



# **FINAL REPORT**

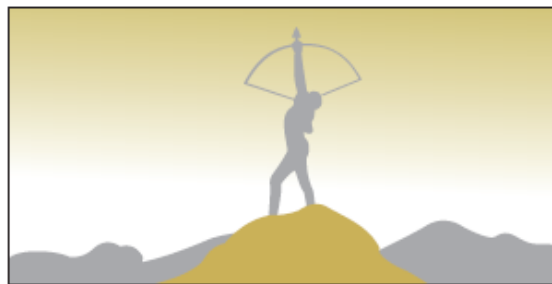
**EURO XXV**

**Vilnius, Lithuania**

**JULY 8-11, 2012**

**This report was prepared by Leonidas Sakalauskas**

**February, 2013  
Vilnius, Lithuania**



**EURO 2012**

# EURO XXV CONFERENCE

## JULY 8-11, 2012 - Vilnius

### 1. PLANNING AND ORGANISATIONAL DECISION-MAKING

In 2009, at the EURO XXIII Conference in Bonn, Germany, the application of Lithuanian OR Society (LitORS) was approved and LitORS was formally appointed to host the EURO XXV Conference in 2012 in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The Conference organisation and structuring was carried out according to the agreement between EURO and LitORS signed in 2010.

#### 1.1. Programme Committee

The Programme Committee was responsible for all scientific matters of EURO XXV:

- Marielle Christiansen – **PC Chair**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
- Leonidas Sakalauskas, VU Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Lithuania
- Silvano Martello, University of Bologna, Italy
- Karen Aardal, Delft Technical University, The Netherlands
- Elena Fernández, Technical University of Catalonia, Spain
- Vincent Mousseau, Ecole Centrale Paris, France
- Richard Hartl, University of Vienna, Austria
- Peter Letmathe, Aachen University, Germany
- Mikael Rönnqvist, Linköping University of Technology, Sweden
- Marc Sevaux, University of Bretagne-Sud, France
- Stein Wallace, Lancaster University, United Kingdom
- Gerhard Wäscher, Otto-von-Guericke-University of Magdeburg, Germany
- Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

#### 1.2. Organising Committee

The Organising Committee was responsible for running all organising affairs of EURO XXV:

- Leonidas Sakalauskas – **OC Chair**, VU Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Lithuania
- Marielle Christiansen, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
- Gerhard Wäscher, Otto-von-Guericke-University of Magdeburg, Germany
- Saulius Preidys, VU Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Lithuania
- Darius Valavicius, AIM Group Baltic, Lithuania
- Tatjana Vilutiene, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania
- Jonas Zaptorius, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania

#### 1.3. Partners

EURO and LitORS were natural partners giving support in many aspects, mainly the ones related to the abstract submission procedure and the organisation of EURO XXV streams and sessions.

The Institute of Mathematics and Informatics (IMI) of Vilnius University (VU) was the main institutional partner, allowing the use of its facilities, transport and equipment, as well as providing administrative and technical support for activities related to the Conference. All of that was done at very convenient costs for the organisation.



Siauliai University was the partner who transferred a grant to cover travel expenses of invited EURO XXV speakers, and organised the satellite EURO XXV event – 10th Workshop of EWG on Advances in Continuous Optimisation, July 5-7, 2012



Klaipeda University was the partner who transferred a grant to cover travel expenses of invited EURO XXV speakers, and organised the satellite EURO XXV event – International Workshop on Stochastic Programming for Implementation and Advanced Applications, July 3-6, 2012



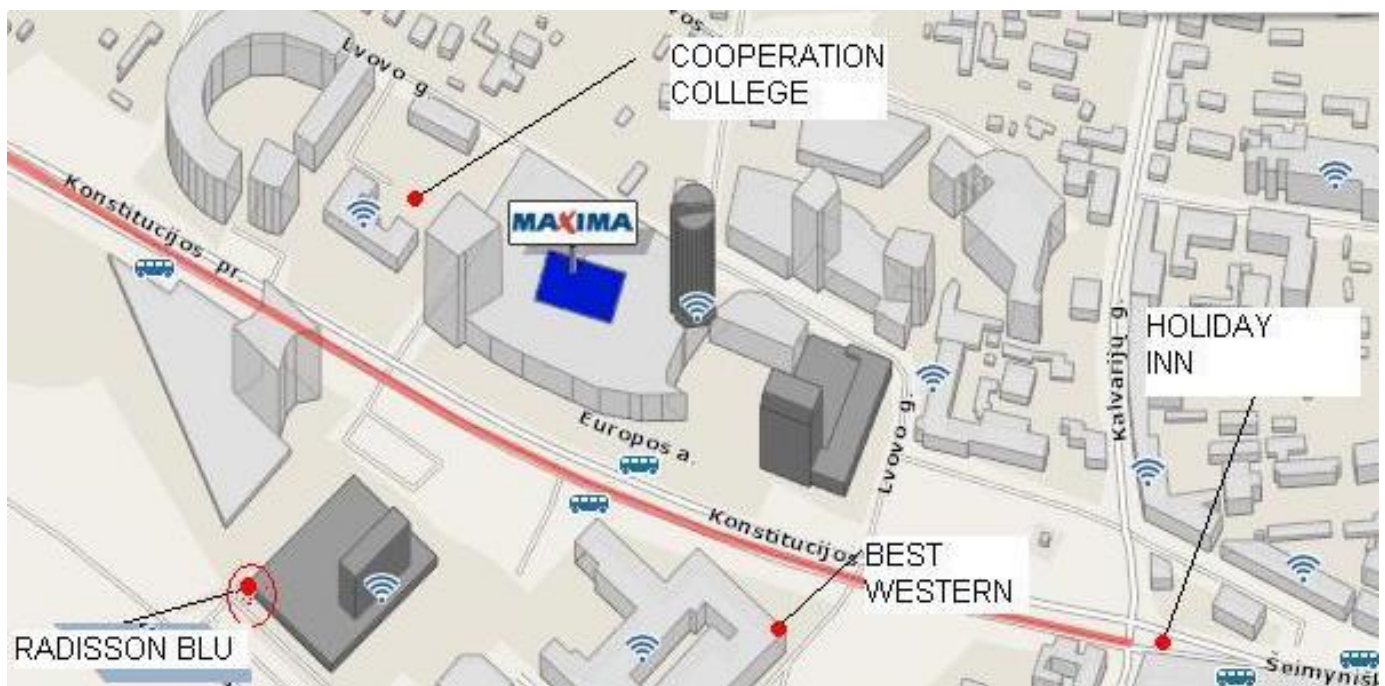
In 2010, a contract was signed between LitORS and the professional conference organiser Aim Group Baltic, <http://www.balticconference.com/>. Among their responsibilities was handling of all accommodation and travel matters for the participants, payments, on-site registration, support to the social program of the conference, as well as other operational matters. The cooperation with AIM Group Baltic turned out to be very successful.



#### 1.4. Conference venue

The following five venues have been used for the conference (see the map below):

- Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, Konstitucijos ave. 20
- Cooperation College, Konstitucijos ave. 11
- Best Western Vilnius Hotel, Konstitucijos ave. 14
- Holiday Inn Hotel, Šeimyniškių st. 1
- Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre , A. Vienuolio st 1



## **Main conference venue - Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva**



EURO XXV took place at the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva, Vilnius, perfectly located in the centre of the city on the banks of the River Neris. The four-star business district hotel in Vilnius is a mere 10-minute walk from the medieval Old Town, one of Eastern Europe's largest historic preservation areas. Guests of the hotel also enjoy easy access to some of the city's top attractions, including the Presidential Palace, St. Anne's Church and Vilnius Cathedral.

The hotel's modern conference and event centre houses 17 multifunctional rooms, which together with 7 additional rooms were arranged for conference sessions. The meeting rooms provided the state-of-the-art equipment as well as a portable stage or dance floor, rostrum, table flags, name tags and table tags. Invited/Tutorial lectures, many contributed/invited sessions and administrative meetings were held in this hotel.

## **Cooperative College**



The Vilnius Cooperative College, located a few minutes walking distance from the main conference venue, arranged 14 well equipped rooms for contributed/invited sessions.

## **Best Western Vilnius Hotel & Holiday Inn Hotel**





The four-star modern business hotels “Best Western Vilnius” and “Holiday Inn Vilnius” with conference facilities are situated in the city center by the River Neris, a short walk to Old Town and a few minutes walking distance from the main conference venue. Correspondingly 5 and 4 multifunctional rooms respectively have been arranged in these hotels for conference contributed/invited sessions and administrative meetings.

### **Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre**



The Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre (LNOBT) was built in 1974 to become the modern headquarters for the oldest and the largest arts institution in Lithuania. Situated in the heart of Vilnius, it stages Lithuanian and international performances throughout the year. The theatre has a 1004-seat main hall and a 250-seat Chamber hall. The first day Registration, Opening, Welcome Reception and plenary lectures on Monday and Tuesday took place in LNOBT.

### **1.5. Accommodation**

The organisers applied to hotels in Vilnius to reserve more than 2500 rooms for conference participants accommodation, without counting the places in dormitories and cheap hostels. The participants stayed in many Vilnius hotels located nearby the Conference Venue and Old Town. Special facilities were offered by Guest houses of VGTU and LEU, on demand, to the participants with a relatively tight budget.

### **1.6. Registration Fees**

There were four registration categories: regular participants, students, retired persons (over 65) and accompanying persons.

The registration fee for a full delegate (regular, retired or student) covered the participation in all sessions, access to the exhibition area, conference materials (Bag, Final Program, Book of Abstracts), transfer from the Vilnius Airport to hotels in the central area of the city (July 7–9), participation in the Welcome Reception (July 8, 19:00 – 21:00), participation in the Vilnius City Reception (July 9, 19:00 – 21:00), a 3-day travel card valid for public transport operators, lunches, and unlimited use of coffee tables (July 8–11).

For the accompanying persons, the registration fee covered the transfer from the Vilnius Airport to the hotels located in the central area of the city (July 7–9), participation in the Welcome reception (July 8, 19:00 – 21:00), participation in the Vilnius City Reception (July 9, 19:00 – 21:00), 3-day travel card, coffee breaks and lunches (July 8–11) and a Vilnius City tour.

The table below shows the final fees for the different classes of participants:

Regular Early (until May 1, 2012) 320 Euros  
Regular Late (after May 1, 2012) 420 Euros  
Student Early (until May 1, 2012) 120 Euros  
Student Late (after May 1, 2012) 180 Euros  
Retired persons (over 65) 160 Euros  
Accompanying Persons (adults) 120 Euros  
Gala dinner (Tuesday night) 55 Euros

## **1.7. Marketing**

The Organising Committee has estimated that, in order to make the conference profitable, it should attract more than 1300 paying participants, considering the different classes. Given the appeal of the conference location in Vilnius, our expectations were to attain between 1200 and 1500 participants. In order to reach the sufficient number of participants it was necessary to market the conference in a professional way. In accordance with the previous EURO-k organisers, we have found out that two points are very important:

1) to find as many as possible stream and session organisers, because they are the sources of many conference participants – it is the most important point according to our meaning.

2) to promote the conference on many scientific events, announcements in many web sites, etc. The EURO XXV Programming Committee member and Conference Advisor Willi Weber from METU (Turkey) has done an invaluable job for conference advertising during a couple of international events and by many other contacts.

### **Advertising:**

The conference is advertised using three tools, mainly:

- dissemination of CfP electronically
- printing and dissemination of conference flyers by mail, among participants of other conferences, etc.
- using a slide presentation given at the conference site.

The conference registration and wide conference advertising started by sending the CfP by e-mail to recipients in the EURO data base, EURO Working groups, EURO member societies, members and participants of other societies and events. 2800 units of Call for papers and announcements have been produced in total. 1000 announcements were printed out in 2010 and distributed at several international conferences (IFORS 2011, EURO 2010). Four EURO 2010 pull up, 200 promo key rings, and 600 pin balls were produced and delivered. 800 Conference flyers have been disseminated for participants of the OR 2011 Conference in Zurich, Switzerland. 1000 updated conference flyers were printed and about 200 were sent to organisers of EWG meetings. The remaining flyers were disseminated during the next 4-5 months. Conference slides were presented for participants of the IFORS Conference in Melbourne, Australia, and the participants of the OR53 Conference of ORS in the United Kingdom.

## **Conference Website:**

The website <http://www.euro-2012.lt> containing basic information was opened in its final form in September 2011 by the local organisers. The website turned out to be a powerful tool in handling effectively the registration to the conference, electronic abstract submission and all communication with the participants. The website was gradually improved in the course of time, adding additional information and later included the functionality to submit abstracts and to register. The EURO conference system was used for the abstract submission procedure and to generate the scientific programme. Electronic copies of the Call for Papers were made available on the conference web site.

## **1.8 Important Deadlines**

The deadlines for the most important activities relating to the Conference were as follows:

Submission of abstracts started: September 2011

Deadline for abstract submission (extended deadline): March 18, 2012

Notification of acceptance: March 31, 2012

Deadline for early registration (extended): May 1, 2012

Deadline for author registration (for inclusion in the program): May 1, 2012

Conference: July 8-11, 2012

The original deadline for abstract submission was February 29, 2012, but, due to many requests, that deadline was extended for 3 weeks. The notification of acceptance deadline was kept unchanged. However, the deadline for early registration was changed from March 31 to April 15 and then to April 20, due to the high number of people trying to access the webpage for registration. Consequently, the deadline for author registration, in order to be included in the program, was also extended by 1 week, from April 30 to May 7.

## **1.9 Meetings of the Committees**

The Programme Committee formally gathered twice:

May 30-June 1, 2011 - in Vilnius

June 1, 2012 – in Vilnius, Radisson Blu Hotel

In both cases, several members of the Organising Committee actively participated at the meetings. The first meeting in Vilnius was crucial with respect to many organisational and programme matters. The following main decisions were made in this meeting:

- the conference facilities have been inspected and approved
- 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 organisers; the stream was defined as a group of several sessions (each session consisting of 4 papers)
- the first list of names to invite for the plenary and semi-plenary sessions was produced and the corresponding financing policy was set as follows: the plenary and semi-plenary speakers would be offered fee waiving, two entries for the official banquet and a lump sum for covering the travelling and accommodation expenses
- the most relevant organisational matters such as the conference schedule, accommodation, social program, inserts into bags, etc. were discussed

In June 2012, the questions concerning the programme and the state of numerous organisational matters were finalised. To avoid a large amount of changes to the final programme, the programme was kept open to the last possible minute. The Conference Book was finished just a couple of weeks before the conference.

The Organising Committee had just one formal plenary meeting per year, from 2009 until 2012. In fact, most of the exchange of ideas and the distribution of tasks was done by using electronic mailing and videoconferencing. A small executive group (Leonidas Sakalauskas, Darius Valavicius, Tatjana Vilutiene, Jonas Zaptorius) met on a weekly basis assuring the coordination of the work.

## **1.10 Conference Programme**

The OC and PC adopted the following theme for the Conference “O.R. Connecting Sciences”.

### **Conference Structure**

Following the regular format for EURO conferences, the EURO XXV conference featured plenary, semi-plenary, with a large number of invited/tutorial and contributed sessions on topic areas. The Plenary and Keynote Lectures were videotaped and later broadcast over the Internet.

### **Opening Session:**

Chair: PC Chair Marielle Christiansen

#### Welcome address:

-Maria Grazia Speranza, the President of EURO (The Association of European Operational Research Societies)

-Leonidas Sakalauskas, the President of LitORS (The Lithuanian OR Society)

-Gintaras Steponavicius, Minister of Education of Lithuania

#### Awards:

-Announcement of the winner of the EURO Distinguished Service Medal Award.

Alexis Tsoukiás (Chair)

-Announcement of the winner of the EURO Gold Medal.

Rüdiger Schultz (Jury Member)

#### Plenary presentation Lecture

given by Boris Polyak, the EURO Gold Medal Laureate

#### Latest information & special remarks:

-Marielle Christiansen, Chair of the Programme Committee

-Leonidas Sakalauskas, Chair of the Organising Committee

### **Closing Session:**

Chair: PC Chair Marielle Christiansen

#### Awards:

-Announcement of the winner of the EURO Excellence in Practice Award 2012

Michel Bierlaire (Chair)

-Announcement of the winner of the EURO Doctoral Dissertation Award 2012

Jacques Teghem (Chair)

-Announcements of the winners of the EURO Awards for Best EJOR Papers 2012

José Fernando Oliveira (Jury Member)

-Announcements of the winners of the ROADEF/EURO Challenge 2012

Christian Artigues (Chair)

#### Announcements

-Announcements of the special journal issues

#### Calls:

-EURO-INFORMS Joint International Meeting, Rome 2013

Paolo Dell’Olmo (Italy), Chair of the Organising Committee

-IFORS XX, Barcelona 2014

Elena Fernández (Spain), Chair of the Organising Committee

#### Farewell Addresses:



- Marielle Christiansen, Chair of the Programme Committee
- Gerhard Wäscher, President-Elect of EURO
- Leonidas Sakalauskas, Chair of the Organising Committee

### Plenary Speakers:

- Ralph E. Gomory – Forty Years of Corner Polyhedra
- Finn E. Kydland – Dynamic Programming and Economics
- Hans-Jurgen Zimmermann - 40 Years of EURO: History, Applications, and Future Potentials.

### Keynote/Tutorial Speakers

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

| SPEAKER                | TITLE OF THE TALK  |
|------------------------|--|
| CAULKINS JONATHAN      | Providing a Scientific Basis for Managing Illegal Drugs & Markets                |
| DESAULNIERS GUY        | Column Generation  |
| DUPACOVA JITKA         | Stochastic programming - a flexible tool for decision making under uncertainty   |
| ERKUT ERHAN            | How to make OR the most liked course in the Curriculum                           |
| FISCHETTI MATTEO       | On the role of randomness in exact tree search methods                           |
| GOMORY RALPH           | Forty Years of Corner Polyhedra  |
| GROSSMANN IGNACIO      | Optimization in Process Systems Engineering                                      |
| HOFFMAN KARLA          | Auctions: Why they proliferating and what you need to know to participate        |
| JORGENSEN BJORN        | Accounting and Business Law  |
| KYDLAND FINN           | Dynamic Programming and Economics  |
| OGUZ CEYDA             | Computational Biology and Operations Research                                    |
| POLYAK BORIS           | Optimization and Optimal Control   |
| SCHOEBEL ANITA         | Lines, Timetables, Delays: Models and Trends in Optimization of Public Transport |
| SORENSEN KENNETH       | Metaheuristics - the metaphor exposed  |
| ZIMMERMANN HANS-JÜRGEN | 40 Years of EURO: History, Applications, and Future Potentials                   |

### Invited and Contributed Sessions and Streams

The daily scientific programme consisted of 1 plenary lecture, 4 keynote/tutorial lectures and parallel sessions.

Streams were defined as a set of at least three sessions, each ideally with four presentations. In several special cases the streams included less than three sessions for several reasons, e.g., special streams organised by firms, streams with a reduced number of abstracts, etc. Many streams contained more than 10 sessions. The submitted papers were grouped into contributed sessions. In some cases, in order to have 4 papers in each session, contributed papers were grouped with the invited papers.

The assignment of the rooms for the sessions was based on their subjects, the characteristics of the rooms and the expected audience to each session. All the plans were implemented without experiencing any unexpected disruptions or major modifications.

Finally, 153 streams took place with the invited or contributed sessions (see the list below). The total number of all sessions (plenary, semi-plenary, invited and contributed) was 524. The total number of presentations included in the abstract book was 1918. A very small number of no - shows were registered.

The number of registrations by June 30 was 2119. There were some cancellations due to several reasons (visa refusal, illness, accidents, etc.). The final number of participants who attended the conference was 2044.

### List of Invited and Contributed Streams

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Actuarial Sciences and Stochastic Calculus   | Metaheuristics  |
| Advanced Inventory Control and Pricing Strategies  | MCDA: New Approaches and Applications                       |
| Analytic Hierarchy Process, Analytic Network Process   | Metaheuristics  |
| Applications of Location Analysis  | Methodology of Societal Complexity                          |
| Arc Routing  | Mixed-Integer Non-Linear Programming                        |
| Boolean and Pseudo-Boolean Optimization  | Models of Embodied Cognition                                |
| Business Excellence in Logistics   | Multi-Criteria Decision Making and Environmental Management |
| Combinatorial Optimization   | Multiobjective Optimization                                 |
| Commodities and Financial Modeling   | Network and Discrete Location                               |
| Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Medicine   | Network Optimization  |
| Computational Statistics   | New Trends in Vehicle Routing                               |
| Container Terminal Operations  | Nonconvex Programming: Local and Global Approaches          |
| Continuous Location  | Nonlinear Programming                                       |
| Control Theory & System Dynamics   | Nonsmooth Optimization                                      |
| Convex Optimization  | Numerical Methods in Finance                                |
| Cooperative Game Theory  | Occupational Health & Wellbeing                             |
| Cutting and Packing  | Operational Research and Quantitative Models in Banking     |
| Data Confidentiality   | Operations/Marketing Interface                              |
| Data Mining and Decision Making  | Optimal Control   |
| Data Mining in Early Warning Systems   | Optimization and Data Mining                                |
| Data Mining in the Financial Sector  | Optimization for Sustainable Development                    |
| Data Mining, Knowledge Discovery and Artificial Intelligence   | Optimization in Public Transport                            |
| DEA and Performance Measurement  | OR and Environmental Management                             |
| DEA and Performance Measurement  | OR and Ethics   |
| Decision Making Modeling and Risk Assessment in the Financial Sector   | OR and Real Implementations                                 |
| Decision Processes   | OR and the Arts   |
| Decision Support Systems   | OR Applications in Industry                                 |
| Demand and Supply in Consumer Goods and Retailing  | OR Applications in the Automotive Industry                  |
| Discrete Optimization, Geometry & Graphs   | OR for Development and Developing Countries                 |
| Dynamic Programming  | OR for Sustainable Development                              |
| Dynamical Systems and Game Theory  | OR in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries                   |
| Dynamical Systems and Mathematical Modelling in OR   | OR in Health & Life Sciences (contributed)                  |
| Emerging Applications in Finance and Logistics   | OR in Human Resources                                       |
| Emerging Applications of Fat Tail Models in Financial Modeling and Engineering                               | OR in Industry and Software for OR (contributed)            |
| Emerging Aspects of Production Planning in Continuous Process Industries: Theory, Optimization, and Practice | OR in Military, Safety and Security Applications            |
| Emissions Trading and Energy   | OR in Quality Management                                    |
| Energy, Environment and Climate 1  | OR in Sports  |
| Energy, Environment and Climate 2  | OR in the Oil and Gas Sectors                               |
| Engineering Optimization   | OR in Water Management                                      |
| Environmental Issues in Operations Management  | Pioneers in Operations Research                             |
| EURO EDDA  | Preference Learning   |
| EURO Excellence in Practice Award 2012   | Production and the Link with Supply Chains                  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| EURO/ROADEF Challenge                                    | Production Management & Supply Chain Management (contributed)                           |
| Experimental Economics and Game Theory                   | Project Management and Scheduling   |
| Financial Mathematics and OR                             | Quantitative Approaches in Managerial and Financial Accounting                          |
| Financial Modelling & Risk Management                    | Quantitative Models for Performance and Dependability                                   |
| Financial Optimization                                   | Realistic Production Scheduling   |
| Forecasting  | Recent Advances in Earthquake Studies   |
| Fuzzy Optimization – Systems, Networks and Applications  | Revenue Management  |
| Fuzzy Sets and Soft Computing                            | Scheduling  |
| Fuzzy Systems, Neural Networks & Artificial Intelligence | Scheduling under Resource Constraints   |
| Game Theory and Logistics                                | SD Modelling in Sustainable Development   |
| Game Theory and Social Networks                          | Semi-Infinite Optimization  |
| Generalized Differentiation and Optimization             | Simulation  |
| Geometric Clustering                                     | Simulation Based Decision Support   |
| Global Optimization                                      | Simulation in Management Accounting and Management Control                              |
| Graph Searching  | Simulation Methods in Finance   |
| Graphs and Networks                                      | Soft OR and Problem Structuring Methods   |
| Health Care Management                                   | Software for OR/MS  |
| Hub Location   | Stochastic Modeling and Simulation in Engineering, Management and Science               |
| IBM Research Applications                                | Stochastic Modelling in Logistical Networks   |
| Information and Intelligent Systems                      | Stochastic Programming  |
| Innovative Software Tools for MCDA                       | Structured Optimization and Applications  |
| Inventory Management                                     | Supply Chain Management   |
| Iterative Methods for Economic Models                    | Supply Chain Planning   |
| Keynote, Tutorial and Plenary Lectures                   | Sustainable Living: Cognitive, Social, Economical, Ecological and World View            |
| Linear and Conic Programming                             | Sustainable Transport Planning  |
| Logistics, Transportation, Traffic                       | System Dynamics Modeling and Simulation   |
| Long Term Financial Decisions                            | Timetabling and Rostering   |
| Long Term Planning in Energy, Environment and Climate    | Transportation and Logistics  |
| Lot-sizing and Related Topics                            | Transportation Planning   |
| Machine Learning and its Applications                    | Uncertainty and Perturbations in Optimization and in Environmental and Energy Modelling |
| Manufacturing and Warehousing                            | Variable Neighborhood Search  |
| Maritime Transportation                                  | Variational Inequalities and Bi-Level Problems  |
| Mathematical Models in Macro- and Microeconomics         | Vector and Set-Valued Optimization  |
| Mathematical Programming                                 | Vehicle Routing and Logistics Optimization  |
|  | Young People for System Theory, Optimization and Education                              |

### Abstract Book

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

The acceptance of topics of the invited streams and their Stream Organisers was handled by the Programme Committee – often by e-mail. One part of the delegation of work was to authorise these Stream Organisers to accept the Session Organisers and the papers in their streams leaving the Programme Committee only a right to veto (which actually was never needed). Thus, the organisation of those streams was left in the hands of the Stream Organisers.

The organisation of all streams and sessions was handled by making use of the EURO conference system, which was highly useful. The contacts information was also very useful when it was necessary to contact participants or Stream Organisers. The key issue was to insert all information needed for the Final Programme into the system, in the form of “streams”. This methodology was also applied in the plenary, semi-plenary, Opening and Closing Sessions, etc.

### 1.11 Sponsors

The sponsors mainly supported the EURO XXV Conference by offering their services with very significant reductions of costs.

The Lithuanian Research Council provided grants to the Vilnius University, Siauliai University and Klaipeda University, which have been used to cover travel expenses of several EURO XXV invited and tutorial speakers.



Lietuvos  
mokslo  
taryba

The Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (VGTU) allowed the usage of its transport, facilities and equipment for the accommodation of participants and several activities related to the Conference. All that was done at very convenient costs for the organisation.



The Lithuanian Educological University (LEU) allowed the use of its facilities and equipment for the accommodation of participants. All that was done at very convenient costs for the organisation.



The Vilnius City Municipality was the sponsor, which provided free city public transportation for the participants at EURO XXV.



## 2. THE CONFERENCE

The EURO XXV conference was held in the Radisson Blu Hotel and 4 buildings located close to the main conference venue, as mentioned before: Best Western Vilnius Hotel, Holiday Inn Vilnius Hotel, Cooperative College and the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre (LNOBT). The first day Registration, Opening, Welcome Reception and plenary lectures on Monday and Tuesday took place in LNOBT. The registration on Monday, plenary lecture on Wednesday, semi-plenary lectures, invited and contributed sessions were held in other conference venues. All the plans were implemented without experiencing any unexpected disruptions or major modifications.

The conference was attended by 2044 participants from 68 countries, who delivered 1918 presentations and/or invited lectures during 524 sessions, distributed as follows: 170 parallel sessions on Monday, July 9, 178 sessions on Tuesday, July 10, and 166 sessions on Wednesday, July 11.

### 2.1. Satellite Events

The EURO conference was accompanied by a number of satellite events – scientific workshops which benefitted from the local closeness to EURO 2012 and which, conversely, attracted further participants to join the entire experience of the EURO conference. Those satellite events were organised by some EURO working groups, also by several companies, mostly from the sector of software development and distribution, e.g., optimization, modelling and traffic.

The complete list of satellite events is as follows:

- Special Workshop for creation of new EWG on Stochastic Programming STOPROG-2012, July 3-6, 2012, Neringa;
- 10<sup>th</sup> Workshop of EWG on Continuous Optimization EUROPT-2012, July 5-7, 2012, Siauliai;
- Meeting and PhD Symposium of EWG on OR for Development: Times of Economic Crises, July 7, 2012, Vilnius;
- Workshop of The State of the Art on Complex Problem Handling and Decision Making, July 8, 2012, Vilnius.

The list of special meetings also included meetings within EURO, its leading committees as well as its working groups, and a meeting of IFORS leaders.

### 2.2. Attendance at the Conference

We could identify 2044 registered participants and 154 accompanying persons from 68 different countries of all continents, distributed as shown in the next table:

|                    |    |                |    |
|--------------------|----|----------------|----|
| ALGERIA            | 15 | MALAYSIA       | 2  |
| ARGENTINA          | 2  | MEXICO         | 8  |
| AUSTRALIA          | 22 | MOLDOVA        | 2  |
| AUSTRIA            | 31 | NEW CALEDONIA  | 1  |
| AZERBAIJAN         | 1  | NEW ZEALAND    | 4  |
| BELARUS            | 14 | NIGER          | 2  |
| BELGIUM            | 57 | NORWAY         | 34 |
| BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA | 1  | PHILIPPINES    | 1  |
| BRAZIL             | 69 | POLAND         | 54 |
| BULGARIA           | 1  | PORTUGAL       | 82 |
| CANADA             | 38 | REUNION ISLAND | 1  |
| CHILE              | 23 | ROMANIA        | 13 |
| COLOMBIA           | 7  | RUSSIA         | 36 |
| CROATIA            | 17 | SAUDI ARABIA   | 6  |

|                |     |                      |     |
|----------------|-----|----------------------|-----|
| CZECH REPUBLIC | 29  | SERBIA               | 13  |
| DENMARK        | 19  | SINGAPORE            | 3   |
| EGYPT          | 3   | SLOVAK REPUBLIC      | 10  |
| ESTONIA        | 3   | SLOVENIA             | 10  |
| FINLAND        | 33  | SOUTH AFRICA         | 16  |
| FRANCE         | 118 | SPAIN                | 157 |
| GERMANY        | 245 | SWEDEN               | 13  |
| GREECE         | 29  | SWITZERLAND          | 35  |
| HONG KONG      | 6   | TAIWAN               | 53  |
| HUNGARY        | 6   | TANZANIA             | 1   |
| INDIA          | 19  | THE NETHERLANDS      | 51  |
| INDONESIA      | 14  | TUNISIA              | 3   |
| IRAN           | 32  | TURKEY               | 177 |
| IRELAND        | 6   | UKRAINE              | 26  |
| ISRAEL         | 21  | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES | 2   |
| ITALY          | 86  | UNITED KINGDOM       | 151 |
| JAPAN          | 58  | URUGUAY              | 1   |
| LATVIA         | 23  | USA                  | 70  |
| LITHUANIA      | 25  | VENEZUELA            | 1   |
| LUXEMBOURG     | 5   | ZIMBABWE             | 2   |

### 2.3. Financial Support to Participants

EURO provided financial aid to support the attendance of delegates from weak currency countries, particularly of the 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 organising committee, and almost all of the applications were positively answered. The financial aid was allocated to 96 participants. The following table provides the information about the country distribution of the support.

| <i>Country</i> | No | <i>Country</i> | No |
|----------------|----|----------------|----|
| Australia      | 1  | Moldova        | 2  |
| Austria        | 1  | Poland         | 15 |
| Belarus        | 12 | Romania        | 6  |
| Brazil         | 4  | Russia         | 2  |
| Czech Republik | 1  | Serbia         | 1  |
| Germany        | 2  | Tunisia        | 1  |
| India          | 2  | Turkey         | 13 |
| Italy          | 1  | Ukraine        | 21 |
| Lithuania      | 10 | Zimbabwe       | 1  |
|                |    |                | 96 |

The table below summarizes the financial aid provided for the successful applicants:

| Fee                      | Number |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Regular fee waived       | 36     |
| Regular fee reduced 50 % | 26     |
| Student fee waived       | 23     |
| Student fee reduced 50%  | 11     |

## 2.4. Special Journal Issues

The EURO XXV Programme Committee consequently operated a policy to publish special issues of advanced OR publications in top-rated journals. The following special issues have been announced to participants of EURO XXV:

- “Recent Advances in Continuous Optimization” to be published in the journal “Optimization”,
- “Recent Advances in Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, Medicine and Healthcare by Modern OR” to be published in the “Central European Journal of Operations Research”
- “OR - Connecting Sciences” supported by the journal “Global Optimization”.

## 2.5. Social events



After the Opening on Sunday the participants were invited for a pleasant evening at the Welcome Reception in LNOBT. It was the perfect opportunity to meet up with old colleagues and meet new ones.

Monday ended with the Vilnius City Reception and dance performance “Sulamita” by Yury Smorigin group “Vilnius Ballet”. Since 1980, Vilnius Ballet Theatre has performed in the greatest theatres, creating a tradition of passion, innovation that touches the soul of ballet lovers. Vilnius Ballet Theatre introduces the most captivating and exciting ballets - from the classic story ballets to the contemporary repertoire.



The Gala Dinner finished the evening of Tuesday in the Vilnius Picture Gallery courtyard. Located in the very heart of the historic Old Town, the Vilnius Picture Gallery offers amazing facilities for cultural events. The Gala Dinner was wrapped up with a fun-filled evening of music by Vilnius top house band and continued to provide a live and interactive party atmosphere.

The end of three days of sharing ideas and discussions was continued by EURO XXV Farewell party, held in the Vilnius University Grand Courtyard. The University of Vilnius, the oldest university in Eastern Europe, was founded in 1579. Functioning for a long time as the only school of higher learning in Lithuania, it was a preserver of cultural and scientific traditions, and has played a significant part in the cultural life not only in Lithuania.



The EURO XXV Opening and Closing sessions were accompanied by violine ensemble “Quattro Amici”.



## 2.6. Exhibitions

A full package with some optional items was offered for exhibitors. The basic package included the availability of a stand and 2 or 3 free full registrations as a regular participant. Other items (advertisements and meeting rooms) were considered by the exhibitor on an optional basis.

A total of 10 exhibitors were present at the conference to display books and software.

Opening hours for the exhibition were:

Sunday, July 8 16:00 – 20:00

Monday, July 9 09:00 – 18:00

Tuesday, July 10 09:00 – 18:00

Wednesday, July 11 09:00 – 17:00

### Exhibitors – software firms:

- Elsevier B.V
- AORDA – American Optimal Decisions
- AIMMS
- AMPL Optimisation
- Palgrave Macmillan
- Taylor & Francis
- LocalSolver – SA BOUYGUES
- Springer
- FICO
- GUROBI





### 3. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

Most of the financial matters were managed by the professional conference organiser AIM Group Baltic, Vilnius. The company collected the registration fees and was responsible for almost all the financial flows.

The following tables contain all financial flows including the income from sponsorship and exhibitors. Table 1 presents the income and expenses grouped into general items. As shown in the table, the total profit in amount of €6.844,40 was reached by the organisation of the EURO XXV Conference in 2012 in Vilnius. That value comes from the total income of €607.390 covering the expenses summing up to €600.486,10.

| <b>Table 1-Finance balance</b> |                 |                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOMES</b>                 |                 | <b>EXPENSES</b>                      |                    |
| REGISTRATION FEES              | €527.520,00     | Printing                             | €28.413,35         |
| ACOMPANYING PERSONS            | €17.640,00      | Marketing                            | €6.414,57          |
| DINNER TICKETS                 | €33.330,00      | Venue, rooms, equipment              | €104.469,69        |
| SPONSORSHIP                    | €7.500,00       | Administration, Secretary & Students | €67.372,80         |
| EXHIBITIONS                    | €21.400,00      | Conference Committees                | €16.162,14         |
|                                |                 | Bags & Inserts                       | €39.717,63         |
|                                |                 | Social events, Catering              | €260.642,10        |
|                                |                 | Invited Speakers                     | €25.160,63         |
|                                |                 | Bank & Account costs                 | €19.163,19         |
|                                |                 | EURO Fee                             | €32.970,00         |
|                                |                 | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                | <b>€600.486,10</b> |
|                                |                 | Profit                               | €6.844,40          |
| <b>TOTAL INCOMES</b>           | <b>€607.390</b> | <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>€607.390,00</b> |

| <b>Table 2 – Registration fees</b>                        |      |      |         |        |
|---|------|------|---------|--------|
| Description   | fees | No   | €       | €      |
| Early registration fee for regular participants           | €320 | 1129 | 361.280 | 22.580 |
| Late registration fee for regular participants            | €420 | 174  | 73.080  | 3.480  |
| Reduced registration fee for regular participants         |      | 26   | 10.160  | 520    |
| Early registration fee for students                       | €120 | 508  | 60.960  | 5.080  |
| Late registration fee for students                        | €180 | 81   | 14.580  | 810    |
| Reduced registration fee for students                     |      | 12   | 4.720   | 120    |
| Early registration fee for retired persons                | €160 | 19   | 3.040   | 380    |
| Late registration fee for retired persons                 | €210 | 0    | 0       | 0      |
| Free registration for Committee members & Invited persons | €0   | 41   | 0       | 0      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |      | 1990 | 527.520 | 32.970 |

In Table 2, details are provided about the registration fees collected from the participants. Regular Participants corresponded to 69,80% of the total number of registered delegates, accounting for around 85.32% of the total registration fees. Complementarily, Students (30,2%) provided 14,7% of the total fees. Reduced fees were offered to 96 participants in an amount equivalent to 31,25 fully waived fees.

## 4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Main figures of the Conference:

- 2119 Registered participants
- 2044 Registered participants, attended the conference
- 154 Accompanying persons
- 153 Streams
- 524 Sessions
- 1918 Presentations included in the abstract book

The EURO XXV Conference organised in Vilnius, for the first time in Baltics and in Eastern Europe so far, simply provided a forum for multidisciplinary communication of recent work and promotion of operational research among participants from different parts of Europe. The EURO XXV conference was a successful EURO-k conference with respect to the number of participants, number of presented papers, and good organisation. Below, we summarize some of the most important factors that may have contributed to that success.

### **Promotion:**

- Promotion at various OR conferences, well in advance, either by distributing book-markers and flyers with the Call for Papers, or simply by personal word-of-mouth information; the promotional materials were also sent to universities, societies, working groups, etc;
- The Conference announcement was typed in dozens of websites, and the Call for Papers was distributed by e-mail to an extensive database of addresses, including many societies and working groups outside EURO;
- Finding a large number of researchers willing to organise invited streams, and therefore attracting more participants – this is a crucial factor: more than 60% of the papers submitted to EURO XXV were within invited streams;
- Support for regular participants and students from weak currency countries – we have supported 96 participants and 34 students among them;
- Online information and interaction: good and regularly updated web pages, with all the necessary information, and relatively fast answers to queries by e-mail.

### **Location and venue:**

- The host city Vilnius, geographically situated in the center of Europe on the cultural and historical crossroads, is very attractive for tourism and meetings;
- The conference venues were easily reachable by walking and public transportation from most hotels in Vilnius;
- All the conference buildings and support facilities were within a short walking distance from one another;
- Enough space, indoors and outdoors, was provided with the facilities for sitting down, for working or informal discussions.

### **Organisation:**

- Several key organisational tasks (on-site registration, session management, payments, accommodation, catering, help to social events, among others) were committed to an experienced conference organisation company;
- A large number of student volunteers, helpful and responsible, were involved, with one or more students providing support for each session, and with groups of students ready to support every other activity;
- Registration desks with well prepared and well informed assistants;
- Lunch very well organised, with no queues, and included in the conference fee;
- Receptions well organised.

**Further efforts:**

- Plenty of food and drinks available, even in the formal coffee breaks;
- Tickets for public transportation during the conference days;
- Name tags clearly readable on both sides;
- Excellent knapsacks of a unique and carefully thought out design.

**Committees:**

- The Programme Committee was composed of very active and prominent members of the OR community who exerted tremendous effort in crafting a very stimulating conference program;
- The Chair of the Program Committee, Marielle Christiansen, gave a lot of her own time for guaranteeing an excellent group of keynote speakers and keeping control over a real tide of e-mail messages concerning many different aspects;
- The EURO Vice-President I, Gerhard Wäsher, has put a lot of effort into conference success, as well as Conference Advisor Gerhard Willhelm (Willi) Weber who has also made an invaluable contribution to the conference advertising during a couple of international events and by many other contacts.
- The Organising Committee was comprised of a strongly dedicated local team being able to put many disparate pieces together into a well-integrated conference.

Vilnius, February 28, 2013