

SUMMER 1993

EURO Brochure

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from the 1989-90 EURO President

Preface

As a formal framework for international cooperation within Operational Research (OR), **IFORS**, the **International Federation of Operational Research**, was founded in 1959 by Operational Research Society (GB), Operations Research Society of America (USA), and Société de Recherche Operationelle (F). As of 1992, the members of IFORS are the national OR-societies of 39 countries which, with the exception of South Africa, form the major parts of four so-called regional groupings:

EURO, **Association of European Operational Research Societies** (founded in 1975): Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.

ALIO, **Asociacion Latino-Ibero-Americana de Investigacion Operativa** (founded in 1982): Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Portugal, Spain, Venezuela.

APORS, **Association of Asian-Pacific Operational Research Societies within IFORS** (founded in 1985): Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore.

NORAM, **The Association of North American Operations Research Societies within IFORS** (founded in 1987): Canada, United States of America.

This document is the third edition of the EURO-brochure. Earlier versions were prepared by B. Rapp and R. Tomlinson, and by J.P. Brans, all Past Presidents of the Association.

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Preface

The introductory section accounts for the origins of EURO. Both as a record of the history of EURO and of the rules under which we operate, however, the main aim of the brochure is to provide information about each of the seven so-called instruments developed to date to promote OR in Europe. Four such instruments were launched in 1975:

- the EURO Association itself
- the EURO-k Conferences
- the EURO Working Groups
- the EURO Bulletin, and the European Journal on Operational Research (EJOR)

At the initiative of J.P. Brans, three additional instruments were introduced in 1983:

- the EURO Summer Institutes
- MINI-EURO Conferences
- the EURO Gold Medal

The member societies of EURO
(a list with complete mailing

addresses is provided at the inside of the back cover) represent in total well above 10.000 individual members. Since both Egypt and Israel have joined the Association, the term "Europe" does henceforth include these countries as well.

Europe has, mildly spoken, witnessed dramatic changes during the past few years. As one of many consequences, an increased strengthening of co-operation across old and new borders is well called for. Disregarding Hungary and Poland which have been members of EURO since the early 80's, steps have already been taken to make both IFORS and EURO visible to our colleagues in the other new democracies. It is my hope and belief that no larger part of Europe is left out within a EURO context when the next edition of this brochure is being prepared.

Jakob Krarup
President of EURO 1989-90

5 March 1976

THE ORIGINS OF EURO

Since 1957 the main activity of IFORS has been the organization of triennial, international conferences addressing the world community of operational researchers.

In the early 70's, however, there was in Europe an increasing awareness of numerous ongoing OR-activities on one side and, on the other, rather weak means for promoting communication and cooperation among European operational researchers. Some national societies did (and do still) cooperate on an ad hoc basis but not to an extent to satisfy the general need for "something" between IFORS and the national societies.

In conjunction with the 6th IFORS-Conference (Dublin, 1972), the participating presidents of European OR societies discussed the situation and agreed to seek it improved. Invited by H.-J. Zimmermann, President of the German OR Society, representatives of eleven European OR societies met in Düsseldorf on 3 September 1973 and decided to institutionalize better ways of cooperation within the framework of IFORS.

In a more extensive meeting of representatives of European OR societies, held in Amsterdam on 3-4 May 1974, two major decisions were made:

1) The representatives agreed that it would be advisable to formalize and institutionalize increased European cooperation. To this end a possible agreement between the European OR societies was drafted and it was the general impression that such an agreement could be signed by the societies in the near future.

2) It was furthermore agreed to assemble operational researchers from all Western European countries within the framework of the *First European Conference on Operational Research* to be organized in January 1975 in Brussels, Belgium.

The Belgian OR Society accepted to host this meeting, and the OR societies of Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Norway, The Netherlands, and Sweden agreed to finance the preparation by offering credits as a supplement to funds already raised for that purpose by the Belgian Society. IFORS also offered to provide a credit if necessary.

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The Origins of EURO

Normally 9 months would have been completely insufficient for the preparations of an international conference addressing the entire scientific community, scattered over many countries, within a specific field. The enthusiasm and engagement of all those who participated in the preparatory work, however, compensated for lack of time. Thus, the *First European Conference on Operational Research (EURO II)*, was opened in the morning of 27 January 1975 at the Sheraton Hotel in Brussels. The meeting which managed to assemble none less than 466 participants became a remarkable success. Also the main objective, to institutionalize closer cooperation among the European operational researchers, was fully achieved: 9 European OR societies gave birth to *EURO, The Association of European Operational Research Societies within IFORS* by signing an agreement in which the signatories resolved:

1. To grant any fully paid-up member of any signatory body all rights and privileges as are offered by them to their own members.
2. To exchange all appropriate information, inform other signatories of existing working groups and

the dates and location of the meetings and open such working groups to individual members of other signatories.

3. To organize European Conferences on Operational Research and European Working Groups.
4. To encourage the formation of Operational Research Societies in other European countries and to give such new bodies any possible help they may require.

On 8 March 1976, in a circular letter to all European OR societies, the Honorary Secretary could proudly announce: "I hereby declare that *EURO, The Association of European Operational Research Societies within IFORS* is now formally constituted with effect of 5 March 1976 and the draft statutes circulated on 29 June 1975 are effective."

Considerable progress has been made since then as also evidenced by the subsequent pages. Though, there is a steady need for enthusiastic and dedicated people to enable EURO to maintain its present instruments and to carry out a wider range of activities in support of its objectives.

the seven EURO instruments

The seven EURO Instruments

Seven instruments have, as mentioned in the Preface, been set up since 1975 by EURO to promote OR in Europe:

- The EURO Association itself;
- The EURO-k Conferences;
- The EURO Working Groups;
- The European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR) and the EURO Bulletin;
- The EURO Summer Institutes;
- The MINI EURO Conferences;
- The EURO Gold Medal.

The EURO Association

EURO is a 'not-for-profit' association domiciled in Fribourg,

Switzerland. Its affairs are regulated by a *Council* consisting of all its members and an *Executive Committee* which constitutes its board of directors.

The members of EURO are normally full members of IFORS and comprise the national OR societies of countries located within or nearby Europe. Each member is represented in the *EURO Council* by a *representative* and an *alternate*, one of whom votes, if required. Council meetings are held annually, normally in conjunction with the EURO K conferences.

Council elects a *President*, a *President-Elect*, two *Vice-Presidents*, a *Secretary*, and a *Treasurer*. These six *EURO officers* form the *Executive Committee*. The *President-Elect* serves for only one year whereas all others are elected for two years.

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EURO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PERIOD	PRESIDENT	PRESIDENT ELECT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
1975 - 1978 (D)	H.J. ZIMMERMANN		G. KREWERAS (F)	R. EDDISON (GB)	J.P. BRANS (B)
1979 - 1980 (S)	B. RAPP	R. TOMLINSON (GB)	G. KREWERAS (F)	R. EDDISON (GB)	J.P. BRANS (B)
1981 - 1982 (GB)	R. TOMLINSON	J.P. BRANS (B)	J. KRARUP (DK)	E. JACQUET- LAGREZE (F)	J.P. BRANS (B)
1983 - 1984 (B)	J.P. BRANS	B. ROY (F)	J. KRARUP (DK)	D. XEROCOSTAS (GR)	J. PASQUIER (CH)
1985 - 1986 (F)	B. ROY	D. de WERRA (CH)	C. SCHNEEWEISS (D)	D. XEROCOSTAS (GR)	E. FIELD (GB)
1987 - 1988 (CH)	D. de WERRA	J. KRARUP (DK)	C. SCHNEEWEISS (D)	P. TOTH (I)	E. FIELD (GB)
1989 - 1990 (DK)	J. KRARUP	J. SPRONK (NL)	I. THEMIDO (P)	P. TOTH (I)	E. FIELD (GB)
1991 - 1992 (NL)	J. SPRONK	M.F. SHUTLER (GB)	I. THEMIDO (P)	C. ROUCAIROL (F)	J. BOVET (CH)

the seven EURO instruments

The EURO-k Conferences

National OR societies which are full members of EURO are regularly invited to submit proposals to host future EURO-k conferences.

The general principles for the organization of such events and various recommendations are the contents of the document "ORGANIZATION OF EURO K CONFERENCES" prepared by J.P. Brans and used for several EURO-k conferences. This document is by now outdated and a revised version is in preparation.

The EURO-k conferences are broadly oriented and have so far attracted some 600 participants on the average. Among the main purposes are:

- 1) **In general:** To promote communication and cooperation within the general field of OR.
- 2) **To the EURO community:** To provide a forum for all members of the national OR societies and others interested in participating to meet with each other, to learn, and to exchange experience at maximum convenience and least cost.
- 3) **To the host society:** To provide a major stimulus to a national society in terms of the prestige of hosting a

large international conference and the short term and long term effects that may follow from being a focal point.

Among the bids made for hosting a EURO-k conference in a specific year, the host country is selected by the EURO Council at least two years before the date of the meeting. As part of the selection process, EURO attempts to balance the location of successive conferences in terms of geography (such that no specific part of Europe deliberately is ignored) and large and small societies.

In making allocations, EURO is furthermore taking notice of other major international meetings having to some extent the same purpose as the EURO-k conferences. More specifically, no EURO-k conference is held in a year of an IFORS triennial conference.

EURO-k conferences can be organized in cooperation with other associations such as TIMS (The Institute of Management Sciences). In each such case, a special agreement between EURO and the guest association must be prepared.

The following table lists the EURO-k conferences already held together with the forthcoming EURO XIII, scheduled to be held at University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, July 1994.

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EURO-k Conferences

YEAR, MONTH	EURO K	LOCATION COUNTRY	PARTICIP. PAPERS	CHAIRMAN, PC CHAIRMAN, OC	
1975 JAN	EURO I	BRUSSELS BELGIUM	466 115	H.J. ZIMMERMANN J.P. BRANS	(D) (B)
1976 NOV	EURO II	STOCKHOLM SWEDEN	481 171	M. ROUBENS S.E. ANDERSSON	(B) (S)
1979 APR	EURO III	AMSTERDAM NETHERLANDS	508 276	J. KRARUP C.B. TILANUS	(DK) (NL)
1980 JULY	EURO IV	CAMBRIDGE UNITED KINGDOM	610 340	J.P. BRANS M. SHUTLER	(B) (GB)
1982 JULY	EURO V TIMS XXV	LAUSANNE SWITZERLAND	598 267	B. HALEY D. de WERRA	(GB) (CH)
1983 JULY	EURO VI	VIENNA AUSTRIA	488 288	C. CARLSSON P. HARHAMMER	(SF) (A)
1985 JUNE	EURO VII	BOLOGNA ITALY	550 417	E. JACQUET-LAGREZE P. TOTH	(F) (I)
1986 SEPT	EURO VIII	LISBON PORTUGAL	496 352	R. TOMLINSON I. THEMIDO	(GB) (P)
1988 JULY	EURO IX TIMS XXVIII	PARIS FRANCE	117 6 925	P. VINCKE P. TOLLA	(B) (F)
1989 JUNE	EURO X	BELGRADE YUGOSLAVIA	295	R.E. BURKARD V. BATANOVIC	(A) (YU)
1991 JULY	EURO XI	AACHEN GERMANY		J. KOHLAS H.J. ZIMMERMANN	(CH) (D)
1992 JUNE	EURO XII TIMS XXXI	HELSINKI FINLAND		F. MAFFIOLI C. CARLSSON	(I) (SF)
1994 JULY	EURO XIII	GLASGOW		D. BOUYSSOU V. BELTON	(F) (GB)

It can in this context be noted that the following countries have not yet organized a EURO-k conference: Denmark, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Norway, Poland, Spain, Turkey.

the seven EURO instruments

The EURO Working Groups

Several *EURO Working Groups (EWGs)* were established at the aforementioned EURO I and have been active ever since. Others have followed in the wake and some have been dissolved. An account of the early history (up to 1983) can be found in, J. Krarup, "Profiles of the European Working Groups", *EJOR* 15 (1984) 13-37.

The main purpose of the EWGs is to serve as an organizational framework for smaller groups of researchers (up to a few hundred) interested in a specific OR-topic. Judging from published announcements and proceedings volumes, it is the impression that these groups satisfy the needs of their members, primarily by organizing meetings and publishing newsletters regularly.

As to the relations between EURO and the EWGs, EURO's role is mainly to provide some obstetric aid when new groups are in the process of being established, thereafter mainly moral support.

Following a year-long tradition, the liaison officer between EURO and the EWGs is the Vice President. The Spring 1992 issue of the *EURO Bulletin* (discussed in section 2.4 of this brochure) contains a report of the activities of the EWGs prepared by I. Themido, Vice President of EURO (1989-1992). The following overview of the EWG's is excerpted from that report:

The EURO Working Groups represent the only permanent form of scientific cooperation undertaken by EURO. As such, their activities are strongly encouraged by the Executive Committee that has

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The EURO Working Groups

traditionnally delegated this responsibility to its Vice President.

Different working groups have their own ways of cooperating but they all serve a common purpose - the exchange of ideas, experience, and results. Most of them resemble clubs where friendship is an important factor for fruitful scientific cooperation.

As a further push to support the working groups, the EURO Council approved for the first time a special budget for some special activities. This year the Executive Committee is going to submit a general revision of the charter for the EWGs. A major chance in which is the consideration of inancial support as follows:

1.1) Administration

- Printing costs of common stationery;*
- Printing of a special issue of the EURO Bulletin containing the yearly report of the activities of the EWGs (to be distributed during the EURO k conferences and directly to the national OR societies);*
- Cost of a yearly meeting of EWGs coordinators, over lunch, during the EURO k conferences;*
- Administration costs entailed in the establishment of new EWGs (first two years of activity) when alternative financing cannot be found.*

1.2) Scientific activities

A "reserve budget" that EWGs could call upon should be created. This fund could be used to pay for expenses of guest speakers (non-members of the Working Group) to initiate and/or publish results of joint research projects, and similar activities. The money would be paid out by the Treasurer after approval by the Vice President in charge of the EWGs.

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2) EURO encourages and supports activities that can further the scientific objectives of the EWGs, promote their activities, and raise funds. Namely:

2.1) Mini-EURO conferences: the EWGs are encouraged to organize such conferences within the general rules established by EURO;

2.2) Special issues of EJOR: the EWGs are encouraged to produce special issues of EJOR after consultation and approval by EJOR editors. 50% of the royalties from those issues would be made available to support the scientific activities of the EWGs. The money would be kept in EURO custody and paid out by the Treasurer to cover specific expenses after approval by the Vice President in charge of the EWGs.

Existing EURO Working Groups (Spring 1993)

Multicriteria Aid for Decisions (1975) COORDINATOR: Prof. Bernard Roy, LAMSADE, Université de Paris - Dauphine, Place du Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, F-75775 PARIS CÉDEX 16, FRANCE. Tel.: (33) (1) 44 05 42 88, fax: (33) (1) 44 05 40 91.

Fuzzy Sets / IFSA European Chapter (1975) COORDINATOR: Dr. Hans Hellendoorn, Siemens AG, Dept. ZFE ST SN42, Otto-Hahn-Ring 6, W-8000 Munich 83. E-mail: hah@sm-aragd.zfe.siemens.de.

OR Applied to Health Services (1975) COORDINATOR: Dr. David Clayden, The United Leeds Teaching Hospitals

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The EURO Working Groups

NHS Trust, Information Services Directorate, Trust Headquarters, Leeds General Infirmary, LEEDS LS1 3EX, UK. Tel.: (44) (532) 31 68 01, fax: (44) (532) 31 66 53.

EUROBANKING special interest group (1975)
COORDINATOR: Mr. Robert Park, Human Resources and Strategic Development, National Westminster Bank plc, 41, Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP, U.K. Tel.: (44) (71) 72 61 322, fax: (44) (71) 72 61 304.

Locational Analysis (1984)
COORDINATOR: Prof. Christian Michelot, Université de Bourgogne, Laboratoire d'Analyse Numérique, BP 138, F-21004 DIJON CEDEX, FRANCE. Tel.: (33) (80) 39 58 73, fax: (33) (80) 39 58 69, e-mail: miche-lot@satie.u-bourgogne.fr.

ESIGMA - EURO Summer

Institute Group on Multicriteria Analysis (1985)
COORDINATOR: Prof. Carlos A. Bana e Costa, CESUR - IST, Av. Rovisco Pais, P-1096 LISBOA, PORTUGAL. Tel. (351) (1) 80 97 05 or (351) (1) 80 95 80, fax: (351) (1) 80 98 84, telex: 63423 ISTUTL-P.

Project Management and Scheduling (1986)
COORDINATOR: Prof. L.V. Tavares, CESUR-IST, Av. Rovisco Pais, P-1096 LISBON, PORTUGAL. Tel.: (351) (1) 80 97 05 or (351) (1) 80 95 80, fax: (351) (1) 80 98 84, telex: 63423 IS-TUTL-P.

Financial Modelling (1986)
COORDINATOR: Prof. Dr. Jaap Spronk, Erasmus University Rotterdam, P.O. Box 1738, NL-3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel.: (31) (10) 40 81 282, fax: (31) (10) 45 26 399.

ECCO - European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimization (1987)
COORDINATOR: Prof. Catherine Roucairol, Université de Versailles & INRIA, Laboratoire MASI, 45

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avenue des Etats Unis,
F-78000 Versailles. Tel.: (33)
(1) 39 97 20 88 or (33) (1)
39 63 54 80, fax: (33) (1) 30
97 20 57 or (33) (1) 39 63
53 30, e-mail: rou-
cairol@masi.lbp.fr, rou-
cairol@seti.inria.fr.

Decision Support Systems
(1989) COORDINATOR: Prof.
Tawfik Jelassi, INSEAD,
Boulevard de Constance,
F-77305 FONTAINEBLEAU,
FRANCE. Tel.: (33) (1) 60 72
40 17, fax: (33) (1) 60 72 40
49, e-mail:
jelassi%freiba51.bitnet@finhu
tc.hut.fi

Urban Traffic and
Transportation (1991)
COORDINATOR: Dr. Maurizio
Bielli, Institute of Systems
Analysis and Informatics,
National Research Council,
Viale Manzoni 30, I-00185
ROME, ITALY. Tel. (39) (6)
77 161, fax: (39) (6) 77 16
461.

Information Systems (1991)
COORDINATOR: Prof.
Georgios I. Doukidis, Athens
University of Economics and
Business, Department of
Informatics, 76 Patission
Street, GR-104-34 ATHENS,
GREECE. Tel. (30) (1) 82 33
523, fax: (30) (1) 82 26 204,
telex: 225363 ASOE GR.

Charter of the EURO Working Groups

Although the "Appendix to the Agreement" creating EURO in January 1975 is not very explicit about how the EWGs should be organized, the existence of such groups has always been considered among the main justifications of the Association itself. In 1980, however, the EURO Council resolved that time was ripe for establishing more precise (though flexible) rules

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for the EWGs. The following Charter was then formulated and approved by Council on 23 July 1980:

CHARTER OF THE EURO WORKING GROUPS

a. Creation of Groups

The creation of new EWG's should be left to individual initiative, as was always done. Nonetheless, it might be useful to distinguish two cases:

- (i) creations while EURO-k Conference is held
- (ii) creations between EURO-k and EURO-(k + 1).

In case (i), a convener can for instance begin by sticking up a bill proposing to interested persons to meet at specified time and place in a quite informal way. If he gets enough people together and if

they agree upon a tentative schedule of activity, they produce a short report which is forwarded to the EURO Executive Committee; the latter can then either deliver the EURO label at once or postpone it after a further meeting of the group. In case (ii), the convener either applies first to the Executive Committee, who will decide whether and under what conditions they will help him achieving his ideas, or he tries first on his own responsibility to get together enough people interested to work on his subject, and then applies to the Executive Committee. The foundation of the group should be announced in the Bulletin.

In both cases (i) and (ii), the EURO label means that EURO considers itself informed well enough about the group and includes it into the list of its official activities.

b. Activities

EURO does not try to impose unified regulations for the way each working group dis-

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The EURO Working Groups

plays its activities. Nonetheless a few general principles are worthwhile being recalled.

1^o) The EGWs should as far as possible bring together people with different professional backgrounds (industry, university, etc).

2^o) They should be actually international; this requirement is met satisfactorily if at least 4, but possibly 5 or 6 nations are represented at each meeting and if the meetings do not take place too often in the same country.

3^o) Any group should be open to any individual member of any EURO member society. Persons who are not members of a national OR society are not excluded from the meetings; however, a friendly pressure should be exerted upon them to become members.

4^o) If one of the EWGs plans a joint meeting with some other (e.g. professional) body, it should provide EURO with general information about the latter.

5^o) As a general rule, EURO-k conferences will provide time and space for the meetings of the EWGs which will be planned in connection with them. At least for publication in the "EURO Bulletin". It will be up to each group chairman to maintain the connection with the Editor of the Bulletin, independently from the necessary contacts with the Executive Committee.

c. Dissolution of groups.

There are two possible cases of dissolution of a EWG:

(i) the chairman of the group feels that, for some reasons, the group can not go on with

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its activities and he informs EURO about these reasons;

(ii) the executive committee ascertains that the group has in fact stopped its activities or has given them a direction that is inconsistent with the goals of EURO.

In both cases, the executive committee can either try to restore a better situation or delete the group from the list of EWG's.

d. Financial arrangements

Experience shows that most of the groups take advantage of the EURO-k conferences to organize their own meetings, either as side meetings or within the framework of the conference itself. This is indeed a good habit, but does not preclude organizing meetings between the conferences.

Although EWGs may in some cases request a small financial contribution from the members who participate in one of their meetings, they are usually not supposed to handle significant amounts of money. In case they wish to organize some specific colloquium, seminar, etc., which involves more finance, they can apply to the Treasurer of EURO with a budget, but via the Vice President in charge of working groups; in each case of that type, efforts will be made on both sides to reach an agreement about the imputation of possible profits or losses.



the seven EURO instruments

The European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR) and The EURO Bulletin

At the first Council Meeting held on 30 January 1975, a *European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR)* was proposed. A committee (G. Kreweras, B. Roy, C.B. Tilanus, and H.-J. Zimmermann) was formed to investigate the desirability of such a venture. Following their recommendations, Council decided on 8 May 1975 that EJOR should be launched. All member societies were requested to nominate candidates for the editorial organization.

The first volume of EJOR appeared in 1977. It consisted of six issues published bi-monthly and totalling 420 pages. EJOR has ever since experienced a remarkable growth. Two volumes were published in 1980 in 12 monthly issues, and eight volumes totalling 3200 pages are envisaged for 1992 thus making EJOR the largest OR journal worldwide.

Each issue is led by an *Invited Review*. This scheme attempts to cover recent advances in about 60 areas of OR within a five-year cycle. In addition to the invited reviews and regular papers, EJOR includes book reviews, and sections dealing with OR software, etc.

Over the years, about 60 special and feature issues of EJOR have appeared. Thus, guest edited special issues have been generated by several EURO events, notably the EURO-k conferences, the Mini EURO conferences, and the EURO Summer Institutes.

Throughout its lifetime, EJOR has been published by Elsevier Science Publishers (North-Holland), Amsterdam, and edited by:

- Alan Mercer, School of Management and Organisational Sciences, University of Lancaster, Lancaster, LA1 4XY, UK;

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- C. Bernhard Tilanus, University of technology, P.O. Box 513, NL-5600 MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands;

- Hans-Jürgen Zimmermann, RWTH Aachen, Templergraben 64, D-5100 Aachen, Germany.

Until 1990, the surplus made at the EURO-k conferences was the sole source of income to EURO. Due to an agreement (valid for 10 years) between Elsevier and EURO, however, EURO has since then received royalties from Elsevier, a fixed amount per volume of EJOR published and annually corrected for inflation.

The EURO Bulletin

In order to improve communication between all working in the field of OR, it was decided in 1975 at EURO I to publish a newsletter, the EURO Bulletin. This Bulletin does not only bring relevant information about current EURO activities but includes also announcements of other conferences and meetings etc. of interest to its readers.

The first five issues were edited by J.P. Brans as a leaflet sent to the more than 10.000 members of the national OR societies in Europe. Throughout the period 1976-1991, the EURO Bulletin appeared as an appendix to EJOR. The editors (1975-1990) have been:

- 1975-1980 J.P. Brans (B)
- 1980-1985 S. Kruse Jacobsen (DK)
- 1986-1990 M. Despontin (B)

For many reasons, however, a new format was introduced in the second half of 1991. Under the editorship of

Ph. Van Asbroeck, 108 av. Sleenckx, B-1030 Brussels, Belgium,

EURO Bulletin is now being distributed four times a year through the national OR societies. In addition to announcements of various kinds it may contain, for example, a detailed report like the one referred to above about the EWGs.



the seven EURO instruments

The EURO Summer Institutes

The series of *EURO Summer Institutes (ESIs)* was launched in 1984 at the initiative of J.P. Brans. Scarcely any other EURO instrument has had such impact upon future generations of OR people. Each ESI, organized by a national society, focuses upon a particular subject. The basic idea is then that 20 young researchers, 25-35 years of age, all having an unpublished paper within the theme announced, can meet for two weeks, present their material, discuss it with others and with a handful of specially invited senior experts in the field, and finally prepare a paper to be considered for inclusion in a special issue of *EJOR*. Disregarding the senior experts, no other can participate more than once in his or her lifetime and participation in an ESI should be regarded as a considerable honour. In other words, the main objective of an ESI is to give a limited number of carefully selected

representatives of the next generation a unique opportunity for establishing a personal network and for addressing an international audience and thus to create new research groups around the topic chosen.

EURO solicits regularly proposals from the national societies to host an ESI. Proposals are then reviewed by the EURO Council. If approved, EURO appoints a Scientific Committee and provides a substantial contribution towards all expenses (room and board, social programme, etc.) "on location"; the rest is supposed to be provided by the host society itself or by gifts solicited by the host society. The travel costs, however, must be covered by the participants themselves unless support can be obtained, for example from their national societies.

Each ESI is announced in the *EURO Bulletin*, *OR/MS TODAY*, and similar newsletters or journals. Applications are chan-

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EURO Summer Institutes

ESI k	YEAR MONTH	LOCATION COUNTRY	SUBJECT
ESI I	1984 JULY -	BRUSSELS BELGIUM	LOCATION ANALYSIS
ESI II	1985 JULY -	BRUSSELS BELGIUM	MULTICRITERIA ANALYSIS
ESI III	1986 JUNE	CANTERBURY UNITED KINGDOM	DECISION-MAKING IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD
ESI IV	1987 JUNE	TURKU FINLAND	SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
ESI V	1988 JUNE	EINDHOVEN NETHERLANDS	PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT
ESI VI	1989 JUNE	FUNCHAL PORTUGAL	DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS
ESI VII	1991 MAY -	CETRARO ITALY	URBAN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT
ESI VIII	1992 JUNE	ROSERSBERG SWEDEN	RISK MANAGEMENT IN COMPLEX PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORT- ACTION SYSTEMS
ESI IX	1993 JULY-	MANNHEIM GERMANY	HIERARCHICAL PLANNING

EURO Summer Institutes (continued from page 21)

nelled to EURO via the national societies and the final selection of participants is made by the Scientific Committee on the basis of full submitted papers.

As part of the ESIs held to date, a special issue of EJOR has materialized:

ESI k	Editor(s)	Special issue of EJOR
ESI I	J.P. Brans	EJOR 85/06, 1985
ESI II	J.P. Brans, M. Despontin, Ph. Vincke	EJOR 86/07, 1986
ESI III	V. Belton	EJOR 87/14, 1987
ESI IV	J. Krarup, P.M. Pruzan	EJOR 37/1, 1988
ESI V	A.G. de Kok, J.K. Lenstra, J. Wijngaard, W.H.M. Zijm	EJOR 45/1, 1990
ESI VI	T. Jelassi, J. Paixão	EJOR 55/3, 1991
ESI VII	L. Bianco, M. Bielli, M. Speranza	to appear

It was with deep regrets that 1990, for various reasons, happened to become a non-ESI year. Bids for coming ESIs, however, can be expected from France, Germany, UK, and possibly also from others. There are thus good reasons to believe that this instrument deservedly will be kept alive in the years to come. Guidance as to how a proposal of hosting an ESI should be prepared can be found in a document "ORGANIZATION OF A EURO SUMMER INSTITUTE" available on request from the Secretary of EURO.

7 EURO instruments

The Mini EURO Conferences

In addition to the large EURO-k conferences considering all possible OR-subjects, and as a supplement to the established EURO Working Groups, a series of so-called *MINI EURO Conferences (MEC)* was initiated in 1984. The objective is to assemble a limited number of specialists around a specific theme. Up to now, four such meetings have been organized:

MEC K	YEAR MONTH	LOCATION COUNTRY	SUBJECT
MEC I	1984 JUNE	BRUGES BELGIUM	MANGEMENT AND MODELLING OF DYNAMIC SYSTEMS
MEC II	1985 NOV	LUNTEREN NETHERLANDS	EXPERTS SYSTEMS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DSS. AN OR INTERFACE TO MANAGEMENT
MEC III	1987 JUNE	HERCEG NOVI YUGOSLAVIA	OPERATIONS RESEARCH METHODS IN TRANSPORT PLANNING AND TRAFFIC CONTROL
MEC IV	1988 NOV	WARWICK UNITED KINGDOM	VISUAL INTERACTIVE MODELLING

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Mini EURO Conferences

Two special issues have resulted:

MEC k	Editor(s)	Special issue of EJOR
MEC I	P.M. Allen	EJOR 86/04, 1986
MEC IV	V. Belton, M. Elder	EJOR 54/3, 1991

Proposals for organizing a MINI EURO conference can be made by any member of any member society of EURO. A specific document titled "ORGANIZATION OF A MINI EURO CONFERENCE2 can be obtained on request from the Secretary of EURO for that purpose.

It should be stressed that MINI EURO conferences should be open to specialists representing the entire OR community and not only address the organizer's "domestic market".

If a proposal is approved by the Executive Committee, EURO will grant a loan to the organizers, sufficient to cover printing and distribution of a Call for Papers to all members of the national societies and an Invitation Programme to all those interested.

7 EURO instruments

The EURO Gold Medal

The *EURO Gold Medal*, the highest distinction within OR in Europe, can be conferred on a prominent person or a prominent institution, either for a remarkable role played in the promotion of OR in Europe or for an outstanding contribution to the OR science. The Award, which officially is bestowed in conjunction with a EURO-k conference, is not only a significant honour for the Laureate personally but also important for the general promotion of OR as leading scholars and their contributions are made better known via the Medal.

Nominations of candidates are solicited from the national societies in the year prior to each EURO-k conference. To emphasize the *European* flavour of the Award, all societies are strongly urged not to propose a candidate from their own country. The nominations are then passed to a special jury of "Five Wise Persons" appointed by EURO.

The jury's decision is publicly announced at the Opening Session of the next EURO-k conference. Upon the chairman of the jury's motivation of the jury's choice, the Laureate will then give an invited lecture. Laureates of the EURO Gold Medal are invited to all future EURO-k conferences without payment of the registration fee.

Eight EURO Gold Medals have been conferred so far:

EURO-k, year	Laureate(s)
EURO VII, 1985	H.-J. Zimmermann (D)
EURO VIII, 1986	P. Hansen (USA), A.H.G. Rinnooy Kan (NL)
EURO IX, 1988	E.M.L. Beale (GB) (posthumously)
EURO X, 1989	C. Berge (F)
EURO XI, 1991	J. Blasewicz (PL), R. Slowinski (PL), J. Weglarz (PL)
EURO XII, 1992	B. Roy (F)

cooperation with other bodies

Cooperation with other Bodies

IFORS

The statutes of IFORS have since 1987 included a paragraph stating that "... to further cooperation between the Regional Groupings and IFORS, each such Regional Grouping (..) shall have the right to elect one Vice-President."

J.P. Brans was appointed EURO Vice-President of IFORS for the three year period 1989-1991. Realizing that the basic IFORS instrument for promoting OR is the triennial conferences and hence that IFORS is only visible in some specific part of the world (as defined by the Regional Groupings) every 12 years on the average, J.P. Brans suggested that IFORS should organize each year (possibly with the exception of those where a triennial conference is being held) at least one so-called *Specialized Conference* on rich and promising OR topics: "The requested features are: particu-

larly attractive for practitioners, new technologies involved, low organizational costs, audiences of 200 to 300 specialists, no proceedings but special issues in prominent journals, attractive locations, reasonable fees allowin to raise some additional money for IFORS, ...".

Following his own concept, the first conference in this new series, *IFORS SPC-1: Decision Support Systems*, was organized by J.P. Brans in Bruges, Belgium, in 1991. A selection of the papers presented has recently been made available in a special issue of *European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR 61, Nos. 1-2, 1992)*, guest-edited by J.P. Brans and T. Jelassi. *Transition to Advanced Market Economies* was the very timely subject of *IFORS SPC-2* (Warsaw, 1992) organized by A. Straszak. *IFORS SPC-3: Global Competition and Strategic Decision Support* is in

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Cooperation with other Bodies

the hands of W.P. Pierskalla, Immediate Past President of IFORS, and will be held in the U.S., probably in September 1993.

J.P. Brans was succeeded in 1992 as EURO Vice-President of IFORS by J. Krarup (1992-1994).

ALIO/EURO

ALIO (Asociacion Latino-Ibero-Americana de Investigacion Operativa) is one of the four regional groupings of IFORS. An *ALIO-EURO Workshop on Practical Combinatorial Optimization* was organized in Rio de Janeiro in 1989, by R.D. Galvão (Brazil) and S.K. Jacobsen (DK). A special issue of EJOR has appeared as EJOR 58,2 (1992).

Proposals for similar ventures are hereby invited.

WISINET

Worldwide International Systems Institutions Network (WISINET) has recently published a booklet in which EURO and IFORS are among the ten institutions listed. The aims of the booklet are:

- 1) to help the reader get better acquainted with the activities of the different international systems and cybernetics organizations and journals, and through this;
- 2) to promote the further development of cooperation among the members of these communities.

Sponsorships

EURO is from time to time invited to sponsor various meetings. Such sponsorships do not include any financial commitments but should be viewed merely as moral support.





**PROMOTING IN EUROPE THE INTERCHANGE OF PRACTICE
IN OPERATIONAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT SCIENCES AND SYSTEMS**

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