

ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIETY and INFORMATION SYSTEMS

w.g. 8.2.



NEWSLETTER 8 AUGUST 1985

From the Chairman of W.G.8.2

ENID MUMFORD PROFESSOR OF ORGANIZATIONAL BEHAVIOUR MANCHESTER BUSINESS SCHOOL BOOTH STREET WEST MANCHESTER M15 6PB

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OASIS

ORGANIZATION AND SOCIETY AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS THE NEWSLETTER OF IFIP WORKING GROUP 8.2. EIGHTH ISSUE, AUGUST 1985

This issue of OASIS describes the discussions and decisions taken at the last meeting of our working group. This was held at Arhus University on Saturday and Sunday, 17th and 18th August. It followed a conference on Systemeering and preceded a conference on 'the development and use of computer-based systems and tools'. The latter was organized by Arhus University in cooperation with the Swedish Centre for Working Life, the University of Oslo and the Nordforsk research programme, SYDPOL. A considerable number of W.G.8.2. members attended this conference.

TASK GROUP REPORT

The W.G.8.2. meeting opened on the Saturday afternoon with a session by Hans-Erik Nissen on the progress that has been made by the Task Group on Information Systems Research Methods. A questionnaire has now been finalised and will shortly be sent out to selected groups of IFIP members. The meeting discussed how this questionnaire could be analysed so as to produce the most useful results. There was also an interesting discussion on how to publish the results of the Task Group's activities.

This meeting had not completed all its business by the end of the afternoon and so a further meeting was held during the 'Systems and Tools conference'. The members attending this discussed the preparation of a monograph on research methods to be published by W.G.8.2. It was agreed that the content of this monograph should be the following:

- An explanation of why alternative research methods are required.
- A description of how research methods differ from one another.
- Examples and discussion of different research approaches.
- 4. A bibliography and a commentary.

Each participant at the meeting agreed to identify five research publications that could provide examples of alternative methods. The titles and authors of these would be sent to Hans-Erik.

The purpose of the monograph was to take stock of research that had been carried out in the past; to assist a researcher to make a choice of appropriate methods for a particular research subject, and to provide examples of alternative methods.

W.G.8.2's BUSINESS MEETING

This was held on Sunday, 18th August, with Enid Mumford in the Chair. The items of business discussed are described below.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that W.G.8.2 was still attracting new friends and its membership continued to increase. Clearly its interests and approach were of great interest to many people. She reported that the book of the Manchester Conference, 'Research Methods in Information Systems' should be out at any time and she had received a cheque for £1000 from North Holland, on behalf of W.G.8.2.

She had received a request from T.C.8 for a contribution to a note on this technical committee's philosophy and had written stressing the need for the working groups to begin integrating their ideas and developing some common objectives and approaches. T.C.8 had also requested suggestions on good papers given at W.G.8.2. conferences. These would be considered as possible contributions to a book which T.C.8 was proposing to publish. Other points of interest to W.G.8.2. members were that T.C.8 was now producing a newsletter, edited by Alex Verrjn Stewart, and that the computerisation of the T.C.8 membership list was making good progress. Our newsletter, OASIS, was still in considerable demand, but the Chairman, as Editor, depended on members sending in interesting items of news and raising issues for debate.

T.C.8. Meeting in Barcelona

Niels Bjorn-Andersen gave a report on the last business meeting of T.C.8. which had been held in Barcelona. T.C.8. was proposing to organize a Public Administration Working Conference in 1986 or 1987 and it was considering creating a new task group on this subject. Kuldeep Kumar and Niels Bjorn-Andersen were setting up a task group on information systems in developing countries and planning a conference for late 1987. The venue of this conference had not yet been decided.

There was also discussion and criticism of the poor attendance of some national representatives at T.C.8. business meetings. It was pointed out that non-attendance at more than three consecutive meetings could mean the withdrawel of membership.

The next meeting of T.C.8 will be held in Helsinki on the

3rd October, following the conference on Office Automation which is to be held there fromm 31st Septmeber to 2nd October. A new working group, W.G.8.4, is to be set up on office systems. Either Niels Bjorn-Andersen or Enid Mumford will report to the Helsinki T.C.8 business meeting on the Manchester and Arhus meetings. Niels encouraged W.G.8.2 members to attend the Helsinki conference and to try and influence the work of the new group on office systems.

New Members

The Chairman next described the mechanism for becoming a member of W.G.8.2. Anyone could become a friend but membership required attendance at two consecutive meetings of the group and approval from the T.C.8 Committee.

J.Achterberg, Peter Docherty, and Anders Petersen all indicated that they had now attended two successive meetings and would like their names submitted to T.C.8 for consideration as full members. There was discussion of the problems experienced by some would-be members in attending two consecutive meetings, particularly if they had to travel from the States. It was proposed that membership should be given if two meetings out of three were attended over a three year period.

Election of Officers

This was the most important item on the agenda as the Charman's period in office was due to terminate at Christmas 1985. Two nominations for Chairmanship had been received - Dick Welke from Canada and Lyn Antill from the U.K. The Chairman said that she would now send out voting papers to all members of W.G.8.2. so that a new Chairman could be selected and confirmed in office. It was agreed

that a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman should be elected.

Ideally, if the Chairman was located in North America then the Vice-Chairman should be located in Europe and vice versa. It was also agreed that from now on the Vice-Chairmanship should be seen as a training role for the Chairmanship. The Vice-Chairman would therefore automatically become Chairman at the end of two years. This new approach would be tried out on a trial basis to test its success. The Chairman agreed to send out papers for the election of a Vice-Chairman, once the Chairman had been elected.

The point was raised that W.G.8.2. needed more American members. It was suggested that a North American Chairman or Vice-Chairman should be encouraged to stimulate an increase in North American membership.

The future editorship of OASIS was also discussed and it was agreed that, ideally, the Chairman should be editor. However, producing the newsletter did require a great deal of work and a new Chairman would be grateful for assistance from other members. Len Capper offered to provide such assistance, if his secretary raised no objection to this additional task.

Future Conferences

The Chairman said that the Information System's Assessment Conference (ISA) to be held in 1986 would be discussed in detail after the business meeting.

The 1987 Conference on 'Information Sytstems For Social Progress', originally scheduled for 1986, was in the process of being organized. The date of this Conference was to be May, 1987, and the venue was Atlanta.

W.G.8.1. would be associated with this conference and had proposed a representative for the programme committee. Heinz Klein was asked if he would make a firm decision on conference dates so that these could be reported to T.C.8 at the Helsink meeting on 3rd October this year.

Future Conferences

Two suggestions were made for future conferences. J. Achterberg suggested a conference on 'the management of information systems'. This topic was agreed to be important and relevant to W.G.8.2's interests, although it was pointed out that the word 'management' could be ambiguous. Management should be defined as the management of processes rather than people, and the end-user should be seen as contributing to the management task.

Gianmario Motto also suggested a conference on 'computer-mediated work' - focussing on changing organizations and the cultural revolution. Ideally, this should be a joint meeting with a group of social scientists.

It was agreed that planning for these conferences should begin and J. Achterberg and G. Motto said that they would create small working groups of interested members. These conferences would be held in 1988 and 1989.

Any Other Business

Niels Bjorn-Andersen reported that T.C.8 was proposing to hold a business meeting in South Africa. In view of the serious political situation there he questioned the desirability of this and asked for the views of W.G. 8.2 members. It was agreed nem con that the following letter should e sent to the Chairman of T.C.8.

Professor G. Bracchi Dipartemento di Elettronica Politecnico di Milano Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32 I-20133 Milano Italy

Dear Giampio,

Working Group 8.2 has just held a meeting in Aarhus, Denmark. It was brought to the attention of the members present that T.C.8, at its 14th meeting, decided to hold a future meeting in South Africa. This aroused considerable concern in our members. There was a unanimous decision that a formal letter should be sent to you questioning the T.C.8 decision.

Given the recent developments in South Africa, with the serious reduction in civil liberties and the strong actions taken by many governments and by the EEC, we should like to ask you to reconsider your decision.

Our group decided nem con to recommend to T.C.8 that so long as the present political situation continues:

- 1) no official T.C.8 meetings should be held in South Africa
- 2) if an open conference is held there, that W.G. 8.2 will not participate officially
- 3) a strong recommendation will be made that members of W.G. 8.2 should not participate in conferences held in South Africa
- 4) that copies of this letter should be sent by you to all national representatives of T.C.8 and to T.C.8 Working Group Chairmen.

We hope that you and the full T.C. will give this letter the most serious consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Danish National Representative

Finnish National Representative

It was agreed that each W.G.8.2.member should be asked to contact their own national representative and request him or her to exert influence at IFIP general assembly level on IFIP's relationships with South Africa.

Dates of Next W.G.8.2. Meetings

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday afternoon, 18th December, and Thursday morning, 19th December, in Indiannapolis, following the conference there. After this, there woulld be a meeting on 26th August, 1986, before the Information Systems Assessment Conference in The Netherlands.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE

The second part of the W.G.8.2. business meeting was devoted to a discussion, led by Niels Bjorn-Andersen, of the arrangements for the ISA Conference.

This conference will be held from 27th to 29th August, 1986, at the Congress Centre, Leeuwenhorst, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands. Its objective is to address the crucial issue of assessing the 'costs and benefits of information systems development and application in organizations and societies'. The conference will consider both the assessment of alternative information systems design consequences and impacts and the evaluation of implemented information systems. Information systems assessment will be viewed as including the technical, economic, organizational and societal dimensions which affect decisions about acquisition and design and influence the consequences of

information systems.

Conference Format

The W.G.8.2. members considered the best format for the conference, who should be keynote speakers and the editing of conference proceedings.

Twenty-eight offers of papers had already been received from would-be contributors to the conference. Thanks to the good efforts of Gordon Davis, to whom the Group would like to express its gratitude, thirteen of these offers were from the United States. In addition, five offers of papers came from the U.K., three from The Netherlands, three from Scandinavia, and one from Switzerland, Germany and Italy, respectively. The meeting agreed that Programme Committee members should be able to submit papers, but stressed that these would be scrutinised very carefully before acceptance.

There was discussion of whether the Conference should be organized as a series of formal lectures in plenary session, or as parallell lecture sessions, or as a mixture of lectures and discussion groups. The last option was the preferred one. John Hawgood suggested that the Conference should lead to the formulation of a research proposal for an international project on assessment. This would provide it with a clear objective and output. It might be possible to award a substantial prize to a group at the conference whose ideas led to the development of such a proposal. There was some debate about this idea and it was decided that a prize was not appropriate for the work of a conference. However working groups should be encouraged to provide inputs to a research proposal and funds should be sought so that the research could be carried out after

the conference

Suggestions for keynote speakers were:

- 1. Gerry Weinberg, an American author and consultant.
- 2. The I.S. Director of a large multi-national company.
 For example, Paul Strassman of Xerox.
- 3. A trade union leader.
- 4. Researchers on evaluation such as Dan Gowler and Karen Legge.
- 5. A politician. For example, Shirley Williams.

It was agreed that the principal editor of the Conference Proceedings should be the Conference Chairman. There could also be a co-editor who would be responsible for recording conference discussions.

(Note: For readers who have not seen OASIS newletter 7, letters of intent, full papers and requests for information should be addressed to,

Professor Niels Bjorn-Andersen (Programme Cttee Chairman)
Institute of Informatics and Management Accounting
60 Howitzvej

DK 2000 Copenhagen F
Denmark

All papers must be received by 15th November, 1985, and authors will be notified of acceptance by 15th March, 1986.

Further information about the conference may also be obtained from

Professor Gordon Davis (General Chairman)

University of Minnesota

All information about local arrangements and registration for the conference should be addressed to Professor Theo Bemelmanns (Organizing Ctee Chairman)).

Presentations on Conference Themes

Presentations on possible conference themes were made by John Hawgood, Markku Saaksjarvi, Pertti Jarvinen, J. Achterberg, Len Capper and John Anderson.

John Hawgood talked about the importance of the conference leading to further action, such as a research project.

Markku Sakkjarvi discussed the problems of assessment and the value of management frameworks as aid to this. Pertti Jarvinen spoke of the importance of software assisting user growth and autonomy, instead of imposing restrictions on the user. J. Achterberg stressed tha importance of noting how emerging social trends were affecting I.S. Len Capper wanted the conference to look for basic standards and measures so that I.S. research could approach the rigour of the physical sciences, and John Anderson spoke of the importance of assessment for the public sector, particularly in relation to the new area of expert systems.

The day's meetings concluded with a convivial dinner at an excellent Arhus restaurant

THE ARHUS CONFERENCE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER-BASED SYSTEMS AND TOOLS - 19th - 23rd August, 1985

This five day conference was attended by many W.G.8.2. members and friends and was an interesting mix of plenary sessions and working groups, with emphasis on the latter. The conference opened with a look at what had been happening, of significance to I.S., in the last ten years. Speakers discussed the evolution of sociotechnical systems design, participation and software values.

Subjects addressed in plenary sessions included 'different perspectives on informatics' - a look at human communication and at strategies for meeting user demands. The 'democratization of development and use of systems and tools' - covering industrial democracy and community uses of I.S. for unwaged groups. 'Changing development and use of systems and tools' - a look at the use of I.S. in the hotel industry and nursing.

The conference concluded with a session on 'the next ten years'. This addressed the questions of user interface design and the future of knowledge in crafts and professions.

Most of the work of the conference took place in small group discussions. Each group was allocated a topic and these were:

The management of systems development and use.

The integration of development and use.

Systems development methods.

Organizational models.

Training and education.

Basic concepts in computing development and use.

Tools and technicques for understanding

Man-machine interaction and user models

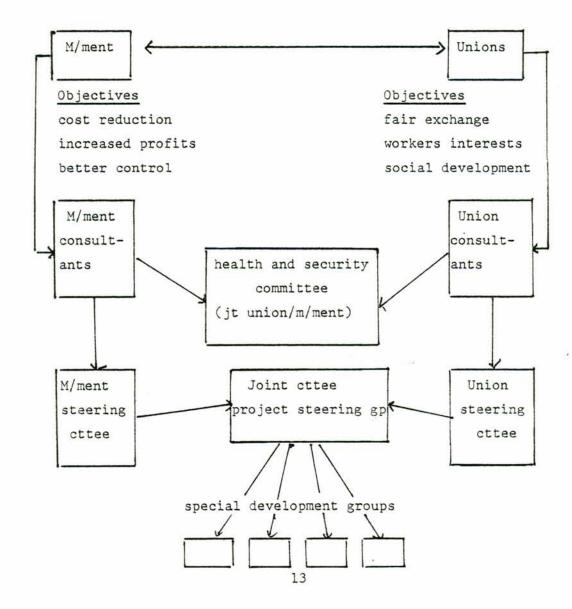
Products and services for the consumer market

Expert systems

Office automation

Tha attendance was around two hundred people, mainly from Scandinavia.

One interesting discussion in the group which I attended centred on the consultative mechanisms between management and unions when new systems were being designed. These were described diagramatically in the following way.



NEWS FROM FINLAND

Pertti Jarvinen writes,

The Council of Naturak Sciences in the Academy of Finland has decided to reserve a small amount of money for IFIP participation in in Finnish conferences. Their aim is to support members of T.C.'s and W.G.'s with their travelling costs. "Friends" must prepare a paper if they wish to paerticipate in meetings, but this is not necessarily required of members.

The Finnish government is initiating three projects for doctoral students: one in the mathematical computer science area, one in engineering and one in information systems science. There are plans to recruit Pentti Kerola as the leader of the last project and Markku Saakjarvi as Chairman of the Steering Committee.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

W.G.9.1 has announced a conference on Systems Design For Human Development and Productivity. This will be held from 12th - 15th May in Berlin. Further information can be obtained from,

Ernst Muhlenberg Humbolt University Sektion Wissenschafttheorie und Organisation GDR-1086 Berlin PSF 1297

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Members of W.G.8.2 will have received a voting slip with this letter. I should be grateful if you would indicate your choice of Chairman and return it to me immediately.

NEW FRIENDS OF W.G.8.2.

Gianmario Motto Telos Management Via Moscova 12 20121 Milano Italy Liam Bannon 16 Fortfield Ave. Terenure Dublin 6 Ireland

Philip Seligmann
The Hague Business School

Personal address:
Waldeck Pyrmontiaan 4 hs
1075 Bv Amsterdam
Netherlands

Arjen Wassernaar
University of Technology
Dept. of Business Science
P.O.Box 217
7500 AE Enschede
The Netherlands

Ray Alvarez
School of Hotel Administration
Cornell University
Statler Hall
Ithaca
New York 14853

OFFICE SYSTEMS

A Working Conference organized by IFIP Technical Committee TC8 "Information Systems"

Helsinki, Finland, 29 September - 2 October 1985

Supported and hosted by the Finnish Information Processing Association

It will address the INFORMATION SYSTEMS aspects of OFFICE AUTOMATION. TC8 is intended to become a regular activity to be repeated in different places on many occasions. However, there will be only one FIRST working conference and this will be it. Specific areas of interest will be presented within the wider scope of "The Office".

- The field of office systems
 Clarence ELLIS
 Xerox Parc, USA
- 2. The nature of the office Rudy HIRSCHHEIM L.S.E., UK
- 3. Office analysis

 Don TAPSCOTT

 Trigon Ltd, CANADA
- Tools for office systems
 Dennis TSICHRITZIS
 University of Geneva, SWITZERLAND
- Design of office systems Najah NAFFAH Transac, FRANCE
- The spectrum of methodologies Philip O'DONOVAN S.T.C., UK
- 7. Office modelling
 Giampio BRACCHI
 Politecnico di Milano, ITALY

- 8. Semantics in office systems Carl HEWITT M.I.T., USA
- Architectural implications
 Ronald UHLIG
 Bell Northern Res., CANADA
- Human factors
 Leela DAMADORAN
 Loughborough University, UK
- Organizational implications
 Heinz KLEIN
 State Univ. of New York, USA
- 12. Security

 Jim FINCH

 Cerberus Inc., CANADA
- Implementation
 Niels BJØRN-ANDERSEN Handelshojskolen, København, DENMARK

The Working Conference will commence on Sunday afternoon, 29 September. This will allow participants to take advantage of inexpensive week-end flights. The last session will be held on Wednesday morning, 2 October. Intrested participants are invited to attend the founding meeting of the proposed new Working Group WG8.4 "Office Systems".

The Finnish Information Processing Association Mikonkatu 19 A 8 SF-00100 HELSINKI FINLAND

Preliminary Call for Papers

IFIP WG 8.2 WORKING CONFERENCE

on

INFORMATION SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT FOR HUMAN PROGRESS IN ORGANIZATIONS

Toronto, Canada; May/June 1987

CONFERENCE THEME AND PURPOSE

Information systems continue to fail in spite of continuing advancements in hardware technology, system design methods and tools. Many information systems, because they are not responsive to human needs, inhibit rather than further human progress. Technical progress has not led to social progress. The conference addresses this paradox by viewing information systems development as a question of social choice. Information systems failures are not "caused" by natural laws, but "result" from deliberate human choices which are guided by "methods and tools". The purpose of the conference is to stimulate the growth of normative theories, principles, methods and tools for information systems development that are better suited to the human-social aspects of information systems.

EXAMPLES OF RESEARCH CONCERNS

The program committee cordially invites you to contribute to the conference theme which includes, but is not limited to the following types of research issues. In addition to papers of a theoretical nature, demonstrations of socially responsive systems or experience reports of human-social development issues are encouraged.

- Nature of links between information systems development and social/ human progress within the organization.
- Alternate concepts of social/ human progress in context of information systems development.
- Alternate concepts, strategies, approaches for information systems development, need and options for new methods and tools, and support environments.
- Philosophy and conceptual issues related to information systems development, for example ontology and epistemology of information systems as human artefacts, research strategies.
- o Information systems development as part of the social change process, desirability of information systems in social change.
- Legitimation of objectives in systems development, impact of information systems on the human condition.

- Adjustment and construction of information systems development methodologies for greater sensitivity/ responsiveness to social concerns, human values, needs etc.
- Roles of information systems in organizational processes and relationships, including constructs of power, conflict, consensus, knowledge, learning, stakeholder interests etc.
- Bargaining and social exchange in systems development.
- Social and ethical problems in information systems development and use.
- Compatibility of information systems development tools and methods with organizational culture.
- Control of information systems development: external, internal, legislative, social, union based, ex ante, ex post.
- Organizational strategies for facilitiating social progress (such as systems development team composition, personnel selection, reward systemss, resource management etc.).

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The program committee currently includes:

Bjorn-Andersen, N. Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen (Denmark) University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (USA) Boland, R. Goldkuhl, G. Chalmers Institute of Technology, Gothenburg (Sweden) Hirschheim, R. London School of Economics, London (UK) Klein, H. K. State University of New York, Binghamton (USA) Kling, R. University of California at Irvine (USA) Kumar, K. University of Waterloo (Canada) University of Jyvaskyla (Finland) Lyytinen, K. Markus, L. UCLA (USA) Mumford, E. Manchester Business School, Manchester (UK) Nissen, H. E. University of Lund (Sweden) Oppelland, H. McMaster University (Canada) Robey, D. Florida International University, Miami (USA) Welke, R. J. McMaster University (Canada) White, K. University of North Carolina (USA) Wood-Harper, T. University of East Anglia (UK)

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Conference Chair:

Niels Bjorn-Andersen

Copenhagen School of Business

Jul. Thomsens Plads 10 DK 1925, Kobenhavn V

Denmark

Tel. 01-396000

Program Chair:

Heinz K. Klein

School of Management

State University of New York,

Binghamton, N.Y. 13901

U.S.A.

Tel. (607)-798-6854

Organizing Chair:

Kuldeep Kumar

The Accounting Group University of Waterloo

Waterloo, Ontario Canada, N2L 3G1

Tel. (519)-885-1211 (x2755)

European Co-Chair:

Goran Goldkuhl

Dept. of Computer Science

Chalmers University S-41296 Goteborg

Sweden

TENTATIVE TIMETABLE

Letter of Intent with Title and	DueDate
Abstract	Nov.30, 1985
Submission Deadline for full paper	Mar.1, 1986
Notification of Acceptance	Nov.30, 1986
Announcement of Exact Conf. Dates	Jan. 1986
Tentative Conference Dates	May/June 1987

PUBLICATION POLICY

In keeping with prior IFIP Working Conference practice each submission will be refreed by at least two members of the program committee. Papers accepted will appear with requested revisions in edited conference proceedings, in the usual IFIP book format.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

As an initial step, please submit a letter stating an intention to submit, along with a title and abstract for the proposed paper, by November 30, 1985. The abstract will be used to determine the initial suitability of the proposed topic to the conference theme.

For the final papers, due by March 1, 1986, please follow the instruction to authors given below. Both, the letter of intent and the final version of the paper should be mailed to either the Program Chairman or the European Co-chairman.

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

INITIAL ABSTRACTS

The initial abstract, to be submitted with the letter of intent, should not exceed one typed page. Three copies of the abstract are requested. The format of the abstract is as follows:

- o Title
- o Author(s) name, professional affiliation, address(es) and telephone nomber(s).
- o Text of Abstract The abstract should be sufficiently informative as to communicate how the proposed paper will contribute to the conference theme. An expansion of up to 3 additional pages may be attached to provide more extensive information if so desired.

FINAL PAPERS

Length and Typing Instructions:

Final papers should not exceed 20 pages plus bibliography. They should be typed double spaced, one side per page, using elite type and a 1 inch margin on all sides.

Number of Copies:

The authors are requested to submit four copies of the final paper.

Style Guide:

In order to give the accepted papers a uniform appearance for publication, the editors will appreciate the authors observing the following additional guidelines.

- Paragraph beginings should be indented 5 spaces.
- 3. Referencing should follow the examples of articles in the "Computing Surveys". For example "POPP57, pp.201" for "Popper (1957, p.201)". Lower case letters may be used to distinguish between several publications by the same author in the same year, e.g. "POPP57a" and "POPP57b". These abbreviations are repeated in the bibliography in order to define a unique sequential order for listing all references used.
- 4. Figures and tables should be included near their first place of mentioning. All figures and tables should be numbered and have a heading (at top for tables and at the bottom for figures).

Submission Address:

The papers should be submitted to either the Program Chairman (Heinz K. Klein) or the European Co-Chairman (G. Goldkuhl). Their respective addresses are given on page 3 of this call for papers.