

# Annual report 2004 Swiss-SD-Chapter

For more than ten years several System Dynamicists (practitioners and academics) have been active in Switzerland. However, System Dynamics has not yet been widely taught at the graduate level. One exception is the University of St.Gallen, where Prof. Markus Schwaninger has been offering System Dynamics courses for several years. This provided a good precondition for an initiative to found a Swiss SD-chapter in 2003. This initiative was taken by Silvia Ulli-Beer, after she came back from an inspiring visit at the University at Albany where she spent a year in residence at the System Dynamics Group.

## **Kick-off meeting on 10 October 2003**

The Swiss SD-Chapter was officially founded at the Kick-off meeting on October 10 th, 2003 at the Tapas Restaurant in Zurich. The guest of honour at the Kick-off meeting was Prof. George Richardson.

At the second chapter meeting on December 5 th, 2003 the Constitution of the Swiss Chapter of the System Dynamics Society was approved and the Council members were elected.

## **Approval from the policy council of the System Dynamics Society on 9 February 2004**

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004 the Swiss-SD-chapter was formally accepted into the System Dynamics Society at its policy council meeting.

## **Activities 2004**

Since its founding the Swiss SD-Chapter has become a learning SD-group with more than 15 active people. They have established several institutions that foster the exchange between the research and application sides of System Dynamics and help to increase the professional standard.

The following institution / structures have been established

- The Swiss-SD-chapter meetings; taking place 4 times a year
- The Roundtable for students in the field of System Dynamics and related disciplines; taking place 6 times a year
- The Practitioner Platform, which will meet the first time on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004
- The Swiss-SD-web-page  
<http://www.ikaof.unibe.ch/forschung/swiss-system-dynamics-chapter/>
- The mentorship of Prof M. Schwaninger
- A Swiss Chapter for System-Dynamics in education founded by the School for Higher Education of Zurich at Winterthur (Zürcher Hochschule Winterthur) on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004
- An address-file of our members and interested persons, being regularly updated (with currently around 40 entries)

Concrete current projects are:

- The Candidature for the 24<sup>th</sup> ISCD 2006 in Switzerland
- The elaboration of a business plan
- The declaration of the membership and billing
- Elaboration of distinct services only for paying members (e.g. free access to the Data Base of SD-models)