

FORMER MEMBERS NETWORK

‘WE MAKE THE INVISIBLE VISIBLE’

This is the philosophy of MAXIV www.maxiv.se in Lund, Sweden, the world-leading synchrotron light source.

It occupies an extensive site. Inside the MAXIV laboratory technical considerations dominate. Jobs for 270 people, currently of 140 nationalities, are planned for the 20 buildings. The laboratory is open to more than 2 000 researchers working on 25 synchrotron beamlines. The aim is to reveal the smallest structures of any material. MAXIV is financed by Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Finnish and Estonian companies, regions, universities, etc. European cooperation is a recipe for success! The leaflet continues:

At Max IV scientists use intense and well-focused X-rays to examine molecular structures and surfaces in a far more detailed way than before. Researchers in areas such as biology, physics, chemistry, environment, geology, engineering and medicine can utilise this technology. However, the greater part of the research conducted at the facility is basic research, which seeks answers to the question how atoms and molecules form different materials and living organisms.



FP-AP delegates at the meetings in Lund on June 28th 2019

Alongside MAXIV, the FP-AP also visited ESS, the European Spallation Source www.esss.se, on the same site, the IDEON Science Park.

This is – according to the mentioned Leaflet – one of the largest science infrastructure projects being built in Europe today. Designed to generate neutron beams for science, ESS will benefit a broad range of research, from the science to engineering materials, from heritage conservation to magnetism.

It comprises some 500 staff and 1000 companies engaged in research, both within and outside the EU.

ESS interacts with the international research community in order to ensure the scientific breakthroughs of tomorrow, built by the scientists for the scientists, serving as a driver for all of Europe.

The previous day was taken up with the FP-AP seminar entitled ‘Climate Change – what can we do?’, which featured an outstanding panel of experts including Markus Paulsson, Energy Strategist, City of Lund; Lars J Nilsson, Professor of Environmental and Energy System Studies; Fredrik NG Andersson, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics; and Roger Hildingsson, Researcher in the Department of Political Science. Kimberly Nicholas, PhD, Associate Professor in Sustainability Science, took charge of the proceedings. We were there as guests of Lund Kommun (city), represented by Frederik Ljunghill, Municipal Councillor, and of Lund University, whose Vice-Chancellor, Magnificus Torbjörn von Schantz, bade us welcome. The spirit of research in Europe was present throughout.

Visits to the astronomical clock in the Romanesque Lund Cathedral and the Museum of Sketches completed the stay, which was superbly organised in every respect by Rune Ryden, our FP-AP President at the time (see also his report), together with the Secretariat, the 3-member team of Krist Decannière, Lisette Hermans and Roland Roblain.

The current political situation was addressed in particular by Dr Walter Schwimmer, former Secretary-General of the Council of Europe. Our FMA member Jean-Pierre Audy successfully introduced a declaration on the future of the European Union in the light of the May 2019 European elections. He stressed the increased voter numbers and the fact that fears of a landslide victory by far-right parties proved unfounded. These are the closing words of the declaration:

‘Yes, the European elections of May 2019 are good news for the European Union, for peace, fraternity and prosperity for the European people!’

The next seminar will take place in Sardinia in October 2019 and will take as its theme the ‘History of Sardinian Exchanges with the Continent and Mediterranean Countries’. Here too, ‘We make the invisible visible!’

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