

ANNUAL REPORT 2005 SYSTEM DYNAMICS SWISS CHAPTER

Since its founding the Swiss SD-Chapter has become a learning SD-group with more than 15 active members. The System Dynamics Swiss Chapter is a learning community that

- Aims at continuously improving System Thinking and System Dynamics approaches for coping with complexity of feedback systems and their behavior.
- Provides networking, exchange and learning opportunities.
- Fosters the development of joint activities in Switzerland that design and apply integrative systems approaches for coping with complex dynamic issues.
- Aspires to deliver high quality services and to become an internationally recognized contact center for persons that have to deal with complex dynamical social issues.

In 2005, the University of St. Gallen and the University of Lugano agreed to offer institutional support for the maintenance of the webpage and administrative tasks such as address list, annual fees and accounting.

In 2005 a Business-plan has been developed that describes the vision, strategies and main activities of the Swiss Chapter. The activities and projects of the System Dynamics Swiss Chapter are organised within learning communities and are coordinated at chapter meetings. The activities of the learning communities are presented in the following.

1 Chapter meetings

The System Dynamics Swiss Chapter holds a meeting at least three times a year. The goals of the chapter meetings are:

- To provide a discussion and decision forum for all kinds of organizational issues concerning the Swiss Chapter.
- To provide an exchange platform.
- To enhance the formation of learning communities based on common interest topics.
- To support and coordinate all kinds of activities for the advancement of system thinking and system dynamics approaches in Switzerland.

2 Roundtable and modeling workshops for students in the field of system dynamics and related disciplines

The roundtable takes place every three months. The location has up to now always been the University of St. Gallen but in the future will alternate between the University of St. Gallen and the University in Lugano.

Presenters in 2005 have included PhD students from several Swiss universities and practitioners who were interested in sharing their current modeling work with a more academic audience.

In 2005, first modeling workshops providing hands-on modeling experience were organized. Modeling workshops have been successful so far and should be continued.

3 SD in consulting

The learning community focusing on System Dynamics in consulting pursues a common interest in business development. The objective is to provide high quality consulting work with SD that may help to create reference solutions and demonstrate the strengths of SD-consulting approaches.

The main activity of the consulting group is the organization of modeling workshops where participants can propose business cases and the group makes a joint modeling effort.

In 2005, one such case was the development of the business plan of the Swiss Chapter and the position of the Swiss Chapter with respect to SD-related activities in Switzerland.

4 SD in education

The learning community focusing on System Dynamics in education aims at making educational programs in System Dynamics visible and coordinating the exchange between didactical approaches as well as whole educational programs.

In 2005, an inventory of SD-related classes offered by Swiss universities was established. This provides the basis for the long-term goal of establishing a summer school in socioeconomic modelling for Swiss PhD students who work with SD or related modelling approaches.

5 Webpage

The homepage is the main communication tool that reflects the members' interests and activities. Its current form is under discussion and revision.

6 Workshops

The Laboratory of System Modeling (LSM) at the University of Lugano invited the Swiss Chapter to its annual faculty meeting on June 16 and 17 2005. The meeting included a meeting of the Swiss Chapter with the attendance of LSM faculty and adjunct faculty (Pål Davidsen, John Morecroft), presentations by LSM (adjunct) faculty members and discussions about future projects in research and education.

It was agreed that similar annual workshops will be organized collaboratively between LSM and the Swiss Chapter.

BK, 30.06.2005