer science and automatisms to new ways of thinking.

That was the reason a bunch of engineers, issued from both disciplines, created in 1968, in Paris, the French Association coined AFCET, —*Association Française de Cybernétique Economique et Technique*—.

Organized around six “colleges”, his mission was to gather industrial entrepreneurs and scholar researchers in a neutral place to exchange ideas, organize workshops, symposiums and encourage scientific publications.

List of the colleges in mid 80' :

Automation, Office Automation, Management/Computerization/Decision Making (GID), Computer Science, Applied Mathematics, Systemic.

Registered as an association Law of 1901 (a kind of NPO), it was recognized of public utility by a decree of August 1976.

At his highest peak of activity, in the middle of the eighties', 4,500 members were registered.

Most of the main actors in Information Technologies, such as IBM, BULL, DEC, supported financially AFCET.

Affiliated to international Learned Societies as the WOSC — World Organisation of Systems and Cybernetics — and the UES — Union Européenne de Systémique —, l'AFCET organized many international symposiums during his thirty years of activity.

So many eminent personalities went through AFCET and gave it such a large international reputation, that it's impossible to quote them all.

Unfortunately, due to change toward liberal economy, at the 90' professionals became less available for exchanges during their work time and association's members dropped dramatically down.

In 1998, the association went bankrupt due to employees in excess and the drop of the incomes due to the drastic loss in memberships.

The renew, April 1998, birth of AFSCET

Just after AFCET vanished, people involved in IT, raised up a new association called ASTI.

From their own, some members of the ancient *Collège de Systémique* decided to rebuild another structure, fully devoted to Systems Science.

Under the ægis of *Lucien Mehl*, eminent *Conseil d'Etat's* member, assisted by *Evelyne Andreevsky*, *Danièle Bourcier* and this paper's author, was created in April 1998 an association coined AFSCET, hosted at the *Paris' Conseil d'Etat*.

The “S” stands for System, and the “C” keeps relation with the Cybernetics paradigm.

Maintaining the same connections with the WOSC and the UES, AFSCET organizes workshops, symposiums and publish Res-Systemica, a scientific journal.

Two main events occur yearly, "Le Journées du Moulin d'Andé" at spring and "Les Entretiens de l'AFSCET" at fall.

During a weekend, the "Journées" — days — welcome in a quiet and romantic place near the city of Rouen, an audience mixing researchers, academics, professionals, around a specific topic.

The “Entretiens” are held in Paris.

This year (2021) it is the twentieth *journées'* anniversary.

The proposed reflection theme : “Systemic crisis: catastrophe and/or metamorphosis”.

Actual AFSCET chairman : *François Dubois*, mathematics professor at Paris' CNAM.

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