

Working Groups

**Special Issue devoted to the EURO Working
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1 Working Groups

For small groups of researchers interested in a specific Operational Research topic, EURO provides an organisational framework in the form of EURO Working Groups. These Groups are a very important part of EURO. They provide a forum for promoting research in the areas represented by EURO.

Active EURO Working Groups have a meeting at least once a year where the members exchange ideas, experiences and research results, and support each other in research work. In addition to their annual meetings, the groups also have other ways of working; for example they organise sessions in conferences, publish feature issues of the European Journal of Operational Research or other OR journals, and organise conferences or seminars.

History

Several EURO Working Groups were established at EURO I and have been active ever since. Others have followed in their wake and some have been dissolved. An account of the early history (up to 1983) can be found in J. Krarup, Profiles of the European Working Groups, EJOR 15 (1984) 13-37.

Since 1993, the liaison officer between EURO and the Working Groups is the Vice President 2. Each Spring issue of the EURO Bulletin contains a report of the activities of the Working Groups prepared by Vice President 2 of EURO.

EURO Working Groups: a contact forum for OR researchers

The European OR research community has a long tradition in organising working groups on many aspects of Operational Research. The first EURO Working Groups date back to 1975 and are still active. In the meantime, new fields of OR became hot topics and their own Working Groups were created. Since the year 2000, six new Working Groups were formed, and a further one is planned for 2004. At the EURO Conference in Budapest, the Working Group on Human Centered Processes (HCP) started its activities. Also in Budapest, Working Groups on experimental economics and on metaheuristics were discussed. These two Working Groups E-CUBE (European Working Group on Experimental Economics) and EU-ME (European Chapter on Metaheuristics) commenced their activities at the start of the year 2001. The European Working Group on Ethics and OR started its life in 2001 at the EURO conference in Rotterdam. The two newest groups are ESICUP, the EURO Special Interest Group on Cutting and Packing, and OR in Agriculture and Forest management. Both groups will hold their first meetings in 2004.

Currently, EURO hosts 27 Groups, although one of them appears to be inactive at present. One new Group has been created in 2004. These facts reveal that the original initiative of EURO to install such an organisational framework has proven to be very successful. A major reason for their success lies with the EURO Working Group co-ordinators. By their personal effort to motivate and organise the activities of their respective Groups, they contribute in an essential way to the organisation of special sessions in conferences and/or to the publication of relevant papers in special issues of the European Journal of Operational Research or other OR-related journals. The success of EURO Working Groups can also be attributed to the individual members, many of which find an opportunity to meet on a regular basis. At specialised Working Group meetings, they may exchange ideas, experiences and ongoing research results with colleagues interested in the same OR topic before an actual publication is produced. As a consequence, many fruitful European research partnerships are emerging.

Why not join a EURO Working Group?

Individual members of any EURO member society can benefit from joining a EURO Working Group in several ways: usually the Groups organise regular meetings which provide an excellent means to meet colleagues working in the same field, to exchange ideas and research results, and to find new scientific partners. Through the efforts of the Working Group Coordinators, these meetings take place in a friendly and stimulating atmosphere. By organising special issues of the European Journal of Operational Research or other OR-related journals, members of a Working Group have a better and more effective outlet for publicising their ideas and results. Cooperation within the Groups is smooth, and the personal relations among members of the Group can be described best with the word friendship.

Being a EURO Working Group means organisational and financial support by EURO. Organisations can find an ideal partner from Working Groups when they wish to cooperate with researchers from universities or other research establishments. With these partners, companies can form a research project for which additional funding may be

obtained by one of the research programs of the European Union. (Members planning such a project and support are advised to contact the secretariat of EURO.)

For EURO, the Working Groups provide continuity in research. The Groups are a very important part of EURO, and the work of the co-ordinators and the members of the groups is very well respected and appreciated.

If you want to get more information about a EURO Working Group or to join one, contact either the co-ordinator of the Group or the second vice-president of EURO.

How to create a EURO Working Group?

If a group of researchers and/or practitioners cannot find an established EURO Working Group with the OR topic that interests them, it is possible to submit to the EURO Executive Committee a proposal for a new EURO Working Group. There are certain requirements that such a group has to meet:

1. As far as possible, the EURO Working Groups should bring together people with different professional backgrounds, i.e. researchers, practitioners and OR educators.
2. The group should ideally have a European membership. This requirement is met if at least 4, but possibly 5 or 6 European countries are represented at each meeting, and if the meetings do not take place too often in the same country.
3. Any group should be open to any individual member of any EURO member society. In some exceptional cases, persons that are not members of a national OR society can also be accepted.

Becoming a EURO Working Group brings duties and advantages to the group. One of the duties is that the co-ordinators of the Working Groups have to report yearly on their activities to EURO (see the reports below). One of the advantages is that the Working Group obtains organisational support from EURO. EURO K conferences provide time and space for the meetings of the Groups, and the meetings can be set within the framework of the conference itself. Nowadays, several Working Groups organise their meetings on the day(s) before a EURO K conference starts, or on the day after it finishes. EURO also supports Working Groups by offering an opportunity to use the EURO Bulletin as the Group's newsletter. Another advantage is that a Working Group obtains financial support from EURO. Funding can be granted, for example, to help cover administrative costs in the establishment of a new EURO Working Group, and occasionally for seminar/workshop expenses such as the costs of inviting guest speakers or for subsidising students who attend the meeting. More details on the organisation and activities of Working Groups are stated in the charter of the EURO Working Groups.

More information about Working Groups can be obtained from EURO. The EURO-officer in charge of Working Groups is the second vice-president.

2 Charter of the EURO Working Groups

The following charter, adopted by the EURO Council, organizes the functioning of EWGs

Creation of groups

The creation of new EWG's should be left to individual initiative, as has previously been the case. Nonetheless, it might be useful to distinguish between cases:

1. creation during a EURO K Conference
2. creation between EURO K and EURO K-1
3. creation arising from a EURO SUMMER INSTITUTE

In case (i), a convener can for instance begin by using the notice board to propose to interested persons to meet at specified time and place in an informal way. If he gets enough people together and if they agree upon a tentative schedule of activity, they produce a short report which is forwarded to the EURO Executive Committee; the latter can then either deliver the EURO label at once or await a further meeting of the group.

In case (ii), the convener either applies first to the Executive Committee, who will decide whether and under what conditions they will help, or he tries under his own initiative to get together enough people interested to work in this area, and then applies to the Executive Committee.

In case (iii) the participants at a ESI present the proposal to the Executive Committee.

In all cases the EURO label means that EURO considers itself well enough informed about the group to include it in its list of official activities. The foundation of the group should be announced in the EURO Bulletin.

Activities

EURO does not try to impose unified regulations for Working Groups. Nonetheless, a few general principles are strongly recommended.

1. The EWG's should as far as possible bring together people with different backgrounds: industry, university, etc...
2. They should be actually international in composition; this requirement is met satisfactorily if at least 4, but possibly 5 or 6 nations are represented at each meeting, and if the meetings do not take place too often in the same country.
3. Groups should be open to individual members of any EURO member society. Persons who are not members of a national OR society are not excluded from the meetings; however, a friendly pressure should be exerted upon them to become members.
4. If one of the EWG's plans a joint meeting with some other (e.g. professional) body, it should provide EURO with general information about the latter. In some cases EWGs can become the European representatives to scientific associations based in other parts of the world. This must be approved by the Executive Committee.
5. As a general rule, EURO K Conferences will provide time and space for meetings of the EWG's if they so wish and at least for these particular meetings, no entrance fee should be requested from participants.
6. Routine internal information about the groups, such as announcements of future meetings and short reports on previous meetings should be conveyed to the Vice- President in charge of Working Group and published in the EURO Bulletin. Each chairman must send the information directly to the Editor of the EURO Bulletin.
7. The Vice-President in charge of Working Groups should automatically become a member of all Working Groups during his period of office. This will make it easier for him to keep in touch with the Working Groups.
8. The Vice-President in charge of Working Groups will keep an updated list of names and co-ordinators of the Working Groups and will produce a yearly report of their activities.
9. The EWGs will use stationary displaying the EURO symbol and mention their affiliation in all their activities.
10. The EURO Council may accept the existence of Special Interest Groups with closed membership wherever this appears to be justified.

Dissolution of groups

There are two possible cases for the dissolution of a EURO WORKING GROUP:

- The chairman of the group feels that, for some reason, the group can not go on with its activity and he so informs EURO.
- The Executive Committee ascertains that the group has in fact stopped its activities or has taken a direction that is inconsistent with the goals of EURO.

In both cases, the Executive Committee can either try to restore a better situation or remove the group from the list of EWG's.

Financial arrangements

1. EURO may cover the following expenses related to
 - (a) Administration
 - Printing costs of common stationery (the EURO support is proportional to the number of members of the EWG and to the number of annual news letters distributed).
 - Printing of a special issue of the EURO Bulletin containing the yearly reports of the activities of EWGs to be distributed during the EURO K Conferences and directly to OR Societies.
 - Cost of a yearly meeting of EWGs co-ordinators, over lunch, during the EURO K Conferences, travelling expenses excluded.
 - Administrative costs related with the establishment of new EWGs (first two years of activity) where alternative financing cannot be found.
 - Common costs related to the new establishment and the management of a specific WWW for a EURO Working Group.
 - (b) Scientific activities EURO provides financial support to the EWGs upon a "reserve budget" for following expenses:
 - Travel and accommodation costs of invited guest speakers (non members of the EWG).
 - Travel and accommodation costs of EWG members from weak currency countries such as actually the Eastern European countries.
 - Costs of initiating and/or publishing results of EWG activities.
 - Costs for invited survey contributions on specific EWG related topics to be submitted for publication in EURO journals.
 - Travel and accommodation costs for young OR researchers (actual Ph.D. students and post-doctoral researchers for a period not exceeding two years after their Ph.D. defense).
- Each financial support has to be approved by the EURO Officer responsible for EWGs and is paid out by the EURO treasurer on the basis of corresponding effective cost statements with original receipts joined.
2. EURO encourages and supports activities that can further the scientific objectives of the EWGs, promote their activities and raise funds. Namely:
 - (a) Mini EURO Conferences The EWGs are encouraged to organise such conferences within the general rules established by EURO.
 - (b) Other meetings Experience shows that some of the groups take advantage of the EURO K Conferences to organise their own meetings, either as side meetings or within the framework of the conferences itself. This is a good policy, but it should not prelude organising meetings between the conferences. Although EWG's may in some cases request a small financial contribution from the members who participate in their meetings, they are usually not supposed to handle significant amounts of money. In the case of their wishing to organise some specific colloquium, seminar, etc., which involves more finance, they can apply to the treasurer of EURO with a specific budget; in such cases efforts should be made on both sides to reach an agreement regarding possible profits or losses.
 - (c) Special issues of EJOR The EWGs are encouraged to produce special issues of EJOR after consultation with and approval by EJOR editors. Fifty per cent of the royalties accruing from those issues would be made available to support scientific activities of the EWG. The money would be held by EURO and paid out by the treasurer to cover specific expenses after approval by the Vice-President responsible for EWGs.

3 EWG MCDA, Multiple Criteria Decision Aiding

3.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.inescc.pt/~ewgmcda>

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Members: The current membership is approximately 340. In 1975, the group consisted of 29 members from 5 different countries. Among the present members, 42 were already members in 1980. Currently, 23 countries are represented. During recent years, each meeting attracted 5 to 20 new members (with an average of 13). These figures show how lively the group is terms of meetings and participation.

3.2 Purpose and history

Multicriteria decision aiding is an important branch of Operational Research. Beyond the exchanges and meetings which already exist by means of international conferences and publications in scientific journals, the objectives of the working group are the following:

- to contribute to the development, at a European level, of an original way of thinking in the field of multicriteria decision aiding;
- to allow each member of the group to present to others methodological, theoretical or applied results, to submit his/her own work and thoughts to critical discussion by the group, and also to facilitate collaboration;
- to develop multicriteria aid for decisions by facilitating contact between all people interested in the subject, and by stimulating continuity and progress in exchanges and work;
- to keep the group alive and open by means of bi-annual meetings which should not be mini-conferences but real meetings favourable to exchanges and to the emergence of new ideas.

The working group was created at EURO I (Brussels, 1975). Since that time, two meetings are held each year, in Spring and Autumn. The 60 meetings have been organised by members from 16 different countries.

3.3 Past activities

The 59th meeting: Brest, France, April 29-30, 2004. Organizers: J.P. Barthélémy, Ph. LencaViterbo, Italy, March 27-28, 2003. Organizers: A. Scarelli, L. Venzi.

The 60th meeting: Tilburg, The Netherlands, October 14-15, 2004. Organizer: B. Van de Walle.

3.4 Future activities

The 61st meeting: Luxembourg, Luxembourg, March 10-11, 2005. Organizers: R. Bisdorff, J.L. Marichal, P. MeyerJ.P. Barthélémy, Ph. Lenca.

The 62nd meeting: Borlänge, Sweden, September 22-23, 2005. Organizers: S.O. Larsson, J.E. Nilsson, A. Grummas.

4 EWG EUROFUSE, Fuzzy sets

4.1 General information

Web site: <http://allserv.ugent.be/~bdebaets/eurofuse.html>

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Members: EUROFUSE currently has 198 members from 39 countries.

4.2 Purpose and history

Although fuzzy logic and fuzzy set theory cover much wider subjects than operational research itself, these topics have nevertheless several important connections with OR (for instance, in the fields of mathematical programming, preference modelling and its applications in multi-criteria decision aid, representation and exploitation of non-stochastic types of uncertainty, etc.). The purpose of EUROFUSE is to communicate and to promote the knowledge of the theory of fuzzy sets and related areas and their applications.

The working group was created at EURO I (Brussels, 1975). In 1985, the group constituted itself as the European Chapter of IFSA, the International Fuzzy Systems Association. From 1975 to 1979 it was run by H.-J. Zimmermann, from 1979 until 1986 by C. Carlsson, from 1986 until 1993 by M. Roubens, and for a period by H. Hellendoorn. It was more or less inactive for several years following a meeting in Hungary (Visegrad, 1990). However, at the beginning of 1998, two new coordinators were appointed and the working group was brought back to life under the

name EUROFUSE. At the same time, as IFSA is no longer composed of chapters, EUROFUSE no longer represents the European Chapter of it. In 1999, EUROFUSE has joined EUSFLAT, the European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technology, as the Working Group focusing on operations research issues in the area.

4.3 Past activities

- Fifth EUROFUSE Meeting: EUROFUSE Workshop on Scheduling and Planning (Mons, Belgium, March 31-April 1, 2000). (25 participants)
- Third International Workshop on Preferences and Decisions (Trento, Italy, June 8-10, 2000): one day dedicated to the publication of the book "Preferences and Decisions under Incomplete Knowledge".
- Invited sessions at the Eight International Conference on Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-Based Systems (Madrid, Spain, July 3-7, 2000).
- Sixth EUROFUSE Meeting: EUROFUSE Workshop on Preference Modelling and Applications (Granada, Spain, April 25-28, 2001). (60 participants)
- Seventh EUROFUSE Meeting: EUROFUSE Workshop on Information Systems (Varenna, Italy, September 23-25, 2002). (55 participants)
- Workshop on Principles of Fuzzy Preference Modelling and Decision Making (Ghent, Belgium, December 1-3, 2003). (35 participants)
- Eight EUROFUSE Meeting: EUROFUSE Workshop on Data and Knowledge Engineering (Warsaw, Poland, September 22-25, 2004). (75 participants)

4.4 Future activities

- Ninth EUROFUSE Meeting: EUROFUSE Anniversary Workshop on Fuzzy for Better (Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro, June 15-17, 2005).

4.5 Publications

- "Preferences and Decisions under Incomplete Knowledge" (J. Fodor, B. De Baets and P. Perny, eds.), Series: Studies in Fuzziness and Soft Computing 51, Physica-Verlag, 2000, 224 p. (ISBN 3-7908-1303-6).
- Special Issue of Fuzzy Sets and Systems on "Preference Modelling and Applications" (Volume 137, Number 1, 2003). (Guest editors: B. De Baets, M. Delgado, J. Fodor, F. Herrera, E. Herrera-Viedma and L. Martinez).
- Special Issue of EJOR on "Fuzzy Sets in Scheduling and Planning" (Volume 147, Number 2, 2003). (Guest editor: Ph. Fortemps).
- Special Issue of Internat J. Intelligent Systems on "Preference Modelling and Applications" (Volume 18, Number 7, 2003). (Guest editors: B. De Baets, M. Delgado, J. Fodor, F. Herrera, E. Herrera-Viedma and L. Martinez).
- "Principles of Fuzzy Preference Modelling and Decision Making" (B. De Baets and J. Fodor, eds.), Academia Press, 2003, 265 p. (ISBN 9038205678).
- Current Issues in Data and Knowledge Engineering (B. De Baets, R. De Caluwe, G. De Tré, J. Fodor, J. Kacprzyk and S. Zadrozny, eds.), EXIT, 2004, 572 p. (ISBN 8387674710)

5 EWG ORAHS, OR applied to health services

5.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~orahsweb>

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Members: The group has at present 112 members from 22 countries, mainly in Europe but also with 17 from overseas.

5.2 Purpose and history

The EURO Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services (ORAHS) represents a network of persons involved in the application of systematic, quantitative analysis in support of planning and management in the health services sector.

ORAHS was formed in 1975 as part of a programme for developing special interest groups within the European branch (EURO) of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS).

Membership is open to persons with an interest in applying systematic, quantitative analysis to planning and management problems in the health area.

Operational Research (OR) is systematic, quantitative analysis in support of rational policy and decision making. This umbrella concept of operational research covers many analytic approaches and methods, such as simulation modelling, mathematical programming, decision analysis, cost effectiveness analysis, development of indicators, and methods for forecasting, monitoring and evaluation. The emphasis in ORAHS lies not on the techniques as such, but on applying these to health care.

The objectives of the group are:

- communication of ideas, knowledge and experience concerning the application of OR approaches and methods to problems in the health services area;
- co-operation on the form of mutual assistance between members or on joint projects;
- inspiration with regard to approaches and attitudes in the field of applied OR.

5.3 Past activities

The group meets every year, each summer, for one week in a different European host country. The annual meeting in 2001 was held in Vienna (organized by Marion Rauner). "Quantitative Approaches in Health Care Management": Proceedings of the 27th Meeting of the EURO Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services, Marion Sabine Rauner and Kurt Heidenberger (eds.), ISBN 3-631-39009-2, Peter Lang, Frankfurt am Main 2003. In 2002 the annual meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro (organized by Mario Jorge Ferreira de Oliveira). "Accessibility and Quality of Health Services": Proceedings of the 28th Meeting of the EURO Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services, Mario Jorge Ferreira de Oliveira (ed.), ISBN 3-631-52016-6, Peter Lang, Frankfurt am Main 2004. The meeting in 2003 was held in Prague, Czech Republic, and was organized by Martin Dlouhy.

”Modelling Efficiency and Quality in Health Care””: Proceedings of the 29th Meeting of the EURO Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services, Martin Dlouhý (ed.), ISBN 80-245-0775-7, University of Economics, Prague.

The 30th Meeting was held from June 27th till July 2nd 2004 in Stockholm, organized by Marten Lagergren. The theme of the meeting was ’Quantitative methods in aged care planning and operations’. The proceedings are in the process of being published.

Meetings are open to anyone with a quantitative background and an interest in the subject area, although numbers may be restricted to ensure that open debate is practicable. During the meetings, papers are presented and discussed, computer applications demonstrated and decisions regarding group affairs prepared and taken.

Associated with the meetings, study tours to local healthcare facilities are arranged with opportunities to discuss planning and management problems with local health services managers. A well-developed social programme gives good opportunities for informal discussions and friendly get-togethers with members and accompanying families.

Papers presented at the meetings cover a range of different projects, approaches and methods. Studies at strategic, operational and tactical levels have included the planning of health services systems, resource allocation, investment analysis, manpower planning, admission planning, staff scheduling, performance measurement, quality assurance and the use of information systems to improve decision support. The proceedings of the meetings are often produced as a publication. Besides the annual meetings, the Working Group also engages in different joint projects and activities.

The Working Group has also jointly produced a series of management courses and seminars in different countries on decision support for managing change in Health Care.

To facilitate contacts and co-operation, a register of members is kept, which gives addresses, telephone and fax numbers. See the website.

5.4 Future activities

In 2005 the annual meeting of the Working Group will take place in Southampton, UK, from July 31 to August 5, University of Southampton. Sally Brailsford (scb@socsci.soton.ac.uk) is the organizer. The theme of the meeting is ”OR for Health Policy: Making Better Decisions”. Conference website: <http://www.management.soton.ac.uk/orahs>

The 2005 meeting will be held in parallel with a EURO Summer Institute on OR in Health, from July 24 to August 5. For more information on this ESI, see: <http://www.management.soton.ac.uk/esi>

Preliminary arrangements for meetings have been made for 2006 (Wroclaw, Poland, organizer: Marek Lubicz, lubicz@ioz.pwr.wroc.pl).

More information on these future activities but also on the past meetings can be found via the website of the Working Group: <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~orahsweb>

5.5 Publications

Some years ago the Working Group through its then chairman Duncan Boldy, produced a ”state of the art” book on the subject of ”OR applied to Health Services” (Croom Helm 1980). A more recent book entitled ”Enhancing Health Services Management” (Open University Press, 1997) has been edited by two members of the group, Steve Cropper and Paul Forte, and many of the chapters were contributed by other members. Feature issues of EJOR were produced in 1987 and 1998. As a follow-up of the Vienna meeting in 2001, a new Feature Issue of EJOR on ”OR Applied to Health Services” has been published (OR Applied to Health Services. European Journal of Operational Research, M. Rauner and J.M.H. Vissers (eds.), Volume 150, Issue 1, Pages 1-114, October 2003).

6 EWG EUROBANKING, Special interest group in banking

6.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.eurobankingonline.net>

Coordinator: Dr. Antti Korhonen
Tikasniityntie 6 A
FIN-02200 Espoo
Finland

Phone: +358 9 452 3930, Mobile +358 50 548 1050

Fax:

Email: korhonen.indeksi@kolumbus.fi

Members: Over 100.

6.2 Purpose and history

The group was set up in 1975 in Brussels as The European Working Group on Operational Research in Banking at the EURO 1 Conference sponsored by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS). Since renamed Eurobanking, the group has arranged 32 meetings at which over 900 papers have been presented and discussed.

The purpose of the group is to provide a forum for professionals in European banks to exchange and discuss ideas about the techniques, experience, philosophy and application of operational research and other quantitative and analytic techniques to bank management. It is also a forum for promoting wider understanding of these approaches amongst management, and meetings also include sessions devoted to broader strategic issues facing European banks at which distinguished external speakers are invited to present their views.

6.3 Past activities

The group holds an annual meeting which is limited in size to a maximum of about 75 participants to ensure active participation and involvement of those attending. Some 35 papers are presented over three days in a number of workshops.

The group organizes itself on a voluntary basis through a network of National Coordinators, one for each of the 23 countries currently represented in the group. A different country hosts the meeting each year, and the National Coordinator of the host country normally acts as the Chairman. There is no formal central resource, though one of the members is acting as Secretary General to the group for a number of years to provide a focal point and continuity. National Coordinators meet with the Chairman and the Secretary General twice a year as the Executive Committee. The addresses of the National Coordinators are listed in www.eurobankingonline.net.

The 2004 meeting was hosted by Hungarian Foreign Trade Bank in Budapest on May 17-19. The programme included 32 presentations in sessions covering Strategic Management, Distribution Channels, Credit Risk, Asset & Liability Management, Basel II and Mergers & Acquisitions.

6.4 Future activities

The next Eurobanking meeting will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark on May 22-25, 2005. The meeting is hosted by Nordea and the Chairman is Mr Jens Holten Larsen (e-mail jens.holten.larsen@nordea.com). The programme includes sessions on Emerging Markets and Offers to Customers, Planning and Control, Risk Strategy, Strategic Management, Credit Risk Management, Market Risk Management, Financial Fragility and Country Risk, and Networking. The 2006 Eurobanking meeting will be hosted by Croatia.

7 EWG EWGLA, Locational analysis

7.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.vub.ac.be/EWGLA>

Coordinator: Frank PLASTRIA
MOSI (Department of Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics and Information systems for Management)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Pleinlaan 2
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium

Phone: +32 2 6293609 (Office), +32 2 6293607 (Secretary)
Fax: +32 2 6293690
Email: Frank.Plastria@vub.ac.be

Members: May 2005: 192 (see the full list on our website).

To become a member of EWGLA (free of any charge), print out the application form available on the website, fill in your data and send it by groundmail to the coordinator.

There will be no formal meeting of EWGLA in 2005, because of the INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LOCATIONAL DECISIONS (ISOLDE X) in Sevilla and Huelva, Spain, June 2-8, 2005.

organised and attended by most EWGLA members

7.2 Purpose and history

EWGLA is a Working Group devoted to Locational Analysis within EURO. It was born during the first EURO Summer Institute, held at Brussels, July/August 1984, devoted to the subject of Location Theory. The main aim of starting up the Working Group was to provide a network of people working together in the field of Locational Analysis and to keep continuity in the exchanges between the Summer Institute's participants. Since that time the group has experienced important growth, in particular thanks to the Twelfth EURO Summer Institute, again devoted to Location theory, and held at Puerto de La Cruz, Tenerife, Spain, June 1995. The scope and purpose of the group have strongly evolved. Friendship among its members continues however to play an important role.

Topics

The subjects of interest to the group are of many kinds, centering on the optimal choice of locations for one or more objects (usually called facilities), within any framework (the classical settings being discrete, network and planar). Many other fields have direct connections with locational analysis and location theory, either by subject such as transportation and routing, supply chain management, environmental studies, layout and design, data and cluster analysis, or as techniques, like mathematical (linear, integer, non-linear, convex, global, ...) programming, multicriteria analysis, approximation theory, computational geometry, statistics, etc.

EWGLA has become a vehicle of communication between all persons interested in Location and related topics in Operations Research in Europe and abroad. The major goal is to stimulate the exchange of information and collaboration in research and applications, and to promote the ideas and methods developed within the field. Several instruments are used to this end.

Meetings

The group holds yearly meetings organised by one of its members (see details below). Anyone interested in presenting their work, participating in the discussions, or more simply learning and/or consulting about subjects related with locational analysis may join the group and its meetings; their participation will be greatly appreciated. Either theoretical

contributions (concepts, methods, etc.), applied research, and the presentation of software, are welcome. Communications, discussions or surveys on new applications, open problems, connections between the field of location theory and related areas are of interest. These meetings have always been an enjoyable and very friendly come together of a relatively small but cosy, enthusiastic and energetic group, stimulated by their common centre of interest. Refereed proceedings of each meeting are usually published, and provided free of charge to the participants.

Communication Communication within the group is achieved in two main ways: the website and the list-server.

Website The first contact-point is the EWGLA website. This website is a tool for first contact and/or entry in the field, for researchers working in the field, and last but not least for anyone in need of information about the field of location analysis in view of applications. It is our primary means of promotion, communication and open entry point to anyone interested in the topic of location.

Anyone interested in detailed and/or up to date information around Locational Analysis and EWGLA is advised to check this site. The website first provides a general literature list and access to large bibliographies and information about software; and second gives general information about our group, its meetings and other activities, a member-list, and news related to the group's centres of interest. Recently it has been supplemented by a FAQ with technical questions on location, and a list of timely happenings and opportunities.

Listserver The second and more direct way of communicating between the members was established through the EWGLA list-server. Any message sent to the server by a member of this e-mail discussion group was bounced to all other members. This automatic service has become inoperative, and has provisionally been replaced by a "manual" system. Regularly messages are sent around by the coordinator concerning conferences, new publications and other information related to and/or of interest to the members. Members or other interested should send their messages to the moderator.

To take part in this service just become a member of EWGLA, mentioning that you want to join the list.

7.3 Past activities

EWGLA 15

The XV International Meeting on Locational Analysis, organized by S.Nickel, was held at the Saarland University in Saarbrücken, Germany from September 5-8,2004.

Meeting website

Brief report

The XV Meeting of the Euro Working Group on Locational Analysis was organized by Prof. Dr. Stefan Nickel (Chair of Operations Research and Logistics, Saarland University) and was held in Saarbrücken from September 5 to 8, 2004. The city of Saarbrücken is the capital of Saarland, which is one of the federal states of Germany. It lies on the border between France and Germany and, therefore, in the very heart of Europe.

Overall, more than 50 participants coming from 16 different countries (including Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Portugal, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, The Netherlands and the USA) took part in the meeting. Financial support came from the GOR, the IDS Scheer AG and the Vereinigung der Freunde der Universität des Saarlandes e.V. for which we once more express our gratitude.

A total of 35 scientific papers were presented and discussed at the meeting. Thereby, the time limit for each presentation was set to 20 minutes. Moreover, a period of 10 minutes for questions was scheduled for each session. However, parallel sessions have been avoided in order to focus on the respective presentations and to enhance discussions.

The topics presented at the meeting covered the following areas:

· Continuous, network and discrete location problems · Competitive location problems · p-median problem · Ordered median problems · Applications of location problems

The general opinion of the participants was that the majority of the talks was of high quality and that theoretical as well as practical issues have been addressed adequately. Therefore, a lot of interesting and fruitful discussions evolved and various ideas for new research directions were proposed.

In addition to the scientific programme a social programme has also been organized whereas the Welcome Reception was held at the Botanical Garden of Saarland University. Furthermore, the conference dinner took place at a restaurant in France which is located just behind the border.

Several organizational issues concerning the EWGLA were discussed in the EWGLA-session and the city of Dakar in Senegal was proposed for the next EWGLA-meeting in 2006. Moreover, the ISOLDE-meeting 2005 in Seville was presented briefly by one of its organizers.

4.11.04 Stefan Nickel

Earlier Meetings

Detailed information about each meeting is available through the EWGLA website.

EWGLA1 - Nov. 27-28, 1985, Dijon, France. Org. R. Durier and C. Michelot. EWGLA2 - Oct 9-10, 1986, Herceg-Novci, Yugoslavia, Org. N. Mladenovic and J. Petric. EWGLA3 - Sept 21-24, 1988, Sevilla, Spain. Org. B. Pelegrin and F. R. Fernandez. EWGLA4 - July 3-6, 1989, Chios, Greece. Org. B. Boffey and J. Karkazis. EWGLA5 - Sept 3-6, 1990, Namur, Belgium. Org. F. Orban-Ferauge and J. P. Rasson. EWGLA6 - April 20-25, 1992, Puerto de la Cruz, Spain, Org. J. M. Moreno. EWGLA7 - May 9-11, 1994, Brussels, Belgium. Org. F. Plastria. EWGLA8 - Sept 24-28, 1995, Lambrecht, Germany. Org. H. Hamacher and S. Nickel. EWGLA9 - Sept 5-8, 1996, Birmingham, United Kingdom. Org. S. Said and B. Boffey. EWGLA10 - Feb 10-13, 1998, Murcia, Spain. Org. B. Pelegrin. EWGLA11- ISOLDE VIII (triannual International Symposium On Locational Decisions), June 23-29 1999, Coimbra/Estoril (Portugal), Org. J. Coutinho-Rodrigues and A. Antunes. EWGLA12 - Dec 14- 17, 2000, Barcelona, Spain, Org. D. Serra. EWGLA13 - Nov 28 - Dec 2, 2001, Volos, Greece, Org. Y. Photis. EWGLA14 - Sep 11 - 13, 2003, Corfu, Greece, Org. M. Dimopoulou, I. Giannikos. EWGLA15 - Sep 5-8, 2004, Saarbruecken, Germany, Org. S.Nickel.

7.4 Future activities

ISOLDE 10

The next INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON LOCATIONAL DECISIONS (ISOLDE X) will be held in Sevilla and Huelva, Spain, June 2-8, 2005,organised by J.A.Mesa.

The working group will meet within this wider location oriented activity.

EWGLA 16 will be held in Dakar, Senegal, in 2006.

7.5 Publications

III Meeting EURO Working Group on Locational Analysis, 226p. Editor: B. PELEGRIN. Publicaciones de la Universidad de Sevilla, 1988, ISBN: 84-7405-419-2

EWGLA4 - Proceedings, 249 p. Editors: J. KARKAZIS and T.B. BOFFEY. Studies in Locational Analysis, Vol 1.

Proceedings of Meeting V of the EURO Working Group on Locational Analysis, 203p. Editors: F. ORBAN-FERAUGE and J.P. RASSON. Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de La Paix, Namur, 1990

Proceedings of VI meeting of the EURO Working Group on Locational Analysis, 215p. Editor: J. A. MORENO-PEREZ. Universidad de La Laguna, Departamento de Estadística, Investigación Operativa y Computación, Serie Informes no. 34, 1992. ISBN 84-7756-369-1

EWGLA 7 Proceedings, 225 p. Editor: F. PLASTRIA. Studies in Locational Analysis, Vol 7, 1994.

Recent Advances in Locational Analysis, 176 p. Editors: H. HAMACHER, K. KLAMROTH and S. NICKEL (sponsored by EURO). Studies in Locational Analysis, Issue 10, 1996.

EWGLA9 Proceedings, 241 p. Editors: B. BOFFEY and S. SAID (sponsored by EURO). Studies in Locational Analysis, Issue 11, 1997.

Selected papers of EWGLA 10, 291p. Editor: B.PELEGRIN (sponsored by EURO). Studies in Locational Analysis, Issue 14, 2000.

Check the website <http://www.vub.ac.be/EWGLA/STUDIES/main.html>.

8 EWG ESIGMA, Special interest group on multicriteria analysis

8.1 General information

Web site:

Coordinator: Prof. Theodor Stewart
University of Cape Town
Department of Statistical Sciences
Rondebosch 7701
South Africa

Phone: +27 21 650 3224

Fax: +27 21 650 4773

Email: tjstew@stats.uct.ac.za

Newsletter: One or two issues per year plus some e-mail circulars.

Members: 117

8.2 Purpose and history

At the end of the Second EURO Summer Institute (Brussels, July 1985) devoted to Multicriteria Analysis, the participants expressed a strong interest in continuing to work together. This was the result of three weeks of fruitful and friendly collaboration. So, the idea was born to create a new working group on Multicriteria Analysis. Up to 1997, the working group met on either the day before, or the day after, the annual EURO Conference. In years in which there was no EURO meeting (i.e. when the triennial IFORS conference takes place), another time was chosen, often in association with our sister working group on Multicriteria Aid for Decisions. At the 1997 working group meeting, it was agreed to integrate meetings of ESIGMA as special streams within the EURO meetings, and meetings in this format have been the norm since then, with the exception of the EURO 2001 meeting in Rotterdam.

One of the characteristic features of the ESIGMA meetings is the use of "oriented discussion sessions", rather than the regular paper presentation format. An invited speaker makes a presentation on a (preferably controversial) topic, after which a few invited discussants introduce areas of debate, controversy or discussion. The floor is then open to all delegates to share their views or to pose key questions. It is usual for the discussion to continue for longer than the original presentations.

The following is the full list of meetings of ESIGMA (and their respective organisers):

1st Lisbon, Portugal, September 19-20, 1986 (Carlos A. Bana e Costa) 2nd Brussels, Belgium, March 25-26, 1987 (Philippe Vincke) 3rd Paris, France, July 6-8, 1988 (Denis Bouyssou and Daniel Vanderpooten) 4th Belgrade, Yugoslavia, June 25-26, 1989 (Serafim Opricovic, Djura Kutlace, and Olga Memedovic) 5th Athens, Greece, June 24, 1990 (Denis Yannacopoulos) 6th Aachen, Germany, July 16, 1991 (Brigitte Werners) 7th Helsinki, Finland, June 28, 1992 (Pekka Salminen and Mari Pöyhönen) 8th Lisbon, Portugal, July 11, 1993 (Carlos A. Bana e Costa and Jose F. Rafael) 9th Glasgow, Scotland, July 23, 1994 (Valerie Belton) 10th Jerusalem, Israel, July 7, 1995 (Zilla Sinuany-Stern and Lea Friedman) 11th Brussels, Belgium, October 1996 (Philippe Vincke). 12th Barcelona, Spain, July 1997 (Theo Stewart) 13th Brussels, Belgium (as a stream of sessions in EURO XVI), July 1998 (Theo Stewart) 14th Budapest, Hungary (as a stream of sessions in EURO XVII), July 2000 (Theo Stewart) 15th Rotterdam, Netherlands, July 2001 (Theo Stewart) 16th Istanbul, Turkey (as a stream of sessions in EURO XIX), July 2003 (Theo Stewart)

8.3 Past activities

As part of the EURO/INFORMS meeting in Istanbul (July 2003), ESIGMA organized a substantial stream of six sessions on the theme of "Integrated MCDA in Practice". The scheduled papers were as follows:

K.N. Papamichail (npapamichail@man.mbs.ac.uk) and S. French, Manchester Business School: Adding transparency to MCDA methods

Fabio Losa (fabio.losa@ti.ch) and Valerie Belton: A case of confrontation: insights from MCDA and conflict analysis

Jacinto González-Pachón (jgpachon@fi.upm.es) and Carlos Romero, Technical University of Madrid: Aggregation of Preferences with Inconsistencies in a Pairwise Comparisons Scenario

Ignacy Kaliszewski (kaliszew@ibspan.waw.pl), Polish Academy of Sciences: A simple common framework/interface for MCDM

Ralph Scheubrein: Enhancing performance measurement systems by means of MCDA

Ali R Kaylan, Tülin Yazgac (yazgac@iku.edu.tr) and Eda Güvenç: An integrated approach to student performance assessment systems in higher education

Theodor J Stewart (tjstew@stats.uct.ac.za), University of Cape Town: Integration of MCDA and Scenario Planning

Gilberto Montibeller (gilberto@mansci.strath.ac.uk), University of Strathclyde; Julie Hodgkin; and Valerie Belton: From design to decision

Jutta Geldermann (jutta.geldermann@wiwi.uni-karlsruhe.de), University of Karlsruhe; Keijing Zhang; and Otto Rentz: Multi-criteria group decision support for integrated technique assessment

Luis Tavares (lavt@civil.ist.utl.pt), Technical University of Lisbon: A multi-attribute model for evaluation of civil servants

Hans L Trinkhaus and Thomas Hanne, Fraunhofer Institute for Industrial Mathematics: A knowledge box for dynamic multicriteria decision support

Ahti Salo (ahti.salo@hut.fi), Helsinki University of Technology: Multicriteria methods for the shaping of research priorities: a case study for Finnish forestry and forest industries

Steen Leleur, Technical University of Denmark: SCOPE: An Integrated Framework for Multi-Attribute Decision Making

Don Petkov (petkovd@easternct.edu), Eastern Connecticut State University: Combining MCDM and SSM with GIS

Gustavo D Roig-Sannemann and Leonardo Ensslin, Brazil: A systemic view on MCDA: exploring interrelationship criteria for evaluating and improving organizational performance

Cathal M. Brugha (Cathal.Brugha@ucd.ie), University College Dublin, Ireland: New Guidelines for Forming Criteria Trees

Maria E. Captivo (maria.captivo@fc.ul.pt) and Ana L. Respício, Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon: A Bi-Objective Approach to Sequencing Cutting Patterns

Carlos F. Simões Gomes (Simoes@casnav.mar.mil.br), CASNAV - Brazilian Naval Centre of Systems Analysis: Application of Multicriteria Decision Making Methodology for Outranking the Ballast Water Management Options - Example and Proposal for Application

Marta Pascoal (marta@mat.uc.pt), Faculty of Sciences and Technology, University of Coimbra; Maria E. Captivo, Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon and João Clímaco, Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra: On Finding Quickest Paths Algorithms

João Clímaco (jclimaco@inescc.pt), Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra and José Craveirinha, Faculty of Sciences and Technology, University of Coimbra: On Multicriteria Modelling of Routing Problems in Telecommunication Networks

N. Belacel (nabil@crt.umontreal.ca): The Web Integration of Decision Support System for Clinical Applications

Y. Goletsis (goletsis@cc.uoi.gr), C. Papaloukas, D. I. Fotiadis, A. Likas and L.K. Michalis: Cardiac Beat Classification through a GA Tuned Multicriteria Method

Subhash C. Narula (snarula@mail1.vcu.edu), School of Business, Virginia Commonwealth University; Vassil Vassilev, Krassimira Genova, and Mariana Vassileva, Institute of Information Technologies, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences: A Partition-Based Interactive Method to Solve Discrete Multicriteria Choice Problems

M. Doumpos (mdoumpos@dpem.tuc.gr) and C. Zopounidis: An Outranking Relation Approach for Classification Problems Based on Pairwise Comparisons

8.4 Future activities

Two ESIGMA sessions are scheduled for the EURO XX meeting in Rhodes, Greece:
 Session 1 (Monday 5 July, 1600-1730): Uncertainty and Problem Structuring in MCDA
 Cathal Brugha: Process difficulties with eMCDM
 Theo Stewart: Scenario Planning and Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis

Jian-Bo Yang, Ying-Ming Wang and Dong-Ling Xu: The Evidential Reasoning Approach for Multiple Attribute Decision Analysis Using Interval Belief Degrees
Session 2 (Tuesday 6 July, 0900-1030): Value Measurement and Decision Conferencing in MCDA
Valerie Belton, Gilberto Montibeller and George Wright: Comparing Even Swaps and MAVT
Nadia Papamichail, Simon French, Bob Snowdon and Jian-Bo Yang: Formulating Problems in Decision Conferences
Jean-Claude Vansnick, Carlos Bana e Costa and Jean-Marie De Corte: From Verbal Judgements to Numerical Scales: Comparing MACBETH to AHP

9 EWG Project management and scheduling

9.1 General information

Web site:

Coordinator: Professor Luís Valadares Tavares
CESUR-IST
Avda Rovisco Pais
P-1096 Lisbon
Portugal
Phone: +(351) 218418305/6
Fax: +(351) 21840988
Email: LAVT@civil.ist.utl.pt

Members: 250

9.2 Purpose and history

The EURO Working Group on Project Management and Scheduling was established by Professors Luís Valadares Tavares and Jan Weglarz during the EURO VIII Conference, Lisbon, September 1986. It was decided to organize a workshop every two years. Gathering the most promising theoretical and applied advances in Project Management and Scheduling, and to assess the state-of-the-art of this field and its potential to support management systems are the objectives of these workshops.

9.3 Past activities

The first workshop was held in Lisbon in July 1988, organized by L. Tavares. It attracted sixty participants from 16 countries. A special issue on Project Management and Scheduling was published by EJOR, including selected papers from this Workshop (November 1990). The second workshop was organized by J. Carlier in Compiègne, France, in 1990. The third workshop was organized by Prof. Carlo Vercellis in Como, Italy in 1992. The fourth workshop took place in Leuven, Belgium in 1994 and was organized by Prof. Willy Herreolen. The fifth was held in Poznan and organized by Prof. Weglarz. Two other workshops were organized by Prof. G. Ulusoy, July 1998, in Istanbul, and by Prof. Brucker, April 2000, in Osnabrück, Germany. The eighth Workshop took place in Valencia, April 3-5, 2002 and more than 80 papers were presented and discussed. The tradition of publishing a special issue of EJOR on Project Management and Scheduling based on papers presented during the workshop has been maintained since the first meeting.

9.4 Future activities

The 9th PMS Workshop will take place in France, 2004, and it will be chaired by Prof. Marie-Claude Portmann. Meanwhile sessions on PMS have been organized during other International Conferences, such as the IFORS Conference 2002 (Edinburgh) and the EURO conference, Istanbul 2003.

10 EWG Financial modelling

10.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.finance-on-eur.nl>

Coordinator: Prof.dr. Jaap Spronk
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Fax: +31.10.4089165

Email: spronk@few.eur.nl

Newsletter: The newsletter of the working group, called NEWSFLOW, is published twice a year, one month before each meeting. It contains general information about the Working Group, information about the next meeting(s), abstracts of papers of the next meeting, letters from readers, announcements of financial seminars, calls for papers, a list of working papers, etc.

<http://www2.eur.nl/topics/finance//ewgfm/ewgfm.htm>

Members: About 450 members from 24 different countries (of which approximately 80 members constitute the more "active kernel" of the group).

10.2 Purpose and history

The EURO Working Group on Financial Modelling was founded in September 1986 in Lisbon. The primary field of interest for the working group can be described as "financial models that help to solve problems faced by financial managers in the firm". From this the following objectives of the working group are distinguished:

- providing an international forum for exchange of information and experience on financial modelling;
- encouraging research in financial modelling (new techniques, methodologies, empirical studies, software, etc.);
- stimulating and strengthening the interaction between financial economic theory and the practice of financial decision making;
- co-operating and exchanging information with other universities and financial institutions throughout Europe.

The meetings of the Working Group are organised twice a year, in April/May and in October/November. Previous meetings were held in Belgium, Curaçao, Cyprus, Finland, France, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Greece, Croatia, Poland and Spain. The meetings are attended by 80-100 members on average, most of them scientists but also representatives from the financial institutions, and are usually organised on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. The organisers are expected to schedule three types of sessions: a round table session with invited speaker(s), regular sessions with the presentation of refereed papers, and balloon sessions in which unrefereed papers, new topics and "loose" ideas can be discussed.

10.3 Past activities

The Autumn 2004 meeting was organised by Juan Evangelista Trinidad in Almeria, October 14-16.

10.4 Future activities

The Spring 2005 meeting will be organised by Francesco M. Paris in Brescia (Italy) from 5-7 May 2005. The Autumn 2005 meeting will be held in Frankfurt (Germany) from 27-30 October 2005. Future meetings will be held in Indonesia and London.

11 EWG ECCO, European Chapter on combinatorial optimization

11.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.prism.uvsq.fr/~vdc/ECCO/ECCO.html>

Coordinator: Prof. Silvano Martello
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Board: Prof. Jacek Blazewicz, Poznan University of Technology, Poznan, Poland.
Prof. Van-Dat Cung, INPG-ENS Génie Industriel, Grenoble, France.
Prof. Alain Hertz, Ecole Polytechnique de Montréal, Canada.
Prof. Paolo Toth, DEIS, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Members: Approximately 700. Approximately 100 participants attend each meeting.

11.2 Purpose and history

The EURO Working Group on Combinatorial Optimization, ECCO (European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimisation) was created in 1987 by C. Roucairol, D. de Werra and A. Rinnooy Kan. This group provides an excellent opportunity to discuss recent and important issues in Combinatorial Optimization and its applications with European combinatorialists; most European countries are represented.

The group is suitable for people who are presently engaged in Combinatorial Optimization, either in theoretical aspects or in business, industry or public administration applications. All these fields are taken in consideration: operations management - logistics, production scheduling, location and distribution problem, resource allocation, flexible manufacturing, scheduling, engineering, VLSI design and computer design, network design, etc. Recent sessions in last ECCO meetings have attached a particular emphasis to metaheuristics or new local search methods (tabu search, genetic algorithms, ant colonies, etc.), polyhedral approaches to difficult problems and recent developments in classical optimization problems (scheduling, assignment, knapsack, partitioning, etc.).

The meetings are held on a regular basis (once a year during Spring) and nicely combine scientific work and the exchange of new ideas with an exciting atmosphere, as in Paris, May 88; Venice, June 89; Barcelona, May 90; Dubrovnik, May 91; (cancelled), Graz, April 92; Brussels, April 93; Milan, February 94; Poznan, May 95; Dublin, April 96; Tenerife, May 97; Copenhagen, May 98; Bendor, May 99; Capri, May 00; Bonn, May 01; Lugano, May-June 02; Molde, June 03; Beirut, June 04. An abstract booklet is distributed to the participants at each meeting.

ECCO organised in July 94 a EURO Summer Institute on Combinatorial Optimization in France, at Groupe HEC, Jouy en Josas. Twenty five participants representing 15 different countries presented their work covering the recent trends in CO such as metaheuristics and polyhedral approaches, as well as more traditional problem areas as scheduling, knapsack, 0-1 programming, etc. Following the usual tradition, a special issue of EJOR was devoted to this institute.

11.3 Past activities

The ECCO-XVII meeting was hosted by the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. June 24th - June 26th, 2004. 2 post-meeting special issues are dedicated to this meeting. <http://www.ecco2004.org/SpecialIssues/DO-COR-IT-issues.doc> (disregard the Discrete Optimization issue, that was canceled)

Local organizer: Ibrahim Osman (Leader) Professor at Suliman S. Olayan School of Business American University of Beirut P.O. Box 11-0236 Riad El-Solh, Beirut 1107-2020, Lebanon. Tel direct: 00961-1-352700 Fax: 00961-1-750214 Email: Ibrahim.Osman@aub.edu.lb [Http://www.ecco2004.org](http://www.ecco2004.org)

11.4 Future activities

The ECCO-XVIII meeting will be hosted by the Belarusian State University of Minsk in Belarus. May 26th - 28th, 2005.

Meeting theme: Combinatorics for Modern Manufacturing, Logistics and Supply Chains. <http://www.bwl.uni-kiel.de/bwlinstitute/Prod/mab/horbach/ecco.htm> Submission deadline: February 1st, 2005 EXTENDED to February 20th, 2005 Earlier registration deadline: March 15th, 2005 EXTENDED to March 20th, 2005

Local organizer: Mikhail Y. KOVALYOV (Leader) Faculty of Economics Belarusian State University Skorini 4 220050 Minsk, Belarus (C.I.S.) Tel direct: (375)(17) 217-83-52 Fax: (375)(17) 226-12-92 Email: koval@newman.bas-net.by

11.5 Publications

Special issue on EURO Summer Institute on Combinatorial Optimisation European Journal of Operational Research, Volume 83, Number 2, 1995.

Special issues related to ECCO meetings:

G. Hasle, A. Løkketangen and S. Martello (eds.), Feature issue on ECCO-XVI: Rich models in Discrete Optimization - Formulation and Resolution. European Journal of Operational Research (completing)

L. M. Gambardella and S. Martello (eds.) Feature issue on ECCO-XV: Metaheuristics and Worst-Case Guarantee Algorithms: Relations, Provable Properties and Applications. European Journal of Operational Research 166, 1, 2005.

E. Pesch and S. Martello (eds.), Feature issue on ECCO-XIV: Logistics: From Theory to Application. European Journal of Operational Research 162, 1, 2005.

G. Improta and S. Martello (eds.), Feature issue on ECCO-XIII: Graphs and Scheduling European Journal of Operational Research 142, 2, 2002.

S. Martello and J.-F. Maurras (eds.), Feature issue on ECCO XII: Graphs and Scheduling European Journal of Operational Research, Volume 137, Number 2, 2002.

J. Krarup and D. Pisinger (eds.), Feature issue on ECCO XI, European Journal of Operational Research 125, 2, 2000.

R.E. Burkard, M. Labbé, M.T. Ramos and J. Sicilia (eds.), Feature issue on ECCO X: Advances in Theory and Practice of Combinatorial Optimization, European Journal of Operational Research 123, 2, 2000.

Miscellaneous: The book "Knapsack Problems: Algorithms and Computer Implementations" by Silvano Martello and Paolo Toth, Wiley, 1990 and the associated computer codes are now available for free downloading at <http://www.or.deis.unibo.it/knapsack.html>

12 EWG Decision support systems

12.1 General information

Web site:

Coordinator: Pascale Zaraté
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Email: zarate@irit.fr

Newsletter: Newsletters 1, 2, 3, 4 are available
<ftp.irit.fr/ewgdss/>

Members: 85 coming from 17 nationalities

The next meeting of the group will be held hosted by the IFIP 8.3 Conference.

12.2 Purpose and history

The group was created in Madeira (Portugal) following the Euro Summer Institute on DSS, in May 1989. Researchers involved in this group meet each year in different countries. The first meeting was held in Fontainebleau (France); the second in Bruges (Belgium); then in Hungary and then in Sintra (Portugal). The group migrated to a cold country and the fifth meeting was organised in Turku (Finland) and then came back to a warm land for the sixth meeting in Samos (Greece). The seventh meeting was held in Ispra (Italy); then in Bruges again and then, our chairman Tawfik Jelassi organised the ninth meeting in Granada (Spain). For the tenth birthday the group came back to Turku. In 2000 the meeting was held in Toulouse (France) and in 2001 we met in Caiscas (Portugal). For 2002, the meeting of the group consisted of the Euro Mini conference devoted to DSS, and was held in Brussels, Belgium. In 2003 the business meeting of the group was held during the HCP2003 Conference in Luxembourg and sessions were also organised during the Joint EURO/INFORMS Conference in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2004, the business meeting of the group was organised during the IFIP WG8.3 international conference on Decision Support Systems in Prato, Italy. In 2005, a joint workshop with the ECUBE group and the e-participation project was organised in Graz, Austria by Fatima Dargam.

Research conducted in this group has for central theme: DSS. Some discussion on the future of DSS arose during the last meeting, as for example: "What will be DSS in the next decade and for the next millennium?" and "Will DSS be completely influenced by Internet and the Electronic commerce or not?". Some others questions related to Data-Mining, Data Warehouse or Knowledge Management are pertinent for the group members.

Instruments:

- A mailing list: ewg-dss@irit.fr In order to improve communications among members of the group, an electronic mailing list has been created, hosted by the IRIT laboratory, allowing only members of the group to send messages. The mailing list address is ewg-dss@irit.fr If you know somebody who wants to become member of the group, please send an email to zarate@irit.fr
- A Newsletter: Four newsletters of the group have been edited, in May 2002, at the end of the Spring 2003, in May 2004 and in September 2005 by Fatima Dargam and Pascale Zaraté, and send to the group. All these three newsletters are available at: <ftp.irit.fr/ewgdss/> or upon request to Pascale Zaraté: zarate@irit.fr

12.3 Past activities

In 2005 a Joint workshop with the E-cube group (Euro Working Group on Experimental Economics) was organised in Graz, Austria, June 6th and 7th by Fatima Dargam.. <http://www.uni-graz.at/soowww/eCube/>

The purpose of this Joint-Workshop was to bring together researchers in the areas of Decision Support Systems, Operations Research, Computer Sciences, Economics, and their respective areas of applications.

Two special issues of this workshop are under preparation :

- One special issue in the Journal of Decision Systems edited by Fatima Dargam and Pascale Zaraté
- One special issue in the CEJOR Journal, edited by Fatima Dargam and Antonio Rodrigues

12.4 Future activities

For 2006 the Euro Working Group on DSS is involved in the organization of several existing and interesting conferences.

- The IFIP TC8/WG 8.3 Open Conference will be held at the London School of Economics (London, UK) June 28th - July 1st 2006. A workshop devoted to the Euro Working Group on DSS will be held as part of the conference the June 27th 2006. This workshop is considered as the official meeting of the group in 2006.
- The group Decision and Negotiation 2006 conference will be held at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany, June 25th-28th, 2006. This is a joint conference of the Informs section on Group Decision and Negotiation and the Euro Working Group on Decision Support Systems. The Call for paper of the conference will be posted soon to the group members.
- The EURO XXI Conference will be held in Iceland in the period of July 2nd - 5th, 2006. During this conference special sessions will be devoted to the EWG on DSS. For more details see www.euro2006.org

12.5 Publications

A special issue in the Group Decision and Negotiation Journal is published volume 14 number 2 and edited by Camille Rosenthal-Sabroux and Pascale Zaraté. This special issue is a selection of the best papers presented during the EWG-DSS sessions at the Joint EURO/INFORMS Conference that was held the July 6-10, 2003 in Istanbul, Turkey.

In addition to the above meetings, scientific activities of members of the group can be noted: special issues of leading academic journals have been edited by the group, including

- the European Journal of Operational Research (Volume 145, Number 2, March 2003; Volume 55, Number 3, 1991 and Volume 61, Number 1-2, 1992)
- the Journal of Decision Systems (Volume 12, Number 3-4, 2003 and Volume 1, Number 2-3, 1992)
- Decision Support Systems (Volume 12, Number 4-5, 1994)

13 EWG Transportation

13.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.iasi.cnr.it/ewgt/home.html>

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Email: bielli@iasi.cnr.it

Members: 380

13.2 Purpose and history

The EURO Working Group on Urban Traffic and Transportation was founded in July 1991 in Cetraro (Italy) during the 7th Euro Summer Institute on Urban Traffic Management, with the editing of a Special Issue of the European Journal of Operational Research (Volume 71, Number 2, 1993) providing a collection of some papers there presented. The name was changed to Transportation during the EURO Conference held in Glasgow, July 1994, in order to enlarge the topics to be addressed and to involve more people in the participation.

The objectives of this EWG are:

- to provide a forum for exchanging information and experiences of research activities in the field of transportation;
- to encourage joint researches and developments both of theoretical methods and applications;
- to promote cooperation among different institutions and organizations, including leaders at national and international level in the field of traffic and transportation systems.

The primary fields of interest of the EWGT are: Operational research methods, mathematical models and computational algorithms to solve and support the solution of planning, management and control problems faced by city authorities and public transport companies.

Relevant areas of interest are:

- traffic control and simulation models;
- traffic network equilibrium models;
- land-use and transportation planning;
- public transport planning and management;
- applications of combinatorial optimization;
- intelligent transportation systems;
- impact evaluation on environment, energy, safety, etc.;
- freight transportation, logistics and intermodality;
- vehicle routing and scheduling.

The potential activities of the Working Group can be as follows:

- organization of meetings and conferences;
- editing of a Newsletter;
- promotion of joint research;
- implementation, comparison and validation of software packages;
- application and transfer of models and tools to real case-studies;
- information diffusion by websites;
- publication of books, conference proceedings and special issues of transportation journals.

13.3 Past activities

- Editing of a Feature Issue of EJOR on "Modeling Traffic and Transportation Systems", M. Bielli and M. Otomanelli Eds., 2005 (In printing).
- Cooperation in the scientific organization of the TRISTAN 4 Conference, held in Azores Islands, Portugal, June 13-19, 2001 (information at <http://tristan4.fc.ul.pt>).
- Participation in the European Research Project EXTRA - Exploitation of Transport Research (information at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/transport/extra/home.htm>).
- Cooperation in the Scientific sponsorship of the Odysseus 2000 - First International Workshop on Freight Transportation and Logistics, Chania, Crete, Greece, May 23-26, 2000.
- Organization of the 9th Meeting of the EURO Working Group Transportation on "Intermodality, Sustainability and Intelligent Transportation Systems" and the 13th Mini EURO Conference on "Handling Uncertainty in the Analysis of Traffic and Transportation Systems", held in Bari (Italy), June 10-13, 2002 (www.poliba.it/ewg2002).
- Cooperation in the Scientific Sponsorship of Odysseus 2003 - the Second International Workshop on Freight Transportation and Logistics, Mondello (Palermo), Italy, May 27-30, 2003.
- Participation in the European Research Project STELLA - A transatlantic thematic network on Sustainable Transport in Europe and links and liaisons with America.
- Participation in the Italian Project about Mediterranean Countries cooperation (Egypt, Morocco, Turkey, etc.) with the aim to improve the EURO transportation network.
- Submission to the European Commission of an Expression of Interest for a Network of Excellence on "Integrated Systems for Intelligent Road Traffic Management".

13.4 Future activities

- Organization of the 10th Meeting of the EURO Working Group Transportation to be held in Poznan, Poland, 13-16, September 2005.
- Organization of the Workshop on Intelligent Transportation Systems for urban traffic management, Rome, Italy, 2005.
- Organization of a Conference on Transportation Systems, to be held in University of Bari, Italy, 2006.
- Editing of a Feature Issue of EJOR on Advanced Methods in Transportation and Logistics.

13.5 Publications

- Special Issue of the European Journal of Operational Research, "Urban Traffic Management", Editors Bianco L., Bielli M., Speranza M., Volume 71, Number 2, 1993.
- "Concise Encyclopedia of Traffic & Transportation Systems", Editor Papageorgiou M., Pergamon Press, 1991.
- Proceedings of the First Meeting of EWGT held in Landshut, University of Munich, October 1-3, 1992.
- Proceedings of the Second Meeting of EWGT held in Paris, INRETS, September 15-17, 1993.
- Proceedings of the Third Meeting of EWGT held in Barcelona, September 27-29, 1995.
- Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Applications of Advanced Technologies in Transportation Engineering, held in Capri, Italy, June 27-30, 1995.
- Proceedings of the Fourth Meeting of EWGT held in New Caste upon Tyne, UK, September 9-11, 1996.
- Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting of EWGT and 9th Mini EURO Conference on "Fuzzy Sets in Traffic and Transport Systems held in Budva, Yugoslavia, September 15-19, 1997.
- Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the EWGT held in Goteborg, Sweden, September 9-11, 1998.
- "Artificial Intelligence Applications to Traffic Engineering", Editors Bielli, M., Ambrosino, G., Boero M., VSP Publications, 1994.
- "Large Scale Computation and Information Processing in Air Traffic Control", Editors Bianco L., Odoni A.R., Springer, Berlin, 1993.
- "The Traffic Assignment Problem: Models and Methods", Patriksson M., VSP, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1994.
- "Urban Traffic Networks", Editors: Gartner, N.H., Improta, G., Transportation Analysis Series, Springer, 1995.
- "Advanced Methods in Transportation Analysis", Editors: Bianco L., Toth P., Springer, Berlin, 1996.
- "Modelling and Simulation in Air Traffic Management", Editors Bianco L., Dell'Olmo P., Odoni A.R., Springer, Berlin, 1997.
- Proceedings of the 11th Mini EURO Conference on "Artificial Intelligence in Transportation and Science" and the 7th Meeting of the EWGT, Helsinki University of Technology, Transportation Engineering, Publication number 98, Helsinki, Finland, August 2-6, 1999.
- Proceedings of the 8th Meeting EWGT, "Rome Jubilee 2000 Conference", Editors Bielli M., Carotenuto P., CNR, Rome, Italy, September 11-14, 2000.
- "Transportation Planning - State of the Art", Patriksson M., Labbè M., Applied Optimization, Volume 64, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2002.
- Proceedings of the 9th Meeting EWGT on "Intermodality, Sustainability and Intelligent Transportation Systems" and 13th Mini EURO Conference on "Handling Uncertainty in the Analysis of Traffic and Transportation Systems", held in Bari (Italy), June 10-13, 2002 (<http://www.iasi.rm.cnr.it/ewgt/13conferencePROC.html>).
- "Mathematical Methods on Optimization in Transportation Systems", Editors Pursula Matti and Jarkko Niittymaki, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001.
- Feature Issue of EJOR on "Artificial Intelligence on transportation Systems and Science", Guest Editors: Jarkko Niittymaki and Matti Pursula, Volume 131, Number 2, June 2001.
- "Transportation Systems Engineering: Theory and Methods", E. Cascetta, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2001.
- "The vehicle routing problem", Editors Paolo Toth and Daniele Vigo, SIAM, 2002.

- "The network reliability of transport", Editors M.G.H.Bell, Y.Lida, Pergamon, May 2003.
- "Transit Network Modelling: the schedule-based dynamic approach", A. Nuzzolo, F. Russo, U. Crisalli, Franco Angeli, Italy, 2003.
- Feature Cluster of EJOR on Traffic and Transportation Systems Analysis, Guest Editor : Maurizio Bielli, Volume 155, Number 3, June 2004.

14 EWG Group decision and negotiation support

14.1 General information

Web site: <http://infolab.kub.nl/eurogdss/>

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Members: Approximately 130

14.2 Purpose and history

- To share experiences knowledge and research outcomes in the area of Group Decision, and Negotiation Support.
- To develop collaborative interdisciplinary research between academics and practitioners, and between different European countries.
- To increase the awareness of other researchers in related fields (e.g. MCDM) and researchers in different countries (e.g. United States) of work being done in Europe.

14.3 Past activities

Building on the success of the Group Decision and Negotiation 2000 conference, the event was repeated in La Rochelle in June 2001, in Perth, Western Australia in 2002, in Istanbul 2003 and most recently in Banff Canada 2004. In all cases, the conferences/workshops gave a great opportunity from those around the globe interested in Group Decision and Negotiation to meet one another and share ideas.

In addition, a special issue of the Journal of Group Decision and Negotiation was produced from the 2001 and 2002 conference, and one is in the pipeline for 2003.

14.4 Future activities

The next meeting will be in Vienna Austria on the 10-13th July 2005. Unlike the last two meetings which have been part of the INFORMS/ORSA conference and therefore much larger, this meeting will revert back to the format seen at Glasgow and La Rochelle - that is simply focusing upon Group Decision and Negotiation. In this way we can ensure that everyone is able to meet others in the field and build on experiences. As with all of the conference/workshops, there will paper sessions, panels and tutorials.

A website is currently being developed to promote the conference and provide all the details necessary however this is not yet completed. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

14.5 Publications

For nearly every year a special issue of Group Decision and Negotiation has been produced based on the annual conference. This journal is particularly appropriate as it covers the research and practice in the field. In addition, a special issue of the European Journal of Operations Research 2003 has also appeared - on Soft OR - which provides a number of articles relevant to this working group.

15 EWG MODEST, Modelling of economies and societies in transition

15.1 General information

Web site: www.ptbois.org.pl/~modest

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Newsletter: MODEST Newsletter is being issued once or twice a year. Until now nine issues were produced, the last one in Winter 2002/2003.

Members: Around 100 as of Winter 2002/2003.

15.2 Purpose and history

The MODEST working group has specialists in mathematical and computer modelling who are especially interested in modelling and analysis of the economic and social transformation processes taking place in the modern world, with explicit emphasis on the processes taking place in the Central and Eastern parts of Europe. It is the purpose of the Working Group to be a forum for exchange of ideas and experiences in this domain, and also to identify those areas where the most acute gaps exist and where modelling is feasible, and to formulate as well as promote research projects for such areas. The modelling that MODEST is most interested in is the pragmatic one (whether macro- or micro-economic, simple regression or complex dynamic, analytic or simulation, but oriented at definite currently debated and crucial questions, as well as based upon real data or real-life guesses). Yet, theoretical models (for example, economic-political ones, based on game theory) are by no means excluded from the MODEST's perspective. The Working Group was established in the Spring of 1994 as an informal body. By Summer 1994, it reached the critical mass in terms of international and interdisciplinary character of the core membership.

In Fall 1994, MODEST was granted affiliation with the Technical Committee of the International Federation of Automatic Control dealing with "Dynamic Modelling of National and Regional Economies", headed by Professor Berc Rustem from London and, following this, it was proposed that Professor Zbigniew Nahorski would serve as the Vice-Chair of this Technical Committee.

In January 1995, MODEST was granted, to our great satisfaction, the Working Group status with EURO. These two affiliations allow the Group to maintain the connection with two international communities, which are essential for the methodology and implementation of modelling approaches and projects.

MODEST is, locally, institutionally assisted by the Polish Operational and System Research Society, The Interfaces Institute Co. in Warsaw, and by the Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

15.3 Past activities

ACTIVITIES 2003:

Following the previous meeting of MODEST, which took place on September 26-28, 2002, in Warsaw (with EURO's support), and the associated publication of the usual MODEST proceedings volume, we prepared ourselves to the next meeting, in September 2004.

15.4 Future activities

The next MODEST meeting will take place in Warsaw on September 24-25th 2004 (Friday-Saturday). A book is to be published on this occasion, which is now under preparation.

15.5 Publications

Jan W. Owsinski, editor, MODEST 2002: Transition & Transformation: Problems and Models. The Interfaces Institute for MODEST, Warsaw 2002, 210 pages, ISBN 83-85847-77-4.

The book can be ordered from the Publications Department of the Systems Research Institute: Ms. Joanna Runowska, Systems Research Institute, Newelska 6, 01-447 Warszawa, Poland (Joanna.Runowska@ibspan.waw.pl), for 20 EUR plus postage.

The following papers are contained in the volume:

- The society, education, politics, market, and management
 - Helena Lindskog and Staffan Brege (Sweden). Time-rich and time-poor consumer behavior. The importance of time in market segmentation.
 - Paul Iles, Maurice Yolles (United Kingdom). Anglo-Czech alliance in management education - a viable systems approach.
 - Mikhail Mikhalevich and Ludmilla Koshlai (Ukraine). Modelling of multibranch competition in the labour market for countries in transition.
 - Honorata Sosnowska (Poland). A generalization of the Barbera-Jackson's model of self-stable majority rules.
- Action at a distance: trade, FDI, and competitiveness
 - Olivier Hueber, Christian Longhi (France). Foreign direct investments and economic transition in Central and Eastern Europe.
 - Gabriela C. Florescu (Romania). Assessments of the foreign bank entry into the Romanian transient economy.
 - Witold Jakóbiak (Poland). Dynamics of Poland's economic competitiveness (1990-2000).
 - Jan W. Owsinski, Sławomir Zadrozny (Poland). Trade, Baltic Europe, and what is changing.
- Banking, finance, and money
 - Jan Gądomski (Poland). Dynamic modelling of the banking system
 - Shouyang Wang, Jing Zhang (PR China). The reform of foreign exchange system and the trend of RMB: testing PPP in China.

Urmas Sepp (Estonia). The currency board arrangement and alternative policy rules in Estonia.

Shouyang Wang, Jing Zhang (PR China). The effect of B-share opening on the black market for US dollar in Shanghai, China.

16 EWG WATT Working group on automated time tabling

16.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/watt/>

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Members: 255

16.2 Purpose and history

Computers have been used to aid the construction of timetables since the late fifties. The first generation of computer-based systems were no more than book-keeping programs that would store all the data and occasionally allow some manipulation. In the mid-sixties, computer programs that actually carried out the scheduling process were first developed. Since then there has been a consistent flow of research papers concerned with this problem.

In recent years, the interest in automated timetabling has increased to a large extent. Recent papers are covering practical issues as well as the application of many advanced algorithmic techniques such as constraint logic programming, evolutionary computation, graph colouring, simulated annealing, tabu search, and others. The international conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling (PATAT) in Konstanz in 2000 attracted a lot of interest and was a huge success.

Many of the papers on automated timetabling deal with the scheduling of lecture courses or exams in educational institutions (i.e. the problem is to automatically generate a plan which indicates meetings between students, teachers and subjects at times and places). This is one of the main interests of the working group. However, there is also a high level of interest in other timetabling problems such as the timetabling of sports fixtures, railway timetabling and employee timetabling.

The objectives of the group are:

- organising workshops/conferences;
- publishing articles and books;

- establishing a network for exchange of information/students/staff;
- developing benchmarks;
- organising timetabling internet resources containing literature, software packages, and test-data from various different institutions.

16.3 Past activities

- The 5th WATT Workshop was held at the EURO XIX conference, Istanbul, Turkey, July 2003. For more details about this (and all our past workshops) workshop, see <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/ASAP/watt/events/events.html>
- The 4th international conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling (PATAT 2002) was held in Ghent, Belgium on 21-23 August 2002. For more details about this (and all the PATAT conferences), see <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/patat/patat-index.shtml>.
- Running an e-mail list for all group members.
- Organisation of a timetabling resources page on the world wide web. See <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/ASAP/watt/resources/resources.html>
- Maintaining the group's web pages. See <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/watt/>
- Organising the e-mail digest. To access the archive see <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/watt/digests/digests.html>.

16.4 Future activities

- The 7th WATT Workshop will take place during the IFORS Conference in Hawaii. The organiser is Dario Landa Silva (jds@cs.nott.ac.uk) from the University of Nottingham, UK. See WATT7 for more details.
- The 6th international conference on the Theory and Practice of Automated Timetabling (PATAT 2006) will be held in Brno in August 2006.

16.5 Publications

- Feature Issue of the European Journal of Operational Research on Timetabling and Rostering, Volume 153, Number 1, Feb 2004.
- Edmund Burke and Michael Trick (editors), The Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling V: Selected Papers from the 5th International Conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling, Pittsburgh, USA, August 18th-20th 2004, to appear in the Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series 2005.
- Edmund Burke and Patrick DeCausmaecker (editors), The Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling IV: Selected Revised Papers from the 4th International Conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling, Ghent, Belgium, August 21st-23rd 2002, Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series Volume 2740, 2003.
- Edmund Burke and Wilhelm Erben (editors), The Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling III: Selected Papers the 3rd International Conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling, Konstanz, Germany, August 16th-18th 2000, Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series 2001, Volume 2079.
- Edmund Burke and Mike Carter (editors), The Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling II: Selected Papers from the 2nd International Conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling, University of Toronto, August 20th-22nd 1997, Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science Series, Volume 1408, 1998.
- Edmund Burke and Peter Ross (editors), The Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling: Selected Papers from the 1st International Conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling, Edinburgh August/September 1995, Lecture Notes in Computer Science Volume 1153, Springer 1996.

17 EWG Environmental planning

17.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.unipi.gr/gaia/gaia.htm>

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Email: pappis@unipi.gr

Members: 70

17.2 Purpose and history

The main purpose of the EURO Working Group on Environmental Planning is to encourage communication and research between members of EURO member societies specialising in environmental planning and management. The Group has been founded during the XIV EURO Summer Institute on Environmental Planning (Lagonnissi, Greece, June 7-21, 1996).

Since the first post-war period OR techniques have been widely and successfully implemented in a wide variety of managerial problems encountered in the industrialised world. In the last two decades, a major challenge for OR theorists and practitioners is to investigate the transferability of the experience gained towards the less developed countries, as well as to effectively cope with the new problems emerging from the developmental procedure. Environmental crisis appears as the most severe among these problems because its many different aspects threaten the development itself. The relationships linking the economic, natural and social systems lead to a redefinition of the concept of development as to encompass not only economic growth but also the stability of the ecosystem and social welfare.

Since the environment is an important point of reference of any human, economic or social activity, environmental planning comes out as a necessary function for the design of the desired future and for finding effective ways for achieving sustainability.

During the last decades, environmental problems have given rise to complex decision issues, which are receiving increasing social attention and are becoming more and more important, not only for human welfare, but even for human survival. Involvement in Environmental Planning decisions has become a major challenge for OR. Issues of methodology and applications of OR concerning environmental decision making include among others:

- Environmental decision support systems. - Environmental impact assessment. - Environmental issues in business strategy. - Environmental issues in production management and control. - Environmental forecasting. - Monitoring networks. - Locational analysis. - Risk and reliability. - Environmental review, auditing and reporting. - Life cycle analysis. - Ecodesign. - Environmental marketing and communication. - Reverse Logistics - Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14000, EMAS).

In fact, a short look at the literature related either to OR/MS or to environmental issues shows that opportunities for research in the field of environmental planning/management have already been quite extensively exploited by operational researchers. However, it is still not clear which are the particular stages of the environmental planning procedure needing assistance from OR/MS. It is also not yet visible at which particular topics this research is directed and which OR techniques are used to fulfil the research requirements. Since the area is still under development, such a knowledge can considerably assist in revealing actual trends and main findings, as well as in identifying major deficiencies, either in the issues covered or in the OR techniques used.

17.3 Past activities

The Group organised one session at the last EURO/INFORMS Joint International Meeting conference (EURO/INFORMS 2003, July 2003, Istanbul, Turkey), which focused on "Environmental Aspects of Closed-Loop Supply Chains".

18 EWG EPA Efficiency and productivity analysis

18.1 General information

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Coordinator: Holger Thiele
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Board: Tarja Joro
Meryem D. Fethi
Claudia Cirardone
Barbara Casu
Laurens Cherchye
Maria Portela

Members: The group has approximately 170 members.

18.2 Purpose and history

In July 1996, at the IFORS conference in Vancouver, the idea of a DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis) Euro Working Group emerged, from the realisation that so many people working in the field could profit from a forum where they could discuss their ideas and foster collaborative work.

DEA is the optimisation method that allows determining Farrell's (1957) technical efficiency measure easily in a multiple input and output case. Thus DEA became a new tool in for measuring technical efficiency. It was introduced by Charnes, Cooper and Rhodes (1978) with constant returns to scale, and was extended by Banker, Charnes and Cooper (1984) to include variable returns to scale. So the basic DEA models are known as CCR and BCC model.

Between 1978 and 1996 around 1000 articles, books and dissertation were published and listed in bibliographies. DEA rapidly extended to returns to scale, dummy or categorical variables, discretionary and non-discretionary variables, in-

incorporating value judgements, longitudinal analysis, weight restrictions, stochastic DEA, non-parametric Malmquist indices, technical change in DEA and many other topics. DEA measure has been used to evaluate and compare educational departments (schools, colleges and universities), health care (hospitals, clinics), prisons, agricultural production, banking, armed forces, sports, market research, transportation, courts, benchmarking, index number construction and many other applications. Both researchers with background in operational research and economics have worked actively with DEA.

Based on the above, the EURO Working Group on DEA and Performance Measurement has been established in 1997, after an application to EURO Executive Committee. Many of the active members were participants of the Euro Summer Institute on DEA in Warwick in 1998. The activities have emphasised the integration of young researchers, especially graduate students to the DEA community. The main activity has been organising special workshops for young researchers in co-operation with established conferences European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis and North American Productivity Workshop. In 2003 the working group decided to change its name to EURO Working Group on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (EWG EPA). The new name covers better the research area, which includes different methodologies and researcher from different backgrounds.

As the community has expanded, researchers follow wide ranges of DEA and related topics. Lately some of the main research areas of DEA have been:

- Incorporating weights restrictions and judgement
- Longitudinal analysis e.g. non-parametric Malmquist indices
- Statistical properties of DEA
- Stochastic DEA
- Discretionary and non-discretionary variables.

The main objectives of the working group are to:

- Foster collaborative research between members from different institutions, countries, and professional backgrounds.
- Coordinate specialist publications of issues in the area.
- Organise specialist conferences and workshops, and high-quality conference streams in the area of efficiency and productivity analysis.
- Integrate Ph.D. students into the research community.

18.3 Past activities

The first working group meeting and seminar day was held in conjunction with the 6th European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (Copenhagen, Denmark) in 1999. The 2000 and 2002 meeting and the pre/post conference workshop took place within the North American Productivity Workshop (Schenectady, NY, USA). The Workshop organisers provided funding for European graduate students to participate in the workshop. This funding was co-ordinated by the working group. In 2001 a group meeting was held within the 7th European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (Oviedo, Spain). Conference organisers arranged a post conference workshop for young researchers.

In 2003, the working group organised a DEA tutorial at the EURO/INFORMS 2002 Conference in Istanbul. The tutorial was given by Prof. Emmanuel Thanassoulis. The Working group meeting took place within the 8th European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis (Oviedo, Spain). A one-day pre-conference workshop was organised for young researchers and special funding was provided for graduate students.

18.4 Future activities

DEAPM will continue to organise pre- or post-conference workshops in conjunction with productivity workshops in North America and Europe.

Possible projects for the longer term are

- Workshops targeted at practitioners
- EURO summer institute or a summer school for young researchers
- Mini EURO Conference

19 EWG DDM, Distributed decision making

19.1 General information

Web site: <http://orgwww.bwl.univie.ac.at/ddm>

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Rudolf Vetschera
University of Vienna
Dept. of Business Studies
Bruenner Strasse 72
A-1210 Vienna
Austria

Phone: +43 1 4277 38171

Fax: +43 1 4277 38174

Email: rudolf.vetschera@univie.ac.at

Members: The number of members is now up to about 82 persons.

19.2 Purpose and history

Distributed Decision Making (DDM) is the new name for the European Working Group (EWG) on Hierarchical Organizational Planning (HOP). At its business meeting in Vienna in March 2000, the WG decided to change its name to the more comprehensive and less understandable term Distributed Decision Making (DDM). A characterization of the group's area of research is given hereafter. Those who feel attracted are cordially invited to join the group.

Distributed Decision Making analyses the segregation and subsequent coordination of a complex decision problem. Such a problem may consist of one or of several decision makers who may possess private information and may act opportunistically. Accordingly, one has a wide range of methodological approaches starting from deterministic multi-stage programming to describe a complex decision problem of one well-informed person, and ending up with non-cooperative game theory. Between these antipodes, one has a considerable number of theories like stochastic multi-stage programming, hierarchical production planning, principal agent theory, contract theory, auction theory, multi-agent decision theory, etc. Some of these approaches, like multi-stage programming, are more OR-oriented and put their emphasis to a greater extent on concrete solution aspects. Others, like principal agent theory or, more generally, game theory, are primarily originated in economics and are focusing specifically on general concepts. As a third group one might identify areas of application, like hierarchical production planning or managerial accounting, in which solution procedures and general concepts are needed.

It is this aspect of application that the working group is mainly focusing on. It is concerned with problems of coordinating complex models for team and non-team situations having a symmetric or an asymmetric state of information. These problems often exhibit a hierarchical structure as it is described in the general theory of hierarchical planning. Moreover, in many of these applications aggregation and disaggregation play an important role as well as the concept of reactive and non-reactive anticipation being developed in hierarchical planning.

As a nice and highly relevant example, one might take supply chain management. In this new field of research, one has a network of fairly independent companies that have to be coordinated. Due to private information and

opportunistic behavior, these companies often cannot be controlled by a central decision unit, but rather by a market-like coordination mechanism. Hence, in solving coordination problems in the supply chain, the whole range of solution techniques and concepts has to be made use of. Moreover, coordination is not only necessary between different members of the chain, but also between different planning levels, e.g., the strategic design level and the operational level of short term material and information exchange.

In more general terms, the purpose of the WG on DDM is to foster this challenging field of Operational Research. In doing so, conceptional questions concerning formal organisational theory may hopefully gain a greater attention in the OR community as well. Thus, in strengthening the more conceptual direction of OR, one might be able to provide a substantial contribution to the general theory of business administration and the management process.

For more extensive information regarding the scope of the Working Group, see its homepage.

19.3 Past activities

HOP I: EURO XV, Barcelona 1997

HOP II: Mannheim, March 27/28, 1998

Special session: at EURO XVI, Brussels 1998

HOP III: Mannheim, March 5/6, 1999

HOP IV: Vienna, March 10/11, 2000

Stream on DDM: at EURO XVII, Rotterdam 2001

DDM V: Istanbul, April 12/13, 2002

DDM VI: Rome, April 11/12, 2003

DDM VII: Louvain la Neuve, April 16/17, 2004

DDM VIII: Innsbruck, April 1/2, 2005

19.4 Future activities

Stream on DDM at Euro XXI , Iceland, July 2-5, 2006

20 EWG Methodology for complex societal problems

20.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.geocities.com/doriendetombe>

Coordinator: Dr. Dorien J. DeTombe
Chair EWG Complex Societal Problems
P.O. Box 3286
1001 AB Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Phone: +31 20 6927526

Fax:

Email: detombe@lri.jur.uva.nl

Board: Dr. Dorien J. DeTombe, (chair) Greenhill & Waterfront, Intern. Research & Development
Institute Complex Societal Problems, The Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Tineke Bahlmann, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Ken Bowen, University of London, United Kingdom
Dr. Cor J. van Dijkum, Utrecht University, The Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Dick Duke, Michigan University, USA
Prof. Dr. Franz Liebl, University Witten/Herdecke, Germany
Mr. Dr. Antoinette Muntjewerff, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Prof. Dr. Marjan Vežjak, University of Ljubljana, Slovenian

Newsletter: For latest news on the research group, see the website: agendas and year reports

<http://www.geocities.com/doriendetombe>

Members: The Euro Working Group Complex Societal Problems is an interdisciplinary research group, and has 185 members coming from many disciplines.

20.2 Purpose and history

What are complex societal problems?

Complex societal problems deal with, for example, those in Europe concerning the recent difficulties in the farming industry with Mad-Cow and the Foot-and-Mouth disease, and those in the area of transportation. Worldwide problems include in the area of healthcare, such as Malaria and HIV/AIDS, and the Water problems (too less, too much and not clean).

Complex societal problems are unstructured, dynamic and constantly changing. Also, they have a great impact on society on macro, meso as well as on micro level. Sometimes they are local problems; mostly they are regional or even worldwide problems.

Complex societal problems can be found in all countries of the world. It is often uncertain what impact the problem has on society, what the goals and interests of the stakeholders are, and what will be the outcome of the problem. There are no easy, simple answers for these problems. Solutions, if there are any, can only be found with great effort and are often only temporary solutions. Handling complex societal problems needs a special approach. An interdisciplinary approach for tackling these has become essential for our society, and a challenge for the human sciences.

Complex societal problems are interdisciplinary: they include aspects that are subject of study in several scientific disciplines. Handling such problems involves knowledge, power and emotion. The content knowledge comes from content experts, a doctor, or hospital manager or a player in this field. The process knowledge comes from facilitators. These are scientists or practitioners working in this field of complex societal problems. These scientists and practitioners have backgrounds in different scientific disciplines, and use methods derived from their original field combined

with methods specially created for the field of handling societal problems. Methods and insights that are used derive from the fields of medicine, law, economics, societal sciences, mathematics, computer sciences, technology, engineering sciences, chaos theory, and operational research.

Connecting research groups of Complex Societal Problems & Issues

International Society on Methodology for Handling Complex Societal Problems & Issues, chair Dr. Dorien J. DeTombe

Continents

Europe

Euro Operational Research Research Group on Handling Complex Societal Problems & Issues, chair Dr. Dorien J. DeTombe see Euro Working Group Complex Societal Problems & Issues

North-America

North-American Research Group on Complex Societal Problems & Issues, co-chair Dr. D. Petkov Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT, USA petkovd@easternct.edu, and co-chair Dr. Olga Petkova Central Connecticut State University, New Britain CT 06050, USA, petkovao@ccsu.edu

National/Regional

Ireland

Irish research group Decision Modelling, Management & Philosophy chair Dr. C. Brugha, University College Dublin, Ireland

Netherlands

Dutch NOSMO Research Group on Methodology for Handling Complex Societal Problems & Issues, chair Dr. Dorien J. DeTombe, Greenhill & Waterfront Foundation, The Netherlands

Slovenia

Slovenia special research group Methodology for Complex Societal Problems of the Slovenia Institute of Climate Change (SEM), chair Dr. Timi Ecimovic, Komenda, Slovenia

Turkey

Tukisch research group on Complex Societal Problems & Issues, co-chair Dr. Ali Gokmen, E-MAIL: agokmen@metu.edu.tr Department of Chemistry, METU, Ankara, Turkey; co-chair Dr. inci Gokmen, E-mail: igokmen@metu.edu.tr Department of Chemistry, METU, Ankara

West Europe

West-Euro Operational Research Research Group on Handling Complex Societal Problems & Issues, chair Dr. Dorien J. DeTombe

Connected research groups:

Dutch NOSMO Research Group on Simulation

Socio-Cybernetics

Chaos Theory

20.3 Past activities

Agenda 2004 Complex societal problems & issues

June 4 Friday 2004 14.00-17.00 NOSMO Simulation & Complex Societal Problems Location: University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, Europe Costs: free url: <http://www.geocities.com/doriendetombe> see conferences <http://www.siswo.uva.nl/netwerken/netwerkgroepen/nosmo.htm>

August 17-20 2004 RC33 the Sixth International Conference on Social Science Methodology Location: Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Europe Costs: conference fee Deadline: abstract 15th March url: <http://www.siswo.uva.nl/rc33>

November 12th 2004 10.00-17.00 Methodology NOSMO Location: The Netherlands, Europe Costs: conference fee Deadline: abstract 15th October 2004 url: <http://www.siswo.uva.nl/netwerken/netwerkgroepen/nosmo.htm>

November 18th 2004 14.00-20.00 Workshop Complex Societal Problems & Issues Location: State University of Connecticut, USA Contact: Dr D. Petkov, Associate Professor in MIS, Eastern Connecticut State University, USA petkovd@easternct.edu

November 20-23 2004, Decision Sciences Institute Annual Conference DSI 2004, Boston; Mini-Track: Complex Societal Problems Location: Boston, USA Costs: conference fee Deadline: Refereed Papers: April 1, 2004 Abstracts and Proposals: May 1, 2004 url: <http://www.ccsu.edu/business/faculty/petkovao/PersInfo/CALL><http://www.ccsu.edu/business/faculty/petkovao/PersInfo/CallsIndex.htm>

General DSI 2004: <http://www.decisionsciences.org/> see annual meeting Boston Contact also: Dr. D. Petkov, Associate Professor in MIS, Eastern Connecticut State University, USA petkovd@easternct.edu see also: minitrack DSI 2004 Boston

Agenda of 2003

The incidental theme of 2003 is a comparison of models of CPB and Nyfer, a continuation of the discussion of November 2002.

- 18 March 2003 Amsterdam, Comparison of the models of CPB and Nyfer Continuation of the discussion of 15 November 2002 of the CPB models Introduction Dr. Dorien DeTombe Prof. Dr. Frank den Butter (VU) comparison of the models of CPB and Nyfer Discussion Location: Grote zaal SISWO, Plantage Muidergracht 4, 1018 TV Amsterdam (Center of Amsterdam, tram 9) tel.+31 20 527 06 50; fax +31 20 622 94 30 email:moot@siswo.uva.nl; <http://www.siswo.uva.nl>
- 5-7 May 2003 Luxembourg HCP 2003 14th Mini Euro conference organized by Prof. Dr. R. Bisschoff <http://www.cu.lu/hcp2003/> A conference fee applies here. 16.00-18.00 Monday 5th May Complex Systems 16.00-18.00 Tuesday 6th May EWG Complex Societal Problems
- 6-10 July 2003 Turkey, Istanbul Euro/Informs 2003 "New opportunities for operations research" See: <http://www.istanbul2003.org/main.html> A conference fee applies here. Special stream on Complex Societal Problems & Ethics
- 21 November 2003 Amsterdam Methodology Research Conference of Dutch Methodologists at the Free university in Amsterdam <http://www.siswo.uva.nl/netwerken/netwerken/netwerkgroepen/nosmo.htm> Fee about 30 euro. Please send abstracts to DeTombe before 15th of October 2003. Information: SISWO, tel.+31 20 527 06 50; fax +31 20 622 94 30 Email: moot@siswo.uva.nl; <http://www.siswo.uva.nl>

New group: The North American Research on Complex Societal Problems & Issues

The North American Research on Complex Societal Problems & Issues is a part of the International Research Group of Complex Societal Problems & Issues, which includes the Operational Research Euro Working Group of Complex Societal Problems & Issues

Board of the North American Research on Complex Societal Problems & Issues:

Dr. D. Petkov (Co-Chair) Eastern Connecticut State University, Willimantic, CT, USA petkovd@easternct.edu
Dr Olga Petkova (Co-Chair) Central Connecticut State University, New Britain CT 06050, USA, petkovao@ccsu.edu

Dr. Henry Etzkowitz, State university of New York, New York, NY, USA Dr . Dorien DeTombe, Greenhill & Waterfront Foundation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Europe

Research Goals of the Research Group Handling Complex Societal Problems & Issues:

1. Multi-disciplinary theoretical research on combining existing methods for handling of all phases of the problem handling process of complex societal problems & issues
2. Creating new methods and tools to support complex societal problems & issues
3. Testing methods and tools to support complex societal problems & issues
4. Using existing methods and tools to support real life complex societal problems & issues
5. Handling real life problems in order to improve the methodological knowledge

Conferences: November 18th 2004 14.00-20.00 Workshop Complex Societal Problems & Issues Location: State University of Connecticut, USA Contact: Dr D. Petkov, Associate Professor in MIS, Eastern Connecticut State University, USA petkovd@easternct.edu

November 20-23 2004, Decision Sciences Institute Annual Conference DSI 2004, Boston; Mini-Track: Complex Societal Problems Location: Boston, USA Costs: conference fee Deadline: Refereed Papers: April 1, 2004 Abstracts and Proposals: May 1, 2004 url: <http://www.ccsu.edu/business/faculty/petkovao/PersInfo/CALL>

<http://www.ccsu.edu/business/faculty/petkovao/PersInfo/CallsIndex.htm>

general DSI 2004: <http://www.decisionsciences.org/> see annual meeting Boston contact also: Dr. D. Petkov, Associate Professor in MIS, Eastern Connecticut State University petkovd@easternct.edu see also: minitrack DSI 2004 Boston

Agenda 2002 In the year 2002, the Euro Working Group on Complex Societal Problems organized six international meetings. All meetings were organized together with the Dutch NOSMO research group on Complex Societal Problems and the West-Euro group on Complex Societal Problems. These meetings took place in Amsterdam (3 times), Maastricht (The Netherlands), Brussels (Belgium) and Edinburgh, UK. At the meetings, individual research was discussed by presenting papers, and cooperation of the members of the research group was discussed, which resulted in an international and methodological comparison on the subject of "The Complexity of Large Cities". The Brussels meeting was organized in cooperation with the Mini Euro conference of Prof. dr. Jean Pierre Brans, and the meeting in Edinburgh was organized within the IFORS conference. A special booklet was published with the abstracts of the lectures on the topic of Complex Societal Problems in Edinburgh (see below).

Agenda 2002 WEST-Euro Working Group Complex Societal Problems & Dutch Nosmo research group Complex Societal Problems

The main theme of research in 2002 is a continuation of the research started in 2001. The theme is "How to handle the complex problems in large cities". In this research, the focus is on the interaction of different aspects, such as economic, urban planning, education, and healthcare to one large problem. Three subgroups of the West-Euro research group are focussing with different methods on three different cities: Brussels, Adaptive Control Methodology (Brans); Maastricht Integrative City Planning (ICIS); and Amsterdam Compram method (DeTombe) in a comparison of methods.

- 8 February 2002 meeting Amsterdam SISWO lectures: - Prof. Dr. Henk Becker: Social Impact Assessment - Dr. Lex Brans Municipal of Amsterdam, director large cities Policy Amsterdam - Discussion research topic Complexity of problems large cities: Amsterdam
- 5 April 2002 Special meeting on the 12th MINI Euro Brussels together with the Group Ethics (Brans & Pruyt) Location Brussels BELGIUM. jpbbrans@vub.ac.be <http://www.DSS.Brussels-2002.vub.ac.be>, - Presentation of the interview results of the problems of the large city Amsterdam - Discussion on the data analyzing and next step in the research program by DeTombe - Lecture of Dr. Erik Pruyt on Ethics in decision making - Discussion and reports of conferences
- 8-12 July Edinburgh, UK IFORS 2002, www.ifors2002.org special stream on Complex Societal Problems, 14 presentations (see booklet below)
- 20 September Maastricht ICIS Presentation of Dr. J. Grosskurth on simulation models - discussion on the use of simulation models for complex societal problems
- 8 November 2002 Methodology day SISWO Amsterdam (Dutch) (in Dutch) Models of predicting the future: considering the predictions of the Dutch Central Plan Bureau -Dr. Henk Don, director Central Plan Bureau "Prediction for policy making" - Prof. Dr. Elmer Sterken, University of Groningen, The Netherlands "The workhorses of the Economy"
- 13 December 2002 Amsterdam SISWO Dr. Henri Etkovitz, New York State University, Sociology "Triple Helix: interaction between University, Business and Society" Dr. L. Leydesdorff, University of Amsterdam "Chaos theory and Self-organization"

20.4 Future activities

Tsunami Asia Asian Tsunami - call for scientific participation

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the research society of the International Research Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity we send our condolences to all the people in the world who suffer losses due to the terrible disaster of the Tsunami of 26 December 2004 in Asia.

Like all of us we are shocked by the terrible disaster of the Tsunami of 26 December in Asia. Following the disaster closely hour by hour on the television, web and in the journals we are terrified more and more each moment.

Our sincere condolences go to the inhabitants of the effected areas in Asia and the tourists, there at that moment. To the people who lost their lives in the disaster, who are injured or lost members of their families and goods. Our special concerns go to the children who lost their parents and the parents who lost their children.

As this kind of disaster is part of the field we all are working in "handling complex societal problems" we follow and cover the news as closely as possible in order to be able to analyze what happened afterwards. Prevention of disasters, and dealing with the complexity after a disaster is a topic of our field.

It is comforting to see that the whole world is alert, and willing to help. To see that the local, governmental, NGO's and international organizations are doing their utmost to help as good as possible and that people all over the world are willing to send money stimulated by the frightening real life reports of the media.

Nevertheless we can already see that the communication and the distribution of food and medicines and physical help in the first days are very difficult. We fear that some of the support given is coming to late due to, not adequate reactions to the disaster, too late reactions, former political fights and corruption. Deaths have to be identified, as far as this is possible or later on, recognized as deaths. People sending money meanwhile seeing the local currencies going down by opportunists playing the stock market. Miscommunication, ignorance, political differences, Inefficiency and corruption is unfortunately almost always the case in handling complex societal issues like this disaster.

Afterwards, when the direct emotional attention of the world is slipped away, the survivors, and the affected countries, are confronted with the huge effort of building up there lives again. People are emotional shocked and mentally abused by the lost of their loved one's, their families and friends, their means of living.

Many things have to be build up again, injured people physically and mentally have to be helped, orphaned children have to be very carefully taken care of, man and women have to be able to make a living to support their family again, infrastructure and communication have to be rebuild, flooded areas have to be cleaned, fisher boots, schools, hospitals have to be rebuild. Money promised have to be distributed to those areas and people to which it was mend for. This has to be very carefully controlled. This needs next to money support of people experts like, doctors, nurses, psychologists, building companies for building houses and boats, agricultural experts, communication, roads builders, traffic experts, etc.

How to deal with this complexity is the center of our scientific field, how to use the knowledge and effort of experts, how to make the different power parties (actors/ stakeholders) to communicate and agree on accepted and sustainable solutions and how to deal with emotions. Each of us focuses on their own methods and tools of how to handle such a complexity. Our researchers are specialized in logistics, decision support, effects on communication, transportation, sociological effects of the people, individual effects, political effects, effects on local communities, effects on economics, and effects on the soil.

The issues we could address are: prevention of disaster, c.q. diminishing the casualties, by analyzing how other disasters are handled in Bangladesh of BAM for instance, early warning systems how does this help?, prevention of disasters by medical supplies and airplanes, helicopter, flying hospitals, food and water supply storages, sustainable building houses, stabile communication, how can satellites help, and communication between international organizations of different kind, governmental and Non Governmental organization, and local organizations given different cultures, languages and religious and political believes and different knowledge, power and emotion. What were the blind spots, what were the white spots in handling the disaster, what went well and why, what happened concerning the knowledge, power and emotion.

Dealing with the disaster at the moment of the disaster, handling the effect afterwards, rebuilding the communities, long term effects on people, fear, tourist industry, and land. How to improve handling a disaster like this in the future. As president of the International Research Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity we like to ask your contribution to the victims of the Asian Tsunami to dedicate a part of your workforce to the issue of dealing with the effects of the Tsunami disaster and how to get these areas back to a reasonable level of living.

Included you will find the agenda of 2005. We like to dedicate our discussions in the meetings and conferences these next years on this disaster, on the causes, prevention and effects and on rebuilding commnities. We like to dedicate a special issue of the International Scientific Journal of Methods and Models of Complexity to the Tsunami disaster (see agenda 2005).

We are sure you find this disaster important enough to dedicate some of your scientific worktime to and that you like to contribute some of your scientific knowledge in order to help the victims of the disaster in this way.

Please let us know what your reaction is to this proposal.

If you think that this announcement would be interesting for your colleagues/students please send this message to your own distributions channels and bullitin boards.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Dorien DeTombe President International Research Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity P.O. Box. 3286, 1001 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Europe Tel: +31 20 6927526 E-Mail: DeTombe@lri.jur.uva.nl <http://->

www.geocities.com/doriendetombe

Agenda 2005 Agenda 2005 complex societal problems & issues

Research agenda conferences and meetings of the International Research Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity*

Main subject: Tsunami Asia

March * 2005 : Turkey Location : Istanbul Location : Ankara Costs : Subject : Tsunami ; Turkish complex issues

May * 2005 14.00-17.00 NOSMO Simulation & Complex Societal Problems Location : University of Utrecht, The Netherlands, Europe Subject : gaming (AI/games)and tsunami Costs : url : <http://www.geocities.com/doriendetombe> see conferences <http://www.siswo.uva.nl/netwerken/netwerkgroepen/nosmo.htm>

June 27-1st July 2005ISAGA 2005 (intern. Conference on Simulation and Gaming) Location : Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA USA isaga05@mgt●gatech●edu Costs : conference fee Deadline : abstract 15th January 2005 url : [ISAGA05●gatech●edu](http://www.siswo.uva.nl/netwerken/netwerkgroepen/isaga05●gatech●edu)

November 17-23 2005 Japan, Decision Support Asian Location : Japan Costs : conference fee Deadline : url :

November 25th 2005 10.00-17.00 Methodology NOSMO Location : Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Europe Costs : conference fee Deadline : abstract 15th October 2005 url : <http://www.siswo.uva.nl/netwerken/netwerkgroepen/nosmo.htm>

* not all the locations and precise dates are available at this moment, however the country and month are indicated, please consult the web regularly for the latest updates

The special issue of the International Scientific Journal of Methods and Models of Complexity on the Tsunami disaster. Abstracts before 1st of March 2005

Dr. Dorien DeTombe President International Research Society on Methodology of Societal Complexity P.O. Box. 3286, 1001 AB Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Europe Tel: +31 20 6927526 E-Mail: DeTombe@lri.jur.uva.nl ; <http://www.geocities.com/doriendetombe>

20.5 Publications

International Scientific Journal of Methods and Models of Complexity ISJ M&MC

An Interdisciplinary Journal for Research of Complexity Published on Internet by SISWO, University of Amsterdam Published on Internet by SISWO <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj> ISSN- 0928-3137

The Journal deals with the question how complex real-life problems can be analyzed and handled with scientific methods and models. Because such problems most of the time cannot be handled by one discipline, the journal is interdisciplinary. Contributions may come from the social and natural sciences that practice interdisciplinary research of complex problems. In the past articles are published with topics as "Policy making for complex problems", "Participative Model building in Healthcare", "Complex System Theory for Analysis of Locomotion", "Non Linear Models for Economy", "From Information to Communication", "Logistic Modeling for Complex Situations", "Computer Simulation of Chaos and Order", "Evaluation of Future Predictions".

The publication of the International Scientific Journal of Methods and Models of Complexity will be two times a year. Two referees will review submitted articles, and on their advice the editors will decide about the publication. From time to time a special edition on a theme will be published.

This journal is supported by:

The Dutch research Group on Simulation* The Dutch research group on Methodology for Complex Societal Problems* The Dutch research group on Socio-Cybernetics* The Dutch Institute for Social Science Research (SISWO) The International, European & North America Research Group of "Methodology of Complex Societal Issues" of the "European Federation of Operational Research Science".

Chief Editors: Dr. Cor van Dijkum, Department of Methodology and Statistics, Utrecht University, Utrecht The Netherlands, Europe, E-Mail: c.vandijkum@fss.uu.nl <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/cvd>

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Editors: Prof. Dr. Raymond Bisdorff, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg, Europe E-Mail: bisdorff@cu.lu

Dr. Frans van Eijnatten, University of Eindhoven, The Netherlands, Europe, E-mail: F.M.v.Eijnatten@tm.tue.nl, <http://www.chaosforum.com>

Dr. Henry Etzkowitz, Purchase, State University of New York, New York, USA, henryetzkowitz@earthlink.net, <http://www.triplehelix.dk>

Dr. Olga Petkova, Central Connecticut State University, Connecticut, USA, E-mail: petkova@ccsu.edu

Dr. Johan Springeal, University of Antwerp, Belgium, Europe, E-mail:

jspringa@zeus.ruca.ua.ac.be

Articles can be sent by post (three copies) and E-mail (MS Word or pdf format) to: Dr. C van Dijkum, Department of Methodology and Statistics, PO Box 80.140, 3508 TC, Utrecht University, The Netherlands, Europe E-Mail: c.vandijkum@fss.uu.nl <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj>

The Journal deals with the question how complex real life problems can be analyzed and handled with scientific methods and models. Because such problems most of the time cannot be handled by one discipline, the journal is interdisciplinary. Contributions may come from the social and natural sciences that practice interdisciplinary research of complex problems.

*All groups of the "Dutch Association of Researchers of Methodology of the Social Sciences" (NOSMO)

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"Editorial Introduction" Cor van Dijkum & Dorien DeTombe <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj/intro.htm>

"The Group Development Process Seen Through the Lens of Complexity Theory" John Campbell, J. David Flynn, James Hay University of Western Ontario, London, Canada abstract <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj/flynabstract.htm> full text <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj/pdflyn.pdf>

Reformation of Mobile Agents by Chaotic Itinerancy Masao Kubo, Yoshiyuki Sasakabe National Defense Academy, Kanagawa, Japan abstract <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj/kuboabstract.htm> full text <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj/kubo.pdf>

Art & Science, A Video Stream Strukturen Anna Abee, Dutch cineast <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj/art.htm>

see the video For LAN users: <mms://stream2.surfnet.nl/u/uva/windowsmedia/fdr/structuren2WM-320x240.asf>

For MODEM users: <mms://stream2.surfnet.nl/u/uva/windowsmedia/fdr/structuren2WM-240x160.asf>

Call for Papers <http://www.fss.uu.nl/ms/cvd/isj/call.htm>

The Journal deals with the question how complex real life problems can be analyzed and handled with scientific methods and models. Because such problems most of the time cannot be handled by one discipline, the journal is interdisciplinary. Contributions may come from the social and natural sciences that practice interdisciplinary research of complex problems.

Publications on the topic of Complex Societal Problems & Issues

- DeTombe, Dorien J. & Cor van Dijkum (Eds.) 1996. Analyzing Societal Problems. A Methodological Approach. Mering: Rainer Hampp Verlag, 300 pp. ISBN: 3-87988-189-8
- Stuhler, E. & D.J. DeTombe (Eds.) 1999. Volume 5, Cognitive Psychological Issues and Environment Policy Application, Research on Cases and Theories. Munchen/Mering: Hampp Verlag, ISBN: 3-87988-355-6
- DeTombe, D.J. & Stuhler, E. (Eds.) 1999. Volume 6, Complex Problem Solving; Methodological Support for Societal Policy Making, Research on Cases and Theories. Munchen/Mering: Hampp Verlag, ISBN:3-87988-356-4.
- Dijkum van, Cor, Dorien DeTombe, & Etzel van Kuijck (Eds.) 1999. Validation of simulation models. Amsterdam: Siswo, ISBN: 90-676-152-2.
- DeTombe, Dorien J. (Guest Editor) 2001. Handling Complex Societal Problems, European Journal of Operation Research; Vol. 128-2, pp.227-458, 16 January 2001, Elsevier, North-Holland, Amsterdam.
- DeTombe, Dorien J. (Ed.) 2001. Complexity as a Challenge Book of Abstracts, Volume 9. EURO 2001. Pp.38. Delft: Delft University of Technology. ISBN 90-5638-080-X.
- DeTombe, Dorien J. (Ed.) 2001. Handling Complex Societal Problems. Book of Abstracts, Volume 10. Pp.18, EUROSIM2001. Delft: Delft University of Technology. ISBN 90-5638-081-8.
- DeTombe, Dorien J. (Ed.) 2002. Complexity as a Challenge Book of Abstracts, IFORS 2002, Edinburgh, UK, Volume 11; Amsterdam: Greenhill & Waterfront, Europe: Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Guildford, UK, America: Montreal, Canada ISBN 90-77171-03-7, NUGI 661, 652, 659, 852,
- DeTombe, Dorien (Ed.) (2003) Complex Societal Problems, Volume 12 (Book of Abstracts) EURO/INFORMS, Istanbul, Turkey 2003, Amsterdam: Greenhill & Waterfront, Europe: Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Guilford, UK, America: Montreal, Canada ISBN 90-771-71-05- NUGI 661, 652, 659, 852 14 pages

- DeTombe, Dorien (2003) Handling Complex Societal Problems (Applied on the Aids/HIV Problem) In Henk Becker and Frank Vanclay International Handbook of Social Impact Assessment Conceptual and Methodological Advances Edward Elgar Publishers 2003 ISBN 1 84064 935 6

21 EWG EUROPT, EURO Continuous Optimization

21.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/>

Coordinator: Florian Jarre
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Department of Financial Mathematics

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Email: gwweber@zpr.uni-koeln.de

Members: about 316

International composition: EUROPT has members from almost all European countries including:

Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

Trans-continental members are from

Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, India, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, TRNC and the USA.

Webmasters:

Başak Akteke

Köksal Yücesoy

Aysun Tezel

21.2 Purpose and history

EUROPT was established at the second day of the second IPM Workshop (IPM-2000), organized just before the EURO-XVII meeting in Budapest, July 2000. IPM-2000 was the first workshop of EUROPT. There were 58 founding members who joined EUROPT during EURO-XVII conference. Today, in June 2005, EUROPT has about 316 members.

Purpose:

- to disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge and to support research in continuous optimization,
- to contribute to the education of young optimization researchers and students (organizing EURO Summer and Winter Institutes, and by announcing Ph.D. Programs etc.),
- to assist in gathering the continuous optimization community in Europe organized under the umbrella of EURO,
- to build and maintain links with sister special interest groups inside and outside EURO. Inside EURO, the working groups and chapters on Combinatorial Optimization (ECCO), on Complex Societal Problems, on Experimental Economy (E-CUBE), on Financial Modelling, on Fuzzy Sets (EUROFUSE), on Metaheuristics (EU/ME) and on Multicriteria Decision Aiding (MCDA) are among our closest sisters. Outside EURO, we have good contacts and collaborations with optimization groups of SIAM, IFORS/INFORM, of ALIO, APOR and POP. Furthermore, we are going on
- to support the foundation of new EURO working groups,
- to establish regular information channels and regular meetings,
- to build links to users of continuous optimization methodology,
- to involve industrial organizations and users of optimization in the activities listed above,
- to initiate interdisciplinary research with colleagues from science, engineering and economy, with continuous optimization being a key technology,
- to support preparation, refereeing and editing of publications,
- vivid exchange between scientific experience and enthusiasm of the youth,
- encouragement of building up a common and developing Europe, and
- deepening of peace and friendship in Europe and in the world.

By now, the number of members has increased significantly to almost 316.

21.3 Past activities

- The 1st and founding EUROPT workshop "2nd IPM Workshop" took place in Budapest, Hungary, July 13-14, 2000(<http://www.cs.elte.hu/opres/IPM2000/workshop.html>);
- The **EUROPT homepage** was in Budapest firstly, then it moved to Ankara and is hosted now by Institute of Applied Mathematics of METU: <http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/>;
- EUROPT organized a number of sessions and was represented also by two semi-plenary lectures at EURO-XVIII meeting in Rotterdam (<http://www.euro2001.org/>);
- The 2nd EUROPT workshop "Smooth and Nonsmooth Optimization, Theory and Application" took place after the EURO-XVIII meeting in Rotterdam organized in 1991 (<http://wwwhome.math.utwente.nl/>);
- The EUROPT homepage is: (<http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/>);

- Two semi-plenary speakers represented EUROPT at the EURO-XVIII meeting in Rotterdam.
- EUROPT celebrated its 3rd annual meeting "Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization" in Istanbul, Turkey, July 4-5, 2003 (<http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/contopt03/conf/index.html>);
- EUROPT organized a stream of sessions for the EURO/INFORMS, Joint International Meeting, in Istanbul, Turkey, July 6-10, 2003 (former link at <http://www.istanbul2003.org/>).
- EUROPT co-organized the XX EURO Summer Institute "Stochastic and Heuristic methods in Optimization" at the Baltics, Neringa, Lithuania, June 26 - August 6, 2002 (<http://www.science.mii.lt/ESIXXI/>).
- 4th EUROPT Workshop "Challenges of Continuous Optimization in Theory and Applications" on Rhodes, Greece, July 2-3, 2004 (<http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/contopt04/index.html>) here, the former coordinator and vice-coordinator, Tamás Terlaky and Tibor Illés, became Honorary Coordinators of EUROPT;
- at EURO XX Conference 2004 in Rhodes, Greece, July 4-7, 2004: four valuable sessions and one semi-plenary lecture by a distinguished colleague organized by EUROPT (<http://www.euro-rhodes2004.org/>);
- EURO Summer Institute "Optimization and Data Mining", ESI XXII, July 9-25, 2004 in Ankara (<http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/esi04/index.html>), organized by EUROPT together with ORST (Turkish OR Society) and Institute of Applied Mathematics of METU, Ankara;
- Workshop "Sustainable Living in Rural Areas of Turkey", in Ankara, Turkey, March 7-21, 2005 (<http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/workshop-program.doc>), with Balaban Valley Group and Institute of Applied Mathematics of METU, Ankara, and with International and EURO Working Group on Complex Societal Problems;
- at The 8th SIAM Conference on Optimization, in Stockholm, Sweden, May 15-18, 2005, two Mini Symposia organized by EUROPT, and one Mini Symposium associated (<http://www.siam.org/meetings/op05/>);
- 17th EURO Mini Conference "Continuous Optimization in the Industry", in Pécs, Hungary, June 29 - July 1, 2005 (http://www.cs.elte.hu/opres/Pecs05EUROmini/h_about.html), organized by EUROPT, HORS (Hungarian OR Society), University of Pécs and co-sponsored by GOR (German OR Society);
furthermore,
- participation at the EURO initiative "Branding OR (please cf. <http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/BrandingOR.doc> and <http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/BrandingOR.doc>);
- foundation of the group "Young People for Operations Research in Developing Countries" (YORC) in Ankara, July 2004 (<http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/Branding-OR-EUROPT-.pdf>);
- - publication of EJOR special issue / feature cluster on "Smooth and Non- smooth Optimization", European Journal of Operations Research 157, 1 (2004);
- finalization of EJOR special issue on "Advances in Continuous Optimization", European Journal of Operations Research (2005);
- initialization and finalization of two more EJOR special issues (2004-2005):
"Challenges of Continuous Optimization in Theory and Applications" and
"Optimization in Data Mining". Closer information will be given below.
- Based on initiative and preparations together with EUROPT, two proposals for new EURO working groups were submitted to EURO at June 25, 2005:
EURO Working Group "Operational Research for Development" and
EURO Working Group "Computational Biology and Bioinformatics".
EUROPT expresses its thanks to its honorary coordinators:

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21.4 Future activities

- EUROPT will continue to organize two-days workshops before or after the EURO-k conferences, to prepare streams and sessions there, to attract prominent semi-plenary speakers for the EURO-k conferences, to organize EURO Summer and Winter Institutes, to organize EURO Mini Conferences, to prepare EJOR special issues, to support the EURO initiative "Branding OR" and the foundation of new EURO working groups;
- at IFORS 2005 on Hawaii, July 11-15, 2005, 1-2 session(s) organized by EUROPT (<http://www.informs.org/Conf/IFORS2005/>);
- at International Symposium on Health Informatics and Bioinformatics, Turkey '05, in Antalya, Turkey, November 10-12, 2005, EUROPT serves in program and advisory committees (<http://hibit05.ii.metu.edu.tr/index.html>); in the year **2006** there will be
- 5th EUROPT Workshop "Advances in Continuous Optimization" in Reykjavik, Iceland, June 30 - July 1, 2006 (<http://wwwhome.math.utwente.nl/~stillgj/COPT06/>); there will also be a special theme additionally: "Applications in the Energy Sector";
- at EURO XXI 2006 in Reykjavik, Iceland, July 2-5, 2006, EUROPT will serve with many streams, semi-plenary lectures and tutorials (<http://www.euro2006.org/>);
- EURO Summer Institute 2006, "Optimization Challenges in Engineering: Methods, Software, and Applications", in Wittenberg, Germany, August 18 - September 2, 2006, organized by EUROPT, GOR (German OR Society) and Darmstadt University of Technology (<http://wwwopt.mathematik.tu-darmstadt.de/events/esi2006/>);
- finally, since April 2005, EUROPT is one of the supporters of Seminar on "Computational Biology and Medicine" at Institute of Applied Mathematics, METU, Ankara (<http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/research/groups/-compbio/index.html>); for the year **2007** there will be plan (and will apply for)
- EURO Mini Conference "Continuous Optimization in Modern Life Sciences and Development" in South Africa, by EUROPT and the possible 2 new EURO WGs; among the organizers: Montaz Ali and Theo Stewart (local organizers), Jörg Fliege, Tamas Terlaky and Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber

For all its precious encouragement and generous support, EUROPT expresses its gratitude to EURO.

21.5 Publications

- A **first special issue** of EJOR containing written versions of several excellent featured talks of the IPM-2000 workshop, that was organized as our 1st EUROPT workshop, appeared as EJOR, Volume 143, Issue 2, 2002. The guest editors of this special issue were T. Illés (Eötvös University Budapest, Hungary), T. Rapcsák (MTA SZTAKI, Budapest, Hungary) and T. Terlaky (McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada).

- A **second special issue** of EJOR featuring the best contributions to 2nd EUROPT workshop "Smooth and Nonsmooth Optimization Workshop", Rotterdam, The Netherlands, July 12-13, 2001, became published as a Feature Cluster on Smooth and Nonsmooth Optimization: EJOR, Volume 157, Issue 1, 16 August 2004. The guest editors are J. Brinkhuis (Erasmus University, The Netherlands), J.G.B. Frenk (Erasmus University, The Netherlands), T. Illes (Eötvös University Budapest, Hungary), G. Still (University of Twente, The Netherlands), T. Terlaky (McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada) and G.-W. Weber (METU, Ankara, Turkey).
- A **third special issue** of EJOR special issue became prepared on the 3rd EUROPT Workshop "Advances in Continuous Optimization", Istanbul, Turkey, July 4-5, 2003; it should appear next in 2005. Here, the guest editors are B. Karasözen (METU, Ankara), M. Pinar (Bilkent University, Ankara), T. Terlaky (McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada) and G.-W. Weber (METU, Ankara).
- A **fourth EJOR special issue** is in preparation and called Challenges of Continuous Optimization in Theory and Applications, at the occasion on 4th EUROPT "Challenges of Continuous Optimization in Theory and Applications", Rhodes, July 2-3, 2004. The guest editors are M. Dür (Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany), B. Karasözen (METU, Ankara), T. Terlaky (McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada) and G.-W. Weber (METU, Ankara). It shall appear at the end of 2005 or beginning of 2006.
- Finally, a **fifth EJOR special issue** is at a developed stage also; its name is Optimization in Data Mining, at the occasion of EURO Summer Institute "Optimization and Data Mining", ESI XXII, July 9-25, 2004 in Ankara, July 9-25, 2004. The guest editors are B. Karasözen (METU, Ankara), A. Rubinov (University of Ballarat, Australia), J. Teghem (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium) and G.-W. Weber (METU, Ankara). Also this special issue should appear at the end of 2005 or beginning of 2006.

Financial Support for Scientific Events

for EUROPT Workshops in Budapest, Rotterdam, Istanbul and Rhodes:

from EURO about 2500 EUR

for EUROPT Workshops in Rotterdam and Rhodes:

from GOR about 750 EUR

for EUROPT Workshops in Istanbul and Rhodes:

from IAM about 300 EUR

for ESI 2004:

from EURO 14000 EUR from TUBITAK 2071EUR from IAM 980 EUR

for 17th EURO Mini Conference:

from EURO 3500 EUR from GOR 1275 EUR from EUROPT 800 EUR

and various further financial support from local universities, institutions and companies.

Thank you very much!

Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, Başak Akteke, Aysun Tezel,
METU, Ankara, June 25, 2005

22 EWG HCP, Human Centered Processes

22.1 General information

Web site: <http://www-hcp.enst-bretagne.fr>

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Gustav Lundberg - Duquesne University
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Marc Roubens - Université de Liège
M.Roubens@ulg.ac.be

Leonidas Sakalauskas - Vilnius University

Members: The HCP EURO WG has registered 58 members.

22.2 Purpose and history

The study of operational strategies and processes used by human beings has been the place where Cognitive Science and more traditional approaches recently met, and has led to the concept of Human Centered Designs and Technologies. Such a movement is an important challenge for both scientists and firms concerned by human beings in a workday context because the complementarity of cognitive and traditional approaches provide a great number of additional dimensions that allow the design and analysis of more complete and complex systems.

This group is concerned with analysis and modelling of advanced manufacturing, information, or action systems which are strongly dependant on a balanced integration between human and computer skills: collaborative working, cooperation, user adapted interaction. Its activities will be supported both by industrial fields and by scientific research in cognitive sciences and operational research, as well as mathematical and computer modelling.

Several kinds of systems and processes will be considered: production systems, information systems, action systems. A special challenge is the multiple bind between systems and users, systems and systems, and users and users: this raise the question of how a system (resp. a human user) can recognize a human user (resp. a system) and adapt it to its/his/her behavior. The actual development of communication tools (Web, Internet, Intranet, Hypermedia tools) involving distributed, shared and multi-modal information makes such questions very relevant from social and technical points of view.

As a consequence, the HCP group will be pluri-disciplinary and application oriented. It will be mainly concerned with the study of operational strategies and processes. Embodied in the broad domain of information sciences, it will be more concerned with semantics and qualitative aspects than by digital and quantitative ones.

In 1992, the European Communities have elaborated the notion of Anthropocentric Production Systems and proposed a number of actions to account for the place of human operators in complex industrial production systems.

In September 1994, the First European Conference on Cognitive Science in Industry was held in Luxembourg. This conference was the initiating step towards an European Brite-Euram project COMAPS (Cognitive Management of Anthropocentric Production Systems, BE 96 - 3941) that ran from 1997 to 1999. This program was the first to be explicitly devoted to the taking into account of human and cognitive factors within production systems. It involved four firms and three academic partners.

In September 1999, the first Human Centered Processes conference "HCP'99" was held in Brest, France (which had the status of a Mini EURO Conference). The purpose of this conference was to gather Operational Researchers interested in discussing human centered approaches applied to complex industrial problems, industrialists faced with questions related to cognition, and researchers who are expert in Cognitive Science. More than 20 different countries were represented in the conference. Proceedings of HCP'99 are available (Human Centered Processes, 1999, Philippe Lenca (editor), Espace Edition ENST-Bretagne, ENST-Bretagne (France) - Centre de Recherche Public - Centre Universitaire (Luxembourg), Brest (France), September 22-24, 10th Mini EURO Conference), including 79 papers comprising more than 500 pages.

These events and programs have shown that the approach was now mature enough to launch a research initiative at European Level within the EURO framework. The HCP group was officially accepted by EURO during the EURO XVII Conference (Budapest, Hungary) in the year 2000.

22.3 Past activities

12th Mini EURO Conference DSS 2002 (Brussels, April, 2-5, 2002): this conference was organised jointly by three EURO Working Groups (DSS, HCP, PROMOTHEUS).

ROADEF 2002, Paris, February 20-22, 2002, Paris: one session on Human Centered Processes and Decision Aiding (3 papers).

14th Mini EURO Conference HCP 2003 (Luxemburg, May, 5-7, 2003): Human centered processes: Distributed decision making and man-machine cooperation. The DSS and Complex Societal Systems Euro Working Groups will be hosted during the conference for their group meeting. There will be about 70 attendees (from 22 different countries) with 48 papers accepted, 3 plenary sessions, and 2 panels dedicated to military applications and to air traffic control.

22.4 Future activities

One special issues (EJOR) is still planned to be published in 2005 from the HCP 2003 conference presentations. Review process is achieved.

We shall organize a HCP stream during EURO 2006 in Iceland.
HCP 2007 will be organised as a Mini EURO Conference in Vilnius by Professors Sakalauskas and Zavadskas.

22.5 Publications

PhD Dissertations

PhD Thesis: Alexandre Skrzyniarz, Analyse de problèmes de décision distribuée et conception d'heuristiques de résolution. Ph.D dissertation (in French), May 2003, EHESS (Paris, France).

Journals and Proceedings

14th Mini-EURO conference Proceedings, HCP'2003, Human centered Processes, Distributed decision making and man-machine cooperation, R. Bisdorff Editor, May 2003.

IEEE Intelligent Systems magazine, G. Coppin & A. Skrzyniarz, "Human Centered Processes: Individual and Distributed Decision Support", Volume 18, Number 4, July/August 2003.

HCP contribution to special issue of EJOR DSS 2002, "Management of the future, MCDA, dynamic and ethical contribution", (4 papers for the HCP Working Group contribution).

In Cognito (Cahiers Romains de Sciences Cognitives) Special Issue, Human Centered Processes, Volume 1, Number 3, 2003 (Papers selected from HCP'2003 conference).

EJOR, "Management of the future MCDA ; Dynamical and ethical contributions", Volume 153, Number 2, March 2004.

Newsletters HCP Newsletter 4, June 2004.

Electronic Publications HCP On-Line bibliography: New on HCP web site, an on-line bibliography dealing with Human Centered Processes is now available. We initiated this new helpful tool for our Group with the HCP99 proceedings and HCP feature issue of EJOR: all HCP99 papers are now available on-line in PDF format, complete bibliography as a single HTML page, and so on.

23 EWG E-CUBE, European Working Group on Experimental Economics

23.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.uni-graz.at/sor/eCube>

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Members: Approx. 50 members from nearly all EU-countries, Croatia and US.

23.2 Purpose and history

Our general plan is to bring together researchers from the field of Experimental Economics and related disciplines like business administration, behavioral sciences, and Operational Research. Since 1999 the CEEL-group at the University of Trento/Italy and the ExLab-group at the University of Graz have existed. E-CUBE is an enlarged group, building on their ideas.

The first announcement of the E-CUBE WG was given at the October 2000 meeting of ExLab in Graz.

23.3 Past activities

Meeting of Working Group on 8 July 2000, combined with the EURO XVII, Budapest, Hungary.

EURO XVIII, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, July 2001.

Workshop on Experimental work: 14 and 15 September 2001 at University of Grenoble.

Workshop: Simulation of Evacuations and Traffic Flows 21-23 November 2001. Invited speaker: Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. SELTEN Reinhard (Nobel Prize Laureate 1994 in Economics, Bonn).

Labor - Experiments from different fields, mainly from the field of economics and business administration, especially: public good theory, criminal environment, bargaining theory, forecasting.

Meetings and Conferences: Mainly in Graz and Trento. Details of the 2003 meeting are as follows.

THE Seventh CEEL Workshop in Experimental Economics "Decision-Making: Perspectives of Experimental Economics AND Psychology"

May 16-17, 2003 Hotel Panorama Sardinia TRENTO ITALY

Organised by the: CEEL - Computable and Experimental Economics Laboratory, Department of Economics, University of Trento, Italy. LSC - Laboratory of Cognitive Science, University of Trento, Italy. TECS - Technologies for Experimental and Computational Economics. With the support of MIUR, Cofin ricerche di interesse nazionale

Main Topics:

Economic Psychology "Tax Compliance" Invited Speaker: Prof. Paul Webley, University of Exeter

Psychology of Judgment and Decision-Making "Research in Behavioural Decision Making: Between the Two Nobel Prizes and After". Invited Speaker: Prof. Tommy Gärling, Göteborg University

Experimental Economics "Biases in decision making as topological distortions" Invited Speaker: Prof. Massimo Egidi, University of Trento

Half a day is devoted to each topic. The last half day is open to all contributions in any area of Experimental Economics, and Psychology of Judgment and Decision-Making.

For further information see the CEEL web-site on <http://www-ceel.economia.unitn.it/events/workshop/work7.html> or the LSC web-site on <http://www.form.unitn.it/lsc/>

The Programme Committee Chairs - prof. Nicolao Bonini (nbonini@form.unitn.it) - prof. Luigi Mittone, (luigi.mittone@economia.unitn.it)

Organising Committee Secretary, Martina Cvajner (balkans@gelso.unitn.it)

Workshop: 22-23 May 2003, University of Graz, Department of Statistics and Operations Research

- Sinto-Markt: Vera Hofer, Tanja Feit, Ulrike Leopold - Experiments in Accounting: Maximilian Jung, Hr. Baredo

- Experiment: Mount Pleasant & Mount Danger: Robin Pope - The Profile Analysis of Job Satisfaction Based on the Cybernetic Model of Job Satisfaction? A Culturally Independent Perspective: Paul Jimenez - Experiment on time series: Johannes Leitner - Experiments in Accounting: Eva Haase, Patrick Sax, Maximilian Jung, Ivan Baredo

- Prognoseexperimente: Johannes Leitner - Steuerungsexperimente: Ulrike Leopold, Martin Schneider - Accounting Experimente: Maximilian Jung, Baredo - Results of "Mount Pleasant and Mount Danger"-Experiments: Robin Pope

Experimental Economics Meeting in cooperation with meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik/Sozialwissenschaftlicher Ausschuss, 22-24 April 2004 University of Graz.

- Are teams less prone to myopic loss aversion than individuals? An experimental study on individual versus team decision making: Matthias Sutter - Measuring Strategic Uncertainty in Coordination Games: Frank Heinemann -

Competition as a Coordination Device: Joachim Weimann - Datenfälschung in den Sozialwissenschaften - Diagnosen mit Bannford's Gesetz: Andreas Diekmann Why People reject Super-fair Offers - Evaluating Video Experiments: Heike Hennig-Schmidt - The Individual Micro-Lending Contract: Alexander Kritikos - Measuring individual-level

loss aversion: Simon Gächter - Besitzumseffekt für utilitaristische und hedonistische Produkte: Marc Hassenzahl - Why are stabilisations delayed - an experiment with an application to all pay auctions: Oliver Kirchkamp - Dynamics

on Incentive Contracts: Manfred Königstein

Experimental Economics Meeting in cooperation with meeting of the Verein für Socialpolitik/Sozialwissenschaftlicher Ausschuss, 28-30 April 2005 University of Graz.

23.4 Future activities

Graz-2005 - Joint-Workshop on Decision Support Systems, Experimental Economics & e-Participation

June 5th-7th, 2005 Graz, Austria Third Announcement & Call for Papers

Workshop Web Page: <http://www.uni-graz.at/soowww/eCube> Workshop Email: joint.workshop.graz2005@fccdp.com

The Workshop The purpose of this Joint-Workshop is to bring together researchers in the areas of Decision Support Systems, Operations Research, Computer Sciences, Economics, and their respective areas of applications. The interdisciplinary flavour of this event joins the interests of the EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems (EWG-DSS); EURO Working Group on Experimental Economics (EWG E-CUBE), and e-PARTICIPATION (OCG / ESF Working Group one-Democracy). Particular focus will be given to recent developments in all related fields, their methodologies, concepts and implementation details. Members of the working groups are expected to participate and to encourage the participation of other related professionals, so that further collaboration can be promoted on a larger scale.

EWG-DSS: EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems The growing demand for specific approaches of decision making and decision support, keeps us aware of the importance of frequently getting in contact with professionals and colleagues working in the area within a cooperative workshop environment. The EWG-DSS has been created in Madeira (Portugal) during the Euro Summer Institute on DSS, in May 1989. Since then, researchers involved in this group have been meeting every year in workshops. In 2005, the EWG-DSS will celebrate its 16th. Anniversary in Graz!

In this workshop it will be strongly encouraged the exchange of new ideas involving topics like:

- Complex Decision Problems;
- the evolution of DSSs and its various applications;
- DSS Methodology and Frameworks;
- Distributed GSS / NSS;
- AI Methods in GSS / NSS;
- Internet Applications;

as well as · Applications in E-Negotiations, Finances, Education, among others.

Members of the EWG-DSS are expected to participate and to encourage the participation of other related professionals in this Joint-Workshop, so that further collaboration can be promoted on a larger scale.

EWG E-CUBE: EURO Working Group on Experimental Economics The general plan of the EWG E-CUBE is to bring together researchers from the field of Experimental Economics and related disciplines like business administration, behavioral sciences, and Operations Research. Since 1999 there exists the CEEL-group at the University of Trento/Italy and the ExLab-group at the University of Graz. As an enlargement of these two groups the E-CUBE wants to combine their ideas. In 2005, the E-CUBE will have its meeting in Graz.

Members of the EWG E-CUBE are expected to participate and to encourage the participation of other related professionals in this Joint-Workshop, so that further collaboration can be promoted on a larger scale.

e-Participation in Europe: Concepts and Implementation OCG / ESF WORKING GROUP on e-DEMOCRACY

The e-PARTICIPATION branch of this Joint-Workshop concerns "e-Participation in Europe: Concepts and Implementation". It is promoted by the European Science Foundation (ESF) network on "Towards Electronic Democracy" (TED - a project that deals with Internet-Based Complex Decision Support -<http://www.esf.org/ted>), by the Working Group "e-Democracy" of the Austrian Computer Society (OCG) and by the Research Group "e-Voting.at". Its main goal is to encourage new developments on e-Participation and bring together people working in academia, politics and public administration.

Contributions should address all important issues concerning:

- Technologies and administration for implementing e-Participation concepts in practice;
- Reports on implementations, their legal and technical framework;
- Reports on actual projects: experiences, feedbacks and future plans;

as well as · Analyses of the impact of e-Participation on our public administration and citizen behaviour.

All topics can be presented from a theoretical view or demonstrated by real-world case-studies.

Members of the EWG-DSS; EWG E-CUBE and OCG-WG e-Democracy are expected to participate and to encourage the participation of other related professionals in this Joint-Workshop, so that further collaboration can be promoted on a larger scale. The Workshop Participation is not restricted to the working group members, but open to all researchers within the related areas!

This Joint Workshop promises to offer a pleasant working environment for all participants, within the beautiful summer time of Graz. Call for Papers Papers addressing topics in research and application of Decision Support Systems;

Experimental Economics; and e-Participation, are currently being invited for this Joint Workshop.

Contributors are requested to submit either Abstracts (1 page), Short Papers (4/6 pages) or Full Papers (max. 12 pages) in electronic form (MS-Word or PDF) to the workshop e-mail address: joint.workshop.graz2005@fccdp.com, by 27/02/2005. Presentations of Projects, Software Tools and Demos are also welcome. Only electronic submissions will be accepted!

For more information, please contact directly the EWG DSS, E-CUBE, or e-Participation correspondent person. (EWG-DSS: Fatima C.C. Dargam, EWG E-CUBE: Ulrike Leopold-Wildburger, e-Participation: Wolfgang Polasek).

Publication Full Papers accepted for the Workshop can be submitted (refereed separately) for publication in special issues of the Journals: · CEJOR Central European Journal of Operations Research (Physica-Verlag/ Springer-Verlag Co.); · JDS Journal of Decision Systems (Hermes/Lavoisier, <http://jds.e-revues.com>); · Austrian Journal of Statistics. The authors are requested to hand-in their final full papers in electronic media to their respective Workshop Contact Person (from EWG-DSS, EWG-E-CUBE or e-PARTICIPATION), by the time of their presentations or up to 15/07/2005 via e-mail.

Program Committee Fatima Dargam, ILTC / Brazil - SimTech / Austria Ulrike Leopold, Univ. Graz / Austria Ulrich Pferschy, Univ. Graz / Austria Wolfgang Polasek, Basel Univ. / Switzerland Alexander Prosser, Vienna Univ. Economics (WU) / Austria Pacale Zarate, IRIT / France

(Members of the working groups EWG-DSS, EWG E-CUBE, and OCG-WG e-Democracy will serve as review board for the Workshop selection of contributions.) Preliminary Program

Day 1, Sunday - June 5th, 2005 · 17:00 - 19:00: Public Lecture at the Uni-Graz · 19:00: Welcome Party

Day 2, Monday - June 6th, 2005 · 9:00 a.m.: Joint Opening Session EWG-DSS, EWG-E-CUBE & e-PARTICIPATION. Welcome by the organizers. · 9:15 - 10:30: Invited talk (speaker to be announced) · 10:30: Coffee Break · 11:00 - 12:30: Session 1 · 12:30 - 14:00: Lunch (ReSoWi Zentrum Cafeteria) · 14:00 - 15:30: Session 2 · 15:30: Coffee Break · 16:00 - 17:30: Session 3 · 19:00: Evening social event. (to be announced)

Day 3, Tuesday - June 7th, 2005 · 9:00 - 10:30: Session 4 · 10:30: Coffee Break · 10:45 - 12:15: Session 5 · 12:15 - 13:30: Lunch (ReSoWi Zentrum Cafeteria) · 13:30 - 15:00: Session 6 · 15:00: Coffee Break · 15:30 - 16:30: Discussion Panel & Closing Session

* The sessions contain presentations and discussions of accepted papers and abstracts. Moderators and topics for sessions and panels are still to be announced. There will be parallel sessions for EWG-DSS, EWG E-CUBE and e-PARTICIPATION. Important Dates

* Papers & Abstracts due: 27/02/2005 * Notification of Acceptance: 30/04/2005 * Registration Deadline: 16/05/2005

* Workshop Dates: 05 - 07/06/2005 * Final Paper for Publication: 15/07/2005

Location The Joint Workshop on DSS, Experimental Economics & e-PARTICIPATION will take place at the Re-SoWi Zentrum of the Karl-Franzens Universität Graz, Universitätsstr. 15/E3, 8010-Graz, Austria. (Info: <http://www.kfunigraz.at/>) Graz is the second largest city in Austria with approximately 250,000 inhabitants. It is the best preserved medieval city centres in Central Europe, and it charmingly combines a longstanding historical tradition with the young flair of an university town. Graz was the cultural capital of Europe in 2003. It has a wonderful historic city centre (UNESCO cultural heritage!), as well as an interesting supply of cultural events and leisure-time. (Info about Graz: <http://www.graztourismus.at/>)

What to see in Graz? There are many turistic places to visit in Graz. Some of them are: the Landhaus (the town hall); the Zeughaus (the provincial armoury); the Bubble Kunsthaus (Contemporary Art Gallery); the Gothic Cathedral; the Baroque Mausoleum; the Schloßberg (the hill which rises up 473m above the roofscape of the city), where you can visit the Uhrturm (the clock tower on the Schloßberg); the Opera House; and the Schloß Eggenberg, a 17th- century palace situated in a beautiful park. Make sure that you find some time while you are in Graz to visit these places! For turistical sights in Graz, please check: <http://cms.graztourismus.at/cms/ziel/42425/EN/>

How to get to Graz? By Car: Please check the route planner at <http://www.route1.tiscover.com/route/> By Train: Please check the ÖBB connections query page at <http://www.oebb.at/en/index.html> By Plane: Please check the Austrian Airlines info-page at <http://www.aua.com/coop/tiscover/>

Accommodation in Graz The Workshop participants are responsible for making their hotel reservations on their own. We suggest that you check the web site: <http://cms.graztourismus.at/cms/ziel/41949/EN/>, for accommodation information and on-line reservation.

Local Organising Committee Prof. Ulrike Leopold, Univ. Graz / Austria Dr. Fatima Dargam, ILTC / Brazil - SimTech / Austria Dr. Klaus Ladner, Univ. Graz / Austria

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e-Participation Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Polasek Institute of Advanced Studies Vienna Stumpergasse 56 A-1060
Vienna, Austria Phone: +(43)(1) 5999 1155 Fax: +(43)(1) 5999 1163 E-mail: e-Participation@ihs.ac.at

Registration

Registrations should preferably be made at least 2 months before the Workshop date. Registration Deadline: 16/05/
2005. On-line Registration is available on the web-page <http://www.uni-graz.at/soowww/eCube>. Alternatively, you
can download the registration form file from the web-page, fill it in and send it as an attachment file to the workshop
e-mail address: or via Fax to +43 316 38627815.

A registration fee of EUR 60.00 (Sixty Euros), for students EUR 35.00 (Thirty-five Euros), will be charged to partly
cover expenses with the distributed material, coffee breaks, lunches and social events.

The registration fee should be transferred to the Workshop bank account, as specified in the registration form: Raf-
feisenlandesbank Steiermark - BLZ: 38000 Account Nr.: 8.435.497 Account Holder: Dr. Fatima Dargam-Perz /
EWG DSS & E-CUBE Workshop BIC: RZSTAT2G IBAN: AT28 3800 0000 0843 5497 Purpose: Registration Joint-
Workshop DSS, E-CUBE, e-PARTICIPATION / Graz 2005

If you cancel your registration before 31/05/2005, you will obtain 50

Young researchers and PhD Students may apply for financial support directly at EURO (contact: Secretary@euro-
online.org)

Institutional Support

The Association of European Operational Research Societies, EURO <http://www.euro-online.org> Institut für Statistik
& Operations Research Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz <http://www.kfunigraz.at/soowww> SimTech Simulations Tech-
nology <http://www.SimTechnology.com> ILTC - Instituto Doris Aragon (Institute of Logics, Philosophy and Theory of
Science) <http://www.iltc.br> IHS Vienna - Intitute of Advanced Studies, Austria <http://www.ihs.ac.at> OCG - Austrian
Computer Society <http://www.ocg.at> ESF - European Science Foundation <http://www.esf.org>

23.5 Publications

Leopold-Wildburger, U.; Lafer, A.; Schütze, J. (2001) McCockerel- Measuring Individual Punishment and Reciprocity
in a Simple Dilemma Game; accepted in: European Journal of Operational Research

Irlenbusch, B.; Leopold-Wildburger, U.; Schütze, J. (2001) Voting in EMU - An Experimental Study on Institutional
Innovation and the Role of Communication in the Stability and Growth Pact; submitted to Journal of Common Markets

Leopold-Wildburger, U.; Becker, O.; Kühner, M. (2001) Forecasting. Encyclopaedia of Optimization; Kluwer, Boston
Lafer, A. (2001) Steuerung komplexer Wirtschaftssysteme - eine statistische Analyse; ph.d.thesis at the University of
Graz

Schütze, J. (2001) Grazer Telefonstichprobe - ein alternatives Erhebungsinstrument? Verzerrungen von Daten und
Vertrauen in Daten; Steirische Statistiken LASTAT, Graz (Landesstatistik Steiermark)

Jung, M.; Leopold-Wildburger, U. (2001) On the Effect of the Bargaining Context in Bargaining Behaviour; in Kischka
et. al.(Eds.) Models, Methods, and Decision Support for Management: Contributions to Intelligent Decision Making
- Essays in Honor of Paul Stähly, Physica 2001; p. 349- 362

Leopold-Wildburger, U.; Glawischnig, M.; Lafer, A. Schütze J. (2001) Solving Conflicts and Sanctions - Results of an
Experimental Study; in Kischka et. al.(Eds.) Models, Methods, and Decision Support for Management: Contributions
to Intelligent Decision Making - Essays in Honor of Paul Stähly, Physica 2001; p. 401 - 417

Leopold-Wildburger, U.; Ostmann A. (2001) Was sollen und können EXPERIMENTE in der Ökonomie leisten?; WP
Universität Graz, Betriebswirtschaftliche Institute; Nr. 7/2001

Beckenkamp M.; Leopold-Wildburger, U.; Ostmann A. (2001) Strategy and Prediction: Predicting Total Usage of a
Common Pool Resource; WP Universität Graz, Betriebswirtschaftliche Institute; Nr. 8/2001

Irlenbusch B.; Leopold-Wildburger, U.; Sutter, M (2001) The effects of communication in the voting procedure of the
Stability and Growth Pact in EMU; submitted to European Journal of Political Economy Band 21

Beckenkamp M.; Leopold-Wildburger, U.; Ostmann A. (2002) Predicting Total Usage of a Common Pool Resource; accepted in Central European Journal of Operations Research

24 EWG EU/ME: European chapter on Metaheuristics

24.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.euro-online.org/eume/>

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Former members

Christelle Wynants (BE), Marino Widmer (S), Jorge Pinho de Sousa (P), Toshihide Ibaraki (J).

Members: At the beginning May of 2005 the number of members is over than 920, coming from over 73 different countries all around the world. Thanks to the people who advertize our group and use our different services (mailing list, newsletter, discussion forum, etc.) this number is still growing. We are now close to 1000 members and we hope to reach this magic number soon.

24.2 Purpose and history

On March 4-18, 2000, EURO organised a EURO Winter Institute on "Metaheuristics in Combinatorial Optimisation" in Lac Noir, Switzerland. Both for the participants and the organisers (Alain Hertz and Marino Widmer), it was a great success. During the Winter Institute, seventeen young researchers worked together and shared experiences for fifteen days. This resulted in a group of seventeen motivated young researchers, eager to continue their joint work in their future careers. The organisers, Alain Hertz and Marino Widmer, and also Manuel Laguna, encouraged the participants to create a EURO working group, to stimulate ongoing co-operation in this field of research.

The topic of the Winter Institute was "Metaheuristics in Combinatorial Optimisation". It was decided to create a new group working in the field of metaheuristics to allow us to include people that use and develop metaheuristics for other than combinatorial optimisation problems.

In Europe and around the world, there exists already a large community working on that subject. The MIC (Metaheuristics International Conference) conference that takes place every two years, is a great success each time. EMO (International Conference on Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimisation), EuroGP 2001 (4th European Conference on Genetic Programming Congress on Evolutionary Computation), GECCO 2001 (Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference) and CEC 2001 (Congress on Evolutionary Computation) are other recent conferences in that field. Many workshops and streams in conferences or workshops are dedicated to metaheuristics. Also, mailing lists are growing and the modern-heuristics mailing list is one of the most important today. Moreover, the Journal of Heuristics provides an outlet for the work done by researchers in the field of metaheuristics.

Marc Sevaux, Kenneth Sörensen and Christelle Wynants decided to found a working group on metaheuristics to provide a forum for researchers, to intensify the joint European research and to maintain complete and updated information about events, papers, surveys, new algorithms, free positions, etc. One of the first acts of this new working group was to create a comprehensive web site of metaheuristics-related topics.

In January 2001, the EU/ME working group was officially endorsed by EURO and given the status of EURO working group. Since then, the group has continued to increase its member base.

24.3 Past activities

EU/ME at MIC'2001 The 4th Metaheuristics International Conference (MIC'2001) was a great success. The scientific quality of the papers was very high, and the sessions were very productive. Moreover, Porto is a beautiful city and the social programme was fantastic.

Creative EU/ME session EU/ME had its very own "creative session" in which the past and future of the working group were discussed. Several useful suggestions came from the public.

- The need to rapidly disseminate useful information As we all know, publishing in international journals is a very slow process. We believe that the EU/ME working paper series can be very useful to remedy this and we invite all our members to submit their results (even in "draft" format) to our website, where others can download them, read them, comment on them, and offer useful suggestions for improvement.
- Another remark made in this context was that, once online, the working papers can be indexed by e.g. the NEC ResearchIndex. This can greatly enhance the reachability of the published results.
- The need for a discussion forum: A quick and effective way to communicate among members of the metaheuristics community is an electronic discussion forum. Mailing lists are an effective way to announce a conference or announce the publication of a book, but they are rarely used to ask a simple question to other people in the field. To do this, there is a better way: the EU/ME discussion forum.
- Both the working paper series and the discussion forum are rather new and have not yet reached their "critical mass" to be really useful. We therefore invite everyone to actively participate in making these two instruments work.

Some more creative discussions At MIC'2001, another "creative discussion meeting" was chaired by Ibrahim Osman. An important point made in this session was the need for benchmark problems. In many problem areas, the widely used benchmark problems are too old. They have been solved to optimality by several methods and no longer pose a serious challenge for researchers developing new algorithms. It was proposed to organise a benchmark problem contest in which everyone would be allowed to submit problems that they think are difficult to solve. These problems would then be tested on a number of standard algorithms, and the test problem that is most difficult to solve, wins.

EU/ME seminar 01 The first EU/ME seminar was organised jointly with the UK local search group on 28 November, 2001 at the City University, London, UK

The Local Search study group, chaired by Chris Potts, was responsible for the local organisation of the seminar. Help was provided by Celia Glass and Andrew Tuson, members of the UK LS group and of City University.

The UK Local Search group invited Khalil Hindi to present his current work on "Variable neighbourhood Search" and the EU/ME group, with the financial support of EURO was able to invite four speakers.

Our main speaker was Pierre Hansen (from Canada), well known for his work on metaheuristics. And his talk concerned the future of metaheuristics. His travel and accommodation was fully supported by EURO general support funds.

One of the aims of this seminar was also to give young researchers the opportunity of presenting their work and receive advice for their future research from senior researchers. With the EURO working group support funds, we were able to invite three PhD students from Lithuania, Portugal and France.

Of course for a one-day event, only a few persons from other countries than the UK were able to attend. Nevertheless, thanks to the advertising effort of the UK local search group and EU/ME, 30 people were present including people from France, Belgium, Lithuania, Portugal and Canada. Also, some people from industry attended the seminar.

A time slot was reserved for a discussion about the future of the group, joint seminars, meeting and events. Everybody could share their ideas. Three main points were made by the participants: (1) one senior speaker and several young researchers is a good formula, (2) more time is needed for discussion after each presentation, and (3) a longer duration for the seminar would be better.

Talks:

- Some applications of variable neighbourhood search Khalil Hindi (Brunel University, UK)
- The impact of the data structures in the algorithm implementation for the travelling salesman problem Dorabela Gamboa (Universidade Portucalense, Porto, Portugal)
- What more can metaheuristics do than finding good solutions? Pierre Hansen (University of Montreal, Canada)
- Modified genetic algorithm Sigita Buda (Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Vilnius, Lithuania)
- A new ant colony algorithm using direct inter-individual communication aimed at continuous optimisation Johann Dreo (Universite de Paris XII, France)

Website The website is under constant development and improvement. To improve communication between the EU/ME members, we have implemented the following: · a mailing list · a discussion forum. The mailing list is a big success and we can say that it is slowly becoming the "default" option for distributing announcements concerning metaheuristics. The discussion forum is not being used a lot at this time; we believe the main reason for this is the lack of visibility of this forum among metaheuristics researchers. We intend to promote the use of this very useful means of communication through our next newsletter.

EU/ME seminar 02 The second EU/ME workshop was a two day meeting on "Multiple Objective Metaheuristics" organised on November 4-5, 2002 held in "Carre des Sciences, Paris - France". This workshop was jointly organised by PM2O, the French working group in multiple objective optimization (sponsored by ROADEF, the French OR society) and EU/ME, the European Chapter on Metaheuristics (sponsored by EURO), supported by the International Society on Multiple Criteria Decision Making.

58 participants who presented 16 talks and 9 posters, all of which were of very high quality, made the event a success. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed. The (updated) website of the MOMH workshop will remain online at <http://webhost.ua.ac.be/eume/workshops/momh/momh.php> Extended abstracts, as well as some posters and presentations can be downloaded. Some pictures are also online and can be viewed here <http://www.univ-valenciennes.fr/-ROAD/XavierG/picsMOMH/> The atmosphere was friendly and we hope that the joint meeting series will continue in the same way every year.

EU/ME at MIC'2003 As in 2001, EU/ME have been present at MIC. A special session was organised and many ideas were exchanged on the theme of a new concept of OR-Library under the xml format. Proceedings are available on-line at <http://webhost.ua.ac.be/eume/MIC2003/html/index2.php>

EU/ME seminar 03 The concept of two day meeting was greatly appreciated in 2002 and the experience has been reconducted at the end of 2003. Jointly with the the University of Antwerp and the Institute of Transport and Maritime Management Antwerp, the workshop focus on Real-Life Applications of Metaheuristics. 62 participants registered and attended the 2 tutorials (Eric Taillard and Celso Ribeiro) and the 20 presentations.

The slides and abstracts of the participants are available online at <http://webhost.ua.ac.be/eume/workshops/reallife>.

As last year, the atmosphere was friendly and we now are sure that the joint meeting series will continue every year. The 2004 workshop has already been awarded to a team in Nottingham. For 2005, we are accepting proposals.

EU/MEeting 04 These regular EU/ME seminars have been now renamed EU/MEeting or EU/ME joint meeting.

The 4th EU/ME Workshop on "Design and Evaluation of Advanced Hybrid Meta-Heuristics" was held on November 4-5, 2004 at the Comfort Hotel, Nottingham, UK. Information can be retrieved at <http://webhost.ua.ac.be/eume/>

workshops/hybrid.

After the refereeing process, 20 contributed extended abstracts (5-9 pages), representing 11 countries in Europe, America and Asia, were accepted for presentation at the workshop. Full details are given in the programme of the workshop. In addition, two plenary speakers were invited. Natalio Krasnogor, from the University of Nottingham in the UK, gave the talk: "Recent Advances in Memetic Algorithms". Ibrahim Osman, from the American University of Beirut in Lebanon, gave the talk: "Hybrid Metaheuristics for Combinatorial Optimization Problems". The slides and abstracts of the participants are available online at <http://webhost.ua.ac.be/eume/workshops/hybrid/programme.php>.

There were 51 participants in the workshop, representing 13 countries: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Japan, Lebanon, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, The Netherlands, USA, and UK.

EJOR feature issue on "Applications of metaheuristics" After the success of the EU/MEeting in Antwerp, the feature issue was equally successful (even more). For this issue, we have received more than 60 submissions, which is quite unusual. Although it took some time, the editorial process is now almost finished and the special issue will hopefully be published early 2005.

We take the opportunity of this newsletter to thank all the referees that have contributed to the success of this feature issue. The revised version of the papers as well as the comments on the modifications made by the authors will be sent to them briefly.

24.4 Future activities

Publication following the EU/MEeting 04 in Nottingham

Following the success of the EU/ME joint workshop in Nottingham, the local organisers will propose the edition of a feature issue on the same topic.

A call for full papers based on the abstracts presented in the workshop is under way. Selected full papers will appear in special issues in the following two journals: Journal of the Operational Research Society (JORS) and Journal of Mathematical Modelling and Algorithms (JMMA). The programme committee will select only high-quality papers describing excellent scientific work for publication in the above journals. It is expected that both journal special issues will be published in late 2005.

Call for next EU/ME joint meeting organisation

The series of EU/ME joint meetings started three years ago and has been a great success every year. The main idea of this workshop is to associate EU/ME and a local/national research group to organise jointly a workshop on a specific theme (related to metaheuristics).

For the local organisers, the organisation is light. EU/ME provides the support for the announcement and the web site management. The only constraint is to keep this meeting free of charge for the participants, excluding lunches, dinners and accommodation which is left to the participants. This permits students and young researchers as well as the people from not-so-rich countries to attend the workshop.

libOR: library of OR data sets

EU/ME is sponsoring the development of a new platform for the distribution of data sets. libOR boasts a number of impressive features (such as the online validation of data sets and the possibility to add results and program code) and is currently in a test stage. libOR can be found online at <http://webhost.ua.ac.be/libor>

Metaheuristics bibliography

EU/ME is developing an online bibliography of metaheuristics papers. A preliminary version of the bibliography for testing purposes, is online at <http://webhost.ua.ac.be/eume/pbibman>

EU/MEeting in Vilnius: metaheuristics in large-scale optimization

The scope of the Workshop of European Chapter on Metaheuristics (EUME), held in Vilnius, Lithuania, is to overview trends and to gain a common attitude towards latest challenges in metaheuristics and large-scale optimization. We encourage researchers, who develop their research related with optimization, to present it for the contributed sessions and take part in the tutorials to be organised during the Workshop. The Proceedings as well as the special issue of papers in top rating journal on the subject of the Workshop will be published after the meeting.

EURO Mini Conference on VNS in Tenerife

EU/ME is supporting the 18th Mini EURO Conference, that will be devoted to the theme "Variable Neighborhood Search" (XVIII MEC "VNS"). VNS is the acronym of "Variable Neighbourhood Search" a recent metaheuristic based on systematic changes in the neighbourhood structure within a search. The MEC VNS will be held in Orotava Palace Hotel, Puerto de la Cruz (Tenerife, Spain) from 23 to 24 November 2005.

24.5 Publications

MOMH special issue

X. Gandibleux, M. Sevaux, K. Sörensen, and V. T'Kindt, editors. Meta-heuristics for multi-objective optimisation, volume 535 of LNEMS. Springer, 2004. ISBN 3-540-20637-X, 230 pages. .html

EJOR special issue

M. Sevaux, K. Sörensen, W. Dullaert and J. Springael, editors. Applications of Metaheuristics, special issue of the European Journal of Operational Research. To Appear in 2005.

25 ESICUP, EURO Special Interest Group on Cutting and Packing

25.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.apdio.pt/esicup>

Coordinator: José F. Oliveira
Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto
Rua Dr. Roberto Frias
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PORTUGAL

Phone: +351225081780

Fax: +351225081443

Email: jfo@fe.up.pt

Members: By the end of May 2005 ESICUP had around 440 members registered in the web site.

ESICUP gathers practitioners, researchers and Operations Research educators with interests in the area of Cutting and Packing. The purpose of ESICUP is to improve communication among individuals working in this field. Besides the promotion of publications, the activities of the group include the maintenance of a website and the organization of meetings.

Founded in 1988, during the EURO/TIMS Conference in Paris, by Prof. Gerhard Waescher and Prof. Harald Dyckhoff, it has now members from the entire world. ESICUP is since 2003 an EURO Working Group of the Association of European Operational Research Societies.

We encourage both researchers and practitioners interested in Cutting and Packing to join us.

25.2 Purpose and history

ESICUP gathers practitioners, researchers and OR educators with interests in the area of Cutting and Packing. This EWG has its roots in SICUP, a group founded in 1988, during the EURO/TIMS Conference in Paris, by Prof. Gerhard Waescher and Prof. Harold Dyckhoff.

During its life SICUP promoted three special numbers of EJOR on Cutting and Packing: - H. Dyckhoff and G. Waescher, EJOR 44 (2) (1990) - E. Bischoff and G. Waescher, EJOR 84 (3) (1995) - P. Wang and G. Waescher, EJOR 141 (2) (2002)

The group has also organized workshops within major OR conferences, mainly in the form of invited sessions or organized clusters: - IFORS 2002, Edinburgh - INFORMS 2000, San Antonio, USA - EURO 1998, Brussels - IFORS 1996, Vancouver - TIMS 1995, Singapore - IFORS 1993, Lisbon - ORSA/TIMS 1992, San Francisco, USA - IFORS 1990, Athens - EURO/TIMS 1988, Paris

The average number of members attending these workshops has been 30 and a web page was kept running.

At Edinburgh meeting, it was decided that the moment of becoming a formal group had arrived. Considering the distribution of the member's nationalities and without excluding anyone from belonging to the group, EURO looked the right environment. During EURO 2003 Conference, at Istanbul, ESICUP - EURO Special Interest Group on Cutting and Packing was formally announced.

Since then invited sessions or organized clusters have been organized within the following major OR conferences: - EURO/INFORMS 2003, Istanbul - EURO 2004, Rhodes - IFORS 2005, Hawaii

ESICUP also organises autonomous meetings: - 1st ESICUP Meeting, Lutherstadt Wittenberg, March 18-20, 2004 - 2nd ESICUP Meeting, Southampton, April 14-16, 2005

25.3 Past activities

Meetings

- Cutting and Packing stream, EURO 2003 Conference (Istanbul), organised by Andrea Lodi and José F. Oliveira
- 1st ESICUP Meeting - 2004 (Lutherstadt Wittenberg), organised by Gerhard Waescher and José F. Oliveira
 - 35 presentations, 50 participants
- Cutting and Packing organised sessions, EURO 2004 Conference (Rhodes), organised by José F. Oliveira
- 2nd ESICUP Meeting - 2005 (Southampton), organised by Julia Bennell and José F. Oliveira
 - 32 presentations, 48 participants
- Cutting and Packing stream, IFORS 2005 Conference (Hawaii), organised by José F. Oliveira

Website ESICUP website is under constant development and improvement. It offers the following facilities:

- Message board
- Members directory
- Research support
 - Data sets
 - Problem generators
 - Glossary
 - ESICUP Meetings Presentations
 - C&P Library

25.4 Future activities

Meetings - 3rd ESICUP Meeting, Portugal, 2006 - Cluster at EURO 2006 Conference, Iceland, July 2-5, 2006

Journal issues - EJOR Feature Issue on Cutting and Packing - to appear in 2006

Database of publications on C&P organized accordingly to Gerhard Waescher's new typology.

26 EURO Working Group on Ethics and OR

26.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.prometheus.vub.ac.be>

Coordinator: Erik Pruyt
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Newsletter: EURO Working Group on Ethics and OR
<http://www.prometheus.vub.ac.be>

Members: See our web site for more information on the members and the membership.

26.2 Purpose and history

The EURO WORKING GROUP on 'Ethics and OR' gathers scientists, teachers and professionals in the field of Operational Research who are committed to inspire OR researchers, teachers, students, consultants and decision-makers to integrate ethical aspects and considerations in their OR research, teaching, consultancy and decision-making. The EURO Working Group on 'Ethics and OR' was formed in 2001 at the EURO XVIII Conference in Rotterdam, one year after the inspiring opening lecture of Professor J.P. Brans of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel on "OR, Ethics and Decision" at the EURO XVII Conference in Budapest (July 16-19, 2000).

26.3 Past activities

EWG WORKSHOP ON 'PROMOTING ETHICS IN OR' - April 25-26, 2003 - INSEAD, FONTAINEBLEAU, FRANCE:

Luk Van Wassenhove and Marc Le Menestrel hosted the highly succesful two-day INSEAD workshop on 'Promoting Ethics in OR', sponsored by the INSEAD R&D department, at the INSEAD campus in Fontainebleau. At this workshop, senior Operational Research scholars and ethical experts joined forces to synthesize the state-of-the-art of 'Ethics and Operational Research' at the theoretical, practical and institutional levels. Short papers were presented and discussions moderated in three parallel workshops, followed by synthesis, discussion and brainstorming in plenary sessions. Furthermore, avenues of research as well as practical and institutional actions aimed at favoring the integration of Ethics and Operational Research were developed.

12th MINI EURO CONFERENCE - April 2-5, 2002 - VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM. Our working group actively participated in the organisation of the 12th Mini EURO Conference. The themes of the conference were Decision Support Systems, E- and M-Commerce, Multicriteria Decision Aid, Human-Centered Processes and, last but not least, Ethical Dilemmas in Decision Making. Many interesting papers on Ethics and OR were presented (some of these will be published in a special issue of EJOR).

EURO XVIII CONFERENCE - July 9-11, 2001 - ERASMUS UNIVERSITEIT ROTTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS.

The EURO Working Group on 'Ethics and OR' was founded in 2001 at the EURO XVIII Conference in Rotterdam. At this conference, the new EWG organised some sessions in co-operation with the EWG on Human Centered Processes.

EURO XVII CONFERENCE - July 16-19, 2000 - BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

Here, Professor J.P. Brans of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel held his opening lecture on 'OR, Ethics and Decision' and proposed the 'Oath of Prometheus'. One year later, this resulted in the formation of the EURO Working Group on 'Ethics and OR'.

26.4 Future activities

Due to unforeseen circumstances, our 2004 meeting did not take place. Our working group will gather in the Autumn of 2005. Details will be provided soon to our members.

26.5 Publications

A special issue of EJOR, dedicated to ethics and OR, has been published (European Journal of Operational Research, Volume 153, Issue 2, 1 March 2004). This special Issue of EJOR contains papers presented at the 12th Mini EURO Conference, held in Brussels (April, 2-5, 2002).

27 OR in Agriculture and Forest Management

27.1 General information

Web site: <http://orafm.udl.es/>

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Board: Ljusk Ola Eriksson
Frederik Garcia
Anders R. Kristensen
Lluís M. Pla (Coordinator)
Andres Weintraub

27.2 Past activities

The first meeting of the WG was held in September 2004 at Silsoe Research Institute.

27.3 Future activities

The second meeting of the WG will be integrated within EURO XXI in Iceland, July 2006. We are organising a stream for such purpose and all members and people concerned with OR in Agriculture and Forest Management are invited to participate. More details at www.euro2006.org

28 ENOG, European Network Optimization Group

28.1 General information

Web site: <http://www.euro-online.org/enog/>

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Board: Walid Ben Ameer (Institut National des Télécommunications, France)
Bernard Fortz (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium)
Luis Gouveia (University of Lisbon, Portugal)

Members: INOC 2005 was the official kick-off of ENOG. The conference attracted 187 participants. A more formal membership procedure via the website will be launched soon.

28.2 Purpose and history

Information sciences and communication technologies are increasingly both a main focus and a major application of well-established as well as emerging theories and techniques. Examples are Operations Research, Graph Theory and Queueing Theory, in addition to Stochastic Search, to state just a few.

On October 27-29, 2003, the first edition of the "International Network Optimization Conference" took place in Evry/-Paris (France). The aim of this conference was to bring together people from those disciplines with a main focus on network optimization. This was the first time a conference completely devoted to network optimization took place in Europe. The broad participation to the conference - 165 papers have been submitted - is an indication for the need for such events in Europe.

During the conference, several discussions took place about the need to develop links between the participants between the conferences, and to have a group responsible for the future editions of the conference. The idea of a European Network Optimization Group (ENOG) was born. Several participants marked their intention to join the group.

It was decided that INOC would be the conference of ENOG, to take place every two years (alternating with INFORMS Telecommunications Network Optimization Conference, that takes place every two years in USA). The first INOC conference was organized by Walid Ben-Ameer, and the Optimization Team of the INT (France) in Evry-Paris, France, 2003. The 2005 edition took place at the University of Lisbon, organized by Luis Gouveia.

28.3 Past activities

INOC2005: International Network Optimization Conference: INOC2005 was organized by the Centro de Investigação Operacional and took place at the Faculty of Science, University of Lisbon, from the 20th to the 23rd of March 2005.

28.4 Future activities

- The cluster "Telecommunications and Network Design" at IFORS2005 was mainly set up by members of the working group.
- A stream on "Network Optimization" is organized by ENOG at EURO 2006.
- INOC 2007 will be organized by Bernard Fortz in Belgium. More information will be available soon.

28.5 Publications

A collection of selected papers on Network Optimization from INOC 2005 will be published in a special issue of "Networks", to be edited by Walid Ben-Ameur, INT and Luis Gouveia, CIO, University of Lisbon.