



IFIP FULL MEMBER SOCIETY REPORT 2002

The NORWEGIAN COMPUTER SOCIETY (NCS)

Part 1 – Review of Activities

At present, the Society has 13,000 individual members and 1,100 company members, attached to the 9 local affiliates of the NCS, throughout Norway. The Society has about 50 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) covering a wide area of topics. SIGs are the main contributors to activities like seminars, conferences, courses, member society meetings and projects within our Society.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of members in the course of the last year, related to the situation in the IT business (trade depression) and the rapidly increasing rate of unemployment among IT professionals – several IT professionals take non-IT jobs waiting for better times. The NCS is especially concerned about the long-term consequences for lack of maintenance of the IT competence and low stimulation for innovation and setting up new businesses in the area of IT. The society is currently involved in a dialogue with the authorities on this issue.

However, the level of activities within our Society has been high. The total number of seminars, conferences and courses during 2001 was 110, and more than 120 Member/SIG meetings and workshops were held during this period. These activities have covered a wide range of topics. Some of the most popular topics are: Software Testing, Electronic Document Management, Human Computer Interaction, IT Project Management, Knowledge Management, Bank/Finance/e-Commerce, Object Oriented Programming & Trends (www.roots.dnd.no)

One of the strategic aims of the NCS is to be a considerable contributor within the area of life-long learning and certification of IT competence.

NCS is offering advanced courses, which will count as part of formal education in co-operation with Universities and Colleges every spring and autumn. A new attempt at a course in Software testing 2001/2002, based on the British Computer Society ISEB Foundation level certificate, was also well received.

The "European Computer Driving Licence" for PC users has been a great success. In Norway already approximately 110,000 people have received their ECDL certification, and globally the participants in the program have exceeded more than 2 million. New tests on "expert level" and "self-testing" have been introduced. "Datakortet as" – which is the company the NCS established to offer the ECDL in Norway, also has an international license for ECDL in Tunisia and Russia. A survey on "ICT in education 2002" was carried out for the Ministry of Education and Research, using ECDL for testing teachers and pupils. For instance, the result showed (surprisingly to some) that teachers' IT skills were equal to those of their students and even better.

The NCS is now strongly involved in the new pan European project: European Certification of Informatics Professionals – EUCIP. This is an initiative by CEPIS - Council of European Professional Computer Societies. EUCIP is a professional certification and competency development scheme, aimed at IT professionals and practitioners. The overall goals are to define an industry-driven

vocational structure and standards for the IT profession, to establish European services network for IT competence development, to contribute to closing the IT-skills gap and offer a vehicle for life-long learning and competency for the IT profession. The EUCIP framework consists of **a core level** and **an elective level** spanning three life cycles of IT: “plan”, “build” and “operate”. The EUCIP Syllabus describes in detail every module in the EUCIP framework and will be the basis for the accreditation of learning providers’ courses and certification tests. A 2002/2003 rollout is planned for the English version of EUCIP. The EUCIP project manager is Stig Arff (Norway). For further information – please refer to www.eucip.org

The Government has appointed the NCS a partner for the “eNorway Action Plan”, within the field of life-long learning and ICT competencies. The NCS is also engaged in influencing the governmental IT policies in Norway, especially in the area of telecommunications.

Review of IFIP-related activities

The NCS recognizes the importance of international co-operation and networking. However, the Society has a potential in increasing its participation within IFIP, and hopes to identify new candidates soon who are willing to serve as TC representatives (priority now: TC 5, TC 9 and TC 11). Some of our TC representatives have high attendance at meetings and are significantly involved in programme committees for IFIP conferences.

The NCS has not organized any IFIP events in Norway in the course of the last twelve months. Next year, NCS celebrates its 50 year anniversary (founded November 24, 1953). The NCS will be a co-organizer for the IFIP WG 9.7 Conference HiNC 1 – History of Nordic Computing, June 16 – 18, arranged in the city of Trondheim by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). HiNC will be one of several activities marking the 50 year anniversary.

We tried to organize group travel to WCC 2002, but the response was too low to carry out. Our travelling program to Beijing 2000 was successful, and we will consider trying again for future IFIP conferences.

The NCS representatives in IFIP TCs are as follows:

IFIP TC	TC Name	Representative
TC 2	Software: Theory and Practice	Arne Jørgen Berre
TC 3	Education	Jan Wibe
TC 5	Computer Application in Technology	(To be announced)
TC 6	Communication Systems	Finn Arve Agesen
TC 7	System Modeling and Optimization	Alexei Gaivoronski
TC 8	Information Systems	John Krogstie
TC 9	Relationship between Computers and Society	(To be announced)
TC 11	Security and Protection in Information Processing Systems	(To be announced)
TC13	Human Computer Interaction	Svein A. Arnesen

Part 2 - Input to IFIP

All initiatives taken to broaden the IFIP activities and recruitment beyond academic field are welcomed by the NCS.

The majority of members in our society are from IT companies /IT consulting companies, industry and the public sector. Members from educational and research institutions constitute 5% of the members.

The recruitment and interest in IFIP activities therefore suffer from a general view among several of our members that IFIP is for academics only, which also is underlined by activities based on an academic model “call for papers”.

We do appreciate the excellent work done within IFIP, we also are aware that the membership profile for each Member Society varies a great deal – at one hand strictly academic, on the other hand broad - for all with interest/work in the IT field without restrictions. Any change in profile/activities should be based on facts and knowledge. Therefore we suggest a survey mapping all the Member Societies membership profiles and what they expect from IFIP and its activities. This inquiry could constitute a basis for evaluations and adjustments related to expectations and demands from the Member Societies – showing for instance the interest for synergies between the academic field and the IT industry, and for activities with a lower academic profile in order to attract people from IT industry/companies.

As a consequence, our input is as follows:

- Carry out a survey mapping all the Member Societies membership profiles and their expectations to IFIP and its activities

Based on the survey results, consider:

- Broadening the IFIP activities and recruitment beyond the academic field?
- Stimulate new activities with a lower academic profile to attract people from IT industry/companies?
- Other actions.