

XII Latin American Summer Workshop on Operations Research (ELAVIO) Valencia, Spain

ELAVIO is a Latin America summer school, focusing on Operational Research (OR), being conducted since 1994. Its target is to promote OR and bring together young researchers, who work on any of its subfields, and exchange experiences, share common fields of expertise and activities and empower their networking.

During the summer of 2013 I received an email, by the Greek OR society (HELORS), inviting young researchers to post their candidatures for receiving a scholarship to ELAVIO XVII to be held in Valencia. I finally submitted my candidature and following the evaluation of HELORS, EURO and IFORS I was eventually granted with a scholarship to participate in the event.

XVII ELAVIO took place in the School of Industrial Engineers in the Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) in September 8-12. I presented my work concerning robustness analysis on Multicriteria Decision Analysis (MCDA), namely “Robust e-government evaluation based on multiple criteria decision analysis”. My presentation received high attendance and I was glad to answer the interesting questions my colleagues posed. During the workshop I attended a number of very interesting presentations by other young researchers and the comprehensive key note speeches by the invited professors, which I enjoyed much (OR history, Arc-routing problems, Location theory, Ethics in OR etc.).

The activities of ELAVIO were also very well planned. They included a tour bike in the beautiful city center of Valencia, a picnic, some sport activities and finally a great last night-out. After the closing of the conference we were all invited to a dinner in a cozy popular restaurant where we tasted the delicacies of Valencia and then participated to a karaoke competition. Each team presented and sang its own OR song. The night continued with a visit to a nearby music club.

ELAVIO remains in my mind as a very pleasant and extraordinary memory, including both scientific and entertainment activities. I would like to thank EURO and IFORS for providing me with the chance to participate in XVII ELAVIO. I would also like to thank Cristóbal Miralles for his great organization and hospitality. The whole workshop along with its activities were perfectly tuned and coordinated. Finally, I would like to thank all participants and especially young researchers for sharing with me this awesome experience.

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