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EURO-INFORMS – 1997 – Barcelona

Reports from Jaime Barcelo and Luis

Valadares Tavares

EURO XV / INFORMS XXXIV JOINT INTERNATIONAL MEETING CONFERENCE REPORT

1. PLANNING AND PREPARATION

1.1 Conference Site

In 1993, at the IFORS Conference in Lisbon, when Barcelona was appointed as candidate to host the EURO/INFORMS, it was proposed as conference venue the Hotel ARTS. One year later, at Glasgow meeting, when Barcelona was accepted, Hotel ARTS as Conference venue was also accepted, in spite of the high conference fee (\$450) required to cover the conference expenses according to the estimated budget. Later on we realised that Hotel ARTS could only hold up to a maximum of 15 parallel sessions. Past experiences recommend considering the possibility of a higher number of parallel sessions. At Puerto de la Cruz meeting we decided that 25 parallel sessions would be a reasonable number. To allocate such a number of parallel sessions we had to look for a different location. The Barcelona Congress Centre and the Hotel FERIA, 100 meters away, or less than five minutes walking, located at the Montjuich Hill, close to the Olympic Stadium, offered enough room to allocate the proposed number of parallel sessions, while not raising the expected conference fees.

At this time "Viajes Atlanta", a subsidiary of Barcelona Convention Bureau was appointed as professional organiser, according to the requisites of the agreement between EURO and INFORMS of appointing a professional organiser.

After the refusal at the EURO Council Meeting in Jerusalem of the budget agreed at Puerto de la Cruz, we had to renegotiate the budget with the professional organisers, with limited success. In parallel we explored an alternative scenario, in which the ordinary sessions would be held at the facilities in the new campus of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), and the opening, closing and plenary sessions would take place at the Hotel Juan Carlos I, a five stars hotel, at ten minutes walking from UPC.

There was a main reason for that scenario. The new UPC campus has nice facilities for holding a large number of parallel sessions in the lecture theatres, even for tutorials attended by no more than 150 people, but it does not have a room large enough for 1000 or more attendants as required for the plenary sessions.

This scenario resulted in a lower budget but had the main disadvantage that every day the attendants should commute between the plenary and the regular sessions. The basic

conference structure could be kept delaying for instance 15 minutes the start of the parallel sessions, or shortening the morning coffee break.

The Conference venue would then be the Hotel Juan Carlos I for the plenary sessions, and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, for the regular sessions.

**SCENARIO: Opening, closing and plenary sessions at Hotel Juan Carlos I
 Regular parallel sessions, coffee breaks lunches and tutorials at
 Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya**

Proposed Conference fee:

Dinner (\$65, or 90 CHF) included in the fee, but not accounting for EURO and INFORMS fees.

Early registration fee: \$ 365 (450 CHF) (\$300 or 360CHF for EURO/INFORMS
fee

computation)

Late registration fee: \$ 465 (570 CHF) (\$400 or 480 CHF for EURO/INFORMS
fee

Computation)

1.2 Organising Committee

The Organising Committee Chairs, Jaime Barceló (JB), General Chair, Saul Gass (SG), Vice-chair, and Programme Committee Co-chairs Luis Valadares Tavares (LV), and Burton Dean (BD), were appointed early in 1995, the definitive composition of the two committees defined in the summer of 1995 was the following:

International Organising Committee

General Chair Jaime Barceló (EURO/ Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya)

Vice-chairs Saul I. Gass (INFORMS/University of Maryland, USA)
 Valerie Belton (EURO/ University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, U.K.)

Members Luis Valadares Tavares (Instituto Superior Tecnico, Lisboa, Portugal)

Burton V. Dean (San Jose State University, California, USA)
Zilla Sinuany-Stern (Ben Gurion University of the Negev, Israel)

Local Organising Committee

Chair Jaime Barceló

Logistic Co-ordinator Jesús Pastor (Universidad de Alicante)

Members

Ramón Companys (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya)
Laureano Escudero (UITESA/Universidad Complutense)
Marco A. López (Universidad de Alicante)
Blas Pelegrin (Universidad de Murcia)
Daniel Serra (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
Ricardo Torrón (ISDEFE)

1.3 Programme Committee

Program Committee

Co-chairs Luis Valadares Tavares (Instituto Superior Tecnico, Lisboa, Portugal)
Burton V. Dean (San Jose State University, California, USA)

Members P.S. Agrel (Försvarets Forskningsanstalt, Sweden)
Jaime Barceló (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain)
Dundar F. Kocaoglu (Portland State University, USA)
Benedetto Matarazzo (University of Catania, Italy)
Heiner Müller-Merbach, Universität Kaiserslautern, Germany)
Graham Rand (Lancaster University, U.K.)
Roman Slowinsky (Poznan University of Technology, Poland)
Martin K. Starr (Columbia University, New York, USA)
Carlo Vercellis (Politecnico di Milano, Italy)

1.4 Committee Meetings

JB and LV met together in Puerto la Cruz, Tenerife, in June 1995, during the Euro Summer Institute XII on Locational Analysis, it was decided that the theme of the Conference would be "OR/MS for the new millennium"

JB, SG, LV, and BD have been in regular contact by e-mail and fax from the beginning of 1996 to make decisions on the list of topics, proposals for the conference structure and preparation of the First Announcement and Call for Papers. Later on, it has been also a regular exchange of information between VB and JB concerning organisational activities as supporting the attendance of delegates from countries in Central and Easter Europe.

The Programme and Organising Committees met together twice on July 9, 1996 in Vancouver during the IFORS conference, and in Barcelona on February 19-20, 1997.

1.4.1 Joint meeting of the Organising and Program Committees in Vancouver

The meeting decided on the conference structure, organisation of invited sessions, tutorials and plenary sessions, and assigned distributed the subsets of topics among the members for contacting organiser of invited sessions.

The main decisions were:

2.1 The structure of the plenary sessions and tutorials, and a proposed list of names to be invited as plenary speakers or as tutorialists.

2.2 Travel and accommodation expenses of plenary speakers would be covered by the Conference, as well as the accommodation expenses of tutorialists

2.3 Plenary speakers and tutorialists would be asked to provide copies of the full text of their lectures. A Conference Publication would be produced with these texts and delivered to the attendants as part of the Conference documentation.

2.4 Members of the Committees were asked to contact potential organisers of invited sessions, the list of topics in the Announcement and Call for Papers was split in subsets which were assigned to the members of the committees as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Capacity Planning (B. D.) | 30.Negotiation and Conflict Management (B.D.) |
| 2. Data Envelopment Analysis (J.B.) | 31.Neural Networks (B.D.) |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 3. Decision Modeling and Theory (B.M.) | 32. Optimization (Linear, Nonlinear, Global, Combinatorial,...) (J.B.) |
| 4. Decision Support Systems (R.S.) | 33. OR and AI (R.S.) |
| 5. Economic Modeling (B.M.) | 34. OR/MS and Education (J.B.) |
| 6. Engineering Management (D.K.) | 35. OR and Internet (H.M.) |
| 7. Entrepreneurship (B. D.) | 36. OR and Natural Resources (L.V.) |
| 8. Environmental Modeling (L.V.) | 37. OR/MS and the Public Sector (P.A.) |
| 9. Financial Modeling (B.M.) | 38. OR/MS and Telecommunications (J.B.) |
| 10. Flexible Manufacturing Systems (M.S.) | 39. Project Management and Scheduling |
| 11. Forecasting (L.V.) | |
| (L.V.) | |
| 12. Fuzzy Sets (R.S.) | 40. Quality Management (B.D.) |
| 13. Game Theory ** | 41. Queueing Systems (J.B.) |
| 14. Global Manufacturing (M.S.) | 42. R&D (B.D.) |
| 15. Global Marketing (B. D.) | 43. Regional Development (B.M.) |
| 16. Global Networking * * | 44. Reliability (P.A.) |
| 17. Group Decision Making (P.A.) | 45. Risk Analysis ** |
| 18. Health Care Systems (B.D.) | 46. Routing (J.B.) |
| 19. Innovation ** | 47. Scheduling (R.S.) |
| 20. Large Scale Optimization (J.B.) | 48. Search Algorithms (J.B.) |
| 21. Location (J.B.) | |
| 22. Logistics (M.S.) | 49. Service Operations (B.D.) |
| 23. Management Information Systems ** | 50. Software for OR/MS Analysis (J.B.) |
| 24. Materials Requirements Planning ** | 51. Stochastic Models (B.M.) |
| 25. Mathematical Programming (J.L.) | 52. Strategic Planning (P.A.) |
| 26. Military Operations Research (P.A.) | 53. Technology Management (H.M.) |
| 27. Modeling and Simulation (J.B.) | 54. Transportation Systems (J.B.) |
| 28. Multi-criteria Decision Analysis (B.M.) | 55. Transportation Planning and Policy (J.B.) |
| 29. Multi-objective Programming (B.M.) | |

Legend and Comments:

P.A. Peer Agrell, J.B. Jaime Barceló, B.D. Burton V. Dean, D.K. Dundar Kokaoglu, J.K. Jan Karel Lenstra, B.M. Benedetto Matarazzo, H.M. Heiner Müller-Merbach, R.S. Roman Slovinsky, M.S. Martin K. Starr, L.V. Luis Valadares.

** Were object the personal contacts not assigned at this meeting

1.4.2 Joint meeting of the Organising and Program Committees in Barcelona

Abstracts were revised and structured in sessions. The final structure of the conference was defined as follows:

- < Sunday 13th July: Registration and Get Together Party from 16:00 until 20:00 at the campus Nord of the Universitat Politècnica.
- < Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th: from 9:00 until 10:15 Plenary Sessions at the Hotel Juan Carlos I, 10:15 - 11:00 Coffee Break at the Campus Nord of the Universitat Politècnica, 11:00-18:00 regular sessions and tutorials at the Campus Nord, 11:00-13:00 regular sessions and tutorials, 13:00-14:00 Lunch, 14:00-16:00 regular sessions, 16:00-16:30 Coffee Break, 16.30-18:00 regular sessions.
- < Thursday 17th: from 9:00 until 10.15 semiplenaries at Juan Carlos I, 10:15-11:00 Coffee Break at Campus Nord, 11:00-13:00 regular sessions, 13:00-14:00 Lunch, 14:30-16:00 Closing Session at Juan Carlos I.

The accepted list of Plenary, Tutorials, Invited and Special Sessions was:

Plenary Sessions

Opening Plenary Session

Prof. Domingo Pérez Alonso, IBERDROLA

Networking strategies for engineering services in today competitive market

INFORMS Plenary Session

Prof. Thomas L. Magnanti, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

OR/MS Education

EURO Plenary Session

Speakers: EURO Gold medallist (s)

Semiplenary I

Prof. Constantin Zopounidis (Technical University of Crete)

Multicriteria decision in financial management

Semiplenary II

Prof. George Nemhauser (Georgia Institute of Technology)

Closing Session

Prof. Alfred Blumstein (Carnegie Mellon University)

The future of OR/MS: Substance and Structure

Tutorials

1. Martin Grötschel, *Dimensioning of Survivable Telecommunication Networks*
2. Heiner Müller-Merbach, *Methodology for the Design of Algorithms*
3. Snjólfur Ólafsson, *OR and Group Decision Making*
4. Yannis A. Korilis, *Resource Allocation and Networking Games*
5. Michael Pidd, *Modeling and Simulation*
6. Manuel Laguna, *Metaheuristic Optimization with Evolver, genocop and OptQuest*
7. Janos Fodor, *Preference Modeling using Fuzzy Sets*
8. Paolo Toth, *New Trends in Exact Algorithms for the 0-1 Knapsack Problems*
9. Emilio Carrizosa, *Locational Analysis*
10. A.D. Clayden, *OR in Healthcare-past, present and future*
11. Markus Schwaninger, *Combining Systems Methods for coping with Complexity: A Systemic Framework*
12. Ulrike Leopold, *The bounds & likelihood procedure: a qualitative forecasting technique*
13. Maurizio Bielli, *Network Design Models in Transportation Service Planning and Management*
14. A.K Shahani, *Modeling for effective and efficient healthcare*
15. Jan Owinski, *Modeling and Analysis of the Economies and Societies in Transition: the "MODEST" EURO Working Group's Perspective*
16. Thomas Saaty, *The Analytic Network Decision Process with Dependence and Feedback*

17. Warren B. Powell, *Real-time optimization of stochastic resource scheduling problems: a research agenda*
18. Larry Bodin, *Street Routing and Scheduling Problems*
19. Jacek Blacewickz, *On Some Combinatorial Optimization Models for Molecular Biology*
20. Lawrence M. Seiford, *Data Envelopment Analysis: Learning from Outliers*

Invited Sessions:

Session Title (number of sessions) (country)	Session Organizer
Advanced Modeling of Manufacturing Systems	John Liu (USA)
Algebraic methods in optimization	Winfried Hochstättler (Germany)
Analytic Hierarchy Process	Jonathan Barzilai (Canada)
Applications of network optimization to transportation, telecommunication and production system	A. Quilliot (France)
Applications of productivity analysis	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Applied probability	Mohan L. Chaudhry (Canada)
Arc routing	Michel Gendreau (Canada)
Aspects of information systems management in various european settings	Manuel J. Pereira (Portugal)
Combination of methods	Markus Schwaninger (Switzerland)
Combinatorial optimization I	Gerhard Reinelt (Germany)
Combinatorial optimization II	Martin Groetschel (Germany)
Computational methods for scheduling problems	Khalid I. Bouzina (USA)
Computational methods in bayesian statistics I	Fabrizio Ruggeri (Italy)
Computational methods in bayesian statistics II	Brani Vidakovic (USA)
Computer simulation	Michael Pidd (UK)
Customer delay in supply systems	Menachem Berg (Israel)
DEA applications	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
DEA & health care	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Decision aid in transportation	Jacek Zak (Poland)
Decision analysis in environmental modelling	Leanne D. Denise Scott (South Africa)
Decomposition applications and techniques I	Francisco J. Prieto (Spain)
Decomposition applications and techniques II	Gerard Plateau (France)
Discrete and continuous nonconvex programming	Hanif Sherali (USA)
DSS and GDSS methodology	Jean Pierre Brans (Belgium)
DSS: Economical applications	Jean Pierre Brans (Belgium)
DSS for bidding process	Pascale Zaraté (France)
Dynamic congestion tolls for general traffic networks	Maurizio Bielli (Italy)
Economic modeling	Piera Mazzoleni (Italy)
Education & industry	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Effective & efficient health care	Arjan K. Shahani (UK)

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8:12 aM/PM

Efficiency and productivity in agriculture	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Efficiency of banking institutions	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and Yannis A.
Korilis (USA)	
Electricity restructuring (2)	Derek W. Bunn (UK)
Environmental planning	Costas Pappis (Greece)
Extension of DEA approaches: DEA models and business	
Performance Measurement	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Financial and actuarial modelling	Ermanno Pitacco (Italy)
Financial institutions	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Financial modeling	Constantin Zopounidis (Greece)
Financial Modeling II	H. Martin Weingartner (USA)
Financial planning under uncertainty	Hercules Vladimirov (Cyprus)
Financial services applications of productivity analysis	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Fuzzy mathematical programming (2)	Heinrich Rommelfanger (Germany)
Fuzzy set models in OR	M. Angeles Gil (Spain)
Game theory (2)	Kensaku Kikuta (Japan)
Game theory (2)	Ignacio García Jurado (Spain)
Global marketing	Zahid Y. Khairullah (USA)
Global web technology and decision support	Michael J. Shaw (USA)
Graphical models in decision analysis: complex applications organisers	Concha Bielza (Spain) and David Rios Insua (Spain)
Graphical models in decision analysis: novel Representations and algorithms	Concha Bielza (Spain) and David Rios Insua (Spain)
Health care systems (3)	Arjan K. Shahani (UK)
Index numbers	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Innovative applications of DEA to health care (2)	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Interior point methods and their applications	Narcís Nabona (Spain)
Lead time models in manufacturing and traffic	Nico Vandaele (Belgium)
Local search	Martin Zachariasen (Denmark)
Location (4)	Blas Pelegrín (Spain)
Modeling and simulation	Fernando J. Barros (Portugal)
Modeling languages: applications to optimization	Andrés Ramos
Multi-criteria decision analysis I	Raymond Bisdorff (Luxembourg)
Multi-criteria decision analysis II	Jean Marc Martel (Canada)
Multi-objective programming (3)	Thomas Hanne (Germany)
Multicriteria metaheuristics (2)	Andrzej Jaszkiewicz (Poland)
Networking	Yannis A. Korilis (USA)

Networking games and network pricing	Yannis A. Korilis (USA)
New DEA approaches	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
New developments in supply chain management (2)	Steven Nahmias (USA)
Nonlinear optimization I	Christine Shoemaker (USA)
Nonlinear optimization II	Antonio Conejo (Spain)
Numerical optimization	Anders Forsgren (Sweden)
Optimization	Vangelis Th. Paschos (France)
Optimization in industry	Petra Bauer (Germany)
Optimization in statistical disclosure control	Mateo Fischetti (Italy) and J. José
Salazar	(Spain)
Optimization in telecommunication	Stan van Hoesel and Karen Aardal
Optimization ; semi-infinite programming	Enriqueta Vercher (Spain)
OR and group decision making	Snjólfur Ólafsson (Iceland)
OR and natural resources	Jacqueline M. Bloemhof-Ruwaard
	(Netherlands)
OR and telecommunications	Danielle Liu (USA)
OR applications in telecommunications	Paul M. Thompson (USA)
Parallel branch & bound (2)	T. G. Crainic (Canada) and C.
Roucairol (France)	
Parallel methods for stochastic programming	Laura Wynter (France)
Parametric frontiers	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Polyhedral combinatorics applied to some routing problems	Angel Corberán (Spain)
Practical combinatorial optimization (2)	F. Maffioli (Italy) and F. A. Weintraub
(Chile)	
Preferences and MCDA	Philippe Vincke (Belgium)
Process control	Ali Houshmand (USA)
Project management and scheduling I	Jan Weglarz (Poland)
Project management and scheduling II	Willy Herroelen (Belgium)
Public sector	Maurice Shutler (UK)
Queues with finite waiting space	Mohan L. Chaudhry (Canada)
Ranking the performance of industrial operations and R&D	Jesús T. Pastor (Spain) and L. Seiford
Recent development in scheduling	Nico Vandaele (Belgium)
Regional development	Jim B. Hughes (Belgium)
Reliability and maintenance in production control (4)	Zilla Sinuany-Stern (Israel)
Scheduling	Eugeniusz Toczyłowski (Poland)
Scheduling and technological issues in new product	
development	R. Balachandra (USA)
Simulation	Robert G. Sargent (USA)

Stochastic integer programming	Rüdiger Schultz (Germany)
Stochastic programming	Rüdiger Schultz (Germany)
Telecommunications network design	Brunilde Sanso (Canada)
Transport network models	Angel Marín Gracia (Spain)
Transport network models II	Giorgio Gallo (Italy)
Transportation modeling	Francesc Robusté (Spain)
Transportation modeling II	Maurizio Bielli (Italy)
Transportation planning	Maurizio Bielli (Italy)
Valid Inequalities and Tabu Search for Optimization	Manuel Laguna (USA) and Rafael Martí (Spain)
Problems on Graphs	
Vehicle routing and loading	Goos Kant and Karen Aardal (Netherlands)
Water resource systems	Christine Shoemaker (USA)

Special sessions:

Teaching OR/MS to Business Students, our future clients	John C. Papatgeorgiou (USA)
OR In the Information Society	J. Dias Coelho (Portugal)
EURO/WATT (EURO Working Group on Automated Timetabling) Special Session	D.W. Corne (UK)
Multicriteria Aid for Decisions	Ph. Vinke (Belgium)
Best applied paper finalist session	Marc Solomon (Netherlands)
Panel discussion: Operations Research in Steel Industries	Goutham Dutta (US)
Methodology for Analyzing Societal Problems	Dorien DeTombe (NL)
Hierarchical Organizational Planning	Christoph Scheeweis (D)
Necessary Components for OR/MS Education in the 21st Century	Jerry Banks (USA)
MODEST Working Group on Modeling of Economies and Societies in Transition	Jan W. Owsinski (PL)
Discussion session on: Decision Support Systems in Action: Integrated Application in a Multicriteria Decision Aid Process	Ph. Vinke (B) and Carlos Bana e Costa (P)

The Program Committee decided to allocate 5 papers to each session of 120 minutes, and 4 papers to each session of 90 minutes, with the objective of having well balanced sessions with the same number of papers and the same time slots allocated to each papers in such a way that if session chair are keen in keeping the schedule the delegates will have the opportunity of attending specific papers presentations if they are interested.

As a consequence of that decisions some invited sessions had to be restructured either because they had an insufficient number of papers or excess. In a few cases contributed papers were added to balance these sessions.

All abstracts were accepted. According to the INFORMS rules there are not rejections for this kind of conferences.

1.5 Publicity

1.5.1 First Announcement and Call for Papers, dissemination actions.

The brochure for the First Announcement and Call for Papers was ready by the end of April 1996. 25,000 copies were printed and disseminated as follows:

300 copies were available at the registration desk of the INFORMS meeting in Washington, May 1996

The Spanish OR Society mailed 10,676 copies to the societies in EURO for dissemination among their members.

1,000 copies were sent to Philippe Asbroek for dissemination with the
EURO Bulletin

9,975 copies were mailed directly to INFORMS members

1,000 copies were available to the attendants of IFORS meeting in Vancouver, July 1996

The remaining copies were either directly distributed or sent to members of the Organising and Program Committees on request.

Electronic copies were available on the EURO and INFORMS web pages.

1.5.2 Invitation Program and Registration Forms

Acceptance letters started to be mailed to authors on March 6, 1997. On a first tour were mailed the acceptance letters for speakers, and on a second one to co-authors.

The Invitation program and Registration Forms were ready on March 26, 1997. As a consequence of the delay in producing the Invitation Program it was decided to move the

limit date for early registration from April 30 to May 31. 25,000 copies were printed and disseminated as follows:

1,071 to speakers, along with a letter informing them on when the presentation of their papers had been scheduled. Mailing started on April 1, 1997.

576 to co-authors

300 copies were available at the registration desk of the INFORMS meeting in San Diego, May 1997

The Spanish OR Society mailed 10,676 copies to the societies in EURO for dissemination among their members.

1,000 copies were sent to Philippe Asbroek for dissemination with the EURO Bulletin

9,975 copies were mailed directly to INFORMS members

The remaining copies were either directly distributed or sent to members of the Organising and Program Committees on request.

A web page containing the Invitation Program and Registration Forms, linked to the web page of the City of Barcelona, was available from March 26, 1997, at:

<http://www-eio.upc.es/~euroinfo>

A massive e-mailing informing on the existence of this web page was made to all potential attendants which had included their e-mail address in the abstract submission form, or whose e-mail address was available to us (over 800 messages).

We have been reported of some problems in the regular mailing process by authors and co-authors in getting either the acceptance letters or the registration forms, our estimate is that this has affected about a 20% of the mailed letters. We have detected two main sources of troubles: post problems out of our control, and incorrect addresses, namely in most of the invited sessions. All the detected cases were solved.

1.6 Conference Schedule

The structure of the sessions and their scheduling could not be completed until March 16, 1997 (March 10 we were still receiving invited sessions whose organisers had not been

informed of the limit dates by the members of the committees who had asked them to organise such invited sessions).

At this time we had received 1114 abstracts, from 1071 speakers, which were structured in 250 sessions: 25 in parallel at each time slot and 10 time slots (7 of 120 minutes and 3 of 90 minutes).

At the time of mailing the Invitation Program forms to request financial support from EURO to attend the conference were sent to delegates from eastern European countries which had previously contacted us.

In response to these letters, or as consequence of the announcement included in the Invitation program, as requested by EURO, we received about 35 requests for support. The allocation of the EURO funds according to the usual rules lead to the following distribution:

- 1 delegate from Belarus
- 2 delegates from Czech Republic
- 1 delegate from Georgia
- 3 delegates from Poland
- 1 delegate from Romania
- 3 delegates from Russia
- 1 delegate from Turkey
- 2 delegates from Ukraine
- 10 delegates from Yugoslavia

that represent to support 25 delegates, the 10 rejected request were all from Yugoslavia, the reasons for rejection were: they had already received support in previous EURO conferences, or they were co-authors.

1.7 Preparation of the Final Programme and Abstract Booklet

Database

A Filemaker database was used to keep records of all abstracts and authors and co-authors. Unfortunately the lack of dialogue between our database and UNICONGRESS database made very difficult to co-ordinate our files with the registration. That was another source of problems resulting in a few authors receiving very late or never

receiving the information. And checking whether the recorded abstract corresponded to authors already registered.

Between the dissemination of the Invitation Programme and the preparation of the Final Programme the number of withdrawals was 90 papers. The remaining 1024 papers were included in the abstract booklet.

The database was of invaluable use to prepare the conference schedule and make all kind of cross-checking to ensure the consistency of the schedule, this procedure made relatively easy to put remedy to author clashes and other mistakes. The preparation of the Abstract Booklet was also done using the database and was relatively easy. We could not imagine how conference schedule and booklet could have been done without the help of the database, may be we would still be working on it.

Final Programme and Abstract Booklet were ready for printing by June 20, and were available on July 7.

2. THE CONFERENCE

2.1. Conference Site

Hotel Juan Carlos I and the rooms at Campus Nord of the Universitat Politècnica were used as planned. The assistance of the student helpers made easy the access. The only complaints that we received concerned the lack of air conditioning at the lecture rooms, and some minor problems with the standard overhead projectors provided by the University that were fixed on the spot by the student helpers.

2.2 Attendance at the Conference

Nationalities of delegates and authors

	Country	# Deleg		Country	# Deleg
1	Australia	15	27	Luxembourg	1
2	Austria	7	28	Mexico	4
3	Belorus	1	29	New Zealand	3
4	Belgium	37	30	Norway	6
5	Brazil	24	31	Poland	18
6	Canada	44	32	Portugal	92
7	Chile	9	33	Romania	1
8	Colombia	2	34	Russia	2
9	Croatia	2	35	Saudi Arabia	4
10	Cyprus	5	36	Singapore	4
11	Czech Republic	3	37	Slovenia	1
12	Denmark	13	38	South Africa	5
13	Finland	10	39	Spain	167
14	France	57	40	Sweden	17
15	Germany	55	41	Switzerland	11
16	Greece	9	42	Taiwan	8
17	Hong Kong	12	43	Thailand	2
18	Hungary	2	44	The Netherlands	62
19	Iceland	1	45	Turkey	20
20	Iran	1	46	Ukraine	2
21	Ireland	3	47	UK	90

22	Israel	21	48	USA	172
23	Italy	67	49	Venezuela	1
24	Japan	13	50	Yugoslavia	18
25	Korea	11	51	Zambia	1
26	Libanon	1			

Summary

European	781
North America (USA + Canada)	216
Rest of the World	140
Total	1,137

Delegates from Eastern Europe

EURO provided 12,000 Swiss Francs to support the attendance of delegates from Eastern Europe, 21, out of the 25 whose proposals had been accepted, attended the conference

- 2 delegates from Czech Republic
- 3 delegates from Poland
- 1 delegate from Romania
- 2 delegates from Russia
- 2 delegates from Ukraine
- 10 delegates from Yugoslavia
- 1 delegate from India

Attendance at sessions

Session reporting forms were received for 218 out of the 244 scheduled parallel sessions (89%). There were 910 papers scheduled to be presented in those 218 sessions, of which 114 were "no shows" (12.5%).

Unfortunately not all session chairs reported accurately the session attendance. Using the available reports as a sample, estimation by extrapolation would be:

Attendance	# of sessions
5 or fewer	20
6-10	32
11-15	41
16-20	67
21-25	37
26-30	12
>30	9

Reporters informed that there were 7 sessions in which the number of “no shows” was more than the 50% of the scheduled papers, and 1 session were cancelled because of the lack of audience.

3. Financial structure

Total number of paying delegates (Not including members of Organising and Program Committees, Invited speakers and tutorialists, attendants granted by EURO and student helpers) **1,006**

3.1 Structure of net income from fees (excluding dinner and other social events, as proposed in the progress report of January 1996)

# Delegates	Net fee	Total	EURO/INFORMS fee
(Early full)617	\$300	\$185,100	\$29,616
(Late full)124	\$400	\$49,600	\$7,688
(Early stud)73	\$150	\$10,950	\$1,752
(Late stud)18	\$200	\$3,600	\$576
Sub-total 832		\$249,250	\$39,632
(Early full)149	360 CHF	53,640 CHF	8,583 CHF
(Late full)8	480 CHF	3,840 CHF	998 CHF
(Early stud)17	185 CHF	3,145 CHF	503 CHF
Sub-total 174		60,625 CHF	10,084 CHF
TOTAL 1,006			

3.2. INCOMES

EURO funding	12,000 CHF	1,241,133 pts
Fees in US Dollars	249,250	35,367,300 pts
(*)		
Fees in CHF	60,625	6,062,500 pts
(**)		
Exhibitors		1,799,394 pts
Bank Interests		90,828 pts
Non reimbursed abstract fees		843,761 pts
TOTAL		45,404,916 pts

(*) 141.8948 pts / Dollar estimated average rate change from
November 1996

to July 1997

(**) 100 pts/ CHF estimated average rate change from November 1996
to July

1997

3.3 EXPENSES

3.3.1 Printings

First announcement	1,506,840
Invitation Program	1,061,400
Letter headed + Envelopes	238,960
Final Program	782,200
Sub-total	3,589,400

3.3.2 Mailings

First announcement	
Europe	81,250
USA and Rest of the World	457,191
Invitation Program	
Europe	70,000
USA and rest of the World	606,000
Direct mailing authors and co-authors	2,885,612
Handling	76,500
Sub-total	4,176,553

3.3.3 Meeting of the Organising and Program Committees (February 20-21)

Travel Expenses	626,585
Accommodation Expenses	561,750
Others	122,772

Sub-total **1,311,107**

3.3.4 Congress Secretariat

**Personnel (1 Secretary 1year + 1 Secretary
from January 97 to July 97 + Students
+ Security services + Auxiliary personnel
during the conference) 2,760,742**
UNICONGRESS 2,500,000

Sub-total 5,260,742

3.3.5 Complements Congress KIT 347,338
347,338

3.3.6 HOTEL JUAN CARLOS I

Conference Room 1,685,250
Audiovisuals 1,205,760
Poster 30,000
EJOR meeting 220,000
Sunday meeting room (EURO XVI) 18,725
Lunch OR Presidents 116,640
Photographs 26,500

Sub-total 3,302,875

3.3.7 Social Program

Coffee-breaks 3,213,000
Get-together Party and EURO Council
Meeting (Sunday 13th) 768,400
Reception (Monday 14th) 3,088,940
Hostesses 369,400
Printing reception tickets 35,052

Sub-total	7,474,792
3.3.8 Extra cost granted delegates	307,197
307,197	

3.3.9 Plenary speakers and Tutorialists

Travel expenses plenary speakers	656,450
Accommodation expenses	2,311,928
Lunch tickets	118,900
Sub-total	3,087,278

3.3.10 Exhibition costs (Luditec, SA)	1,377,628
1,377,628	

3.3.11 Faxes, photocopies etc. (Dept. EIO)	656,334
656,334	

3.3.12 Fee reimbursements	572,424
572,424	

3.3.13 EURO and INFORMS fees

Fees in US Dollars 39,632	5,905,168 (*)
Fees in CHF 10,084	1,048,736 (**)

Sub-total	6,953,904
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(*) Estimated rate change 149 pts/Dollar

(**) Estimated rate change 104 pts/CHF

TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>38,417,572</u>
pts	

Difference	6,987,344
pts	

Account remainder (31.10.97)

6,986,347 pts

EXPENSES NOT YET ACCOUNTED FOR

UPC rooms (Budgeted 7,150,000 pts)

3,500,000 pts

Extra conference publication printings

100,688 pts

2 Late reimbursements

Other costs

100,783

pts

EIO (UPC) and SEIO fees

(The final

reminder)

4. Sponsorship

< **The conference publication, with the full text of tutorials and plenay sessions was sponsored by the Caixa de Catalunya (1,000,000 pts)**

< **The congress kit: bag, folders, etc. was also partially sponsored by the Caixa de Catalunya. (750,000 pts.)**

< **UPC applied a 50% discount on the regular room renting prices (3,650,000 pts)**

5. Exhibition

A total of 9 exhibitors attended the conference to display books and software. The financial balance is reflected in Section 3 of this report.

23/12/97

8:12 aM/PM

Special mention should be made of the stand of EURO at the exhibition.

6. Additional comments

All those who have organised this class of conferences are aware of the effort and dedication that they demand. In the case of an EURO/INFORMS conference this effort is more than double, the increasing demand is not a linear function. I would like to draw your attention to some aspects that could be of interest for future meetings.

1. Conference cultures: INFORMS and EURO have different views on the importance of the conference. For EURO the EURO Conference is a major event while for INFORMS is a complementary event of relative importance. This is not a criticism it is only the description of a fact.
2. A primary consequence of this fact is the different role played by the Programme committee co-chairs and members. An analysis of the invited sessions which arrived very late, creating the corresponding difficulties in the process of setting up the Conference Programme and Schedule, as well as an analysis of most of the withdrawals and no shows, shows clearly this different way of understanding the conference. However I would like to stress that those who responded were very cooperative and did a nice job (I am very grateful to Saul Gass for his great help).
3. The analysis of the conference costs show clearly that the mailing and printing costs are of at least an order of magnitude different from those of a single EURO Conference, while the increase in the participation and income is not proportional.
4. With respect to this last point I would like to draw the attention of the readers to the unbalanced situation created by the EURO/INFORMS Agreement with respect to the participation of the societies in the share of the conference fees. The agreement was a 50% for INFORMS and a 50% for EURO, and such is reflected in the final balance. But the proportion of attendants was not fifty-fifty. They were perhaps 250 who could be considered INFORMS attendants (USA, Canada and some of the rest of the world) against 781 from EURO.
5. The engagement of both societies in the organisation efforts cannot be compared. A look at the financial figures in mailing is a good example. Most of mailing in Europe was done directly by the European societies, while all mailing in USA and Canada had to be done directly from Spain by the conference organisers.
6. If more joint conferences are going to be organised in the future I would recommend, a strict control over the Programme Committee in order to verify that the invited sessions are organised correctly and on time. A decision on the invited sessions in order to avoid that most of the late withdrawals and no shows come from these sessions (perhaps they should also pay the abstract submission fee

which is an excellent deterrent measure against withdrawals and no shows). I wonder if a procedure based on so short abstracts is meaningful. Independently of the INFORMS policy of no rejection I think that EURO should make a decision on that. The policy of extended abstracts and a more serious selection process is proven to be very good in other conferences. Last but not least I would recommend a review of the financial agreements between EURO and INFORMS, and try to include an agreement on the degree of involvement of INFORMS as society.

23/12/97

8:12 aM/PM

**Report of Prof. Luís Valadares Tavares, co-chairman of the International
Programme Committee, EURO XV -INFORMS XXXIV
Barcelona, Spain, July 14-17, 98**

1. Activities

The IPC was chaired by me (EURO) and by Burton Dean (INFORMS) and included the following members:

Luis Valadares Tavares - EURO/Instituto Superior Técnico, Lisboa, (Portugal);
Burton V. Dean - INFORMS/San Jose State University, California (USA);
Peer Agrel - Linköping Institute of Technology (Sweden);
Jaime Barceló - Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Barcelona (Spain);
Dundar F. Kocaoglu - Portland State University (USA);
Benedetto Matarazzo - Facoltà di Economia e Commercio (Italy);
Heiner Müller-Merbach - Universität Kaiserslautern (Germany);
Graham Rand - Lancaster University (UK);
Roman Slowinsky - Poznan University of Technology (Poland);
Martin K. Starr - Columbia University, New York (USA);
Carlo Vercellis - Politecnico di Milano (Italia).

After being appointed co-chairman (EURO) of EURO XV I had several contacts with Prof. Burton Dean (Co-chairman, INFORMS) and a meeting with the chairman of the Organizing Committee in Spain to select the theme and to discuss the structure of the conference. The general lay-out in annex was agreed.

Unfortunately, due to the late approval of the budget for EURO XV (beginning of 96) and to the absence of national support to be used by Prof. Jaime Barceló, the PC had not the possibility of using any budget until July 96 which has prevented us of organizing a first meeting which I had scheduled for January or February, 96. (The first meeting of the PC for EURO XIV (June 95) was held in February 94).

Therefore, we had the first meeting of the IPC in Vancouver during the IFORS Conference, July 7, 96, including Prof. Burton Dean and our european colleagues.

Before this meeting, we had extensive correspondence with many potential organizers of sessions and with the Chairmen of the EURO Working Groups asking for contributions to the Conference. This meeting was quite effective as we have then defined the format of the conference as well as the list of speakers to be invited (plenary and semi-plenary sessions and tutorials) and the organizers of the sessions (See report in Annex 1).

The decision of preparing a document with the invited lectures to be distributed to the participants was also made despite the initial doubts formulated in terms of the Conference budget.

A second and last meeting was held in Barcelona (February 20 21, 97) together with the organizing committee (See annex 2).

The agreements about special sessions like those organized by the Mathematical Programming Society, Best Applied Paper, etc. were easily carried out.

Papers were invited to be submitted for publication in a special issue by EJOR (deadline July 97) and a list of 67 papers was received.

After a few months of delay, our colleague Burton Dean informed me that he was too busy on other editorial matters and therefore could not be co-editor of this issue, and therefore I am now doing this job. About 50% of the papers have been already reviewed and so we expect to finish this process in July 98, one year after the conference, as it was planned. The bulk of papers will be then sent to EJOR for publication.

The review of the papers has been carried out by the members of the IPC and by reviewers of EJOR.

2. Comments

- The organization of the programme of this conference was a very interesting activity. The OR community is now a very global network of experts and therefore this job is quite stimulating and quite exciting! I've enjoyed it.
- the delay of the starting point of this work and the need to manage a process including more than 1000 letters without any financial or labour support from the organization have required additional effort and voluntary work also from my own secretariat.
- I am enthusiastic about the cross-Atlantic dialogue but I've missed a more active participation from our US colleagues (The US members of the IPC have not participated at the first or second meeting excepting Burton Dean) and it seems that the number of participants from INFORMS was below expectations.

3. Recommendations

- A less bureaucratic financial procedure should be adopted to allow the anticipation of the work of the IPC.
- the secretariat work carried out for the IPC by its chairman should be also budgeted.
- new special sessions and other "ingredients" should be conceived to innovate the programme of these conferences avoiding a sense of repetition.
- the arrangements with our american colleagues should be based on a different scheme assuming that their financial and work contributions may be marginal.

I. Valadares Tavares
Lisbon, March, 98

NOTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE OF EURO
XV - INFORMS XXXIV

1. MEETING

This meeting took place in Vancouver during the 14th IFORS Conference, July, 8th 1996.

It was called by L. Valadares Tavares who has also invited the chairmen of the EURO Working Groups to join the meeting.

The participants were: Burton V. Dean, L. Valadares Tavares, Peer Agrel, Jaime Barceló, Benedetto Matarazzo, Heiner Muller-Merbach, Roman Slowinsky, Fred Ridgeway, Bana e Costa and Valerie Belton.

The meeting starting at 5.30 pm and finished at 8.00 pm.

2. TOPICS AND DECISIONS

The programme structure of the conference (See in annex 1) was presented and a general discussion has taken place about the selection of speakers, the invitation for sessions and the issue of publishing the special contributions. The following decisions were taken:

1 - A special effort should be done to have a balanced programme covering not just mathematical and instrumental topics but also organisational and societal issues.

2 - The presentation of state-of-art reviews, the organization of tutorials and round tables to discuss important topics should be encouraged to give a more "alive" flavour to the conference. These sessions can be accommodated within the 12 windows T (14-15, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).

3 - Heiner Muller-Merbach was asked to invite a leading manager of a German important firm to present the first lecture.

4 - Inviting Thomas Magnanti to present one of the semi-plenary sessions.

5 - Burton Dean will invite a speaker (probably, Churchman or Ackof or S. Beer) for the INFORMS plenary session.

6 - Contacting with Zapoudinis (Financial modelling) to present the other semi-plenary session.

7 - The coordinators of the Euro Working Groups are invited to present reviews or round-tables.

8 - Other names were suggested to be invited to organize sessions:

Cooper, Meunier, Riveline, Hull, Mitroff, Reirveld (Environment), Nemhauser, Grottschel, Toint, Manuel Laguna, Dyer, Nunamaker, Powell, Fodor, Sen.

9 - Luis V. Tavares will send the specimen of the invitation letter to be sent by each PC member to the colleagues invited to organize sessions (See annex 2).

Any PC members can invite colleagues to organize sessions but attention should be given to the following distribution:

M. Starr: 1, 10, 14, 21, 23

J. Barceló: 2, 20, 26, 31, 33, 37, 45, 47, 49, 53, 54

B. Matarazzo: 3, 5, 27, 28, 42, 50.

R. Slowinsky: 4, 12, 13, 32, 46.

D. Kocaoglu: 6

Burton Dean: 7, 15, 18, 29, 33, 39, 41, 48.

L. Valadares Tavares: 8, 11, 35, 38.

Peer Agrel: 17, 19, 25, 30, 36, 44.

Heiner Muller-Merbach: 22, 34, 52.

where the numbers correspond to the listed topics (Annex 3)

10 - One or more sessions will be organized by the Mathematical Programming Society (Lenstra).

11 - The papers concerning the plenary, semi-plenary and tutorials will be distributed to the participants (informal publication).

12 - The second and final meeting of the PC will be held in Barcelona, on 20, 21 February 97 and B. Dean, L. V. Tavares and J. Barceló will meet from the 19th February 1997.



L. V. Tavares

JOINT MEETING OF THE EURO/INFORMS-97 PROGRAM AND ORGANIZING COMMITTEES
BARCELONA, February 20-21

AGENDA

Thursday 20:

- 9:00 Meeting point: the Department of Statistics and Operations Research
- 9:30 Visit to the Hotel Juan Carlos I (Venue of the plenary sessions)
- 10:00 Visit to the Campus Nord of the Universitat Politècnica (venue of the tutorials and regular sessions)
- 10.30-11:00 Coffee Break at the Department of Statistics and Operations Research
- 11:00-13:00 Working session
- 13:00-14:00 Lunch
- 14:00-16:00 Working session
- 16:00-16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30-18:00 Working session
- 18:00-21:00 Free time
- 21:00 Dinner

Friday 21:

- 9:00-10:30 Working session
- 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00-13:00 Working session
- 13:00-14.00 Lunch

The decision on whether to continue after lunch or not will depend on the degree of completion of the work. A visit to the venue of the Conference Dinner is scheduled for the late afternoon.

The proposed topics for the working sessions are:

- Structure of the Conference Program: review and decisions
- Structure of the Invitation Program
- Review of the Plenary sessions: Opening and closing sessions
- Review of special sessions: panels, group meetings, EURO prize,...
- Review of the tutorials
- Decisions concerning the conference publication
- Decisions concerning the requests for financial support from Eastern European and African and Asian countries
- Special issues of EJOR, ~~TOP~~ and TOP
- Review of Invited sessions: scheduling
- Review of Contributed papers, structuring in sessions, scheduling
- AOB

Sunday 13th: 16:00-20.00 Registration and Get Together Party

Venue: Campus Nord of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

1. PLENARY SESSIONS

Monday 14th: Opening Session (Venue: Hotel Juan Carlos I)

- **Speakers:** the Rector of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, the President of EURO, the President of INFORMS, the President of SEIO
- **Plenary I: Challenges in Lufthansa** (High executive contacted by Prof. Dr. Heiner Müller-Merbach, not yet confirmed)
- **Plenary II: The Challenge of Organizing the Olympic Games**, Mr. Josep Miquel Abad (former president of the Organizing Committee of the Olympic Games in Barcelona, not yet confirmed)

Tuesday 15th: INFORMS Plenary Session (Venue: Hotel Juan Carlos I)

- Prof. Thomas L. Magnanti: OR/MS Education

Wednesday 16th: EURO Plenary Session (Venue: Hotel Juan Carlos I)

Lecturer the EURO Gold Medalist(s)

Thursday 17th: (Venue: Hotel Juan Carlos I)

- **Semiplenary A:**

Prof. Constantin Zepounidis: Financial Modeling

- **Semiplenary B:**

Prof. George L. Nemhauser: Perspectives in Optimization

- **Closing Plenary Session:** Prof. Alfred Blumstein

2. TUTORIALS

1. Martin Grötschel, *Dimensioning of Survivable Telecommunication Networks*
2. Heiner Müller-Merbach, *Methodology for the Design of Algorithms*
3. Snjólfur Ólafsson, *OR and Group Decision Making*
4. Erik Johnsen, *Strategic Planning*
5. Michael Pidd, *Modeling and Simulation*
6. Manuel Laguna, *Metaheuristics*
7. Janos Fodor, *Preference Modeling using Fuzzy Sets*
8. Michael Bathe, *Military Operational Research*
9. Emilio Carrizosa, *Locational Analysis*
10. A.D. Clayden, *OR Applied to Health Services*
11. Markus Schwaninger, *Combinations of Methods*
12. Ulrike Leopold, *Experimental Gaming*
13. Maurizio Bielli, *Transportation*
14. T. Jelassi and A. Angehrn, *Supporting Decision Making in Groupware Environments*
15. S. Zcnios, *OR/MS in Finance and the Planning of Financial Services*
16. Thomas Saaty, *Hierarchycal Analytical Process*
17. Warren B. Powell, *Real-time Logistics*

18. Paolo Toth