

12TH MINI EURO CONFERENCE: DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS. ELECTRONIC AND MOBILE COMMERCE. MULTICRITERIA DECISION AID. HUMAN CENTERED PROCESSES. ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN DECISION MAKING.

1. Introduction

The 12th MINI EURO CONFERENCE took place in Brussels, Belgium, on April 2-5, 2002. It is the third conference on Decision Support Systems organised in Belgium. The previous ones took place in Bruges respectively in 1991 and 1997.

Decision Support Systems are now one of the most important fields of interest of Operational Research. Their purpose is to face Real World Situations but they include also methodological contributions, sensitivity and simulation tools in order to evaluate the managerial impacts of the proposed decisions.

The Decision Support Systems are presently strongly influenced by Electronic and Mobile Commerce, by the methodological and application progresses on Multicriteria Decision aid; and on the other hand Human Centered Processes should be developed and Ethical components should be included in the modelling schemes. It has been the purpose of this particular conference to investigate all these recent and promising fields.

2. Conference Committees

The proposal to organise this 12th MINI EURO CONFERENCE has been introduced to EURO about 2 years in advance after a meeting of the EURO working group of DSS in TOULOUSE. After consultation with prominent specialists in the related fields all over the world the following conference committees were set up.

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MEMBERS: M. DEDEYNE, F. PLASTRIA, B. MARESCHAL, E. MARTENS, E. PRUYT, M. SEGERS, J. SPRINGAEL and G. VANCRONENBURG.

3. Announcement of the Conference

A call for papers has been diffused to the National OR Societies and to potential interested people end of 2000. The OR Community was invited to submit papers proposals and software demonstration. Abstracts were requested by october 15, 2001. Most of the organising affairs were conducted by e-mail.

4. Submitted contributions

After having diffused the call for paper to the OR community, about 220 contributions were accepted to be presented at the conference. All these contributions were mentioned in the invitation programme, which has been diffused in January 2002.

In total 90 sessions of 3 papers each (or of one software demonstration) were scheduled in 10 parallel streams.

5. Scientific Programme

1° Tutorial day. April 2, 2002.

Prior to the conference an extended tutorial day has been given by Professor T. JELASSI on Electronic and Mobile Commerce. It covered basic concepts, development methodologies, supporting technologies and illustrative examples. It was particularly recommended for newcomers in the field. The presentation was comprehensive and instructional material was provided to the participants. This tutorial was particularly successful. It has been attended by over 60 participants.

2° Opening session. April 2, 2002 (evening).

Addresses were given by Ph. VINCKE, President of EURO, T. JELASSI and J.P. BRANS.

A brilliant plenary lecture has been given by Professor J. ROTMANS (ICIS-MAASTRICHT) on "**New Trends in Modelling: Complexity, Sustainable Development, Ethics**".

3° Presentation of the papers.

All the accepted papers were grouped in 90 sessions through 10 parallel streams:

DSS Methodology: Decision Building, Knowledge Management, Decision in Context, Context in Decision, DSS Development, Cooperative Support Systems, Management, Organisations, Complexity and Societal Problems.

DSS Modelling: Multi-agent DSS, GDSS Multi-agent, Agent-based Modelling, Applied Agent-based Modelling, Stochastic Models, Collaborative Decision Making, Dynamic Strategies, Economic Policies.

DSS Applications: Data Warehouses, Finance, Transport, Logistics, Health Care, Financial Engineering, Energy, Networks, Scheduling.

Electronic and Mobile Commerce: E-business, Agent-based Systems, Markets, Mobile Commerce, Well-

based DSS, Architectures, Economic Perspectives, Software Demo's.

MCDA Theory: Smarter Real Option Decisions, Fuzzy Applications, Hierarchical MCDA, Graphs, Intelligence, Goal Programming, Integer Programming, Efficiency, Weighting.

MCDA-Environment-GDSS: Environment Management, Game Theory, Environment, Decision Tools, GDSS Negotiation, GDSS, MCDA.

MCDA Applications: Medical Decision Analysis, PROMETHEE MCDA, Applied MCDA, ELECTRE and PROMETHEE, Technology, Performance Evaluation, Budget Planning, Risk and Uncertainty, Multicriteria DSS.

Human Centered Processes: Decision Aid, HCP Objective Functions, Knowledge Management, Management Processes, Structures, Human Factors.

Ethics in OR: Sustainability, Ethical Procedures, Principles Competence Implications, Ethical Approaches, Ethics in OR, PROMETHEUS Activities.

Software Demonstrations: Intelligent Decision Systems, Direct Interactive Structured Criteria, Argus, Crystal Ball Pro, Web-HIPRE, Decision Lab 2002, MACBETH, Tetralogie, Doctus KBS.

Each day after Lunch, from 14.00 to 15.30, panel sessions took place. The following motivating subjects were treated:

Panel I: Complexity, Sustainable Development, Human Processes, Emergence, Ethics.

Panel II: Electronic Commerce, Looking Ahead.

Panel III: Emerging Business Opportunities in M-Commerce.

The panel members were drawn for a set of international renowned experts: J. ROTMANS, J.P. BRANS, E. HOOFT, M. THEYS, L. VAN WASSENHOVE, T. JELASSI, K. SENGUPTA, P. DO AMARAL, K. FLESCHE, A. GERDES.

6. Attendance

In total 234 participants registered for the conference. This is remarkable for such a specialised conference.

The distribution by country was as follows:

ARMENIA(1), ALGERIA (2), AUSTRIA (2), BELGIUM (46), CANADA (11), CZECHIA (1), DENMARK (3), FRANCE (30), FINLAND (14), GERMANY (7), GREECE (4), IRELAND (5), IRAN (1), ITALY (8), HUNGARY (3), LITHUANIA (2), MALTA (1), MEXICO (1), THE NETHERLANDS (17), NORWAY (3), POLAND (1), PORTUGAL (15), ROMANIA (1), SLOVENIA (1), SPAIN (12), SWEDEN (10), SWITZERLAND (2), TUNISIA (1), TURKEY (2), UK (12), UKRAINE (2), USA (10), YUGOSLAVIA (3)

7. Social Programme

A quite attractive programme was organised in Brussels for the participants and their accompanying persons. It included a reception in the beautiful gothic Town Hall of Brussels, a reception at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, a conference banquet at the "Concert Noble", a voyage of discovery from the very beginning of Brussels up to the modern times, an unforgettable morning with Masters of Art and Music and a morning in the capital of the "*Art nouveau*".

8. Working Group meetings

In the framework of the conference several EURO Working Groups gathered:

EWG/DSS: EURO Working Group on DSS

EWG/HCP: EURO Working Group on Human Centered Processes

EWG/PROMETHEUS: EURO Working Group on Ethics

EWG/CSP: EURO Working Group on Complex Societal Problems

9. Publication of the papers

No specific proceedings devoted to the conference will be published, but a selection of papers will be published in special issues of the 3 following journals:

- EJOR: Papers on **Management of the future, Multicriteria Decision Aid, Dynamic and Ethical Contributions.**
- JDS (The Journal of Decision Systems): **Papers on specific DSS contributions.**
- JGD&N (Journal of Group Decision and Negotiation): **Papers on Electronic and Mobile Commerce, GDSS and Negotiation.**

In total 84 papers were submitted during the conference for publication. It is foreseen to have all these papers refereed by at least 2 prominent experts. The present issue of EJOR is devoted to 23 outstanding contributions presented at the conference.

10. Acknowledgements

The organisation of such a conference would never have been possible without the generous contribution of several sponsors:

EURO: The Association of the European OR Societies, **VUB:** The Vrije Universiteit Brussel, **CREDIT A L'INDUSTRIE – KREDIET AAN DE NIJVERHEID:** A division of the FORTIS BANK, **LOTTO:** Belgian National Lottery, Belgian Ministry of Telecommunications, **BBL:** ING Group, **CONCERT NOBLE:** KBC Group, **NIRAS ONDRAF:** Belgian Agency for Radioactive Waste Management, **LEASE PLAN:** Car Park Management

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They address also their acknowledgements to Mr. M. DEDEYNE and Mrs. M. SEGERS for their active and efficient commitment.