Newsletter 53 of EUROPT

EUROPT - The Continuous Optimization Working Group of EURO

https://www.euro-online.org/websites/continuous-optimization/

December 2025

In this issue:

Words from the Chair

Dear Friends,

on behalf of the Managing Board welcome to the 53th EUROPT Newsletter.

An important year for EUROPT has almost gone by and we hope an exciting one is ahead of us all. Our annual conference took place in England at the University of Southampton together with a summer school at the end of June - beginning of July. The two events marked the 25th anniversary of the group and were attended in a lively and friendly atmosphere by more than 300 and 100 people, respectively. The highest figures ever at EUROPT events. My heartfelt thanks go to all attendees for their enthusiasm?and in particular to Selin Ahipasaoglu, Alain Zemkoho, their OR group and Tracy Storey from the university administration for the excellent organization. As previously announced, Daniel Kuhn?was named EUROPT Fellow for 2025 and delivered the Fellowship Lecture at the conference. The newsletter reports on the conference in details and it includes the laudatio for our new fellow as well.

Hopefully, the new year will be as exciting. Our next conference is planned to take place at the Johannes Kepler University Linz in Austria on 8 - 10 July 2025 and it will be preceded by the 6th edition of our summer school on 6-7 July. It will be organised by Sophie Parragh and Markus Sinnl, which I am very thankful to for taking on the duty. The IFORS conference will take place in Vienna a few days after our group's events, precisely on 12-17 July 2025.

Beyond our own activities, announcements of some further events are included as well as the report for a tribute event to the memory of Pierre Hansen and François Soumis in Montréal. Let me add some news for an additional event that involves the two founders of our group: the 11th VOCAL "Optimization Conference: Advanced Algorithms" will take place at the castle of Mosonmagyaróvár (Hungary) on 10-12 June (see vocal.p-graph.org for more details).

In order to get other news in real-time you can freely join our mailing-list at https://liste.unipi.it/sympa/info/europt.di

Looking forward to the new year, we hope to meet many of you in Linz, Vienna and Mosonmagyaróvár.
Have yourselves and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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Laudatio for Daniel Kuhn, EUROPT Fellow 2025

Daniel Kuhn

École Polytechinque Fédérale de Lausanne

EUROPT Fellow 2025

Daniel Kuhn is Professor of Operations Research at the College of Management of Technology at EPFL, where he holds the Chair of Risk Analytics and Optimization (RAO). Daniel was elected EUROPT Fellow 2025 in recognition of his outstanding scientific achievements and exemplary service to the stochastic and robust optimisation communities.

Throughout his career, Daniel has demonstrated a remarkable ability to foresee pivotal research directions well before they become mainstream. His early contributions to robust optimisation, particularly on decision rules and K-adaptability, have had a lasting impact on how our community models and solves robust multi-stage problems. He subsequently introduced a unified theoretical framework for moment-based ambiguity sets that has since become highly influential and has been adopted and extended by many researchers in distributionally robust optimisation. A third landmark contribution followed with his results on data-driven optimisation problems over Wasserstein ambiguity sets: together with Peyman Mohajerin Esfahani, Daniel demonstrated that such problems -which were long believed to be computationally intractable- actually afford convex reformulations that can be solved in polynomial time. This paper played a central role in the move from moment-based distributionally robust optimisation toward data-driven approaches. Daniel continues to push new boundaries and advance the role of optimisation in machine learning, control theory, bilevel programming and energy systems.

Daniel's service to our community is equally exceptional. He was Secretary (2013-2016) and Chair (2016-2019) of the Stochastic Programming Society, he has contributed to several major prize committees, and he currently leads Mathematical Programming as Editor-in-Chief while serving on the editorial boards of several other journals. He has organised and chaired many key international events, and has served on the programme committees of leading conferences in our field, including the International Symposium on Mathematical Programming (ISMP; 2018) and the International Conference on Stochastic Programming (ICSP; 2019, 2024).

Daniel is also a gifted and dedicated educator. His courses at Imperial College London and EPFL are consistently among the most popular, as exemplified by the numerous teaching awards that he has won over the years. Through summer schools, tutorials, and exceptional supervision - including 8 post-docs and 28 PhD graduates to date - he has helped to launch many successful careers, with his former students now holding faculty positions at renowned institutions worldwide.

Daniel's contributions have been recognised through many prestigious distinctions. He has delivered 17 plenary or semi-plenary lectures at leading international conferences such as the INFORMS Annual Meeting, the International Symposium on Mathematical Programming (ISMP), and the International Conference on Stochastic Programming (ICSP). His scholarly excellence has been honoured with several major awards, including the Farkas Prize of the INFORMS Optimization Society (2024), the selection as an IFORS Distinguished Lecturer (2023), the INFORMS Fellowship (2022), the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2021), and the Frederick W. Lanchester Prize of INFORMS (2020).

Behind all of these achievements stands a person of genuine humility, generosity, and integrity. Daniel fosters a true sense of family within his group - research retreats, lunches, celebrations of success, and support in more difficult moments alike. This remarkable mentorship culture leaves a lasting imprint on the many young scholars who have had the privilege to learn from him.

In summary: Daniel combines scientific leadership, service, educational excellence, and inspirational mentorship at a level that is truly rare. For his many groundbreaking contributions and the generosity with which he shares his time and expertise, it is my great pleasure to see EUROPT recognise Daniel as the EUROPT Fellow 2025.

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EUROPT Conferences

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Report on EUROPT 2025
22nd EUROPT Conference on Advances in Continuous Optimization
29 June- 2 July, 2025, Southampton, UK
https://europt2025.org/

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The 22nd EUROPT Conference on Advances in Continuous Optimization was held from 29 June to 2 July 2025 at the University of Southampton, UK. Hosted by the Operational Research Group of the School of Mathematical Sciences, the event brought together more than 350 participants from 41 countries, making it the largest EUROPT conference to date. This vibrant gathering was preceded by the 5th EUROPT Summer School, held from 27 to 29 June.

Summer School Highlights

Over 110 PhD students joined the Summer School, immersing themselves in a rigorous yet engaging academic experience. Daniel Kuhn (EPFL) delivered a compelling series on *Distributionally Robust Optimization*, while Anthony Man-Cho So (Chinese University of Hong Kong) presented deep insights with his short course titled *Error Bounds in Optimization*.
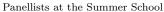
In addition to lectures, the Summer School featured a mentoring session that fostered connections between students, early-career researchers, academics and practitioners from the industry. The panellists were Luigi Bobbio (Sainsbury's), Spyros Schismenos (JP Morgan), Sara Shashaani (North Carolina state University), Anthony Man-Cho So (CUHK), Firdevs Ulus (Bilkent University). The atmosphere was enriched by open discussion, shared curiosity and laughter.

Scientific Program

EUROPT 2025 featured three plenary talks, delivered by Ruth Misener (Imperial College London), Sebastian Pokutta (Zuse Institute Berlin), and Anthony Man-Cho So (CUHK), and the EUROPT Fellowship Lecture delivered by Daniel Kuhn (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), who was elected 2025 EUROPT Fellow.

The scientific programme included over 320 talks organised over 95 parallel sessions, covering topics such as conic optimization, global optimization, nonsmooth and nonconvex optimization, bilevel programming, zeroth and first order methods, large scale optimization, optimization for machine learning, and applications of optimization such as those in sustainability, finance, and energy management. The range and depth of the talks reflected the community's ongoing evolution and innovation.

Panellists at the Summer School

EUROPT 2025 Fellowship: G. Bigi, D. Kuhn, I. Bomze

Winchester Excursion & Social Events

A scenic 7 km walk brought 150+ attendees to historic Winchester, culminating in a tour of Winchester Cathedral and a relaxing group lunch. The traditional EUROPT dinner took place on the evening of 1st July at the scenic Southampton Harbour Hotel, offering a stunning waterfront setting for delegates to gather. This memorable occasion provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen connections within the EUROPT community, encouraging informal discussions and new collaborations in a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Hikers in front of Winchester Cathedral

Looking Back - and Forward

This year's conference also marked 25 years of the EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization. EUROPT 2025 was made possible thanks to the support of numerous sponsors, a devoted organizing committee, and 13 enthusiastic PhD student volunteers.

A special issue for The European Journal on Computational Optimization, dedicated to the conference, has closed its call for submission in early December, the review process is on-going.

As EUROPT continues to grow, we extend our deepest thanks to all participants and the local organization committee, especially the PhD students of the OR group at the University of Southampton, for their dedication before and during the event. We look forward to coming together in Linz in July 2026 for the next summer school (6-7 July) and conference (8-10 July).

EUROPT 2025 closing

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23rd EUROPT Conference on Advances in Continuous Optimization

July 08-10, 2026, Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria

jku.at/europt2026

The 23rd EUROPT Conference on Advances in Continuous Optimization will be held at Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria, July 08-10, 2026. The conference is preceded by the sixth edition of the EUROPT Summer School taking place between July 06-07. The conference is organized by the Institute of Business Analytics and Technology Transformation and the Institute of Production and Logistics Management at Johannes Kepler University Linz and the EUROPT working group of EURO.

Scope

The 23rd EUROPT conference focuses on advances in continuous optimization theory, complexity and convergence properties of optimization algorithms, optimization software, and continuous optimization in applications. The scope of the conference includes, but is not limited to:

Derivative-free optimization
First-order optimization
Second- and higher-order optimization
Complexity and efficiency of optimization algorithms
Computed-aided algorithm analysis
Stochastic optimization
Distributed optimization
Optimization software
Non-smooth optimization
Conic and semi-definite optimization
Semi-infinite optimization
Global optimization
Multi-objective optimization
Multi-level optimization
Quantum computing optimization
Optimization under uncertainty
Complementarity and variational problems
Monotone inclusion problems

Computational game theory
Computational mathematical optimization
Data-driven optimization
Optimization for learning and data analysis
Optimal control and applications
Optimization in industry, business, and finance
Applications of continuous optimization

Important Dates

Abstract submission open: December 15, 2025
Deadline for abstract submission: April 1, 2026
Notification of acceptance: April 30, 2026
Registration open: April 30, 2026
Deadline for early registration: May 15, 2026
Deadline for late registration: May 31, 2026

Venue

The conference will be held in the Management Center building at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria.

Contact

If you have questions related to the conference, please do not hesitate to contact the organizers at europt2026@jku.at

Forthcoming events

SIAM Conference on Optimization 2026

2-5 June 2026, Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K.

siam.org/op26

The SIAM Conference on Optimization is the triennial conference of the SIAM Activity Group on Optimization (SIAG/OPT) and showcases the latest research in the theory, algorithms, software, and applications of optimization. It brings together mathematicians, operations researchers, computer scientists, engineers, software developers, and practitioners, fostering an ideal environment for exchanging new ideas and addressing significant challenges. The conference serves as a platform for specialists and users of optimization in academia, government, and industry to collaborate and share insights.

The event will feature a distinguished lineup of plenary speakers from all around the world covering many recent topics: Radu Ioan Bot, Andrea Lodi, Ruth Misener, Laura Sanità, Ruoyu Sun, and Stefan M. Wild. Moreover, two mini-tutorials will focus on two currently very active areas. One is on *Performance and computer-added analyses of optimization methods* and will be given by François Glineur and Adrien B. Taylor. The other will be on *Fair and interpretable resource allocation and machine learning* and will be provided by Phebe Vayanos. Further special events include the awarding of the SIAG/OPT Best Paper Prize, the SIAG/OPT Early Career Prize, and the SIAG/OPT Test of Time Award. We are especially excited that the program will have more than 1400 talks!

The conference will take place in the Old Town Campus of the University of Edinburgh which lies in the heart of the University quarter and is the location of the iconic McEwan Hall where the plenaries will be held. The campus is easily accessible by foot from Waverley Train Station and it is equally easy to walk between all the spaces used by the conference. It is also close to many of the attractions Edinburgh has to offer and to large green spaces such as Holyrood Park (Arthur's Seat) and the Meadows.

Travel and registration support are available to help students and early career researchers gain the experience and exposure that comes from attending and participating in SIAM conferences. While the abstract submission deadline has passed, there is still time until the early registration deadline of May 5th, 2026. Please check the conference webpage for further information: siam.org/op26

The Co-Chairs and the Organizing and Local Committees look forward to welcoming you to Edinburgh!

Miguel Anjos, Gabriele Eichfelder, Lars Schewe, Luis Nunes Vicente

Numerical Computations: Theory and Algorithms - NUMTA 2026
5th Triennal International Conference and Summer School
(in cooperation with the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics SIAM)

June 21 - 27, 2026, Falkensteiner Garden Calabria, Italy

https://www.numta.org/

The 5th Triennial International Conference and Summer School "Numerical Computations: Theory and Algorithms" (NUMTA2026) will be held (in hybrid format) from 21 to 27 June 2026 in Calabria, Italy, at the all-inclusive beach resort "Falkensteiner Garden Calabria" on the Tyrrhenian coast and close to the Lamezia Terme (SUF) international airport.

The Conference is organized by DIMES, University of Calabria, in cooperation with the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM). In addition to regular presentations, the Conference will include a Summer School offering tutorials and discussion sessions covering the Conference topics. This is the fifth edition of NUMTA (since 2013); more than 200 researchers from 30 countries around the world attended each of the last two NUMTA conferences.

Main topics: Optimization and machine learning, numerical analysis, computational models, and emerging computational paradigms, see complete list of topics at https://www.numta.org/topics
Confirmed plenary lectures https://www.numta.org/plenary-lectures-and-tutorials: Louis D'Alotto (New York, USA), Renato De Leone (Camerino, Italy), Schahram Dustdar (Vienna, Austria), Daniel Krob (Paris, France), Daniel Kuhn (Lausanne, Switzerland), Gitta Kutyniok (Munchen, Germany), Yurii Nesterov (Budapest, Hungary), Panos Pardalos (Gainesville, USA), Davide Rizza (Norwich, UK).

Information is continuously updated on the conference website (https://www.numta.org), where details of the four previous editions (2023, 2019, 2016, and 2013) are available.

EngOpt 2026 - 7*th* International Conference on Engineering Optimization

September 16-18, 2026, Lisbon, Portugal

https://engopt2026.tecnico.ulisboa.pt

The 7*th* International Conference on Engineering Optimization (ENGOPT 2026) will be hosted by Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, Portugal, from 16 to 18 of September 2026.

The primary objective of EngOpt conferences is to periodically bring together engineers, applied mathematicians, and computer scientists working on research, development, and practical applications of optimization methods in all engineering disciplines and applied sciences.

Please visit the web page of the conference: https://engopt2026.tecnico.ulisboa.pt

The call for abstracts is now open. To submit an abstract, please follow the information at the web page of the conference (in the authors section).

The main conference themes are (but are not restricted to):

- Design Optimization and Inverse Problems
- Numerical and Computational Techniques
- Applications and Case Studies
- Emerging and Interdisciplinary Topics
- Education in Optimization

We would be delighted to have you with us in Lisbon.
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any additional information or clarification.

Reports

Tribute Conference for Pierre Hansen and François Soumis

October 2-3, 2025, HEC Montréal

On October 2–3, 2025, the GERAD (Group for Research in Decision Analysis) hosted a two-day tribute conference[1] in Montréal in honour of two of its most influential members: **Pierre Hansen** and **François Soumis**. The event brought together colleagues, former students, collaborators, and friends from Canada, Europe, and beyond, in a warm atmosphere combining scientific depth with sincere personal remembrance.

Both served as Directors of GERAD: François from 1992 to 1996, and Pierre from 1996 to 2001. GERAD, founded in 1979 and jointly supported by HEC Montréal, Polytechnique Montréal, McGill University, and Université du Québec à Montréal, is one of the leading interdisciplinary research centers in operations research, data science, applied mathematics, and engineering. It has been a central hub for methodological and applied advances in optimization for over four decades.

The scientific impact of both researchers is exceptional. In recognition of his pioneering contributions to operations research, Pierre Hansen was awarded the 1986 EURO Gold Medal and was inducted into Canada's Academy of Science. He authored more than 400 publications in many of the top journals in optimization, operations research, chemistry, physics, and several other scientific domains, spanning combinatorial optimization, variable neighborhood search, graph theory, and geometry. The largest small octagon, whose structure he helped uncover, is now known as *Hansen's Octagon*.

François Soumis supervised more than 170 Master's and PhD students, while contributing pioneering work in large-scale optimization, decomposition methods, transportation planning, and airline operations. He was a co-founder of AD OPT Technologies (now part of IBS Software), a world-leading company marketing optimization software for airlines, and deeply involved in industrial research. He received the 2014 Lionel-Boulet Award, the highest distinction awarded by the Quebec Government to an industrial researcher, for lifetime achievement.

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[1]https://www.gerad.ca/colloques/Hommage-FSPH-2025

Speakers honoring the memory of Pierre Hansen included: Brigitte Jaumard, Léo Liberti, Frédéric Messine, Daniel Aloise, Jacques Thisse, Sonia Cafieri, Marcus Poggi, Gilles Caporossi, Alain Hertz, Georges Zaccour and Charles Audet.

Speakers honoring the memory of François Soumis included: Patrick Jaillet, Jacques Desrosiers, Issmail Elhallaoui, Frédéric Quesnel, Andrea Lodi, Monia Rekik, Michel Gamache, Jean-François Cordeau, Brunilde Sanso, Sophie D'Amours, Michel Gendreau and Guy Desaulniers.

The conference program combined scientific presentations, historical perspectives, and personal testimonies. Many speakers emphasized the intellectual curiosity, generosity, and exceptional mentorship of Pierre and François, as well as their lasting influence on several generations of researchers. The event also highlighted the continuity of their work through ongoing projects and the vitality of the scientific communities they helped shape.

The organizing committee was composed of Charles Audet, Guy Desaulniers, Olivier Bahn, Roussos Dimitrakopoulos, Georges Zaccour, Karine Hébert, Marilyne Lavoie and Marie Perreault. The organizers warmly thank all participants for helping create an event that was both scientifically rich and emotionally meaningful. This tribute stands as a lasting acknowledgement of the profound contributions of Pierre Hansen and François Soumis to the field of optimization and to the GERAD community.

Pierre and François will never be forgotten. Their memory lives on in all of us, and their influence will endure through the generations of researchers they inspired.

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Charles Audet & Guy Desaulniers
Polytechnique Montréal

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Contacts

EUROPT: https://www.euro-online.org/websites/continuous-optimization/

People wishing to submit an announcement to the EUROPT mailing list should address their message to europt@di.unipi.it. The message will then be distributed upon approval by the EUROPT Managing Board.

For specific questions, the members of the Managing Board can be contacted:

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Editor's notes

Dear members of EUROPT, dear readers,

The year 2025, which draws to a close, has been rich in achievements and successful events for our community. We report on our annual conference, held in Southampton, that once again provided a vibrant forum for scientific exchange, bringing together researchers and practitioners and reaffirming the strength and dynamism of continuous optimization.

In this issue, we are also pleased to include a laudatio honoring our elected Fellow 2025 Daniel Kuhn, who delivered his fellowship lecture at the conference.

Looking ahead, the coming year promises to be equally stimulating. Several forthcoming events will shape the landscape of the continuous optimization community, and we are pleased to announce in this newsletter some of these key initiatives, including our next annual conference, scheduled to take place in Linz on 8-10 July 2026.

We are pleased to include as well the report for a tribute conference, held in Montréal last October, for two of the most influential and inspiring members of our community: Pierre Hansen and François Soumis.

I would like to warmly thank all contributors for their valuable input to this issue, and I hope you will enjoy reading this newsletter.

My best wishes for the Holiday season and for a very bright 2026!

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The Newsletter Editor

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