

ELAVIO 2019: a personal report

July 1 — July 5

Lleida, Spain

I would first like to thank the Spanish Stats & OR Society for nominating me as SEIO candidate for the ELAVIO scholarship and EURO and IFORS for providing me with the double grant to attend XXIII ELAVIO - Latin-American Summer School in Operations Research. ELAVIO XXIII was held in Lleida, Spain, from 1st to 5th July.

ELAVIO is a Summer School whose objective is to encourage the collaboration and involvement of young people in the field of Operational Research through short courses and talks. This year the talks covered a wide range of topics, allowing young researchers to learn multiple skills in problem solving and discover different lines of research in the field of Operational Research. The speakers of the course are renowned professors with a remarkable research career. Although I personally think that being a good researcher is not linked in many cases to being a good communicator (and it is often difficult to find professionals who meet both requirements), most of the speakers in this course are excellent in both.

One of Elavio's main goals is to provide participants with the opportunity to present and discuss their work. There were two poster sessions, one on Wednesday and another session on Thursday. It was interesting to learn what other students are working on.

With respect to the social activities, there were scheduled two guided tours and a gala dinner that ended with a party where the dancing did not stop. The social activities (and also lunches and coffee breaks) created a very pleasant environment in the school, perfect for the creation of new friendships and the establishment of future research collaborations. A Colombian boy I met during the school told us at the gala dinner that, in addition to the knowledge acquired in these schools, the best thing you get is the friendships you create and the opportunity to meet people from all corners of the world with concerns similar to yours. I totally agree with him, it seems to me an incredible opportunity to establish relationships with people who, perhaps in the future, end up working with or meeting at other congresses.

Finally, I would like to thank Lluís and the entire organizing committee for the effort made in organizing the school and for having been aware of everything at all times.

It has been a pleasure to attend this course and I am sure it will be very useful for my PhD both from an academic and a personal perspective. Therefore, I absolutely recommend ELAVIO to all young researches who have the opportunity to attend it.

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