

EUNIS 2008

VISION IT: Visions for IT in Higher Education

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Facts and Figures

EUNIS 2008 was the 14th annual, European congress on university information systems. The congress was hosted by the University of Aarhus, Denmark, and arranged by the E-learning Unit and the Administration Computing Office. The congress, including pre-congress workshop and tutorials, took place from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th of June 2008. The main congress went from Wednesday 25th to Friday 27th. The congress took place in the Lakeside Lecture Theatres in the University Park.

311 delegates, excluding special invited persons, from 29 different countries participated in the congress. 135 submitted abstracts were reviewed by the Scientific Committee. Approximately 105 paper presentations (including corporate and product & service presentations), 3 poster presentations, and 19 keynote and plenum presentations were presented at the congress. Congress attendees were also given the opportunity to participate in one of 3 pre-congress tutorials and 1 pre-congress workshop.

The congress highly appreciated the support of the congress sponsors: SAP, Fronter, SUN, it's learning, Blackboard, and Digitary.

Themes

The themes of the congress were the following:

- IT strategy and governance (17)
- IT infrastructure and integrated systems (23)
- Identity management, federation, security and shared services (12)
- IT support for globalisation and mobility (6)
- Portals and student services (13)
- Virtual libraries and repositories for research and teaching (13)
- E-learning: Organisation and implementation (20)
- Educational tools and technologies (12)
- Vision IT for next generation universities (6)
- The EUNIS Dørup E-learning Award (13)

The figures in brackets show the distribution of submitted abstracts for the congress. In the final programme some abstracts were grouped differently or rejected.

Keynote Presentations

The congress featured the following keynotes:

- Tor Nørretranders, non-fiction writer, DK (see picture)
Looking back at 2028 *
- Sugata Mitra, Newcastle University, UK
Learning styles and self organizing systems in education *
- Michael Zastrocky, Gartner
E-Learning in Higher Education, Have We Reached a Plateau? The Annual Gartner/EUNIS Update
- Ronald Yanosky, EDUCAUSE
Process and Politics: IT Governance in North American Higher Education
- Mark Stiles, Staffordshire University, UK
Sustaining Innovation but Keeping Control? *
- Richard Barrington, SUN Microsystems
Virtualisation in a Material world - ICT as a key enabler to a low Carbon Economy? *
- Martin Price (EUNIS) and Michael Nowlan (Independent Consultant)
Campus Networks - the next ten years *
- Søren Peter Nielsen, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, DK
EU eID programme and Liberty Identity Assurance Framework
- Niels Højberg, Director of Administration, University of Aarhus, DK



* Presentation available as podcast at <http://eunis.dk/podcast>.

Social Events

- Pre-congress Dinner (for pre-congress workshop attendees)
- Pre-congress Dinner (for board members, keynote speakers, and others)
- Visit to the Centre for Advanced Visualization and Interaction (CAVI)
- Euro2008 football BBQ
- Dinner and guided tour at ARoS art museum
- Welcome Reception at City Town Hall and subsequently Gala Dinner at Varna Mansion with entertainment by Sigurd Barrett (see picture)



Special Events

EUNIS Dørup E-learning Award 2008

The EUNIS Dørup E-learning Award is given for the outstanding and innovative application of information technology (IT) in an educational setting in higher education.

The EUNIS Dørup E-learning Award 2008 was received by Andreja Kovacic, Goran Bubas, and Miran Zlatovic from University of Zagreb, Croatia, for the project: “E-tivities with a Wiki: Innovative Teaching of English as a Foreign Language”.



The picture shows from the left: Maj Dørup, Andreja Kovacic, and Miran Zlatovic

The e-learning award was handed out for the first time at the congress in 2008 in commemoration of former Danish EUNIS Board member, associate professor and head of the E-learning Unit at the University of Aarhus, Dr Jens Dørup. The Award is painted and handed out by Maj Dørup, daughter of late Jens Dørup.

EUNIS Best Paper Award 2008

The annual award for the best paper was received by Mikael Berglund from Umeå University, Sweden, for the paper: "Secure Electronic Transcripts of Student Records". The award was handed out by Martin Price, EUNIS Executive Secretary.

Committees

The *EUNIS 2008 Organising Committee* consisted of Mikkel Godsk, Orla Hoppe, Dorte Sidelmann, and Maria Hvid Stenalt, the E-learning Unit and the Administration Computing Office, University of Aarhus.



The Organising Committee. From the left: Mikkel Godsk, Dorte Sidelmann, and Maria Hvid Stenalt

The *EUNIS 2008 Scientific Committee* consisted of Tom Latrup-Pedersen (head of the Scientific Committee, Denmark), Uwe Blotevogel (Germany), Bas Cordewener (Netherlands), Jean-Francois Desnos (France), Yves Epelboin (France), Javier Franco (Spain), Tapani Kalmi (Finland), Markku Kuula (Finland), Jan Madey (Poland), Viljan Mahnic (Slovenia), Martin Price (UK), Arsenio Reis (Portugal), Ligia Ribeiro (Portugal), Andrew Rothery (UK), Peter Tinson (UK), Hans-Dieter Weckmann (Germany), Gordon Young (Ireland), Wojciech Zielinski (Poland), Lars Kayser (Denmark), Tove Bang (Denmark), Orla Hoppe (Denmark), Jørgen Bang (Denmark), Jens Hørluck (Denmark), Lars Qvortrup (Denmark), David Simonsen (Denmark).



The picture shows: Niels Højberg (Director of the Administration, University of Aarhus), Tom Latrup-Pedersen (Head of the Scientific Committee), Orla Hoppe (Organising Committee), Tor Nørretranders (Opening keynote speaker), Mikkel Godsk (Organising Committee), and Dorte Sidelmann (Organising Committee).

Papers

Congress papers are available from: <http://eunis.dk/papers/> (ISBN for electronic publication: 978-87-91234-58-3).

Papers, sponsor information, keynote/invited speaker presentations and abstracts are gathered in the congress book: EUNIS 2008 VISION IT - Visions for IT in Higher Education (publisher: University of Aarhus Universitet, ISBN for printed publication: 978-87-91234-56-9).

Media

6 keynote presentations have been produced as podcasts and are available from the congress website. Additional, a small selection of pictures from the congress is available at the congress website.

Evaluation and Conclusions

Based on an evaluation of the congress sent to every congress attendee and replied by 68, EUNIS 2008 was a success. When asked about the attendants' opinion of the event as a whole 90 % found the congress to be good or excellent:

Your opinion of the event as a whole		
Answer	Count	Percentage
No answer	1	1.47%
Excellent (1)	27	39.71%
Good (2)	34	50.00%
Fair (3)	6	8.82%
Poor (4)	0	0.00%

The main reasons for its success are:

- The opportunities for networking: 93 % excellent/good.
- The congress venue (The Lakeside Lecture Theatres, University of Aarhus): 90 % excellent/good.
- The keynote presentations: 83 % excellent/good.
- The organisation of the congress: 93% excellent/good.
- The efficiency and friendliness of the organising and support team: 95% excellent/good.

For the social events which were focused on the opportunity to network and socialise 80 % found the welcome reception and the gala dinner excellent/good. 13 % of the respondents did not attend the event:

The quality of the welcome reception at the City Hall and the Gala Dinner (Thursday)		
Answer	Count	Percentage
No answer	0	0.00%
Excellent (4)	33	48.53%

Good (3)	23	33.82%
Fair (2)	3	4.41%
Poor (1)	0	0.00%
Did not participate (5)	9	13.24%

There is also room for improvements. The evaluation of EUNIS 2008 indicates that it may be a good idea to:

- Have the congress location closer to the hotels and to inform about the standards of the accommodation and/or book better hotels. 31 % found the suitability and quality of their hotel fair/poor.
- Have fewer but longer paper presentations of higher quality and/or more time for informal discussions. 3 % found the quality of the paper presentations poor and 29 % fair.

The EUNIS 2008 Organising Committee has aimed to organise the congress in spirit of previous EUNIS congresses with up-to-date and relevant themes for IT related professionals at universities, and with a strong focus on ongoing networking and knowledge sharing between EUNIS members, within Europe and beyond. Thus, the EUNIS 2008 Organisation is happy to state that 85% of the respondents are likely to attend future EUNIS congresses and that 90 % found the congress good or excellent.

For further evaluation details and figures please refer to the EUNIS 2008 congress website.

References

- EUNIS 2008 congress website: <http://www.eunis.dk>
- EUNIS 2008 newsfeed: <http://eunis.dk/?feed=rss2>
- EUNIS Organisation website: <http://www.eunis.org>
- The University of Aarhus website: <http://www.au.dk/en>
- The E-learning Unit website: www.e-learning.au.dk
- Podcast website: <http://podcast.au.dk>
- Evaluation of EUNIS 2008: http://eunis.dk/?page_id=150