



**EUNIS – The European University Information
Systems Organization**

January 1999

Contents

Summary:

EUNIS is the European University Information Systems Organization. It was formed in 1993. EUNIS has been registered as a non-profit organization in Paris, France in 1998.

EUNIS brings together those who are responsible for the management, development and the policy for Information Technology in Higher Education in Europe. The objective of EUNIS is to contribute to the development of high quality information systems.

This document describes EUNIS organization and activity.

Introduction	p. 2
- I - EUNIS, a short history ...	p. 3
First attempts for a European organization	
Paris meeting	
The needs for a European organization	
What are the aims of EUNIS	
Initial activities	
- II - EUNIS organization ...	p. 5
How is EUNIS organized	
Legal statutes	
Executive Committee	
Active Members	
- III - EUNIS membership	p. 10
National representations	
- IV - EUNIS activity..	p. 17
Basic activity	
Exchange network	
Congresses	
Working group	
Exchange among members	p. 18

Introduction

The words «information technology» have become recently one of the most frequently used. The fact that this technology affects essentially all areas of the society and individuals' life is already well known. Also the universities, though conservative and having big inertia in their present 800 years history allowing them to survive all historical crisis, cannot avoid this radical influence and the changes it brings them.

It appears that the arrival of information technology is one of the most demanding challenges for the universities in their history. Current situation of universities is very clearly characterized in the introduction to the strategic plan of the world largest association for information technology in higher education institution EDUCAUSE (USA). The introduction, among other, states that:

Higher education is undergoing a major and inevitable transformation, as a result of a convergence of forces in society, in higher education, and in technology. New developments in digital technologies are merging the previously separate elements of technology, services, and information content. As a result, the very nature of instruction and research is changing, refocusing institutional priorities on learning, creating the need for new budgeting formulas, destroying organizational boundaries, and creating the need for broader skills and talents in those who have been managing compartmentalized responsibilities. The picture is further complicated by changes in state and federal policies toward higher education, the growth and power of the information industry, the convergence of entertainment, computing, and communications, the potential globalization of higher education delivery, and the rise of many new potential competitors.

This situation deeply affects all university members. But the most demanding is for those who are responsible and directly manage the use of information technology. While up to now they were responsible just for the technical infrastructure, today they must cope with the new problems and solve the questions to which there are no standard answers. We are speaking, for example, about the problems with the policy of using computer networks, censorship, copyright, privacy, and intellectual property. And all of this must be solved in a quickly developing environment obtaining sometimes even chaotic character.

The only way how to cope with these challenges is the continuous learning. One of the most effective tools for this learning is the exchange of ideas and experiences and cooperation with colleagues from other universities. To support such a cooperation, different associations of higher education institutions at international as well as at national level are created.

The only European organization directly promoting the cooperation of universities in the area of IT is EUNIS. This material presents EUNIS activities that have been undertaken so far and introduces this association that, as its members believe, will considerably affect the cooperation of European universities in the field of computing and information technology in general.

- I - EUNIS, a short history

First attempts for a European organization

In the past, a number of efforts were made to explore the possible benefits of a European organization supporting the development of high quality University information systems. In 1988, a group of European delegates attending the EDUCOM Conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA met to consider whether they should try to establish an organization similar to EDUCOM in Europe. EDUCOM (now EDUCAUSE) brings together all those responsible for the information systems in universities in the United States. The meeting in Ann Arbor was broadly supportive and at a subsequent meeting in February 1990 a proposal was formulated and funding sought from the European Community. However, this was unsuccessful and a less ambitious approach was considered. In 1991 two meetings took place between the national organizations representing the providers of information systems in universities in the UK and Germany. However, the main impetus for this current initiative was in March 1993 at a meeting in Amsterdam where representatives from the national organizations from France, Germany, the Netherlands and the UK met to consider the value of a European organization. It was agreed that steps should be taken to establish a European organization and that a meeting should be held with a wider group of nations to explore the work such an organization would do and how it would be organized. This subsequent meeting was held in Paris in October 1993.

Paris meeting

The meeting in Paris was attended by representatives from the following eight countries: Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, and United Kingdom

In addition, positive messages of support were received from representatives from the following countries who were unable unfortunately to attend the meeting: Austria, Norway, and Switzerland.

The meeting considered the need for a European Organization.

The Need for a European Organization

In a number of European countries there are already national organizations, which exist to represent those, responsible for the management and development of information systems for higher education. The need to create a European-wide organization in addition to these can be justified as follows:

1. There will be considerable benefit from information dissemination and interchange across national boundaries. The level of network provision now makes this a feasible proposition and interchange of experiences and knowledge will be of benefit in areas of common interest.
2. A single European approach to the suppliers of hardware, software and networking products will be beneficial. Although the size of the European market is similar to that of the US, there is evidence

that costs of products are higher in Europe. One reason for this is that many suppliers foresee the European market not as a single one but as one made up of 20 or so individual national markets.

3. Although much funding of information systems in higher education remains at national level there is an increasing amount provided at European Community level. A transnational organization would be an appropriate one to seek to influence and participate in such initiatives.
4. The level of use of information systems in higher education varies significantly from one European country to the next. The existence of the proposed European organization would provide an opportunity for less developed countries to learn from the experience of the more advanced ones.
5. There are a number of existing European initiatives particularly in the area of networking. The interests of the users of these systems as opposed to the providers are not fully covered and the proposed organization would help overcome this problem.

For these reasons the meeting in Paris agreed to establish an organization which brings together those who are involved in the management and development of information systems in higher education in Europe. The organization was given the name EUNIS: European University Information Systems. It was formed in 1993. A legal statute was established in 1998 in France.

What are the aims of EUNIS?

The total annual expenditure on information systems in higher education in Europe is estimated at over 1 billion Euro. EUNIS brings together those who are responsible for the policy decisions associated with this large expenditure. The objective of EUNIS is to contribute to the development of high quality information systems in higher education in Europe. To achieve this, the aims of EUNIS are:

- to encourage communication between information systems providers in higher education in Europe;
- to undertake discussions and representation with suppliers of information systems products;
- to seek to influence organizations within Europe which are responsible for information systems and their funding.

Initial activities of EUNIS

EUNIS agreed to undertake the following:

1. To provide a report on the status of networking in higher education in Europe (1994).
2. To provide a report on the relative costs of software products in European countries (1994).
3. To establish an electronic distribution network between members of EUNIS (1994).
4. To organize 'EUNIS 1995', the first European Congress of Information Systems Providers in Higher Education (to be held in Germany in November 1995).

As it will be explained in this document, EUNIS has fully achieved its initial goal and much more.

- II - EUNIS organization

How is EUNIS organized?

Membership is open to those responsible for the management and development of information systems in higher education in Europe.

Active members of EUNIS are representatives of European countries. Adhering countries are represented in the Association by two members. Where an Association of Computing Centers exists, it nominates its representatives. In other countries interested universities may temporary represent their countries in EUNIS. EUNIS does not interfere with the nomination of the representatives.

Countries outside Europe, which are not eligible as Active Members, may be represented by one member.

Honorary members are institutions or persons who have rendered notable services to the Association.

Legal Statutes

Article 1: *Designation*

A statutory association governed by the law of July 1st, 1901 and its law of enforcement of August 16th, 1901 is founded between the subscribers of the following articles and designated as follows: **EUNIS** (European **U**niversity **I**nformation **S**ystems).

Article 2: *Purpose*

This association was founded with the following objectives:

- to encourage exchanges, cooperation and debates between the persons responsible for information systems in higher education or research institutes/organizations within Europe,
- to discuss with the major suppliers of information systems and to present them with the University point of view,
- to establish relationships with supervisory organizations in charge of information systems in higher education and in research institutes in each country as well as at the European level.

Article 3: *Domicile*

The domicile is located at Université P. M. Curie, Laboratoire de Minéralogie-Cristallographie, case 115, 4 place Jussieu, 75252 Paris Cedex 05.

The Board of Directors has the power to transfer the domicile. However, ratification by the General Assembly is necessary.

Article 4: *Admission*

To become Members of the association, applications must be submitted to the Board of Directors, which considers candidates for membership during its meetings and proposes them for approval by a General Assembly vote.

Article 5: Members

The association is made up of Active Members, Members by Correspondence, Honorary Members and Corporate Members.

Active Members must be responsible for information systems in their higher education or research organizations. Active Members commit themselves to paying every year a subscription, the amount of which is to be determined by the General Assembly.

Active Members are appointed according to the following criteria:

- each European country is allowed a maximum of two Members,
- for those countries which have a national organization bringing together the persons in charge of computing systems in higher education or in research institutes, this organization will propose the names of one or two persons who will represent their national organization within EUNIS.
- for those countries which do not have such an organization, candidates for memberships should be presented by the Supervisory Ministry for higher education or research organizations, or if such an entity is not available, by the President of their institution. These persons will commit themselves to creating a national association in their own country, which will, in the end, replace them in proposing candidates.

Members by Correspondence are selected under the same conditions as Active Members, at a maximum of one Member per country, which is ineligible for Active Members. This category is reserved for representatives of non-European countries. They pay a subscription, but they do not have voting rights.

Honorary Members are persons who rendered notable service to the association. They are appointed by the General Assembly at the proposal of the Board of Directors. They do not have to pay any subscription, however, they do not have voting rights.

Corporate Members are companies interested in EUNIS activities. They are appointed by the General Assembly at the proposal of the Board of Directors. They pay a subscription. They do not have voting rights.

Article 6: Removal

A Member may lose his/her membership in case of resignation, death, or removal pronounced by the General Assembly under the proposal of the Board of Directors, after listening to the person concerned. Removal can be for instance for ceasing to be a representative in one's country, or for failing to pay one's subscription, or failing to attend three meetings in a row.

Article 7: Resources

The resources of the association are divided up as follows :

- the amount of admission fees and subscriptions,
- subsidies from state and local authorities,
- all other resources which are not forbidden by the rules and regulations in force.

Article 8: Board of Directors

The association is directed by a Board of Directors, made up of 3 to 12 Members, elected for three years by the General Assembly. Members may be re-elected.

The Board of Directors is empowered to run and administer the association, subject to the powers of the General Assembly.

The Board of Directors elects among its Members, by secret ballot, the following Members:

- a President,
- if need be, up to 3 Vice-Presidents,
- a Secretary and, if need be, a Deputy Secretary,
- a Treasurer and, if need be, a Deputy Treasurer.

The President represents the association in all the matters of civil law. He can give the power of attorney to one of the Members of the Board of Directors under the terms stipulated in the by-laws.

In the event of vacancies, the Board of Directors temporarily provides for the replacement of its Members. Their permanent replacement is proceeded on the occasion of the next General Assembly.

The power of a member appointed as mentioned above comes to an end at a time when the term of office of replaced member expires.

Article 9: Meeting of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors meets at least once a year, by notification of the President, or at the request of at least one quarter of the Members. Decisions are made by the majority voting. In case of a tie, the President casts the deciding vote.

Any Member of the Board who fails to attend three meetings in a row shall be removed from the Board.

Article 10: General Assembly

The Ordinary General Assembly includes all the Members of the association, whatever their membership position. It is called at least once a year.

At least fifteen days before the date of the General Assembly, the Secretary calls a meeting of the Members. The agenda appears on the notification to attend.

The President, assisted by his administrators, presides over the Assembly and presents the year's activity report for the association.

The Treasurer explains his management of the finances and submits the financial report to the Assembly for approval.

After discussion of all the items of the agenda, Members to replace outgoing Members are elected, if need be.

On the occasion of a General Assembly, only the items appearing on the agenda are to be discussed.

Deliberations are to be made with a quorum of half the membership to be valid.

Decisions are taken by absolute majority of attending or represented Members.
Any attending Member can represent at most one non-attending Member. Postal vote is not permitted.
If need be, the President or more than half the registered Members can call an "Extraordinary" (special) General Assembly under the aforementioned conditions.

Article 11: *Association by-laws*

By-laws can be established by the Board of Directors for approval by the General Assembly. By-laws are meant to lay down non-statutory matters, notably those dealing with the internal organization of the association.

Article 12: *Dissolution*

In the event of a dissolution pronounced by at least two thirds of the Members attending the General Assembly, under the terms of validity set out in Article 10, one or several liquidators will be appointed by the General Assembly and the assets of the association, if any, will be distributed in conformity with Article 9 of the Law of 1st July 1901 and with the decree of August 16th, 1901.

Executive Committee

Chairman:

Epelboin Yves, L.M.C.P. Université P.M.Curie, Case 115 , 75252 Paris Cedex 05, France,
phone: +33 1 4427 5211 , fax : +33 1 4427 3785 , epelboin@lmcp.jussieu.fr

Vice- Presidents

Knop Jan, Heinrich-Heine-Universitaet Duesseldorf, Universitaetsrechenzentrum,
Universitaetsstr. 1, D-40225 Duesseldorf, Germany, phone: +49 211 311 3900 , fax : +49 211
311 2539, knop@uni-duesseldorf.de

Sarlin Kristel, Director, Information Technologies , Helsinki University of Technology, P.O.Box
1400, FIN-02015 HUT, Finland, phone: +358 9 451 2198 , fax: +358 9 451 5010,
kristel.sarlin@hut.fi , <http://www.hut.fi/~ksarlin/>

Secretary:

Mederly Peter, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics , Comenius University, Mlynska dolina, 842
15 Bratislava, Slovakia, phone: +421 7 654 20 661, fax: +421 7 654 25 882,
peter.mederly@fmph.uniba.sk

Treasurer:

Desnos Jean-François, Université Joseph Fourier Grenoble I , CIGG, B.P. 53 , 38041
Grenoble Cedex 9, France, phone: +33 047663 5748 , fax: +33 047642 1171 , Jean-
Francois.Desnos@grenet.fr

Past President:

McDonough Robin, Computer Building, University of Manchester, Oxford Road , Manchester,
United Kingdom, phone: +44 161 275 6022, fax: +44 161 275 6068,
robin.mcdonough@man.ac.uk

Active Members

- Andronaty Nicolae*, Academy of Sciences of Moldova, Department of Technical Sciences, Trandafirilor 37/3 -27 Str., Kishinau, Moldova , phone: +37 32 52 30 74 , fax: +37 32 52 30 74, andronat@cc.acad.md
- Berglund Sören*, The LADOK group University of Umea , 901 87 Umea, Sweden, phone: +46 90 165356 , fax: +46 90 166991 , mobile: +46 10 256 34 55, soren.berglund@adm.umu.se
- Descloux Jean-François*, University of Fribourg , Service informatique, Misericorde ,1700 F, Switzerland, phone: +41 37 297200 , fax: + 41 37 299704 , Jean-Francois.Descloux@unifr.ch
- Ediberidze Alexander*, Georgian Technical University , Kostava avenue 77, 3800075 Tbilisi, Georgia, phone/fax: +99532 372862 , gmelik@dtapha.kheta.ge
- Hendriks Chris*, Hogeschool Rotterdam, InformaticaCentrum , G.J. de Jonghweg 6, 3015 GG Rotterdam, The Netherlands, phone: +31 10 436 62 44 , fax: +31 10 436 50 14, c.c.m.hendriks@ic.hro.nl
- Jongorius Rene T.* Informatiseringscentrum UvA , Turfdraagsterpad 9, 1012 XT Amsterdam, The Netherlands, phone: +31 20 525 3524/2741 , fax: +31 20 525 2084, rtj@ic.uva.nl
- Mahnjic Viljan*, Faculty of Computer and Information Science , University of Ljubljana, Trzaska 25, 1000 Ljubljana , Slovenia, phone: +386 61 1768 447 , fax: +386 61 1264 630, viljan.mahnjic@fri.uni-lj.si
- Martisius Stasys*, Lithuanian Academy of Agriculture , Noreikiskes, 4324, Kaunas-Akademija , Lithuania, phone: +370 (7) 298255 , fax: +370 (7) 29650, smart@nora.lzua.lt
- Rubio Royo Enrique*, C.I.C.E.I. - Edificio de Ingenierias, Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Campus Univ. de Tafira, S/N ; 35194 - Las Palmas, Canary Islands - Spain, phone: +34 28 45 18 64, fax: +34 28 45 14 92 ,rubio@cicei.ulpgc.es
- Sandalov Aleksandr*, Physics Dept, Moscow State University, , Lenin's Hill, Moscow, 119899, Russia, phone: +7 (095) 939 4601 , fax: +7 (095) 939 1195, sandalov@phys.msu.su
- Slopien Stanislaw*, The Paderewski Academy of Music and Poznan, Supercomputing and Networking Center, Sw. Marcin Street 87, 61-808 Poznan, Poland, phone: +48 (61) 852 51 32, fax: +48 (61) 853 66 76, Slopien@rose.man.poznan.pl
- Trukhin Vladimir I.*, Dept of Physics Moscow State University, 119899 Moscow, Russia, phone: +7 095 9393160, fax: +7 095 9328820, trukhin@phys.msu.su
- Uba Peep*, Computing Center, University of Tartu, J.Liivi St. 2, EE2400, Tartu, Estonia, phone: +37 27 465 441, mobile: +37 25 086 476, fax: +37 27 465 460, uba@ut.ee
- Vrana Ivan*, Dept of Informatics, University of Agriculture in Prague, Kamýcká, 165 21 Prague 6 - Suchdol, Czech Republic, vrana@pef.czu.cz
- Young Gordon*, University of Limerick, Plassey Technological Park, Limerick, Ireland, phone: +353 (61) 202050, fax: +353 (61) 335144, gordon.young@ul.ie

- III - EUNIS membership

Introduction

18 European countries are members of EUNIS. As explained in section II, universities belong to EUNIS through a national Information Systems organization, whenever such organization exists. In other countries EUNIS accepts temporary representatives from universities with the agreement that they will do their best to create a national organization. As it will be shown in this section, this attitude has already been successful since a number of national organizations have been or are in the process of being created. Of course, this rule cannot be applied everywhere: in less populated countries where the number of universities is limited, an informal organization will remain acceptable for EUNIS, since the need for a formal organization appears only when the number of representatives of universities around a table becomes too large.

EUNIS statutes make a provision for members by correspondence. A joint agreement with EDUCAUSE (EUNIS North America equivalent) makes EDUCAUSE member by correspondence from EUNIS and vice and versa.

In this section we will describe in details the state of the national IS organizations in all countries which are members of EUNIS.

Czech Republic

Representative: Ivan Vrana, Czech University of Agriculture, Prague

The Czech have founded a national organization called EUNIS-CZ, since March 1997. EUNIS-CZ is an association of legal bodies which present membership are 7 universities. The annual fee is 10 000 CZK (approximately 270 Euro). EUNIS-CZ employs a part-time secretary. EUNIS-CZ wants to be a support of cooperation and expertise exchange in IT for universities. The membership is open to all Czech universities as well as to companies operating IT in universities. EUNIS-CZ activity appears in a number of annual conferences and working groups (Information Systems at universities, license policy, and telelearning) open to the staff of all member universities.

EUNIS-CZ was responsible for the organization of EUNIS98, which was held in Prague, September 21-22, 1998.

Information is available on their Web site at <http://web.cvut.cz/cp1250/Eunis/>.

Estonia

Representative: Peep Uba, Tartu University.

There is no formal organization in Estonia, although there is a plan for EsUNIS in the future. For the moment Estonian universities meet informally to exchange their experience with the introduction of IS in the universities. It is lead by a steering group of 3-4 people who organize seminars and meetings. Publicity about their activity is made through university newsletters.

Finland

Representative: Kristel Sarlin, Helsinki University of Technology

There is an informal national organization in Finland. Members are the IT directors of the 20 universities, the Center for Scientific Computing (CSC) and Finnish University and Research Network (FUNET) and a representative of the Ministry of Education. They appoint a secretary general yearly (since 1993) to coordinate and promote activities of common interest as for instance national software contracts for the universities. The yearly expenditures about 350 000 FIM (approximately 60 000 Euro) are shared by the universities and CSC according to their sizes.

The directors meet twice a year to exchange their views on subjects of common interest. They also have a distribution list. They organize a yearly conference for the staff and users of university IT services with up to 400 attendants. They have special interest groups from the university IT staff working on subjects such as IT policy and security.

Finland is responsible for EUNIS 99 organization in June 1999.

France

Representatives: J.F. Desnos, University Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, & Y. Epelboin, University P.M. Curie, Paris.

A national organization, called « Comité des Services Informatiques de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche (CSIESR) » exists since 1985. It is a non-profit association which membership are approximately 180 IT services in universities plus 40 individuals. The annual fee is 800 FF (approximately 120 Euro) but the Ministry of Education and Research provides most of the funding. The CSIESR employs one part time secretary. Its aims are to improve the use of the Information and computing tools in the Academic Community. It is opened to all IT services in Universities. Individuals and representatives from other organizations may be members of CSIESR but without voting rights. The CSIESR is managed by an Executive Committee and organizes a number of interest groups on operating systems, security, software, applications, permanent education of staff and staff carriers. They meet regularly. The general annual meeting is attended by up to 150 persons.

Two distribution lists (one opened to everybody, the other restricted to the official members only) exist.

The CSIESR organizes a number of courses for professional development (up to 20 courses from 1 up to 5 days per year) and distributes grants to its members to participate. It publishes quarterly newsletters of 50 pages about.

Information is available on the Web site at <http://www.csiesr.jussieu.fr>

Germany

Representative: J. Knop, Düsseldorf University

A national organization called "Zentren für Kommunikation und Information" (ZKI) has been founded in 1993. Members of ZKI are all Universities and Technical High Schools in Germany. It is a non-profit association which membership is approximately 200 ECU.

ZKI is managed by an Executive Committee and organizes a number of conferences. Special interest groups work on the following topics: supercomputing, network services, software, multimedia, libraries.

More information is available at <http://www.zki.de>

Ireland

Representative: G. Young, Limerick University

There is no formal organization in Ireland. The directors of IT services meet regularly since 1977 to exchange their views on all subjects of common interest. The annual conferences assemble up to 60 persons. A distribution list exists.

Information is available on the Web site: <http://www.heai.ie/>

Lithuania

Representative: S. Martisius, Kaunas University

The national organization is called LITNET: Lithuania Research Network Association. It has been formed in 1991 as a non profit organization. 10 universities, 14 research institutes and 12 non-profit organizations are members of LITNET. It receives support from the Ministry of Science and Education as well as international funds via participation in different projects. LITNET is managed by a board consisting from representatives from the main members. It organizes several seminars and courses. Approximately 30 persons attend the annual conference.

Information is available at <http://www.litnet.lt>

Netherlands

Representatives: C. Hendriks Chris, Hogeschool Rotterdam & R.T. Jongerius Amsterdam University

The Dutch IS organization is called SURF. Its official statute is a foundation. Its aims are the stimulation and improvement of the use of computers and computer services in Higher Education and research in Netherlands. 14 universities, higher vocational education and research institutes are members of SURF. The average annual fee is 80 000 Dfl (approximately 25 000 Euro) depending on the size of the institution. Contributions to the SURF projects come from the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research for innovative projects. A board of directors and an Executive Committee manages SURF. It employs 11 persons. The attendance to the annual meeting is of the order of 300 persons. SURF publishes a magazine and several reports about the development of IT. SURF organizes scientific technical councils and seminars for professional development.

Information is available on the Web site at <http://www.surfbureau.nl/>

Poland

Representative: S. Slopian, Poznan University.

Poland wishes to establish a national organization in the near future.

Russia

Representatives: A. Sandalov & V.I. Trukhin, Moscow State University.

Russian IT representatives from universities meet regularly. Their aim is to help in the use of IT in higher and elementary school education.

More information is available at <http://www.phys.msu.su/>

Slovak Republic

Representative: P. Mederly, Comenius University

EUNIS.SK has been formed in August 1997. It is a non profit association. Its aims are assistance to the development of high quality university information systems. 14 universities, 16 individual and 2 business organizations are members of EUNIS.SK. The fees range from 200 Sk (5 Euro) for individual to 10 000 Sk (270 Euro) for universities and corporate members. EUNIS.SK organizes seminars and annual conferences. It has already established a distribution list eunis-sk@eunis.sk. A Web server is available at <http://www.eunis.sk>

Slovenia

Representative: V. Mahnic, University of Ljubljana

The national association is called «Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES) ». Since it covers only part of IT activities in higher education, a national EUNIS branch will be established in the near future. ARNES was established in 1992. It is a public institution whose aims are developing, organizing and managing the academic and research networks. It serves 200 organizations and receives support from the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Education and Sports. There is no membership and the budget is approximately 1 500 000 Euro.

ARNES is managed by a board of directors appointed by the above ministries. It organizes seminars and publishes manuals about network services.

Information is available at <http://www.arnes.si/>.

Sweden

Representative: S. Berglund, Umea University

Several organizations working with IT related topics exist in this country. There are two types: government ruled and voluntary ones. For the moment Sweden is represented in EUNIS by a representative from LADOK, a national organization dealing with administrative software.

United Kingdom

Representatives: R. McDonough, University of Manchester & M. Price, University of Oxford.

The national organization is called «Universities and Colleges Information Systems Organization (UCISA) » and has been founded in 1993. It is a legal association. Its membership is 118 full, 14 associate, 17 corresponding and 12 corporate members. The fees range from 510 £ (750 Euro) for full members up to 760 £ (1100 Euro) for corporate members. Surplus income comes from the organization of conferences, seminars and workshops. All information about the statutes and the organization is available on UCISA Web site. UCISA does not have its own employees but buys services from its member institutions.

Interest groups exist in the domain of MIS, network, hardware, software, staff development, teaching, learning and information. UCISA distributes awards for achievements and travel bursaries. It publishes a number of publications: UCISA Newsletter, AXIS journal, guides, proceedings of conferences... UCISA manages distribution lists and maintains a Web site at <http://www.ucisa.ac.uk/>.

The following countries are represented in EUNIS by single universities (one per country) so far: ***Georgia, Moldavia, Spain, Switzerland.***

Members by correspondence

EDUCAUSE is the US Association for managing and Using Information Resources in Higher Education.

At the CAUSE97 Annual Conference held in Orlando, USA, a meeting was organized between both Executive Committees. By joint agreement both organizations agreed to form collaboration. This formalizes an existing relationship between the two similar organizations. Representatives from the associations have attended and given presentations at each other's events, such as CAUSE97 and the EUNIS 97 Congress. The opportunities are excellent in such collaboration for cross-fertilization of ideas, since the associations are confronted with many of the same issues. CAUSE and EUNIS each have electronic discussion groups and will encourage discussion participation between association members. The associations also point to each other's Web sites.

The agreement between CAUSE and EUNIS was transformed to the agreement between EDUCAUSE and EUNIS at the meeting of new EDUCAUSE President Brian L. Hawkins and EUNIS representatives at the EDUCAUSE98 Annual Conference in Seattle.

EDUCAUSE was approved as a member by correspondence of EUNIS at EUNIS General Assembly in September 1998 in Prague.

Honorary member

Gartner Group, represented by Dr Michael Zastrocky, accepted an invitation to become an honorary member of EUNIS. Since the first EUNIS meeting the Gartner Group has shown its interest in EUNIS activities and will continue to participate. The Honorary membership of Gartner Group was approved by the EUNIS General Assembly in September 1998 in Prague.

Corporate members

At EUNIS General Assembly held in September 1998 in Prague, corporate membership was introduced into EUNIS Statutes. Company GINIT was approved to be the first corporate member of EUNIS.

Liaison officer for US

John Bielec, Vice-President for Information Technology at Drexel University, Baltimore, USA, has been nominated liaison officer for EUNIS in North America. His duty is to serve as a link for exchange of information between Europe and North America. EUNIS members have now a means to access information on IT strategy and activity in North America universities. This opportunity has already been used for temporary staff exchange.

- IV - EUNIS activity

Basic activity

The General Assembly meets at least once a year. All reports are available on EUNIS Web site.

Up to now EUNIS activity has been to:

1. Establish distribution lists for information exchanges.
2. Organize annual congresses. Each odd year there is a call for papers and the best ones are given in parallel oral sessions. Each even year the meeting is restricted to invited papers only. Contributions appear as posters only. Full papers are distributed to the participants.
3. Establish working groups: a party is active on vendor's software policy in participating countries.

Exchange network

EUNIS is willing to act as a hub between participating countries for information exchange about Information Technology use in Higher Education. The members of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee act as a relay whenever an information is needed in any European country. For this purpose two distribution lists have been created. A public one opened to any person interested in EUNIS activities, a restricted one opened to the representatives only.

The public distribution list address is eunis@lmcp.jussieu.fr; the listserver is accessible at listserv@lmcp.jussieu.fr. 300 persons about are registered on this list.

The lists are used for various information either technical or job exchange opportunities, such as:

- information about software policy and prices
- being in touch with specific persons in charge of a given activity in another country
- job exchange between IT services in universities
- Establishment of collaborative projects between universities and search for partners...

Congresses

The first congress was held in Düsseldorf, Germany, November 6-8th 1995 (Chairman J. Knop). The number of attendants was 253 in 31 countries. Two parallel sessions were held on the following subjects:

- High performance computing
- High performance networking
- Support for teaching and learning

- Administration and management
- Computing in Higher Education

The next one was held in Manchester, UK, December 16-17 1996 (Chairman R. McDonough) with 105 participants from 23 countries.

In 1997 the congress was organized in Grenoble, France, September 9-11 (chairpersons J-F Desnos & Y. Epelboin). 240 persons from 27 countries attended 3 parallel sessions:

- From teaching to learning
- Network Information services
- Delivery of Information
- Management Information Systems
- Changing role of Computing services

The full papers are available on EUNIS Web site at <http://www.lmcp.jussieu.fr/eunis/>

The 1998 congress was held in Prague, Czech Republic, September 21-22 1998 (chairperson I.Vrana). 109 participants from 26 countries took part in the congress. The topics were

- Integrated university information systems
- Workflow at universities
- Telelearning
- Role of Computer Centres in a Changing World.
- University management

The 1999 congress will be held in Helsinki, Finland. The topics are:

- Enhancing Learning through Technology
- Changes and Challenges in Staff Development and Training
- The role of Information Technology in Universities
- The New Library Role with Evolving Technologies
- Security
- Co-operation Within and Between Universities
- Distributed Computing and Network Technology
- Bridging Theory and Practice

EUNIS International Exchange programme (IEP)

In November 1998, EUNIS opened its International Exchange Programme. Within this programme, students and staff members of Computing Centres in European universities will work for a short time in a Computing Centre in a university in another European country that is a member of EUNIS.

EUNIS Elite Award for Excellence in Implementing Administrative Information Systems for Higher Education

In December 1998, EUNIS announced EUNIS Elite Award. The goal of this award, that is planned to be conferred annually, is to provide recognition to colleges and universities that exemplify best practices in implementing administrative information systems.

Working groups

A working group, lead by G. Young, Limerick University, Ireland, exchanges information on vendors policy in European countries. Microsoft, Oracle have been investigated and the information provided to the members has been very helpful when negotiating national contracts.

Exchange among members

Cooperation among countries has been initiated with the help of EUNIS. The following are just a few examples:

- Search for partnership between European Universities for European programs: university of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and a British university...
- Search for experts to participate to the Scientific Council of the Ladok consortium (Sweden)
- German Russian seminar on the use of the new technologies for teaching and learning
- Seminar about "Strategic planning for Information Technology" for the General Assembly of the Universities Presidents (CPU) in France with speakers from European countries