



DATAFÖRENINGEN I SVERIGE

Tab 18b
GA Gaborone 2005

IFIP Full Member Society Report

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Review of activities

The goal of the society is to organise people who are interested or work in the IT industry in Sweden. The organisation is form is non-profit. The homepage is <http://www.dfs.se>.

The society has some 30.000 members, and is organised in 6 branches, Courses, seminars, conferences and education is organised in a separate wholly owned company, DF Kompetens.

Activities of the branches during 2004 have been of different categories, such as networking, half or one-day conferences, projects, special interest clubs, lunches meetings and study visits. Total number of activities is over 500 and number of networking projects in progress is about 75 engaging about 5.000 people. Reports from the projects are available to the members of the society.

Besides conferences the society DF Kompetens offer the members and others advanced courses in information sciences. These are normally graduate and post-graduate courses given at the different universities in Sweden.

The Society is very active in offering the "ECDL, European Computer Driving License" for PC users. Since late 1996 some 160.000 people have passed the ECDL test and in addition more than 200.000 people have started their tests. This project is carried out in co-operation with ECDL-Foundation and CEPIS. Sweden was one of the founders of ECDL-F.

The society is a founding member of IFIP and it has been very active in organizing different IFIP activities in Sweden, among others World Computer Congress in 1974.

Input to IFIP

DF recognises that IFIP plays an important role within IT communities internationally. However, following aspects may help IFIP to improve its influence world-wide:

1. Majority of members in Technical Committees are from academic fields. Although they perform an excellent work, DF recommends that participation in TCs from industries should actively be encouraged.
2. There is an increasing concern regarding benefits of being member of IFIP. There is a danger of widening the gap between IFIP and its members. IFIP should take active measures to involve member societies in different activities of IFIP. IFIP should also initiate projects that would actively involve member societies, and hence giving members return on their investments.

3. If IFIP is to continue its role as one of the major federation within its field it should actively work for membership from more countries, especially developing countries. Activities in these countries will help narrowing IT-gap between developing and developed countries. Activities in developing countries are considered to be a very important task. IFIP World IT Forum – WITFOR, initiated by Dipak Khakhar, is a step in a right direction.
4. IFIP is doing a considerable effort to contribute to the formulation of the education and training needed by IT practitioners, users and the public at large (IFIP's mission statement, 9th principal element). However, this effort should be focused much more. IFIP should consider establishing "IFIP Academy" for awarding university credits to the participants of its "summer schools" organized by different TCs.
5. IFIP publications are continuous to be of main concern. If IFIP is considering to meet most (if not all) the desired specifications proposed by different TCs, it should seriously consider to be its own publisher.