

## **A word about the COST G6 action**

For the fourth time the DAFx logo has taken another colour. Now it's green, and we are in Ireland. It is a happy situation: The Limerick group around Mikael Fernstrom has proved a never ending creativity as well as a perfect professionalism. I am sure that this DAFx conference, following the Barcelona, Trondheim and Verona versions, will fulfill by all means the need for a true communication between the researchers concerned by "digital audio effects". This new episode of the DAFx story marks in fact a continuation and a change. The DAFx01 comes at the end of the period of time (1997-2001), which covers the existence of the COST G6 action of the same name. Just let us recall what is COST and what is a COST action: COST is an intergovernmental RTD co-operation framework with the mission to co-ordinate nationally funded research efforts. It is an independent initiative (not part of the EU Framework Programme) A COST Action is an agreement between different countries for co-operation and co-ordination of research on a dedicated subject. In the case of COST G6, the subject was "digital audio effects" and this agreement has been signed by ten countries (in alphabetic order):

Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

Up to two delegates were nominated for each country. A COST Action is not providing research funds, but can support the organisation of management committee and working groups meetings, short-term missions and a financial participation to the organisation of workshops and conferences such as this one. This is called a "bottom-up" process and we have seen how powerful this can be.

The results of this four years period are manifold : a book is in print by Wiley and sons, more than two hundred of articles are downloadable on the DAFx conference web sites. Two special issues of "Journal of New Music Research" are dedicated to two specific aspects of DAFx. A sound database has been initialised on a specific web site with a very interesting focus on copyright issues, accompanied by a program database. The benefit is not limited to things: the notion of a community of people working in the field has arisen, which is multicultural and interdisciplinary. This fact is a promise for the arising of new European projects or other COST actions in related domains that can use the progress of DAFx effort.

So is the end of the COST G6 period also the end of DAFx? Not at all! A DAFx02 conference is planned, in a reshaped form, in Hamburg (Germany). The different DAFx web sites are maintained and the databases will expand. The DAFx book will be essential item in the bookshelf of any keen audio effects researcher and may also serve an active pedagogy in universities. And a lot of other things will happen that in some way are due to the fact that at some point people have gathered in a co-operative way of thinking.

Daniel Arfib,  
Chairman of the COST G6 action.