aspect of star formation in clusters is
early mass segregation as expected from
N-body models, and Joana Ascenso
cautions against an interpretation with-
cut off careful consideration of the low-
number statistics at the high-mass end.
Mark Gieles examined the short, but
dramatic, phase when expulsion of natal
gas from clusters results in “infant mortal-
ity”. Hans Zinnecker reminded us that
probably up to half of all stars in the Milky
Way form in open clusters.

Stellar populations towards the inner
bulge and bar were reviewed by Fred
Schuller (as seen through ISO, Spitzer,
and APEX), and Livia Origlia (through
characterisation by their kinematical,
chemical and evolutionary properties,
mainly from near-infrared spectroscopy).
Towards the Galactic Centre a some-
what surprisingly high star-forming effi-
ciency and rate are found, as evidenced
either by the strong X-ray emission
(Sergei Nayakshin), or by the apparent
over-abundance of many young O stars
in the immediate surroundings of the
massive black hole at the centre of our
Galaxy (Andrea Stolte), which seems to
bias the IMF in this environment.

Francesco Palla concluded and sum-
marised the workshop with an excellent
‘postlude’. With our current understand-
ing, the ‘problem’ of star formation is
probably not solved. There is a bewilder-
ing diversity of star-forming regions, and
a continuum of star formation from isola-
tion to dense clustering, on many scales,
and no single theory may be able to
catch and explain all relevant processes.
It remains also to be seen if global scal-
ling relations, such as the relation of
gas densities with star-formation rates
known from other galaxies, hold in the
Milky Way.

Coffee breaks including ample snacks,
well-organised poster exhibitions, and
delicious cocktails in the garden of our
Vitacura office contributed to the friendly
and stimulating atmosphere of this
workshop. The conference dinner in the
vineyard Casa del Bosque will remain
a memorable event for many participants.
Many thanks to Maria-Eugenia Gomez
and her team who, once again, managed
flawless and efficient local organisation
for more than 100 guests. We are all look-
ing forward to next year’s ESO workshop
hosted in our ESO-Chile ‘science head-
quarters’!

ESO Workshop on Large Programmes

13–15 October 2008, Garching, Germany

Over the first ten years of science opera-
tions of the VLT, 15 % of the science time
has been devoted to the execution of
Large Programmes. In May 2003, ESO
organised a Large Programmes work-
shop to obtain a first assessment of the
scientific return of Large Programmes.
In agreement with its Observing Pro-
grames Committee (OPC), ESO is plan-
ing a further overview of the scien-
tific results achieved through Large
Programmes conducted at the La Silla
Paranal Observatory. To this effect,
ESO is organising a three-day workshop
in Garching.

The presentations will be followed by a
discussion session on the general scien-
tific impact of ESO facilities.

One of the outcomes of the May 2003
Large Programme workshop was a sug-
gestion that ESO store the legacy data
products of Large Programmes in its sci-
cence archive. This suggestion was imple-
mented with the requirement that Large
Programmes that started after 1 April
2005 deliver Advanced Data Products
(ADP) to the ESO archive at the time
of publication of their results in a refereed
journal. The workshop will also feature
a presentation of the ADP submission
process and a discussion of its value to
the ESO scientific community.

For further details of the workshop,
please refer to http://www.eso.org/sci/
meetings/LP2008/, where the registra-
tion form can also be found. The registra-
tion deadline is 15 July 2008.