

## **STOCKHOLM (IT AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION)**

The Stockholm meeting (5-6 June) was hosted by the University of Stockholm. Five presentations were given, including two by Swedish guest speakers, one by a Swedish Steering Committee member, one by the Project Manager, and one by a Spanish member. Since several of the presentations were general talks or provocations of discussion, not all have been summarised here. Rather, we provide a brief summary of the nature of each talk, with longer summaries of two of them.

The talks may be categorised as referring to:

- A. particular applications or products
- B. case studies of institutional use of IT
- C. general discussion of IT as an idea.

### **A Applications**

#### **Executive Information Systems (EIS) in Sweden**

## **Peter Green, Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm (SE)**

Petter Green illustrated an EIS tool called HAT which is used for interrogating institutional databases.

#### **Introducing an Electronic Diary System**

*Trevor Field, University of Aberdeen (UK)*

Trevor Field described the way in which a commercial networked electronic diary package had been introduced during the spring of 1998. He pointed out that an earlier attempt several years earlier had failed, and - with hindsight! - was able to indicate how the University had learned from these mistakes in the second attempt.

## **B Institutional Use**

### **IT at Pompeu Fabra University**

*Alfonso de Alfonso, Gerente at Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona (ES)*

Alfonso de Alfonso described a large-scale attempt to reform the educational provision by means of IT. He stressed above all the need for an overall vision, and the ways in which all parts of the university needed to be aware of the educational values and benefits.

### **Organising a modern European university with IT**

*John Furstenbach, Universtiy College of South Stockholm (SE)*

described the organisational possibilities offered by IT in a brand-new institution - the College was established in May 1995, with 1200 students in 1996 growing to 4000 fte's by the session 1998-99. Administrative staff numbers had similarly grown from 5 to something over 70. Two further campuses were envisaged. John's presentation concentrated on the ways in which IT gave the possibility to devolve or distribute certain administrative tasks within the institution. Traditional finance, personnel and student records departments have been distributed to the different buildings. The role of the remaining central parts of these functions will be to perform non-routine tasks (such as recruitment) and to maintain competence in the distributed units.

## **C General Ideas**

### **The Long-term impact of new Technologies on European HE**

*Bjorn Kirsebom, Foundation for Knowledge and Competence Development (SE)*

Bjorn Kirsebom (a former senior civil servant and now Director of the Foundation for Knowledge and Competence Development in Sweden) developed the idea of how advances in IT would impact on the provision of HE. His Foundation specialises in technology transfer between universities and industry, but he went well beyond this to ponder the effects of advances in communications on tuition, library holdings and residential provision. .

Not surprisingly, this topic encouraged much speculation, and reflection on why, exactly, a physical university is really necessary. It is simplistic but fair to point out that the participants agreed that the benefits which students gained from social interaction and physical presence at a campus were analogous to those derived from the seminar itself - and this interaction was proved later in the evening with a magnificent dinner provided at the Botanic Gardens by the University with the hosts quite exceeding their scheduled activities by leading traditional Swedish singing during the meal.