

EKONOMSKA FAKULTETA LJUBLJANA

RESEARCH PROPOSAL:

INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR DECISION SUPPORT

This research could be considered as a part of broader scientific efforts dealing with the problem of information needs for decision making subjects. Most studies of this kind was (and still is) done in the USA, particularly after a well known Minnesota Experiments were published. By it's concept the proposed research project Information Systems for Decision Support belongs to this research environment, while taking entirely new and original approach to study information needs for different subject types.

The properties of decision making process, which is typical human activity, are well known, recognised and analysed. However, the relationship between information (as a basis for decision making) and decision itself is not so clear, even as it is well known that bad or wrong decisions are mostly based on insufficient or incorrect information.

Decision makers have their own personal characteristics which form their personality. According to this people take in as well as evaluate information in their particular, intimate way. Information systems on the other hand generate information equally, without any concern of personal differences among end users. So the quality of decision, influenced by the same information, will most likely vary from person to person.

The objective of proposed research project is

- to get the initial knowledge on the structure of potential decision maker in business and public environment, and
- to find out how particular subject type reacts on particular type of information.

We believe this will give us a good starting point for search of possible subject behaviour patterns, or even rules, concerning an information acceptance by particular subject type. This will make it possible to set the conditions for developing information systems designed on the basis of end user information needs.

The research should be held in USA and Slovenija simultaneously. Up to 150 subjects on each side should attend MBTI tests followed by two laboratory experiments. Two equal workstations will be needed (one on each side), connected to each other through computer network. For running experiments special programmes should be written, while for data analysis standard statistical packages (like SAS or SPSS) could be applied. The first phase of research could be completed in 3 years.