

Council Meeting - 07/97 - Barcelona
30/97/1/C
General Support Funds - Report for 1997

"General support" is a new EURO instrument designed to respond 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. (see Vol 3.4 of the EURO Bulletin or item 3.93 in the minutes of the Council meeting in Lisbon 07-93). The budget for this instrument was CHF 5000 for 1997.

The deadline for the submission of bids for the "General Support" funds of EURO was widely announced to be:

- November 30, 1996 for the first semester of 1997,
- April 30, 1997 for the second semester of 1997.

[Please note that this is a change of policy with respect to previous years in order to be able to report at the Council on the whole year. Consequently there was no "Call for bids" mentioning the "second semester of 1996". This is a purely formal change].

Funds were allocated as follows.

- International Symposium on Mathematical Programming, ISMP '97 (Lausanne, August 1997), 2500 CHF to give grants to participants coming from Central and Eastern Europe (remember that EURO is involved in the organisation of ISMP, via EURO sponsored sessions, according to our policy aiming at establishing co-operation with the Mathematical Programming Society),
- Czech OR Society, 1450 CHF to cover part of the costs of printing of the proceedings of the "Mathematical Methods in Economics" Conference (Ostrava 9-11 September 1997),
- Bulgarian OR Society, 1000 CHF for partially supporting the organisation of the 4th Conference on Mathematical Methods in OR and the 6th Workshop on Well-Posedness and Stability of Optimization Problems (jointly organised by BORS in Sozopol, 16-20 September 1997),

Please note that, for the first time in the - short - history of the General Support funds, we were not able to respond favourably to all bids. Some bids were rejected (individual bids) and some other (ISMP'97) were only partially funded.

Denis Bouyssou
May 1997

EC Meeting - 07/97 - Barcelona
30/97/1/EC2
General Support Funds - Proposal

For the first time in the – short – history of General Support funds, it was not possible to respond favourably to all bids in 1997 within the budget limit of 5000 CHF. Since most of the bids received were worth funding and General Support is one of the few item in our budget where funds can be allocated with some degrees of freedom (contrary to the Conferences in Central and Eastern Europe funds which can only be allocated 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" – see minutes of Council meeting in Lisbon 07-93, item 3.93), I propose, in agreement with Marino Widmer, to put to the Council the following proposal:

“The budget for General Support funds is increased to 10 000 CHF per year”

This proposal would:

- give us the occasion to define precise guidelines for the allocation of these funds (see corresponding item in the agenda),
- give us the opportunity to support Central and Eastern Europe Conferences and Operational Researchers coming from these countries more freely than what can be done with the “Conferences in Central and Eastern Europe funds”
- allow us to strictly follow the decisions of the Council without increasing the Other Instrument budget (15 000 CHF). A budget of 10 000 CHF for the Conferences in Central and Eastern Europe was voted at the 1996 Council, in apparent contradiction with the decision taken in Lisbon. These funds were never used. The new “Other Instruments budget” of 15 000 CHF would consist of 10 000 CHF for General Support and 5000 CHF for Conferences in Central and Eastern Europe. If Jaap Spronk does not object, we could envisage to merge these two item in the future.

Denis Bouyssou

May 1997