



## **FINAL REPORT**

**EURO XXII  
Prague, Czech Republic  
JULY 8-11, 2007**

**This document is a final report prepared by Prof. Josef Jablonský and  
submitted to EURO Executive Council.**

**January 2008  
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# **EURO XXII CONFERENCE**

## **JULY 8-11 Prague 2007**

### **1. PLANNING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DECISION-MAKING**

In 2005, at the IFORS Conference in Honolulu, the Czech Society of Operational Research (CSOV) was formally appointed to host the EURO XXII Conference in 2007 in Prague, Czech Republic

The Conference organization and structuring was carried out according to the agreement between EURO and CSOV signed in 2006.

#### **1.1 Programme Committee**

Ulrike Leopold-Wildburger, University of Graz, Austria – Chair of the PC  
Rainer Burkard, Technical University of Graz, Austria  
Dimitris Despotis, University of Piraeus, Greece  
Josef Jablonský, University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic  
Tuula Kinnunen, Haaga-Helia University, Finland – Chair of the PC of EURO XXI  
Hans-Jakob Lüthi, ETH Zürich, Switzerland  
Gautam Mitra, Brunel University, United Kingdom  
Erwin Pesch, University of Siegen, Germany  
Roman Slowinski, University of Poznan, Poland  
Jacques Teghem, Polytechnique de Mons, Belgium  
Tamas Terlaky, McMaster University, Canada  
Gerhard Wöginger, University of Eindhoven, Netherlands

#### **1.2 Organizing Committee**

Josef Jablonský, University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic – Chair of the OC  
Gulay Barbarosoglu, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey  
Martin Dlouhý, University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic  
Jan Fábry, University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic  
Michal Fendek, Economic University Bratislava, Slovakia  
Petr Fiala, University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic  
Jana Hančlová, Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic  
Luka Neralic, University of Zagreb, Croatia  
Jan Pelikán, University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic  
Miroslav Singer, Czech National Bank, Czech Republic  
Tomáš Šubrt, Czech Agricultural University Prague, Czech Republic  
Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey  
Karel Zimmermann, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

GUARANT, a conference agency in the Czech Republic, was appointed as the official Conference organizer. Among their responsibility was taking care of all accommodation and travel matters for the participants, payments, on-site registration, exhibitions, sponsors and handling of many practical matters. The cooperation with GUARANT turned out to be very successful.

### 1.3 Conference Venue

The conference was held at the University of Economics Prague, W. Churchill Sq. 4, Prague 3 located almost in the centre of the city. The sessions were held at the NEW Building, OLD Building and RAJSKÁ Building. All of the buildings are connected to each other and all the conference rooms and other facilities were within very short walking distance (less than 3-5 minutes). The registration and meals for conference participants were located in the MENZA Building very close to the exhibition area.

The participants stayed in many Prague hotels nearby the university and in the city centre. The student dormitory was offered for participants on the tight budget.

### Conference Fees

There were three registration categories: regular, student, and accompanying person. The registration fee included lunches, coffee breaks, two receptions as well as participation in the sessions and tutorials. For the accompanying persons, the registration fee covered lunches, receptions and city tour. In the table below there are included final fees for different classes of participants. The original fees (as suggested in the first conference bid) were 280 Euros for regular early participants and 100 Euros for students (380 Euros and 150 Euros for late). They were increased by 20 Euros for regular participants and by 50 Euros for students. This change was approved by the EURO Council in Hawaii in July 2006. The main reason for changing the fees for students was the amount of variable expenses for each participant incl. students greater than 100 Euros. The organisers decided to offer to students the same service as to other participants (e.g. two social events, lunches, public transport tickets, etc.) and it was not possible with the original fee. Due to the uncertainty in the total number of participants we decided slightly increase the regular fee in order to lower the break even point.

Regular Early (before April 15, 2007)	300 Euros
Regular Late (after April 15, 2007)	400 Euros
Student Early (before April 15, 2007)	150 Euros
Student Late (after April 15, 2007)	200 Euros
Accompanying Persons	100 Euros
Banquet (Tuesday night)	50 Euros

### Marketing

The OC and PC realized that in order to make the conference profitable we would need up to 500-600 full paying participants. The conference venue (Prague) is very attractive city and we expected that this number of participants will be reached. Our expectations were around 800-1000 participants. In order to reach the sufficient number of participants it was necessary to market the conference in a professional way. We found out (in accordance with EURO XXI organisers) that two points are very important. 1. To find as many as possible stream and sessions organisers, because they are sources of many conference participants – it is the most important point according to our meaning. 2. To promote the conference on many professional events, by posters, announcements, etc.

### Announcement:

2000 announcements were printed in May 2005 and distributed at several conferences starting by IFORS 2005 in Hawaii.

### Call for Papers:

5000 calls for papers were printed in February 2006 and mailed to all European OR national societies, EURO Working Groups and distributed on many conferences during 2006 including EURO XXI in Reykjavik.

### Posters:

300 posters were printed in September 2006 and mainly sent to OR national societies.

### Conference Website:

The website <http://euro2007.vse.cz/> containing basic information was open in its final form in September 2006 by the local organizers. The website turned out to be a powerful tool handling effectively registration to the conference, electronic abstract submission and all communication with the participants. The website was gradually improved in the course of time, adding information and later the possibility to submit abstracts and register. The EURO conference system was used for abstract submission, registration and to generate the academic programme. Electronic copies of the Call for Papers were made available on the conference web-site.

## **Important Deadlines**

Deadlines for important activities were as follows:

Submission for abstracts starts:	November 2006
Deadline for abstract submission (extended deadline):	March 20, 2007
Notification of acceptance:	March 31, 2007
Deadline for early registration:	April 15, 2007
Deadline for author registration (for inclusion in the program):	April 30, 2007
Conference:	July 8-11, 2007

The original deadline for abstract submission was February 28. Due to many requests this deadline was extended almost by 3 weeks. Other deadlines were unchanged.

## **Meetings of Committees**

The Programme and Organising Committee had four meetings:

July	2005 IFORS Conference in Hawaii
March	2006 Prague, University of Economics Prague
July	2006 EURO XXI Conference in Iceland
May	2007 Prague, University of Economics Prague

The first meeting during the IFORS conference in Hawaii was very important. It was roughly decided about the future steps and about organisation of the first PC/OC meeting in Prague in spring 2006.

The meeting in Prague in spring 2006 was the key meeting with respect to many organisational and programme matters. The following main decisions were made in this meeting::

- the conference program was divided into “main streams” and each member of the PC was responsible for one or several main streams; each main stream consisted of several streams with one or more stream organizers; the stream was defined as a group of at least 3 sessions (each session consists of 4 papers),
- the payment policy for plenary and semi-plenary speakers (the plenary and semi-plenary speakers were excused of paying the registration fee, moreover the OC offered them free banquet; but they had to pay themselves for accommodation during the conference),
- during the meeting many organizational matters as conference schedule, accommodation, social program, inserts into bags, etc. were discussed.

The time conflict between EURO XXII and INFORMS in Portorico was discussed – both events were scheduled exactly in the same dates. A better co-ordination in scheduling is necessary in the future in order to avoid such conflicts among important OR events.

During the meeting in July 2006 in Iceland many details of the program were discussed but the general impression was that the meetings during EURO conferences are not so efficient because of limited time.

In May 2007 we finalised the questions concerning the programme and ed the state of numerous organisational matters. To avoid large amount of changes to the final programme, the programme was kept open to the last possible minute before printing just a couple of weeks before the conference.

### **Conference Theme and Program**

The OC and PC ended up with the proposal of the theme “OR creates bridges” as this expresses the multidisciplinary aspect of the OR. This had also a second meaning because the Conference celebration of the 750th anniversary of well-known Charles Bridge in Prague.

### **Conference Structure**

Following the regular format for EURO conferences, the EURO XXII 2007 conference featured plenary, semi-plenary, with a large number of invited and contributed sessions on topic areas.

## **Plenary Sessions**

### Opening Session:

- EURO GOLD Medalist: The 2006 EURO Gold Medal was conferred to Professor Aharon Ben-Tal and delivered his keynote speech during the Opening Session

### Closing Session:

- IFORS Distinguished Lecturer: Robert Bixby (ILOG) presented his talk “*From Planning to Operations: The Devil is in Details*”.
- All other awards (except EURO Gold medal) were delivered during the Closing Session, ie. Excellence in Practice Award (EEPA), EURO Doctoral Dissertation Award (EDDA) and Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize (MSSIP).

## **Semi-Plenary Sessions and Tutorials**

The following table contains the list of invited semi-plenary and tutorial talks.

<b>Title of the talk</b>	<b>Speaker</b>
Reactive Search and Intelligent Optimization	Roberto Battiti
Using Non-negative Matrix and Tensor Factorizations for Email Surveillance	Michael Berry
Optimal Debt Management Policy and Risk Management: How to Deal with Macroeconomic Shocks	Hans J. Blommestein
Reachability of a Steady-state in a Class of Production Processes: a Problem of Matrix Orbits	Peter Butkovic
New Theorems of Alternative and Their Applications to Computational Mathematics	Yuri G. Evtushenko
Designing Incentive Schemes - Lessons from Experimental Game Theory)	Simon Gaechter
Polynomial Algorithms with Proven Guarantees for Some Hard Discrete Optimization Problems	Edward Gimadi
A DEA-BSC Methodology to Construct and Evaluate R&D Project Portfolios	Boaz Golany
Quality Assurance of Simulation Models and Applications	Axel Lehmann
Randomized Algorithms for Optimization, Learning, and Data	Michael Mahoney
Mathematical Program with Equilibrium Constraint	Jiří Outrata
A Short Introduction to Conic Optimization	Kees Roos
Generalization of Paired Comparisons in the Analytic Hierarchy Process to Neural Firing and to Physics	Thomas Saaty
United States Current Account Deficits: A Stochastic Optimal Control Analysis	Jerome L. Stein

Operations Research in Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Medicine	Metin Turkey
Supply Chain Management: a Non-Quantitative Introduction	Steeff van de Velde
Optimization, Optimal Design and De Novo Programming	Milan Zeleny
Shunting on Rails, Partitioning of Sequences and Graph Colouring	Uwe T. Zimmermann

### **Invited and Contributed Sessions and Streams**

Streams were defined as a set of at least three sessions, each ideally with four presentations. In several special cases the streams have contained less than three sessions FOR by several reasons, e.g. special streams organised by firms (IBM, Siemens), streams with reduced number of abstracts,. Many streams contained more than 10 sessions. Finally, there were 71 streams with invited sessions (see the list below). Submitted papers were grouped into contributed sessions. The total number of contributed streams was 23. Thus the total number of streams was 94. The total number of all sessions (plenary, semi-plenary, invited and contributed) was 484. The total number of presentations included in the abstract book was 1710. Due to some no-shows (less than 5%) the total number of papers actually presented in the conference was 1632.

#### ***INVITED STREAMS***

Agent-Based Modelling  
AHP / ANP  
Closed-Loop Supply Chains  
Combinatorial Optimization (dedicated to the memory of Peter L. Hammer)  
Computational and Artificial Intelligence  
Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Medicine  
Control and Dynamics of Natural Processes  
Convex Optimisation: Theory and Algorithms  
Cooperative Games  
Cutting and Packing  
Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery  
Data Mining Applications in Quality Improvement  
DEA and Performance Measurement  
Decision Support Systems  
Discrete Optimal Control  
Dynamic Programming  
Dynamical Systems and Game Theory  
Dynamical Systems in OR  
Electricity Markets  
Energy Markets and Sustainable Modelling  
Environmental Analysis  
Facilitated Problem Structuring and Decision Analysis  
Financial Modelling  
Financial Optimisation  
Financial Optimisation and Risk Management in Public Debt Analysis  
Forecasting  
Fuzzy Optimisation  
Game Practice

Geographic Information Management  
Global Optimisation  
IBM Applications  
Integrated Supply & Demand Management  
Inventory Management  
Knowledge Management  
Linear and Conic Optimisation  
Locational Analysis  
Long Term Financial Decisions  
Machine Learning and Optimization  
Manufacturing & Warehousing  
Metaheuristics  
Mathematical Programming  
Methodology of Societal Complexity  
Multi Objective Optimisation  
Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis  
Noncooperative Games  
Nonlinear Programming  
Nonsmooth Optimization (Dedicated to the memory of Alexander Rubinov)  
Online Search, Selection and Rendezvous  
Optimal Control  
Optimisation and Data Mining  
Optimisation Software  
OR & Strategy  
OR and Ethics  
OR for Development  
OR Games  
OR in Agriculture and Forest Management  
OR in Health Care  
Population Dynamics, Oscillation Theory and Applications  
Power Indices  
Project Management & Scheduling  
Revenue Management  
Semi-Infinite Optimization  
Social Networks  
Stochastic Modelling  
Stochastic Programming  
System Dynamics Modelling  
Timetabling and Rostering  
Transportation and Logistics  
Variational Inequalities and Bi-Level Problems  
Vector and Set-Valued Optimization

***CONTRIBUTED STREAMS***

Combinatorial Optimisation (c)  
Continuous Optimisation & Control (c)  
Data Mining and Knowledge Engineering (c)  
DEA and Performance Measurement (c)  
Decision Analysis, Decision Support Systems (c)  
Dynamic Systems (c)  
Economic Modeling & Optimal Control (c)



Energy / Environment (c)  
Financial Modelling & Risk Management (c)  
Fuzzy Modelling (c)  
Game Theory, Mathematical Economics (c)  
Graphs & Networks, Scheduling & Location (c)  
Metaheuristics (c)  
Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis and Optimisation (c)  
OR Education, History, Ethics (c)  
OR in Health Care and Society (c)  
OR in Industries (c)  
OR in Marketing (c)  
Production Management & Supply Chain Management (c)  
Project Management & Scheduling (c)  
Simulation & Stochastic Programming and Modelling (c)  
Software for OR (c)  
Transportation & Logistics (c)

### **Preparation of the Final Program and Abstract Booklet**

Taking into account the target group of the conference it was demanded that all the abstracts were delivered electronically through the conference website. Besides the instructions available on the website technical support in the form of advice and instructions was given whenever needed.

The acceptance of the themes of the invited streams and their Stream Organisers was dealt in the Programme Committee – often by e-mail. One part of the delegation of work was to give these Stream Organisers the power to accept the Session Organisers and the papers in their streams leaving the PC only a veto right (which actually was never needed). Thus the forming of these streams was left in the skillful hands of the Stream Organisers.

Organisation of all streams and sessions was done in the conference system which was highly useful. The contacts information was also very useful when it was needed to contact participants or Stream Organisers. The key issue was to insert all information needed in the Final Programme into the system in the form of “streams”. This concerned also plenaries, semi-plenaries, Opening and Closing Session, etc.

The Final Programme also contained abstracts so no separate abstract book was needed.

## 2. THE CONFERENCE

The conference was held at the University of Economics in Prague, Czech Republic in 48 parallel meeting rooms in 4 buildings as mentioned earlier. The sessions were arranged into the buildings based on subject themes.

All plans were implemented without experiencing any unexpected disruptions or major modifications. The only exception was the opening session that should have been electronically transferred to other rooms. Unfortunately the system collapsed after few minutes.

### 2.1 Attendance at the Conference

#### Registered participants: 2022

Country	No of Participants	Country	No of Participants
Algeria	16	Lithuania	2
Argentina	1	Luxembourg	3
Australia	23	Macau	1
Austria	50	Malaysia	6
Belarus	4	Mexico	21
Belgium	41	Moldova	4
Brazil	45	New Caledonia	1
Bulgaria	1	New Zealand	7
Canada	40	Norway	19
Colombia	8	Philippines	10
Croatia	8	Poland	42
Cyprus	3	Portugal	79
Czech Republic	67	Romania	13
Denmark	17	Russia	24
Egypt	1	Saudi Arabia	4
Finland	28	Serbia	36
France	77	Singapore	2
Germany	177	Slovak Republic	26
Greece	55	Slovenia	5
Guatemala	1	South Africa	14
Hong Kong	11	South Korea	4
Hungary	14	Spain	167
Chile	20	Swaziland	2
China	4	Sweden	18
Iceland	4	Switzerland	28
India	14	Taiwan	49
Indonesia	2	Thailand	5
Iran	21	The Netherlands	55
Ireland	7	Tunisia	5
Israel	22	Turkey	151
Italy	109	United Kingdom	158
Japan	53	Ukraine	14
Kazakhstan	2	U. A. Emirates	1

Kuwait	1	USA	90
Latvia	3	Venezuela	3
Lebanon	2	Yugoslavia	1

## 2.2 Delegates from East and Central Europe

EURO provided financial aid to support the attendance of delegates from East and Central European Countries. The registration fee was fully or partly waived for those who got the support. Applications for this aid were evaluated by the local organizing committee, and almost all of the applications were answered positively. A total amount of 12450 Euros was allocated as the ECE financial aid. The following table provides the information about the country distribution of the support. The next table summarizes the financial aid.

Name of the Country	Number of ECE holders
Belarus	3
Czech Republic	7
India	4
Iran	1
Moldavia	3
Nigeria	1
Romania	2
Russia	1
Serbia	2
Slovakia	16
Turkey	15
Ukraine	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>

Type of Participant	Support	Number	Amount of Financial Aid Granted (in Euros)
Regular Participant	300	21	6300
Regular Participant	150	16	2400
Student Participant	150	25	3750
<b>Total</b>	<b>xxx</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>12450</b>

## 2.3 Attendance at Sessions

The number of participants in all sessions (plenary, semi-plenary, invited and contributed) – their total number was 484 - was recorded or at least estimated by students assigned to the sessions and responsible for their organisational matters. The attendance for invited and contributed sessions is summarised in the following table. We don't bring information about attendance of plenary (two sessions) and semi-plenary sessions (14). The number of no-shows was approx. 4.6%.

Number of delegates	Number of sessions
1-10	79
11-20	122
21-30	143
31-40	73
41-50	35
>50	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>470</b>

## 2.4 Special Journal Issues

Two following special journal issues were announced before or during the conference:

- The European Journal of Operational Research: special issue on “Facilitated Problem Structuring and Decision Analysis”. Editors: A. Franco, J. Jablonský, U. Leopold-Wildburger, G. Montibeler.
- The Central European Journal of Operational Research: special issue on “Innovative Approaches for Decision Analysis in Energy, Health, and Life Sciences”. Editors: S. Pickl, M. Rauner, M. Dlouhý.
- The International Journal of Business Intelligence and Data Mining, special issue “KDD for Decision Making and Optimization”. Editors: Y. Theodoridis, G. Andrienko, F. Giannotti, M. Spiliopoulou, M. Vazirgiannis.
- The Optimization Methods and Software, special issue on “Continuous Optimization in Finance”. Editor: Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber.
- The International Journal of Knowledge and Learning, special issue on “Knowledge, Learning and Innovation Management: Synergies and Opportunities”. Editors: D.Apostolou, G. Mentzas, D. Despotis.
- The Annals of Operations Research, special issue on “Cutting, Packing and Space Allocation”. Editors: G. Kendall, K. Daniels, E. Burke.

## 2.5 Social Events

Two Welcome Receptions were held in the **National House in Vinohrady** and in the **Křižík Fountain** on both Sunday and Monday evening, July 8 and 9, 2007. On either day, the participants who were able to attend the Welcome Reception in the National House in Vinohrady were invited to the Křižík Fountain. Tickets were available at the registration. The number of tickets per day for both welcome receptions was limited due to large number of conference participants.

The Banquet was held in the Žofín Palace which is situated in the heart of Prague on Slovanský Island. The Banquet was fully paid by participants.

## 2.6 Exhibitions

A total of 13 exhibitors attended the conference to display books and software. Opening hours for the exhibition were:

Monday, July 9                    09:00 – 18:00  
Tuesday, July 10                09:00 – 18:00  
Wednesday, July 11            09:00 – 16:00

**Exhibitors – software firms:**

or.org/

<http://www.aimms.com/>

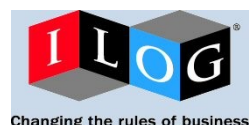


<http://www.coin->



<http://www.gams.com/>

<http://www.ilog.com/>



<http://www.maximalsoftware.com/>



<http://www.optirisk-systems.com/>



<http://www.humusoft.cz/>



<http://www.salford-systems.com/>

**Exhibitors – publishers:**



ELSEVIER

<http://www.elsevier.com/>

<http://www.palgrave.com/>



Taylor & Francis Group  
an informa business

<http://www.tandf.co.uk/>

**Exhibitors – EURO:**



<http://www.euro-online.org/>

### 3. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Most of the revenue was in Euros but costs in Czech crowns (CZK). All the financial matters were managed by the Guarant company. The company has collected registration fees and was responsible for all financial flows. Almost all costs were in Czech crowns and that is why the following table contains recalculated values using the exchange rate 1 EURO = 28 CZK – it was an average exchange rate during the conference. The table contains all financial flows including income from sponsorship and exhibitors. EURO supported organisation of the conference by EUR 3 000 for promotion of the conference and this amount is excluded from the final statements. EURO paid the registration fees for persons with waived or reduced fees from the Eastern and Central European countries. The total amount of this support was EUR 12 000. This income is included in the income part of the following table.

#### INCOME

	fee (€)	number	
Early registration fee - regular	300	1 158	347 400
Late registration fee - regular	400	235	94 000
Early registration fee - student	150	424	63 600
Late registration fee - student	200	86	17 200
Free registration	0	115	0
Accompanying person	100	160	16 000
EURO payment for Gold Medalists and Award Laureates		17	4 650
Banquet	50	865	43 250
Free banquet	0	27	0
Other incomes			3 690
Sponsorship & exhibits			16 660
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2 178</b>	<b>606 450</b>

#### Expenses

	Item cost	Number	Total
<b>1. PRINTING</b>			
First announcement		2 000	246
Leaflets		2 000	296
Call for papers		5 000	1 158
Posters		500	290
Sponsor and exhibition prospectus		100	129
Final program and abstract books		2 100	10 572
Other prints - badges, tickets...			1 428
<b>Subtotal 1</b>			<b>14 119</b>

## 2. MAILING

Mailing costs with participants	1 452
Other mailings	1 026

**Subtotal 2** **2 478**

## 3. ROOMS, EQUIPMENT

Room rental	23 572
Equipment of lecture rooms (AV, PC)	11 857
Internet access (2 PC rooms + WiFi)	1 696
Registration - inf. system, equipment, etc.	6 268

**Subtotal 3** **43 393**

## 4. SECRETARY, STUDENTS

Web pages	1 018
Conference secretariat	42 857
Students	12 607
Exhibition (organisation)	2 821

**Subtotal 4** **59 303**

## 5. CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Committees - transport	8 215
Committees - accommodation, meetings	4 393

**Subtotal 5** **12 608**

## 6. BAGS + INSERTS

Bags	2 100	13 535
T-shirts for participants and students	2 200	7 464
Pens, maps, brochures, business cards...	2 100	14 714
Badges + lanyards	2 200	2 535
4-days pass for public transport	2 100	9 365

**Subtotal 6** **47 613**

## 7. SOCIAL EVENTS, CATERING

Coffee breaks (3 days/2 breaks)	9 700	24 750
Lunches (3 days) for participants and personnel	5 600	23 071
Welcome drink at the University	1 200	2 252
Welcome Receptions - rental costs		27 071
Banquet - rental costs		8 928
Welcome Receptions - catering	1 900	81 786

Banquet - catering	892	47 607
Culture programme for WR and banquet		2 768
City tour for accomp.persons	128	2 607
Catering for exhibitors and sponsors		4 107
<b>Subtotal 7</b>		<b>224 947</b>
Bank fee	2.50%	<b>14 286</b>
CEJOR Special Issue Coordination		<b>2 600</b>
Miscellaneous		<b>2 857</b>
<b>Subtotal 8</b>		<b>19 743</b>
PCO fee 7% (incl. 19% VAT)		<b>45 036</b>
PCO fee 15% profit share (incl. 19% VAT)		<b>26 473</b>
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>493 113</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<i>Gross</i>	<b>110 737</b>
<b>PROFIT</b>	<i>Net</i>	<b>93 056</b>



## 4. SUMMARY

This summary contains several recommendations regarding the important questions how to reach the large number of participants and how to manage the large number of participants efficiently. The total number of participants of the EURO XXII conference was greater than 2000. The advantage of the conference site (the University of Economics) was that all the conference rooms are in a very short walking distance. This fact contributed to the efficient managing of participants very significantly.

### **How to get the large number of participants?**

- An attractive conference venue – Prague was never before a venue of such important OR conference and it is a very attractive city from tourist point of view;
- Personal promotion – send out the conference leaflets (call for papers) personally to possible conference participants; sending out the promotion materials to universities, departments, working groups, etc. is much less efficient;
- Promotion at various OR conferences at least one year before the conference;
- Finding the stream organisers willing to organise invited streams – it is one of the most important factors because more than 60% of papers were presented within invited streams during EURO XXII;
- Support for regular participants and students from weak currency countries – we have supported 62 participants and among them 25 students;
- A team of organisers answering questions and other queries of researchers intending to attend the conference – immediate responses to all queries are very important;
- Good and often updated web pages with all necessary information to interested persons.

### **How to manage the large number of participants efficiently?**

- A professional conference organiser (a company) – it is really a necessity to co-operate with an experienced company that is responsible for many organisational matters (accommodation, social events, on site registration, exhibition and much more);
- A good idea was offer to all participants 4 day public transport ticket; all the participants have used public transport to attend the social events organised in two/three different places in the city; except a trip for accompanying persons the organisers need not take care about the transport;
- Everything is on one place (lecture rooms, exhibition area, registration, lunches, etc.) – it is an advantage for organisers, much easier comparing to cases with several buildings in a campus;
- Students responsible for rooms (PCs, beamers, signs, etc.) – the rule one room - one student was found out as very useful; the participants were satisfied with the service in rooms and it was more convenient for organisers.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS

The EURO XXII conference was one of the most successful EURO-k conferences with respect to the number of participants, number of presented papers, financial success and good organisation. Below are summarised the most important factors that can contribute to success.

### **Location:**

- Conference in one (or few) building(s) (more or less) which causes short ways between lecture rooms and easy change between sessions;
- Exhibitions close by respectively involved in the areas of lecture rooms;
- Enough space with facilities to sit down with colleagues for informal discussions.

### **Organisation:**

- Simple and well prepared registration desks, nearly no queues, well prepared and well informed assistance;
- Students in every lecture hall who know their business and are helpful and responsible;
- Lunch well organized and included in the conference fee;
- Receptions well organized, the way clearly described (the same is true for the conference facilities themselves).

### **Further efforts:**

- Ticket for public transportation during the conference days;
- Plenty of food and drinks even outside the formal coffee breaks, especially in the mornings (to substitute breakfast);
- Name tags clearly readable and on a string (much better than stickers);
- Excellent back-bag.