

EURO Practitioners' Forum Autumn Workshop

Practice of OR – sharing experiences, building networks



17 November 2022, 13:00 – 17:00 CET, online

We're looking forward to meeting you at this online, collaborative workshop sharing experiences of OR in practice. Please read this to make the most of the workshop.

We are meeting on gather.town. This works best on **Edge, Chrome or Firefox**: performance on other browsers is not guaranteed. It has limited functionality on mobile phones. **Laptop or desktop is recommended**, and the details that follow will not work for you if you are using a mobile or tablet.

You received the link to the space when you registered. You are welcome to use this link at any time to set up your avatar, explore the space, catch up on the programme details, and access resources and links to support OR in practice. If your first-time access is when the workshop starts, please be patient with the set-up process; it's best to join 5 or 10 minutes early.

The first time you use gather.town in Chrome, you will see a pop-up asking for camera and microphone access permissions. Select **Allow** for the best experience of the event, and interacting with other participants.

When you arrive, there will be plenty of people around to help, and a help-desk. But here is a summary, to help you feel more at home from the start.

The event organisers will host and guide you through this exciting virtual workshop experience:

Ruth Kaufman, Björn Thalén, Waldemar Kocjan, Michele Quattrone, Susanne Heipcke, Andy Harrison, Sofiane Oussedik, Adisa Mujezinovic, Claude Philippe Medard, Torkel Haufmann, Christian Timpe and Milagros Baldemor.

About gather.town

The workshop takes place in a virtual conference venue. An avatar represents your position in the space.

How to move around the venue

You can move your avatar around in several ways:

- use the arrow keys or the WASD keys on your keyboard to move your avatar a square at a time up, down, right or left *or*
- right click on the spot you want to move to, and click on the 'move here' link that appears. Gather.town then moves your avatar via the quickest route *or*
- bring up the list of participants using the icon at the bottom right of the screen. If you click on somebody's name, then click 'follow' on the menu that appears, gather will move your avatar to be next to them.

Do **not** try to drag and drop – it won't work.

To move your avatar through other people who are blocking the way, hold down the letter 'g' on the keyboard.

You can move your avatar into one of five different 'rooms' – see next page.

How to talk to people

As you move your avatar closer to another person's avatar, their video thumbnail fades into view at the top of the screen, and their audio becomes louder. If you are too far away, you can neither see nor hear each other; if you are close enough, you can use audio and video in the usual way.

In a 'private space' (usually groups of chairs and tables), you can only interact with people if you are inside the space; a message comes up at the bottom of your screen to tell you when you are entering a private space. (Though it only stays up for a few seconds, so you have to watch out for it!)

The space consists of 5 separate rooms
each designed for a different part of the programme



Workshop Programme

13:00	Welcome, introductions and exploration	(Auditorium)
13:15	Practical OR in a tumultuous world Speaker: Matti Vuorinen, Director of Advanced Analytics at forestry giant UPM	(Auditorium)
14:00	Open space: move about between different discussion topics, mingle with colleagues, and take the opportunity for a comfort break	(Open space room)
15:00	OR in Action in 5 minutes: a stimulating, inspiring set of 5 minute talks showcasing practical OR	(Auditorium)
15:45	More, better, deeper: Choose one of 5 parallel sessions to discuss a specific OR application area	(Parallel Sessions room)
16:30	Closing session: feedback from parallel sessions, and next steps	(Auditorium)
17:00	Close	

Some more tips and hints

Wherever you are, if you can see an object that is glowing (maybe a video screen, a notice board, or a telephone icon) you can press the letter x on your keyboard to see what's behind the icon.

Generally, features are quite intuitive. Feel free to experiment, and above all, take the opportunity to interact with others.

With an aim to enhance the user experience during the workshop, we prepared the summary of convenient functions:

Interaction with objects – guide your avatar towards it and press x

Chat option – send the message to everyone or people near your avatar

In case you get lost, click on your name (bottom of the screen) and click on 'respawn', which will take you to the central lobby

Locating people in the workshop space – use the find bar and follow the black line

Share screen (for those few who might use it), emoji icon – react, raise a hand (6) to participate in Q&A and ask a question (video and audio on)

Click on 'x' in top right corner of the box to close activated option, such as the minimap, object interaction window, etc

The following links related to gather.town might also be useful:
[Audio and Video Troubleshooting](#) | [Gather.Town](#), and [Gather 101](#) | [Gather.Town](#)



EURO Practitioners' Forum (formerly the EURO Working Group on Practice of OR), aims to help develop supportive networks, support and assist OR practitioners, and in particular people whose primary purpose is applying OR in a business/government/charity or similar environment. We believe that practitioners can benefit enormously from networking, sharing experiences, learning from each other, and potentially collaborating with each other; and that there is even more benefit to be gained from cementing links between these practitioners and EURO's academics.

Become a member and follow the Forum for information on numerous inspiring activities.