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# What is EURO ?

**EURO** is *The Association of European Operational Research Societies within IFORS* (the International Federation of Operational Research Societies). It is a 'not-for-profit' association domiciled in Fribourg, Switzerland. Its affairs are regulated by a Council consisting of representatives/alternates of all its members and an Executive Committee which constitutes its board of directors. Its aim is to promote Operational Research throughout Europe.

[Note: A page concerning IFORS has been added. A tentative page describing what is OR has also been added]

# A Short History of EURO

Back in the sixties, the main activity of IFORS was the organization of triennial international conferences addressing the world community of operational researchers.

At that time, there was in Europe an increasing awareness of numerous ongoing OR activities on one side and, on the other, rather weak means for promoting communication and cooperation among European operational researchers. Some national societies did (and do still) cooperate on an *ad hoc* basis but not to an extent to satisfy the general need for "something" between IFORS and the national societies.

In conjunction with the 6th IFORS-Conference (Dublin, 1972), the participating presidents of European OR societies discussed the situation and agreed to seek it improved. Invited by H.-J. Zimmermann, President of the German OR Society, representatives of eleven European OR societies met in Düsseldorf on 3 September 1973 and decided to institutionalize better ways of cooperation within the framework of IFORS.

In a more extensive meeting of representatives of European OR societies, held in Amsterdam on 3-4 May 1974, two major decisions were made:

1. The representatives agreed that it would be advisable to formalize and institutionalize increased European cooperation. To this end a possible agreement between the European OR societies was drafted and it was the general consensus that such an agreement could be signed by the societies in the near future.
2. It was furthermore agreed to assemble operational researchers from all Western European countries within the framework of the First European Conference on Operational Research.

The Belgian OR Society accepted the invitation to host this meeting and the OR societies of Denmark, Germany, United Kingdom, Norway, The Netherlands and Sweden agreed to finance the preparation by offering loans as a supplement to funds already raised for that purpose by the Belgian Society. IFORS also offered to provide a loan if necessary. The meeting was scheduled for January 1975 in Brussels, Belgium.

Normally 9 months would have been totally insufficient to prepare for an international conference addressing the entire OR community in Europe. The enthusiasm and involvement of all those who participated in the preparatory work compensated for lack of time. Thus the First European Conference on Operational Research (EURO I), was opened on the morning of 27 January 1975 at the Sheraton Hotel in Brussels. The meeting which managed to assemble no less than 506 participants was a remarkable success. Also the main objective, to institutionalize closer cooperation among the European operational researchers, was fully achieved: nine European OR societies gave birth to EURO, The Association of European Operational Research Societies within IFORS, by signing an agreement in which the signatories resolved:

1. To grant to any fully paid-up member of any signatory body all rights and privileges which were offered by them to their own members.

2. To exchange all appropriate information, inform other signatories of existing working groups and the dates and locations of the meetings and open such working groups to individual members of other signatories.
3. To organize European Conferences on Operational Research and European Working Groups.
4. To encourage the formation of Operational Research Societies in other European countries and to give such new bodies any possible help they might require.

On 8 March 1976, in a circular letter to all European OR societies, the Honourary Secretary could proudly announced: "I hereby declare that EURO, The Association of European Operational Research Societies within IFORS, is now formally constituted with effect from 5 March 1976 and the draft statutes circulated on 29 June 1975 are effective".

**Considerable progress has been made since then, as is evidenced by the subsequent pages of this brochure. However, there is a continuous need for enthusiastic and dedicated people to enable EURO to maintain its present instruments and to carry out a wider range of activities in support of its objectives.**

# The member societies of EURO

The members of EURO are normally full members of IFORS and comprise the national OR societies of countries located within or nearby Europe. Each member is represented in the EURO Council by a representative and an alternate, one of whom votes, if required. Council meetings are held annually, normally in conjunction with the EURO-k conferences.

EURO has presently 29 members:

Austria  
Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Egypt  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Great Britain  
Greece  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Slovak Republic  
South Africa  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Turkey  
Yugoslavia

The member societies of EURO represent in total well above 10.000 individual members. Since both Egypt, Israel and South Africa have joined The Association, the term "Europe" is to be understood in a "broad" sense.

[Note: the electronic version of the brochure should allow users to access here to the name and address of the various societies]

What is EURO doing ?

The activities of EURO are organised along several “instruments” that are all designed to promote OR in Europe. The following instruments were launched in 1975:

- the EURO Association itself,
- the EURO-k Conferences,
- the EURO Working Groups,
- the EURO Bulletin and
- the European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR)

Three additional instruments were introduced in 1983:

- the EURO Summer Institutes,
- the MINI-EURO Conferences,
- the EURO Gold Medals.

The following instruments were introduced in 1994:

- the EURO Prime (Uρ') Conferences,
- the EURO Fellowships,
- the Eastern European Conference Initiative,
- General Support funds.

This Brochure describes what has been done so far using these instruments.

# Who does what in EURO ?

The EURO Council elects a President, a President-Elect, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. These six EURO officers form the Executive Committee. The President-Elect serves for only one year whereas all others are elected for two years.

The President has responsibility for all activities of EURO. He/she is assisted in his/her task by the Immediate Past President and the President Elect.

The Vice-President 1 assists the President and support him/her in the development of new activities. He/she has particular responsibility for:

- the organization of EURO-k Conferences,
- the organization of EURO Summer and Winter Institutes and
- the Education and Training programmes in OR.

The Vice-President 2 assists the President and support him/her in the development of new activities. He/she has particular responsibility for:

- the organization of EURO Working Groups,
- the organization of Mini EURO Conferences,
- the organization of EURO Prime (Up') Conferences,

The Secretary ensures the administrative functioning of the association, of the Council and the Executive Committee. He/she deals with request to EURO from outside. He/she is responsible for the General Support funds. He/she is assisted by the Permanent Secretariat.

The tasks of the Treasurer are obvious (but crucial !).

The Executive Committee is responsible to the EURO Council. It is assisted by the "EURO vice-president of IFORS" who is responsible of the links between EURO and IFORS.

The Executive Committee presently consists of the following members:

## **President**

Paolo TOTH

University of Bologna, DEIS, Viale Risorgimento, 2, I-40136 Bologna, Italy

Tel: +39 (51) 644 3028 or 43 1027

Fax: +39 (51) 644 3073

Email: ptoth@deis.unibo.it

## **President Elect**

Jan WEGLARZ

Poznan University of Technology, Institute of Computing Science  
Piotrowo 3 A, PL-60-965 Poznan, Poland

Tel : + 48 61 790790

Fax :+48 61 771525

Email : weglarz@pozn1.v.tup.edu.pl

**Immediate Past-President**

Maurice F. SHUTLER  
Monopolies & Mergers Commission, New Court, 48 Carey Street  
London WC2A 2JT, England

Tel: +44 171 324 1315, +44 181 668 2104  
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**Vice President 1**

Valerie BELTON  
Management Science, University of Strathclyde, Graham Hills Building  
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**Vice President 2**

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Fax: +41 37 299 726  
Email: marino.widmer@unifr.ch

**Secretary**

Denis BOUYSSOU  
ESSEC, BP 105, F 95021 Cergy-Pontoise, France

Tel: +33 1 34 43 30 73  
Fax: +33 134 43 30 01  
Email: p\_bouyssou@ped.essec.fr

**EURO Vice President of IFORS**

Rainer E. BURKARD  
Technische Universität Graz, Institut für Mathematik B, Steyrergasse 30, A-8010 Graz,  
Austria

Tel: +43 316 873 5350  
Fax: +43 316 873 5369  
Email: rburkard@ftug.dnet.tu-graz.ac.at



**Permanent Secretariat**

Philippe van Asbroeck  
108 avenue Sleenckx, B-1030 Brussels, Belgium

Fax: 32 2 650 59 70  
e-mail: euro@ulb.ac.be

**Past Presidents**

**H. Zimmermann, B. Rapp,  
R. Tomlinson, J. Brans, B.  
Roy, D. De Werra, J.  
Krarup, J. Spronk, M.F.  
Shutler**

# The EURO Association

EURO is a 'not-for-profit' association domiciled in Fribourg, Switzerland. Its affairs are regulated by a Council consisting of representatives/alternates of all its members and an Executive Committee which constitutes its board of directors.

The members of EURO are normally full members of IFORS and comprise the national OR societies of countries located within or nearby (in a broad sense) Europe. Each member is represented in the EURO Council by a representative and an alternate, one of whom votes, if required. Council meetings are held annually, normally in conjunction with the EURO-k conferences.

The Council elects a President, a President-Elect, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These six EURO officers form the Executive Committee. The President-Elect serves for only one year whereas all others are elected for two years. Since 1993 the Executive Committee is assisted by a Permanent Secretariat.

The previous members of the Executive Committee are indicated below (it is understood that the immediate Past-President attends the Executive Committee for one year). Without their benevolent active involvement in EURO, the Association could not have survived.

**[Insert here list of past  
Officers]**

# The EURO-k Conferences

The EURO-k Conferences are broadly oriented and have so far attracted an average of 600 participants. They are intended to be forums for communication and cooperation among European operational researchers. They are also intended to be international meetings of operational researchers who are active in the various areas of OR and to serve the free exchange of ideas and results.

National OR societies which are full members of EURO are regularly invited to submit proposals to host future EURO-k Conferences. Guidelines for the organization of such events can be obtained from the Secretary or the Vice President 1. Bids for hosting a EURO-k Conference in a specific year should be made at least two years before the date of the meeting. The decision is made by EURO Council. As part of the selection process, EURO attempts to balance the location of successive conferences in terms of geography (so that no specific part of Europe is ignored) and between large and small societies.

In making decisions, EURO also takes notice of other major international meetings having to some extent the same purpose as the EURO-k Conferences. More specifically, no EURO-k Conference is held in a year of an IFORS triennial conference.

EURO-k Conferences can be organized in cooperation with other associations such as INFORMS. In each such case, a special agreement between EURO and the guest association must be prepared.

**The following table lists the past EURO-k Conferences. The forthcoming EURO XV Conference is scheduled in Barcelona, Spain in July 1997.**

**[Insert here list of EURO-k  
Conferences]**

# The EURO Working Groups

## History

Several EURO Working Groups (EWGs) 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 EWGs is the Vice President 2. Each Spring issue of the EURO Bulletin contains a report of the activities of the EWGs prepared by Vice President 2 of EURO. The following overview of the EWGs is excerpted from the latest report.

## EWGs in 1995

For small groups of researchers interested in a specific OR topic EURO provides an organizational framework in the form of EURO Working Groups (EWGs). These groups are a very important part of EURO. They represent in its best form continuity in research in EURO's activities. Active EWGs have a meeting at least once a year where the members exchange ideas, experiences and research results and support each other in the research work. In addition to their annual meetings the groups have also other ways of working; for example they organize sessions in conferences, publish feature issues of the European Journal of Operational Research or other OR journals and organize conferences or seminars.

The list of existing EURO Working Groups follows.

### **Multicriteria Aid for Decisions**

COORDINATOR: Prof. Bernard Roy, LAMSADE, Université de Paris - Dauphine, Place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, F-75775 Paris Cedex 16, France. Tel.: (33) (1) 44 05 42 87, fax: (33) (1) 44 05 40 91, e-mail: roy@lamsade.dauphine.fr.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 283.

### **Fuzzy Sets / IFSA European Chapter**

COORDINATOR: Dr. Hans Hellendoorn, Siemens AG, Dept. ZFE ST SN4, D-81730 Munich, Germany. E-mail: hah@zfe.siemens.de.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 108

### **ORAHS - OR Applied to Health Services**

COORDINATOR: Dr. David Clayden, BIOMED Project Leader, LRF Centre for Clinical Epidemiology, University of Leeds, 17 Springfield Mount, West Yorkshire LS1 9NG, United Kingdom. Tel.: +1132 44 35 17, fax: +1132 42 60 65, Email: A.D.Clayden@leeds.ac.uk.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 112 members from 22 countries (mostly European)

### **EUROBANKING special interest group**

**COORDINATOR:** Mr. Fred Ridgway, Head of Management Services, Bank of Ireland, Head Office, Lower Baggot St, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel.: (353) (1) 66 15 933, Fax: (353) (1) 66 15 473, email: fridgway@iol.ie.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** Over 100.

### **Locational Analysis**

**COORDINATOR:** Prof. Dr. Frank. Plastria, Center for Industrial Location, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. Tel.: +32 2 62 93 609, fax: +32 2 62 93 645, E-mail: faplastr@vub.ac.be.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 85.

### **ESIGMA - EURO Special Interest Group on Multicriteria Analysis**

**COORDINATOR:** Prof. Carlos A. Bana e Costa, CESUR - IST, Av. Rovisco Pais, P-1096 Lisboa, Portugal. Tel. (351) (1) 80 95 80 or (351) (1) 80 97 05, fax: (351) (1) 80 98 84.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 226

### **Project Management and Scheduling**

**COORDINATORS:** Prof. Luis Valadares Tavares, CESUR-IST, Av. Rovisco Pais, P-1096 Lisboa, Portugal. Tel.: (351) (1) 80 97 05 or (351) (1) 80 95 80, fax: (351) (1) 80 98 84, telex: 63423 ISTUTL-P and Prof. Jan Weglarz, Poznan University of Technology, Institute of Computing Science, Piotrowo 3 A, PL-60-965 Poznan, Poland, Tel : + 48 61 790790, Fax: +48 61 771525, Email: weglarz@pocz1v.tup.edu.pl

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 150.

### **Financial Modelling**

**COORDINATOR:** Prof. Dr. Jaap Spronk, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Department of Finance, P.O. Box 1738, NL-3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel.: (31) (10) 40 81 282, fax: (31) (10) 45 26 399, e-mail: spronk@finbel.few.eur.nl.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 242

### **ECCO European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimization**

**COORDINATOR:** Prof. Catherine Roucairol, Université de Versailles & INRIA, 45 Avenue des Etats Unis, F-78000 Versailles, France. Tel.: (33) (1) 39 25 40 88, fax: (33) (1) 39 25 20 57, e-mail: Catherine.Roucairol@prism.uvsq.fr.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** Approximately 350/ 100 at each meeting.

### **DSS - Decision Support Systems**

**COORDINATOR:** Prof. Tawfik Jelassi, INSEAD, Boulevard de Constance, F-77305 Fontainebleau, France. Tel.: (33) (1) 60 72 40 17, fax: (33) (1) 60 72 40 49 or (33) (1) 60 72 42 42, e-mail: jelassi@freiba51.bitnet.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 90

### **Transportation**

**COORDINATOR:** Dr. Maurizio Bielli, Institute of Systems Analysis and Informatics, National Research Council, Viale Manzoni 30, I-00185 Rome, Italy. Tel. (39) (6) 77 161, fax: (39) (6) 77 16 461, e-mail: bielli@iasi.rm.cnr.it.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:** 100

### **Information Systems**

**COORDINATOR:** Prof. Georgios I. Doukidis, Athens University of Economics and

Business, Department of Informatics, 76 Patission Street, GR-10434 Athens, Greece. Tel. (30) (1) 82 33 523, fax: (30) (1) 82 26 204, telex: 225363 ASOE GR.  
NUMBER OF MEMBERS: About 80.

**ORNETWORK (EURO's network for practitioners)**

COORDINATOR: Dr. Marc Salomon, Erasmus University, Rotterdam School of Management (F1-37), P.O. Box 1738, NL-3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel. (31) (10) 40 82 021, fax: (31) (10) 45 23 595, e-mail: msalomon@fac.fbk.eur.nl.  
NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 71

**European Group Decision and Negotiation Support Working Group**

COORDINATOR: Dr. Fran Ackermann, Department of Management Science, University of Strathclyde, 40 George Street, Glasgow G1 1QE, Scotland. Tel.: (44) (141) 55 24 400 or (44) (141) 55 23 610, Fax: (44) (141) 55 26 686, email: Fran@mansci.strath.ac.uk.  
NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 52

**MODEST: Modelling of Economies and Societies in Transition**

COORDINATORS: Zbigniew Nahorski and Jan W. Owsinski, c/o Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Newelska 6, 01447 Warszawa, Poland. Tel.: (48) (22) 36 41 03, Fax: (48) (22) 37 27 72, emails: nahorski@ibspan.waw.pl and owsinski@ibspan.waw.pl.  
NUMBER OF MEMBERS: 17

Eight feature issues of EJOR have been produced by the working groups:



**[Insert here the list of SI produced by EWGs]**

# Charter of the EWGs

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

## Creation of groups

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

- (i) creations during a EURO-k Conference
- (ii) creations between EURO-k and EURO-k-1
- (iii) creations 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/she 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/she tries under his/her 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 EWGs 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 EWGs 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

EWGs 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 2 and published in the EURO Bulletin. Each chairperson is responsible for sending the information to the Editor of the EURO Bulletin.

7. The Vice-President 2 should automatically become a member of all Working Groups during his/her period of office. This will make it easier for him/her to keep in touch with the Working Groups.

8. The Vice-President 2 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 EWG:

1. The chairperson of the group feels that, for some reason, the group cannot go on with its activity and he/she so informs EURO.
2. 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 EWGs.

## **Financial arrangements**

1. EURO may cover the following expenses related to the activities of the Working Groups:

### **1.1 Administration**

Printing costs of common stationery

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 EWG co-ordinators during the EURO-k Conferences, travelling expenses excluded.

Administrative costs related with the establishment of new EWGs (first two years of activity) when alternative financing cannot be found.

### **1.2 Scientific activities**

A "reserve budget" that EWGs can call upon to pay the expenses of guest speakers (non-members of the Working Groups), the costs of initiating and/or publishing results of joint research projects and similar activities. The money is paid out by the treasurer after approval by the Vice-President 2.

2. EURO encourages and supports activities that can further the scientific objectives of the EWGs, promote their activities and raise funds. Namely:

### 2.1 Mini EURO Conferences

The EWGs are encouraged to organize such conferences within the general rules established by EURO.

### 2.2 Other meetings

Experience shows that some of the groups take advantage of the EURO-k Conferences to organize their own meetings, either as side meetings or within the framework of the conferences itself. This is a good policy, but it should not preclude organising meetings between the conferences. Although EWGs 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 organize 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.

### 2.3 Feature issues of EJOR

The EWGs are encouraged to produce feature 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 2.

# **The European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR)**

At the first Council Meeting held on 30 January 1975, a European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR) was proposed. A committee (G. Kreweras, B. Roy, C.B. Tilanus, and H.-J. Zimmermann) was formed to investigate the desirability of such a venture. Following their recommendations, the Council decided on 8 May 1975 that EJOR should be launched. All member societies were requested to nominate candidates for the editorial organization.

The first volume of EJOR appeared in 1977. It consisted of six issues published bimonthly and totalling 420 pages. EJOR has ever since experienced a remarkable growth. Two volumes were published in 1980 in 12 monthly issues; eight volumes totalling over 5300 pages were published in 1995, thus making EJOR the largest OR journal worldwide.

Most issues since 1981 are led by an Invited Review. Thus by mid-1995, 172 Invited reviews covering a wide range of topics of interest of operational researchers had been published. In addition to the invited reviews and regular papers, EJOR includes book reviews, and sections dealing with OR software.

Over the years, about 90 feature issues of EJOR have appeared. Guest-edited feature issues have been generated by several EURO instruments, notably the EURO-k conferences, the Mini EURO conferences, the EURO Summer Institutes and the EURO Working Groups.

Throughout its lifetime, EJOR has been published by Elsevier Science Publishers (North-Holland), Amsterdam, and edited by:

- Alan Mercer, The Management School, Lancaster University, Lancaster, LA1 4XY, England,
- C. Bernhard Tilanus, Eindhoven University of Technology, P.O. Box 513, NL-5600 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands and
- Hans-Jürgen Zimmermann, RWTH Aachen, Tempelgraben 64, 52062 Aachen, Germany.

## **Until 1990, the surplus made at the EURO-k conferences**

**was EURO's sole source of income. Due to an agreement (valid for 10 years) with Elsevier, EURO has since received royalties from Elsevier of a fixed amount per volume published, annually adjusted for inflation.**

# The EURO Bulletin

In order to improve communication between operational researchers in Europe, it was decided in 1975 at EURO I to publish a newsletter: the EURO Bulletin. This Bulletin not only gives relevant information about current EURO activities but also includes announcements of other conferences, meetings etc. of interest to its readers.

The first five issues were edited by J.P. Brans as a leaflet sent to more than 10.000 members of the national OR societies in Europe. Throughout the period 1976-1991, the EURO Bulletin appeared as an appendix to EJOR. Former editors of the Bulletin were:

1975-1980: J.P. Brans (B)

1980-1985: S. Kruse Jacobsen (DK)

1986-1990: M. Despontin (B)

A new format was introduced in the second half of 1991, under the editorship of Ph. Van Asbroeck, 108 avenue Sleenckx, B-1030 Brussels, Belgium (fax: 32 2 650 59 70, e-mail: euro@ulb.ac.be), allowing a quicker circulation of information and a larger diffusion..

The EURO Bulletin is now distributed four times a year through the national OR societies and is available on WWW at the following address:

**`http://www.ulb.ac.be  
/euro/euro_welcome.html`**

# The EURO Summer and Winter Institutes

The series of EURO Summer and Winter Institutes (ESWIs) was launched in 1984 at the initiative of J.P. Brans. Scarcely any other EURO instrument has had such impact upon future generations of OR people. Each ESWI, organized by a national society, focuses upon a particular subject. The basic idea is that around 20 young (approximately between 25 and 35 years of age) researchers all having an unpublished paper within the theme announced, can meet for about two weeks, present their material, discuss it with others and with a handful of specially invited senior experts in the field, and finally prepare a paper to be considered for inclusion in a feature issue of EJOR. Three ESWIs may be approved in any two year.

Disregarding the senior experts, no one else can participate more than once in his or her lifetime. Participation in an ESWI should be regarded as a considerable honour. In other words, the main objective of an ESWI is to give a limited number of carefully selected representatives of the next generation a unique opportunity for establishing a personal network and for addressing an international audience and thus to create new research groups around the topic chosen.

EURO regularly solicits proposals from the national societies to host an ESWI. Proposals are then reviewed by the EURO Council. If approved, EURO provides a substantial contribution towards all expenses (room and board, social programme, etc.) "on location"; the rest is supposed to be provided by the host society itself or by gifts solicited by the host society. The travel costs, however, must be covered by the participants themselves unless support can be obtained, for example from their national societies. Guidelines for the organization of ESWI are available upon request from the Secretary of EURO.

Each ESWI is announced in the EURO Bulletin, OR/MS TODAY and similar newsletters or journals. Applications are channelled to EURO via the national societies and the final selection of participants is made by the Scientific Committee on the basis of submitted papers.

The list of ESWI follows.

Forthcoming events will be:

- the EURO Summer Institute on "Environmental Planning" (Piraeus, Greece, June 1996) organised by C. Pappis.
- the EURO Summer Institute on "Production Scheduling, Deterministic, Stochastic and Fuzzy Approaches" (St Vincent, Aosta Valley, Italy, September 12-26, 1997) organised by R. Tadei.



[Insert here the list of ESWI]

Some of the ESWI held to date have led to the publication of a feature issue of EJOR. The list of these feature issues is as follows.

**[Insert here the list of SI  
from ESWI]**

# **The Mini EURO Conferences**

In addition to the large EURO-k conferences considering all possible OR-subjects and as a supplement to the established EURO Working Groups, a series of so-called Mini EURO Conferences (MEC) was initiated in 1984. The objective is to assemble a limited number of specialists around a specific theme.

## **How to organize a Mini EURO Conference ?**

Proposals for organizing a Mini EURO conference can be made by any member of any member society of EURO. Guidelines for the organization of a Mini EURO Conference are available upon request from the Secretary of EURO. These proposals are to be approved by the Executive Committee.

It should be stressed that Mini EURO conferences should be open to specialists representing the entire OR community and not only address the organizer's "domestic market". If a proposal is approved by the Executive Committee, EURO will grant a loan to the organizers, sufficient to cover printing and distribution of a Call for Papers to all members of the national societies and of an Invitation Programme to all those interested.

Up to now, five such meetings have been organized; two feature issues of EJOR have resulted. The next Mini EURO Conference on "DSS" will be held in Bruges, Belgium, in March 1997, organised by J.P. Brans and T. Jelassi.

**[Insert here the list of MEC]**

# **The EURO Gold Medal**

The EURO Gold Medal, the highest distinction within OR in Europe, is conferred to a prominent person or a prominent institution, either for a remarkable role played in the promotion of OR in Europe or for an outstanding contribution to the OR science. The Award, which officially is bestowed in conjunction with a EURO-k conference, is not only a significant honour for the Laureate personally, but also important for the general promotion of OR as leading scholars and their contributions are made better known via the Medal. Laureates of the EURO Gold Medal are invited to all future EURO-k conferences without payment of the registration fees.

Nominations of candidates are solicited from the national societies in the year prior to each EURO-k conference. To emphasize the European flavour of the Award, all societies are strongly urged not to propose a candidate from their own country. The nominations are then passed to a special jury of "Five Wise Persons" appointed by EURO.

The decision of the jury decision is publicly announced at the Opening Session of the next EURO-k conference. Following a presentation of the competition by the chairman of the jury, the Laureate is invited to give a lecture.

## **The list of EURO Gold Medals that have already been conferred follows.**

# **[List of Gold Medals]**

# Other EURO Instruments

In 1994, four new instruments were introduced by M.F. Shutler. It is too early to report on these instruments. They have the following aims.

## EURO Prime (Up') Conferences

At its meeting in Paris in January 1991 the EURO Executive Committee decided to recommend the establishment of a young persons OR conference, later called EURO Prime (Up'), open to persons under the age of 35. The aim of the Up's is to provide a means for young OR workers in Europe to meet together in a less formal and less expensive environment than that of the traditional EURO-k Conferences. It is suggested that the conference should be based at a university and use student accommodation. Up' Conferences will take place every third year in the same year as the IFORS Conference. No Up' Conference has been organised yet.

For organizing the Up' Conference the organizers can apply for an interest free loan from EURO and for subsidies for young persons coming from Eastern, Southeast Europe or Central Europe.

Guidelines for the preparation of a Up' Conference are available upon request from the Secretary of EURO.

## EURO Fellowships

These may be awarded to students who carry out specific research in support of an officer of EURO. Up to CHF 1000 is payable to each student.

## Eastern European Conference Initiative

Up to CHF 5000 may be paid to fund travel by speakers to a conference in Central or Eastern Europe organised jointly by an OR Society in that region and by a Western one. Bids should be sent to:

Jaap Spronk  
Erasmus University Rotterdam, P.O. Box 1738  
NL-3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands

tel: +31 10 40 81 282  
fax: +31 10 45 26 399  
e-mail: spronk@finbel.few.eur.nl



## **General Support**

**An annual budget up to CHF 5000 is available in response to bids from organs of EURO or organisers of EURO sponsored events for support for actions in a EURO context not covered by other instruments. Special consideration is given to the need of students. Competitive bids may be made during each 6 month period. A deadline for submission of bids is announced twice a year by**

# **the Secretary of EURO.**

# **Other Activities of EURO**

## **EURO Prize for the Best Applied Paper**

The EURO XIV Conference in Jerusalem (July 3-6) saw the first edition of the EURO Prize for the Best Applied Paper. A jury consisting of J. Pliskin, S. Martello, G. Mitchell, C. van Rijn, M. Salomon and L. Van Wassenhove (chair) had selected 3 finalists out of 15 submissions. The finalists presented their paper in a special session. The jury announced the winner at the closing session of the conference. The winner of this first competition was “AMOS - A probability-driven, customer-oriented decision support system for target marketing of solo mailings” by Nissan Levin, Jacob Zahavi and Morris Olitsky. It is hoped that such a competition will continue during the next EURO-k Conferences.

## **Handbook of OR/MS Courses in Europe**

With the support of the Commission of the European Union within the framework of the ERASMUS Programme, a Handbook of OR/MS courses in Europe has been prepared by Costas Pappis. This handbook offers a clear picture of post-graduate courses in OR/MS in Europe.

The first edition of this handbook appeared in 1995. It will be available on the WWW server of EURO and will be continuously updated.

# Cooperation with Other Bodies

## IFORS

As one of the regional groupings of IFORS, EURO actively participates in the activities of IFORS. Since 1987, EURO appoints a "EURO Vice-President of IFORS" for a three-year period. This position was successively held by Jean-Pierre Brans (1989-1991), Jacob Krarup (1992-1994) and by Rainer Burkard (1995-1996). The EURO Vice-President of IFORS reports each year to the EURO Council.

## ALIO

ALIO (Asociacion Latino-Ibero-Americana de Investigacion Operativa) is one of the four regional groupings of IFORS. An ALIO-EURO Workshop on Practical Combinatorial Optimization was organized in Rio de Janeiro in 1989, by R.D. Galvão (Brazil) and S.K. Jacobsen (DK). A feature issue of EJOR has appeared in EJOR, Vol 58, 2 (1992).

Proposals for similar ventures are hereby invited.

## WISINET

Worldwide International Systems Institutions Network (WISINET) has recently published a booklet in which EURO and IFORS are among the ten institutions listed. The aims of the booklet are:

to help the reader get better acquainted with the activities of the different international systems and cybernetics organizations and journals, and through this,

to promote the further development of cooperation among the members of these communities.

## Sponsorships

EURO is from time to time invited to sponsor various meetings. Such sponsorships do not include any financial commitments but should be viewed merely as moral support.

# What is IFORS ?

IFORS, the International Federation of Operational Research Societies, was founded in 1959 by Operational Research Society (UK), Operations Research Society of America (USA), and Société de Recherche Operationnelle (F) as a formal framework for international cooperation within Operational Research.

IFORS is an international organization of national societies whose primary objective is the advancement of Operational Research. Its aims are the development of Operational Research as a unified science and its advancement in all nations of the world.

Presently the members of IFORS are the national OR Societies of 44 countries (plus 4 Kindred Members) which form the major parts of four regional groupings:

**EURO**, The Association of European Operational Research Societies within IFORS (founded in 1975).

**ALIO**, Asociacion Latino-Ibero-Americana de Investigacion Operativa (founded in 1982): besides Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Portugal, and Spain, which are member countries of IFORS, ALIO has contact groups in Bolivia, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

**APORS**, The Association of Asian-Pacific Operational Research Societies within IFORS (founded in 1985): ASOR (Australia), ORSC (China), ORSHK (Hong Kong), ORSI (India), ORSJ (Japan), KORS (Korea), MSORSM (Malaysia), ORSNZ (New Zealand), ORSP (Philippines), ORSS (Singapore).

**NORAM**, The Association of North American Operations Research Societies within IFORS (founded in 1987): CORS/SCRO (Canada), INFORMS (United States of America).

IFORS publishes:

- a bulletin,
- two newsletters: Developing Countries and Education (presently inactive),
- the International Abstracts in Operations Research (IAOR), a journal designed to provide full coverage of Operational Research by publishing abstracts of paper published in speciality journals in the field as well as in some related fields,
- the International Transactions in Operational Research (ITOR), an international journal published four times a year. ITO contains paper from the triennial conferences and the Special Interest Conferences (IFORS-SPC)

It organizes:

- a triennial International Conference. The 14th triennial Conference will be held in Vancouver, Canada, July 8-12 1996,
- Special Interest Conferences (IFORS-SPC). The next IFORS-SPC Conference will be held in Riga in September 1996.

IFORS cooperates with its sister societies: IFAC (International Federation of Automatic Control), IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing), IMACS (International

Association for Mathematics and Computers in Simulation) and IMEKO (International Measurement Confederation).

More information concerning the activities of IFORS can be obtained from the Secretariat of IFORS:

Secretariat of IFORS, Helle R. Welling  
Technical University of Denmark  
c/o IMSOR, bldg 321  
DK-2800 Lyngby, Denmark

Tel: 45 45 25 34 10

Fax: 45 45 88 13 97

e-mail: hw@imm.dtu.dk

[Note: the Electronic version should include a link on the IFORS WWW page:

**<http://www.ifors.org/>**

# What is Operational Research ?

Though there is no “official definition” of Operational Research (“Operations Research” in the US), it can be described as a scientific approach to the solution of problems in the management of complex systems. In a rapidly changing environment an understanding is sought which will facilitate the choice and the implementation of more effective solutions which, typically, may involve complex interactions among people, materials and money.

Operational Research has been used intensively in business, industry and government. Many new analytical methods have evolved, such as: mathematical programming, simulation, game theory, queuing theory, network analysis, decision analysis, multicriteria analysis, etc., which have powerful application to practical problems with the appropriate logical structure.

Operational Research in practice is a team effort, requiring close cooperation among the decision-makers, the skilled OR analyst and the people who will be affected by the management action.

[Note: This has been taken from the IFORS Brochure]