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# PANEL 4 INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH IN EUROPE 1984-1994

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### Recommended Citation

Land, Frank, "PANEL 4 INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH IN EUROPE 1984-1994" (1989). *ICIS 1989 Proceedings*. 25.  
<http://aisel.aisnet.org/icis1989/25>

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## PANEL 4

### INFORMATION SYSTEMS RESEARCH IN EUROPE 1984-1994

**Panel Chair:** Frank Land, London Business School

**Panelists:** Niels Bjørn-Andersen, Copenhagen Business School  
David W. Conrath, University of Waterloo  
Anna Vari, State University of New York, Albany  
Alex Verrijn-Stuart, Leiden University

The purpose of this panel session is to identify the major actual and potential future contributions to the information systems field of researchers working in Europe. In particular, the session will discuss:

- The European Community's ESPRIT program, which spans the middle ten years of the Conference's twenty year perspective.
- Work sponsored by the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Technical Committee 8, especially the CRIS (Comparative Review of IS Development Methodologies) books and conferences.

In the ESPRIT 1 program (1984-1989), there was a sub-field entitled "Office Systems," which in fact had a broader scope than the title would suggest. To recognize that, the field has been renamed "Integrated Information Systems" for the ESPRIT 2 program (1989-1994).

Within ESPRIT 2, panelists will discuss Project Hector (Harmonized European Concepts and Tools for Organizational IS). This project is particularly significant for this Conference because it is a move toward the standardization of, first, terminology and, later perhaps, tool interfaces in the information systems field. The means chosen for moving toward standardization is the development of a comprehensive model of the information systems development process so that all existing concepts and tools, as well as those under development or still being researched, can be located and categorized in this model.

IFIP established Technical Committee 8 (Information Systems) in 1974. Five Working Groups of this technical committee were formed over the next fifteen years:

- 8.1: Design and Evaluation of Information Systems, formed in 1976
- 8.2: Interaction of Information Systems and the Organization, formed in 1977
- 8.3: Decision Support Systems, established in 1981
- 8.4: Office Systems, established in 1986
- 8.5: Information Systems in Public Administration, established in 1988

While there are United States and Canadian members and officers in Technical Committee 8 and the Working Groups, the "center of gravity" has always been in Europe.

The panelists will discuss major research efforts sponsored by Technical Committee 8.

John Hawgood, PA Consulting Group, the primary organizer of this panel, is unable to attend the Conference.