

EURO Bulletin

Bulletin of the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO) distributed quarterly through the National Societies and on INTERNET (EURO WWW server of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, URL= "http://www.ulb.ac.be/" and anonymous ftp sever "ftp.ulb.ac.be" in the directory "/pub/projects/euro". Societies or individual members having news for the EURO Bulletin are requested to E-mail their information to the EURO Bulletin editor : EURO@ULB.AC.BE . Copy deadline for next issue : 20 March 1997

FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

Dear OR Friends within EURO,

Time is passing quickly, and after almost one year of a very instructive but rather not too burdensome experience supervised in a friendly way by Paolo Toth, the moment approaches to assume a much greater part of my duty in EURO. At the very beginning, I would like to express a sincere hope that I may depend on help of all the Past EURO Officers, in particular the Presidents, the Executive Committee, the Council, the Presidents of the National Societies, and all those who have the development of OR in their hearts.

As to the programme ... it is very simple (to propose, not to realise, of course!). I hope you will agree upon reflection that EURO has reached

such a high level of success that we can only wish ourselves to keep it! Of course, it does not mean that we will not develop what should be developed and we will not improve what can be improved. It means, however, that we will rather optimise the existing instruments than create new ones, although an Ethics Committee, proposed by Jean-Pierre Brans, could be one of a few exceptions. Another one could concern a European OR professional body, as a subset of EURO, if National Societies propose professional membership, and feel that such a body would e.g. undertake to lobby for them at the EC.

As to existing instruments, we will accept new members if they fulfil the appropriate conditions and express a wish to join us. In this context let me mention the recent conference in Riga at which the Baltic Society was founded. EURO and IFORS supported this event and it was money well spent. It is also proper to mention the moral and material support from both the Finnish and the Swedish OR Societies.

We will continue supporting EURO K Conferences, perhaps also by preparing a special software package, and we very much hope that the forthcoming ones in Barcelona and in Brussels will be at least as successful as the best of their predecessors.

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From the President Elect Jan Weglarz

EJOR - The European Journal of Operational Research - will remain, for a number of obvious and basic reasons, the subject of our constant and deep interest.

We will cultivate EURO Working Groups, support the active, create new, and, if necessary, dissolve non-active ones.

Special attention will be paid to the EURO Summer (ESI) and EURO Winter (EWI) Institutes, as one of the most generous, future-oriented instruments of EURO. Since three of the ESWIs may be approved every two years, the National Societies are kindly requested to submit their proposals. Suggestions of Mini EURO and EURO Prime Conferences are also welcome. For your convenience all EURO meetings already planned are listed in the table on page 3.

From among the remaining EURO instruments, let me only mention the EURO Gold Medal which we would like to keep in its position as the highest OR distinction in Europe.

Now, a few sentences about the dissemination of information about EURO activities. First of all, we would like to complete and update the existing sources of information, especially the EURO Bulletin, edited by Philippe Van Asbroeck, and the EURO Brochure, prepared by Denis Bouyssou, including their electronic versions, but also we would like to undertake additional efforts in this field. Let me mention in this regard, as an example, the OR courses handbook, initially produced by Costas Pappis, and presently being implemented, in its basic part, for WWW by Philippe Van Asbroeck.

We could also think about the preparation of a database on OR activities in different countries that have been founded by the EC. In this place it is natural to mention the cooperation between EURO and other international bodies. Of course, we would like to continue a mutually profitable cooperation first of all with IFORS, INFORMS and ALIO, especially in the field of the exchange of information. As to the EC, we should aim that EURO should be the general spokesman for OR in the EC and help to put together consortia of universities and companies in different countries to study EU-wide problems, such as the effects on various industries of the accessions of new members from Central and Eastern Europe.

As Maurice Shutler said in one of his letters "EURO exists to facilitate the wishes of its members. The EURO Executive will make proposals, but these are most effective if they are in response to the proclaimed needs of our members. Let us hear from you". I too would like to extend this request to you.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to express our warmest thanks to Paolo Toth, shortly to become the Immediate Past President of EURO, for all he did for us as President, and to wish him further success in his professional and family life.

PLANNED EURO MEETINGS (12/11/96)

DATE	EURO-k	EWG	ES&WI	Mini EURO	EURO Prime	IFORS
20-21/03/97		MCAD : Celakovice, Czech Republic; safarova@cmc.cz				
24-27/03/97				Brugge, Belgium; jpbrans@is1.vub.ac.be		
24-26/04/97		Financial Modelling Dubrovnik, Croatia neralic@oliver.efzg.hr				
14-17/05/97		ECCO X : Puerto de La Cruz, Tenerife; eccoten@ull.es				
16-18/06/97						SPC 7 : Gothenburg, Sweden; hw@imm.dtu.dk
14-17/07/97		XV : Barcelona, Spain; barcelo@eio.upc.es				
12-26/09/97			XV : Aosta, Italy; tadei@polito.it			
17-19/09/97				Budva, Yugoslavia; tuula.kinnunen@abo.fi		
00/04/98						SPC 8 : Abo, Finland; hw@imm.dtu.dk
12-15/07/98		XVI : Brussels, Belgium; euro@mathro.fpms.ac.be				
1999					Potential proposal from Poland; tuula.kinnunen@abo.fi	

20th Meeting of the EURO Working Group on Financial Modelling *April 24-26, 1997 Dubrovnik, Croatia*

The 20th Meeting of the EURO Working Group on Financial Modelling will be organized along the same line as previous meetings. The meeting will include three tutorials :

Professor Panos Pardalos, University of Florida: "Portfolio Optimization and Complexity Issues in Economics"; Professor Stavros Zenios, University of Cyprus: "Financial Innovation and the Design of Financial Products"; Professor Boaz Golany, Technion University : "Data Envelopment Analysis Applications in Banks and Other Financial Institutions"; Professor Neralic, University of Zagreb is organizing one or more sessions on the topic of "Data Envelopment Analysis in Finance and Banking".

Besides the announced tutorial lectures and sessions, contributions in other areas such as: evaluation of investment projects, corporate finance, asset and liability management modelling, portfolio selection and management, risk analysis, financial forecasting, measuring efficiency of banks and insurance companies, etc. are very welcome.

LOCATION :

The meeting will take place at the Inter-University Center (IUC) Dubrovnik, Don Frana Bulica 4. You can contact IUC by phone (+385-20-413-626), Fax +385-20-413-628 or E-mail (iuc@alf.tel.hr). You can also find IUC pages on Internet at <http://www.tel.fer.hr/iuc>

In April the average air temperature in Dubrovnik during the day is about 18 degrees centigrade and the temperature of the sea-water is about 16 degrees centigrade.

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More information is available on internet at the following address :
http://www.ulb.ac.be/euro/euro_dubrovnik.html

JANUARY 1997

THIRD EDITION

EURO Directory

Bulletin of the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO) distributed quarterly through the National Societies and on INTERNET (EURO WWW server of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, URL= "<http://www.ulb.ac.be>" and anonymous ftp sever "[ftp.ulb.ac.be](ftp://ulb.ac.be)" in the directory "/pub/projects/euro". Societies or individual members having news for the EURO Bulletin are requested to E-mail their information to the EURO Bulletin editor : EURO@ULB.AC.BE . Copy deadline for next issue : 20 March 1997



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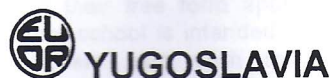
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Call for Participation
THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON
MULTICRITERIA DECISION AID:
METHODS, APPLICATION AND SOFTWARE
HELD AT
HARJATTULA EDUCATION AND RECREATION
CENTRE 28.7.-8.8. 1997, TURKU, FINLAND

Organised by Institute for Advanced Management Systems Research (IAMSR)/ABO Akademi University, together with Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration

Persons interested in participating in the summer school are kindly invited to submit their free form application. The summer school is intended for (i) young researchers who wish to write and defend a thesis on MCDA or to carry on with personal work which uses MCDA or to enhance their knowledge in MCDA in order to complete their training, (ii) people involved in business who learn about the tools of MCDA in order to use them in their work. The summer school will be held in English.

The first school took place in 1983, in Catania, Sicily, Italy. It was attended by almost 40 participants from the industry, universities, and research institutions from different countries. The teaching staff consisted of 25 instructors and their lectures were later collected in the book *Multiple Criteria Decision methods and Applications* (Fandel and Spronk, eds.), Springer-Verlag, 1985. The second school took place in 1985, in Namur, Belgium with similar success. The third school took place in 1988, in Lisbon, Portugal and it also comprised 25 lecturers whose lectures were later collected in the book *Readings in Multiple Criteria Decision Aid* (Bana e Costa, ed.), Springer-Verlag, 1990; it was attended by almost 60 participants. The fourth school took place in Québec City, Canada and was attended by a similar number of invited speakers and participants, and finally, the fifth one

was organised in 1994, in Chania (Crete) with the same success.

Basic themes of MCDA that will be covered during this Summer School include: the origins of MCDA (2h), decision aid vs. decision-making (2h), the actors of decision processes (2h), key problems of MCDA (2h), definition of actions and points of view (2h), construction of criteria (3h), different types of scales and measures (2h), preference modelling (2h), notion of criteria importance (2h), basic vocabulary (2h), introduction to MAUT (multiple attribute utility theory) (4h), introduction to MOLP (multiple objective linear programming) (4h), introduction to outranking approach (4h), and introduction to interdependence (4h). Moreover a real world case study will be submitted to the students in order to apply the basic concepts. This will be individual or small team work. Two sessions per week and one final session for presentation of results is reserved for this. Additionally discussion sessions with students and teachers are arranged approx. 5-6 hours. Finally there will be conferences, i.e. invited speakers giving presentations over a particular subject (detailed presentation of a method, software, or description of an application). These parts of the program will be evenly distributed over the whole duration, so that elements for a better understanding will be presented in the beginning. It is however, necessary to draw the attention of the public by as soon as possible propose the case study and present software and applications. The themes covered by the lecturers should be linked logically and the conference is to enforce this link. A tentative outline of a normal day (6 hours) is: course (2-4 hours), work on case (0-2 hours), discussion session (0-2 hours), and conference (0-2 hours).

International Summer School on Multicriteria Decision Aid

LECTURERS:

We are currently inviting leading researchers in our field from around the world as lecturers for the summer school. Since we have yet not acquired acceptance from all of them we are currently not in the position of announcing all names yet, but will do so as soon as possible. We expect to send out a second announcement in January 1997. Currently accepted speakers are: Prof. Carlos Bana e Costa (IST/CESUR, Universidade Técnica de Lisboa), Senior Lecturer Valerie Belton (University of Strathclyde, Glasgow), Prof. Jean-Pierre Brans (Univeriste Libre de Bruxelles), Prof. Christer Carlsson and Prof. Aimo Torn (Abo Akademi University), Prof. Pekka Korhonen (Helsinki School of Economics), Prof. Robert Fullér (Budapest), Prof. Milan Zeleny (Fordham Univ. at Lincoln Center), Prof. Jyrki Wallenius (Helsinki School of Economics).

But we expect the list to grow substantially shortly, so stay tuned.

REGISTRATION FEE:

The registration fee will be no more than FIM 3500 including all course material, accommodation in a room, which will be shared with another participant, for the whole summer school, breakfast, lunch, two full-day excursions, two sauna evenings, welcome and closing party.

Final deadline for registration is April 1, 1997. Participants will be accepted in the order of registration on the first-come-first-served basis. Deadline for registration fee is June 6, 1997.

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Let's build our future... The International Student Week in Ilmenau 1997

Like in 1993 and 1995, there will be an International Student Week in Ilmenau, Germany, in 1997. From May 03rd to 10th, 350 students from all over the world will meet to experience a week of interesting lectures, debates, discussions, workshops and many exciting cultural events.

What is ISWI?

"ISWI" stands for "International Student Week in Ilmenau". Inspired by other student festivals, especially in Trondheim and Eindhoven, the idea for this event was born in 1992. Within a few months, an association was founded, and in May 1993 Ilmenau saw a multicultural week with about 300 students from almost 50 countries who met under the motto "become friends - unite the world!"

ISWI is the largest international student festival of its kind in Germany; it is organized by an independent non-profit organisation at the Technical University of Ilmenau. The aim of the festival is to overcome global differences by personal contacts and mutual understanding, to encourage a global way of thinking and awareness for common problems of mankind.

Before, during and after the festival the organisation committee wants to

work together with a number of non-governmental organisations to improve the thematical work and to help translate the results of ISWI'97 into action. Besides getting to know each other and talking about problems of today's world, they want to start and support international projects in the spirit of the festival.

The more serious part of ISWI'97

The thematical work will be divided in 4 main topics: *world-wide equality, peace management, human rights and environmental protection*. For each of these topics there will be 2 groups; there will also be various art groups. The participants can also get involved in the debates and in the matinee.

Main topics

- I. World wide equality: (1, 2)
- II. Peace management: (3, 4)
- III. Human rights: (5, 6)
- IV. Environmental protection: (7, 8)
- V. The art groups: (9, 10, 11, 12, 13)

Group topics

1. The north-south conflict
2. Personal and cultural acceptance
3. Peace management as a way of influencing conflicts
4. Peace management to prevent crisis
5. Activities against human right violations
6. The right to live
7. Contemporary and future concepts

Let's build our future...

8. Ecological thinking and progress
9. Theatre group
10. Music group
11. Painting/graphics
12. Photography and press work
13. Video group

The less serious part

There is more to the International Student Week in Ilmenau than serious work: after all, ISWI is a festival! Every night there will be concerts, theatre performances, workshops... party all night! One day of the week will be reserved for trips throughout the German state Thuringia, and the whole event will be finished by the Earth Day with ecological workshops, an alternative lunch and an Open Air concert.

Both ISWI'93 and '95 were accompanied by a 24-hour FM-radio program. It was produced by the local student's radio hsf (Hochschulfunk) at the University and informed the citizens and the participants about the cultural events as well as the topics of the thematical work and many interesting details. This hsf ISWI radio is also planned for ISWI'97.

ISWI'93 and '95 revisited

- *"I hate to be passive!" (Jindra, Czech Republic)*
- *"I've been to several international meetings before, but never before it was so international as here." (Debangshu, India)*
- *"It is a brave step towards the unification of Europe and the world." (Rami, Lebanon)*

- *"It is a great chance to expand your horizon, to open your mind for other cultures." (Anna, Spain)*

- *"Such a friendly, social kind of meeting, which first of all serves the communication, is a totally new experience for me." (Ashok, India)*

- *"I think it is a marvellous idea, at such a small university such an ambitious program bring to reality and with that idealism." (Celia, Spain)*

To apply to ISWI'97 or to get more information...

...call, write a letter / post card / e-mail, or have a look at the WWW-pages:

Organisation Committee ISWI'97
P.O. Box 100565
98684 Ilmenau
Germany

Phone: *49/(0)3677-691946
Fax: *49/(0)3677-691945
E-Mail: iswi@rz.tu-ilmenau.de
WWW:
<http://www.rz.tu-ilmenau.de/~iswi97/>

Deadline for applications is January 31st. For participants of ISWI'97, accommodation and meals as well as all events will be free of charge. Participants will have to pay for your travel expenses themselves. The language of the festival will be English.

...see you at ISWI'97!