

# 19th Mini-EURO Conference

## “Managing Uncertainty in Decision Support Models” (ORMMES’06)

**Year:** 2006  
**Name:** MEC XIX  
**Date:** September 2006  
**Location:** Coimbra  
**Country:** Portugal  
**Organiser(s):** Álvaro Gomes  
**Theme:** Managing Uncertainty in Decision Support Models

The 19th Mini-EURO Conference “Operational Research Models and Methods in the Energy Sector” (ORMMES’06) has been held at the University of Coimbra, 6-8 September 2006. This international conference has been organized under the auspices of EURO (Association of the European Operational Research Societies) with the institutional support of APDIO (Portuguese Operational Research Society). The Organizing Committee and conference secretariat have been provided by the R&D Unit INESC Coimbra, with the logistic support of the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Sciences and Technology – University of Coimbra, that kindly offered us the venue (three lecture rooms for the parallel sessions, one amphitheatre for the opening and plenary sessions, and a computer room where the participants could connect to the internet).

The scientific programme included two plenary sessions, delivered by prominent scientists in this scientific area: Professor Derek Bunn (London Business School, UK), who presented the lecture “*Model-based insights into energy market evolution*”, and Dr. Lorna Greening (Los Alamos, USA), who presented the lecture “*Energy/environmental interactions: an economist’s perspective*”.

During the three days, this scientific event included 19 parallel sessions (2 or 3 simultaneously), consisting of 3 or 4 communications each one, in a total of 67 communications presented (only 1 no-show occurred, due to problems in flight connections between Brazil and Portugal). All sessions have been extremely participated with periods of discussion just after the presentation of each communication, which clearly shows the scientific interest of this event.

Among the 91 participants from 21 countries, we had the presence of academics from well-known universities, researchers from important companies in the energy industry (such as Petrobrás, Electricité de France , REN, EDP, Gaz de France) and from reference laboratories (such as the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, USA), as well as consultants from energy service companies.

The geographical origin of the participants shows the true international nature of this event: Germany (2), Australia (1), Austria (1), Belgium (3), Brazil (6), Canada (2), USA (5), Spain (2), France (9), Greece (4), The Netherlands (2), UK (2), Israel (2), Italy (5), Norway (1), Poland (3), Portugal (35), Romania (1), Sweden (1),

Switzerland (1), and Turkey (2).

A mention is deserved to the high number of students who participated in this conference (23), mostly students pursuing graduations in the application of Operational Research methodologies to problems arising in the energy sector. The students could register at a very low fee of 150€, which is almost symbolic since three lunches and all documentation were already included. Three participants from weak currency Eastern European countries (2 from Poland and 1 from Romania) got a grant from EURO in the amount of 700€ each one for helping to support the travelling and living expenses as well as the conference fee.

The conference proceedings have been published as a CD-ROM, with ISBN required by INESC Coimbra. This proceedings volume includes the full papers of the communications presented at the conference, which underwent a peer refereeing process. The authors have been invited to prepare improved versions of their papers to be submitted to special issues of the highly regarded scientific journals European Journal of Operational Research, Energy Policy, and International Journal of Energy Sector Management. These special issues devoted to the ORMMES'06 conference will be co-edited by Carlos Henggeler Antunes and Álvaro Gomes (Chairs of the Programme Committee and the Organizing Committee, respectively), and the papers submitted will follow the thorough reviewing process required by these journals.

The social program included a reception a Coimbra pub on September 6, the conference dinner on September 7, and a guided tour to the main buildings of the Old University and the most important monuments in Coimbra in the afternoon of September 8.

Álvaro Gomes  
Chair of the Organizing Committee

Carlos Henggeler Antunes  
Chair of the Programme Committee