

## **Identity Management in North Rhine Westphalia – A cooperative project**

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11 universities and universities of applied science in North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) are cooperating since 2003/2004 in order to introduce professional Identity Management (IM). Today, production or pilot status IM systems (IBM Tivoli Identity Manager)<sup>1</sup> are established in nearly all of them. Common effort and mutual support have substantially contributed to this success. The universities are convinced that in times of ever decreasing resources it will be more and more difficult to manage successfully complex infrastructure projects without close cooperation between universities, notwithstanding ongoing and ever increasing competition for excellence in research and teaching. After a short review of the project's evolution stages this paper describes

- Organisation
- Fields of cooperation
- Efficiency gains and economies
- Difficulties to overcome

### **Organisation**

Steering committee on senior management level, working groups on working level, project responsables in universities and for the project as a whole

### **Fields of cooperation**

- Requirements and first sketch of a concept
- Software selection
- Common use of external counselling and training
- Solution of subproblems in ad hoc working groups
- Free exchange of concepts and results
- Mutual support for implementation and installation
- "Mitbestimmung", security and data protection
- Cooperation with institutions and other states ("Bundesländern")
- Information exchange on all aspects of the project

### **Efficiency gains and economies**

- Reduction in software cost up to 95% for each university
- Lower prices for and more efficient use of external counselling
- Negotiations with vendors and external partners
- More efficient use of manpower as a result of taking over results and experiences from others

### **Difficulties**

- Not invented here
- Lack of experience with management of complex projects going beyond the borders of established units like computer centres, libraries, administrations and faculties
- Different speed of project progress in different universities
- IM may require substantial changes in existing business processes

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<sup>1</sup>A smaller group of universities is working with SUN Identity manager, another small group is forming around the corresponding Novell product.