

Bulletin

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Special issue devoted to the EURO Working Groups
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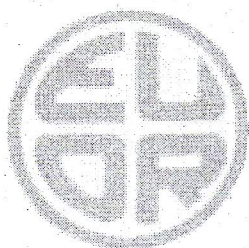
Edited by Rainer Burkard

EURO Working Groups: a contact forum for OR researchers

The European OR research community has a long tradition in organising European working groups on many aspects of Operations Research. The first EURO Working Groups date back to 1975 and are still active. In the meantime new fields of OR became "hot issues" and got their own working group. In 2000 we see the foundation of three new groups: at the EURO Conference in Budapest the Working Group on Human Centered Processes (HCP) started its activities. Also in Budapest working groups on experimental economics and on metaheuristics were discussed. These two working groups E-CUBE (European Working Group on Experimental Economics) and EU-ME (European Chapter on Metaheuristics) took up their activities with the beginning of the year 2001.

Presently, EURO hosts 22 active groups. (The working group on Transportation is currently inactive.)

These facts reveal that the original initiative to install such an organisational framework in the context of EURO has proven to be very successful. The major reasons of the success are being found on the one hand in the presence of the EURO Working Group co-ordinators. By their personal effort to motivate and organise the activities of their respective groups, they contribute in an essential way to the organisation of special sessions in conferences and/or to the publication of OR relevant papers in special issues of the European Journal of Operational Research or other OR-related journals. On the other hand, individual members of an EURO WG may find an opportunity to meet on a regular basis. At specialized Working Group meetings they may exchange ideas, experiences and ongoing research results before an actual publication with colleagues interested in the same OR topic. So a fruitful European research partnership is emerging.



Why not join a EURO Working Group?

The active EWGS

At the moment, EURO has 23 Working Groups (in the order of establishment, with the year in brackets):

- 1 MCAD, Multicriteria aid for decisions (1975)
- 2 EUROFUSE, Fuzzy sets (1975)
- 3 ORAHS, OR applied to health services (1975)
- 4 EUROBANKING, Special interest group in banking (1975)
- 5 EWGLA, Locational analysis (1984)
- 6 ESIGMA, Special interest group on multicriteria analysis (1985)
- 7 Project management and scheduling (1986)
- 8 Financial modelling (1986)
- 9 ECCO, European Chapter on combinatorial optimisation (1987)
- 10 DSS, Decision Support Systems (1989)
- 11 Transportation (1991) (currently inactive)
- 12 Group decision and negotiation support (1995)
- 13 MODEST, Modelling of economies and societies in transition (1995)
- 14 WATT, Working group on automated time tabling (1996)
- 15 Environmental planning (1996)
- 16 PAREO, Parallel processing in operation research (1997)
- 17 DEAPM, Data envelopment analysis and performance measurement (1997)
- 18 DDM, Distributed Decision Making (1997).
(formerly, HOP, Hierarchical organisational planning)
- 19 Methodology for Complex Societal Problems (1998)
- 20 EUROPT, EURO Continuous Optimisation Working Group (1999)
- 21 HCP, Human Centered Processes (2000)
- 22 E-CUBE, Experimental Economics (2001)
- 23 EU-ME, European Chapter on Metaheuristics (2001)

Detailed information on all EURO Working Groups can be found on the following pages and on the Internet address:

<http://www.euro-online.org/text/wg.html>

Individual members of a EURO Working Group can benefit from it in several ways: usually the working groups organise regular meetings which provide an excellent means to meet colleagues working in the same field, to exchange ideas and research results and to find new scientific partners. Due to the efforts of the working group coordinators these meetings take place in a friendly and stimulating atmosphere. By organising special issues of the European Journal of Operational Research or other OR-related journals working group members get a better and more effective access to publicise their results. The cooperation in the groups is smooth and the personal relations of the group members can be described best with the word friendship.

For the groups the fact of being a EURO Working Group means organisational and financial support by EURO. Firms can find an ideal partner from EWGs when they wish to cooperate with researchers from universities or other research establishments. With these partners companies can form a research project for which additional financing may be obtained by one of the research programs of the European Union. (Members planning such a project and support are advised to contact the secretariat of EURO.)

For EURO the EWGs mean continuity in research. The EWGs are a very important part of EURO and the work of the co-ordinators and the members of the groups is very well respected and appreciated. If you want to get more information about a EURO Working Group or to join one, contact either the co-ordinator of the group or the second vice-president of EURO.

How to create a EURO Working Group?

If a group of researchers and/or practitioners cannot find an established EURO working group with the OR-topic that interests them, it is possible to submit to the EURO Executive Committee a proposal for a new EURO Working Group.

There are certain requirements that such a group has to meet:

1. As far as possible the EWGs should bring together people with different professional backgrounds, i.e. researchers, practitioners and OR educators.
2. The group should ideally have a European membership. This requirement is met if at least 4, but possibly 5 or 6 European countries are represented at each meeting and if the meetings do not take place too often in the same country.
3. Any group should be open to any individual member of any EURO member society. In some exceptional case also persons that are not members of a national OR society can be accepted.

Becoming a EURO Working Group brings duties and advantages to the group. One of the duties is that the co-ordinators of the EWGs have to report yearly on their activities to EURO. (See the reports below.) One of the advantages is that the group obtains organisational support from EURO. EURO K conferences provide time and space for the meetings of the EWGs and the meetings can be set within the framework of the conference itself.

Nowadays several EWGs organise their meetings on the day(s) before a EURO K conference starts, or on the day after it finishes. EURO also supports EWGs by offering an opportunity to use the EURO Bulletin as the group's newsletter. Another advantage is that an EWG obtains financial support from EURO. Financial support can be granted e.g. for administrative costs in the establishment of a new EWG and occasionally for meeting expenses, such as those of guest speakers or for some specific colloquium or seminar. More details on the organisation and activities of EWGs are stated in the charter of the EURO Working Groups; see Internet: <http://www.euro-online.org/text/c&p.html>

More information about Working Groups can be obtained from EURO. The EURO-officer in charge of Working Groups is the second vice-president:

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MCAD, Multicriteria aid for decisions

Co-ordinator

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Purpose and History

Multicriteria decision aid is an important branch of Operational Research. Beyond the exchanges and meetings which already exist by means of the international conferences and the publications in the scientific journals, the objectives of the working group are the following:

- to contribute to the development, at a European level, of an original way of thinking in the field of multicriteria decision aiding;
- to allow each member of the group to present to others methodological, theoretical or applied results, to submit the own work and thoughts to the critical discussion of the group and also to facilitate some collaborations;
- to develop multicriteria aid for decisions by facilitating contacts with every people interested in the subject and by stimulating continuity and progress in exchanges and work;
- to keep the group alive and open by means of bi-annual meetings which should not be mini-conferences but real meetings favourable to exchanges and to the emergence of new ideas.

The working group was created at EURO I (Brussels, 1975). Since that time, two meetings are held each year, in Spring and Autumn. The 52 meetings have been organised by 15 different countries.

Number of Members

Approximately 365. In 1975, the group consisted of 29 members from 5 different countries. Among the present members, 42 were already members in 1980. Currently, 23 countries are represented. During these last years, each meeting attracted 5 to 20 new members (with an average of 13). These figures show how lively the group is in a biological sense of the term.

Newsletter

2 issues per year.
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 URL: <http://www.inescc.pt/~ewgmcda>.

Activities 2000

The 51st meeting

Madrid, Spain, March 30-31, 2000. Organizers: Gabriela Fernández-Barberis (Universidad San Pablo), Javier Montero (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), Carmen Escribano Ródenas (Universidad San Pablo), Jacinto González-Pachón (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid).

The 52nd meeting

Vilnius, Lithuania, October 5-6, 2000. Organizers: H. Pra-nevichius (Baltic Operations Research Society), L. Sakalauskas (Institute of Mathematics and Informatics), E. Zavadskas (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University), A. Kaklauskas (Vilnius Gediminas Technical University).

Future Planned Activities

The 53rd meeting

Athens, Greece, March 29-30, 2001. Organizer: Danae Diakoulaki (National Technical University of Athens).

The 54th meeting

Bruxelles, Belgium, October 4-5, 2001. Organizer: Philippe Vincke (Université Libre de Bruxelles).

EUROFUSE, Fuzzy sets

Co-ordinators

EUROFUSE has two coordinators, expressing the desire to have a representation from both Western and Eastern Europe. Either one of them can be contacted concerning membership, proposals for activities, etc.

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Web site

A web site has been installed at the URL:
<http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~bdebaets/eurofuse.html>

Purpose and History

Although fuzzy logic and fuzzy set theory cover much wider subjects than operational research itself, it has nevertheless several important connections with OR (for instance, in the fields of mathematical programming, preference modelling and its applications in multicriteria decision aid, representation and exploitation of non-stochastic types of uncertainty, etc.). The purpose of EUROFUSE is to communicate and to promote the knowledge of the theory of fuzzy sets and related areas and their applications.

The working group was created at EURO I (Brussels, 1975). In 1985, the group constituted itself as

the European Chapter of IFSA, the International Fuzzy Systems Association. From 1975 to 1979 it was run by H.-J. Zimmermann, from 1979 until 1986 by C. Carlsson, from 1986 until 1993 by M. Roubens, and since then by H. Hellendoorn. It has been more or less inactive since its last meeting in Hungary (Visegrad, 1990). In the beginning of 1998, two new coordinators were appointed and the working group was brought back to life under the name EUROFUSE. At the same time, as IFSA is no longer composed of chapters, EUROFUSE no longer represents the European Chapter of it. In 1999, EUROFUSE has joined EUSFLAT, the European Society for Fuzzy Logic and Technology, as the Working Group on Operations Research.

Number of Members

EUROFUSE currently has 198 members from 39 countries.

Activities 2000

Events

- **Fifth EUROFUSE Meeting:** EUROFUSE Workshop on Scheduling and Planning (Mons, Belgium, March 31-April 1, 2000). (about 25 participants)
Local organization: M. Pirlot and Ph. Fortemps.
- Third Internat. Workshop on Preferences and Decisions (Trento, Italy, Jun 8-10, 2000): one day dedicated to the publication of the book mentioned below.
- Invited sessions at the Eight Internat. Conference on Information Processing and Management of Uncertainty in Knowledge-Based Systems (Madrid, Spain, Jul 3-7, 2000).
- EUROFUSE sessions at the 17th European Conference on Operational Research (Budapest, Hungary, July 16-19, 2000).

Publications

- "Preferences and Decisions under Incomplete Knowledge" (J. Fodor, B. De Baets and P. Perny, eds.), Series: Studies in Fuzziness and Soft Computing 51, Physica-Verlag, 2000, 224 p. (ISBN 3-7908-1303-6)
- Special Issue "Fuzzy Sets in Scheduling and Planning" of the European J. Oper. Res (in preparation).

Activities 2001

Events

■ **Sixth EUROFUSE Meeting:** EUROFUSE Workshop on Preference Modelling and Applications (Granada, Spain, April 25-28, 2001). (about 45 participants expected)

Local organization: F. Herrera and E. Herrera-Viedma.

Publications

■ Special Issue of Fuzzy Sets and Systems dedicated to the Sixth EUROFUSE Meeting.

ORAHS, OR applied to health services

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Purpose and History

The EURO Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services (ORAHS) represents a network of persons involved in the application of systematic, quantitative analysis in support of planning and management in the health services sector.

ORAHS was formed in 1975 as part of a programme for developing special interest groups within the European branch (EURO) of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS).

Membership is open to persons with an interest in applying systematic, quantitative analysis to planning and management problems in the health area.

Operational Research (OR) is systematic, quantitative analysis in support of rational policy and decision making. This umbrella concept of operational research covers many analytic approaches and methods, such as simulation modelling, mathematical programming, decision analysis, cost effectiveness analysis, development of indicators, and methods for forecasting, monitoring and evaluation. The emphasis in ORAHS lies not on the techniques as such but on applying these to health care.

The objectives of the group are:

- communication of ideas, knowledge and experience concerning the application of OR approaches and methods to problems in the health services area;
- co-operation on the form of mutual assistance between members or on joint projects;
- inspiration with regard to approaches and attitudes in the field of applied OR.

Number of Members

The group has at present 112 members from 22 countries, mainly in Europe but also with 17 from overseas.

Activities

The group meets every year, each summer, for one week in a different European host country. In 1998

the group met in Rome, and the proceedings (edited by Vanda de Angelis, Nicoletta Ricciardi and Giovanni Storchi) have been published (ISBN 981-02-4154-2). In 1999 the meeting was held in Valmiera, Latvia, and the proceedings (edited by Eriks Mikitis) have been published (ISBN 9984-19146X). The annual meeting in 2000 was held in Glasgow (organized by Jackie Riley); the proceedings of this meeting are in the process of being published. In 2000 an extra jubileum meeting was held in Perth, Australia (organized by the first chairman of the working group Duncan Boldy).

Meetings are open to anyone with a quantitative background and an interest in the subject area, although numbers may be restricted to ensure that open debate is practicable. During the meetings, papers are presented and discussed, computer applications demonstrated and decisions regarding group affairs prepared and taken.

Associated with the meetings, study tours to local healthcare facilities are arranged with opportunities to discuss planning and management problems with local health services managers. A well-developed social programme gives good opportunities for informal discussions and friendly get-togethers with members and accompanying families.

Papers presented at the meetings cover a range of different projects, approaches and methods. Studies at strategic, operational and tactical levels have included the planning of health services systems, resource allocation, investment analysis, manpower planning, admission planning, staff scheduling, performance measurement, quality assurance and the use of information systems to improve decision support. The proceedings of the meetings are often produced as a publication. Besides the annual meetings, the Working Group also engages in different joint projects and activities.

To facilitate contacts and co-operation, a register of members is kept, which gives addresses, telephone and fax numbers. See the website.

Some years ago the Working Group through its then chairman Duncan Boldy, produced a 'state of the art' book on the subject of 'OR applied to Health Services' (Croom Helm 1980). A recent book entitled 'Enhancing Health Services Management' (Open University Press, 1997) has been edited by two members of the group, Steve Cropper and Paul Forte, and many of the chapters were contributed by other members. Feature issues of EJOR were produced in 1987 and 1998. The Working Group has also jointly produced a series of management courses and seminars in different countries on decision support for managing change in Health Care.

Future Planned Activities

In 2001 the annual meeting of the working Group will take place in Vienna, Austria, from July 30th to August 3rd, University of Vienna. Marion Rauner (marion.rauner@univie.ac.at) is the organizer. The theme of the meeting is 'Prevention and Health Promotion in the 21st Century: Planning for scarce resources' (conference website: <http://www.bwl.univie.ac.at/bwl/inno/home.htm>).

Preliminary arrangements for meetings have been made for 2002 (Brazil, organizer: Mario Jorge Ferreira de Oliveira, mario_jo@pep.ufrj.br).

More information on these future activities but also on the past meetings can be found via the website of the Working Group: <http://www.soton.ac.uk/~orahsweb>

EUROBANKING, Special interest group in banking

Co-ordinator

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Purpose and History

The group was set up in 1975 in Brussels as The European Working Group on Operational Research in Banking at the EURO 1 Conference sponsored by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS). Since renamed Eurobanking, the group has arranged 28 meetings at which over 700 papers have been presented and discussed.

The purpose of the group is to provide a forum for professionals in European banks to exchange and discuss ideas about the techniques, experience, philosophy and application of operational research and other quantitative and analytic techniques to bank management. It is also a forum for promoting wider understanding of these approaches amongst management, and meetings also include sessions devoted to broader strategic issues facing European banks at which distinguished external speakers are invited to present their views.

Number of members

Over 100.

Activities

The group holds an annual meeting which is limited in size to a maximum of about 75 participants to ensure active participation and involvement of those attending. Some 35 papers are presented over three days in a number of workshops.

The group organizes itself on a voluntary basis through a network of National Coordinators, one for each of the 22 countries currently represented in the group. A different country hosts the meeting each year, and the National Coordinator of the host country normally acts as the Chairman. There is no formal central resource, though one of the members is acting as Secretary General to the group for a number of years to provide a focal point and continuity. National Coordinators meet with the Chairman and the Secretary General twice a year as the Executive Committee. The addresses of the National Coordinators are listed in www.clubi.ie/eurobank.

Future Planned Activities

The next Eurobanking meeting will be held in Ennis, Ireland, May 13-16, 2001.

The Chairman is:

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The programme of the meeting includes workshops on E-Banking, Performance Management, Planning & Control; Retail, Corporate & Wholesale Banking; Strategy, Management and Marketing; Credit Risk Management, Operational Risk Management, and Market Risk Management.

EWGLA, Locational analysis

Co-ordinator

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Past co-ordinators

P. Hansen and J.-F. Thisse, 1984-1985, C. Michelot,
1985-1994

Website

<http://www.vub.ac.be/EWGLA>

Purpose and History

EWGLA is a Working Group devoted to Locational Analysis within EURO, the European Association of National Operations Research Societies. It was born during the first EURO Summer Institute, held at Brussels, July/August 1984, devoted to the subject of Location Theory. The main aim of starting up the Working Group was to provide a network of people working together in the field of Locational Analysis and to keep continuity in the exchanges between the Summer Institute's participants. Since that time the group has known important growth, in particular thanks to the Twelfth EURO Summer Institute, again devoted to Location theory, and held at Puerto de La Cruz, Tenerife, Spain, June 1995. The scope and purpose of the group have strongly evolved. Friendship among its members continues however to play an important role.

The subjects of interest to the group are of many kinds, centering on the optimal choice of locations for one or more objects (usually called facilities), within any framework (the classical settings being discrete, network and planar). Many other fields have direct connections, either by subject or as techniques, such as transportation and routing problems, statistics, cluster analysis, mathematical (linear, integer, non-linear, convex, global, ...) pro-

gramming, multicriteria analysis, approximation theory, computational geometry, ...

EWGLA has become a vehicle of communication between all persons interested in Location and related topics in Operations Research in Europe and abroad. The major goal is to stimulate the exchange of information and collaboration in research and applications, and to promote the ideas and methods developed within the field. Several instruments are used to this end.

The group holds yearly meetings organised by one of its members (see details below). Anyone interested in presenting their work, participating in the discussions, or more simply learning and/or consulting about subjects related with locational analysis may join the group and its meetings; their participation will be greatly appreciated. Either theoretical contributions (concepts, methods, ...) or applied research, presentation of software, are welcome. Communications, discussions or surveys on new applications, open problems, connections between the field of location theory and related areas are of interest. These meetings have always been an enjoyable and very friendly come together of a relatively small group stimulated by their common centre of interest. Refereed proceedings of each meeting are published, and provided free of charge to the participants.

Meetings

- | | |
|--------|---|
| EWGLA1 | Nov. 27-28, 1985, Dijon, France.
Org. R. Durier and C. Michelot |
| EWGLA2 | Oct 9-10, 1986, Herceg-Novi,
Yugoslavia, Org. N. Mladenovic
and J. Petric |
| EWGLA3 | Sept 21-24, 1988, Sevilla, Spain.
Org. B. Pelegrin and F. R. Fernandez |
| EWGLA4 | July 3-6, 1989, Chios, Greece.
Org. B. Boffey and J. Karkazis |
| EWGLA5 | Sept 3-6, 1990, Namur, Belgium.
Org. F. Orban-Ferauge and J. P. Rasson |
| EWGLA6 | April 20-25, 1992, Puerto de la Cruz,
Spain. Org. J. M. Moreno |
| EWGLA7 | May 9-11, 1994, Brussels, Belgium.
Org. F. Plastria |

- EWGLA8 Sept 24-28, 1995, Lambrecht, Germany. Org. H. Hamacher and S. Nickel
- EWGLA9 Sept 5-8, 1996, Birmingham, United Kingdom. Org. S. Said and B. Boffey
- EWGLA10 Feb 10-13, 1998, Murcia, Spain. Org. B. Pelegrin
- EWGLA11 ISOLDE VIII (triannual International Symposium On Locational Decisions), June 23-29 1999, Coimbra/Estoril (Portugal). Org. J. Coutinho-Rodrigues and A. Antunes
- EWGLA12 Dec 14- 17, 2000, Barcelona, Spain, Org. D. Serra.

Number of Members

By the end of 2000: 137 (see the full list on our website).

Communication

Communication within the group is achieved in two main ways: the website and the list-server.

The first contact-point is the website, started as a means of promotion, communication and an open entry point to anyone interested in the topic of location. EWGLA is public on the World Wide Web at URL: <http://www.vub.ac.be/EWGLA/homepage.htm>

The aim is to make this homepage into a tool for first contact and/or entry in the field, for researchers working in the field, and last but not least for anyone in need of information on the field of location analysis in view of applications. Anyone interested in detailed and/or up to date information around Locational Analysis and EWGLA is advised to check this site.

A request form to become a member to EWGLA is available on this site, or directly from the group's coordinator.

The second and more direct way of communicating between the members was established through the ewgla list-server. Any message sent to ewgla.dee@llis.upf.es by a member of this e-mail discussion group is bounced to all other members. Regularly messages are sent around concerning conferences, new publications and other information related to and/or of interest to the members.

Major Publications

- III Meeting EURO Working Group on Locational Analysis, 226p. editor: B. Pelegrin, Publicaciones de la Universidad de Sevilla, 1988, ISBN: 84-7405-419-2.
- EWGLA4 - Proceedings, 249 p. editors: J. Karkazis and T.B. Boffey. Studies in Locational Analysis, Vol 1.
- Proceedings of Meeting V of the EURO Working Group on Locational Analysis, 203p. editors: F. Orban-Ferauge and J.P. Rasyon. Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de La Paix, Namur, 1990.
- Proceedings of VI meeting of the EURO Working Group on Locational Analysis, 215p. editor: J. A. Moreno-Perez. Universidad de La Laguna, Departamento de Estadística, Investigación Operativa y Computación, Serie Informes no. 34, 1992. ISBN 84-7756-369-1.
- EWGLA 7 Proceedings, 225 p. editor: F. Plastra. Studies in Locational Analysis, Vol 7, 1994.
- Recent Advances in Locational Analysis, 176 p. editors: H. Hamacher, K. Klamroth and S. Nickel, sponsored by EURO. Studies in Locational Analysis, Issue 10, 1996.
- EWGLA9 Proceedings, 241 p. editors: B. Boffey and S. Said, sponsored by EURO, Studies in Locational Analysis, Issue 11, 1997.
- **Proceedings EWGLA 10**
The proceedings of the EWGLA 10 meeting in Murcia, sponsored by EURO, are available as Issue 14 of the Studies in Locational Analysis, June 2000, 291p.
Check the website <http://www.vub.ac.be/EWGLA/STUDIES/main.html>.

Activities 2000:

EWGLA 12

Report of D. Serra, organising chairman

The XII EURO Working Group in Locational Analysis took place in Barcelona from December 14 to 17, 2000. The meeting was organized by Daniel Serra and hosted by the Institut d'Estudis Territorials (Institute for Regional Studies) and the Department of Economics and Business, both from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra.

More than 50 papers were presented at the meeting related to Location Theory and modeling. Parallel sessions were avoided in order to have maximum exposure and discussion.

The attendants came from heterogeneous background: economists, mathematicians, engineers, geographers, operations researchers, and even a philosopher! Several countries were represented: Spain (of course), Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Japan, UK, Canada, USA, Chile, Russia, Portugal, Greece, Turkey and Israel among others.

During the meeting it was decided that the next one will take place in Greece, and Yorgos Photis will take care of the organization. Good luck Yorgos!

Future Planned Activities

The XIII EURO Working Group in Locational Analysis will take place in Volos, Thessaly, Greece from November 28, 2001 to December 2, 2001.

The meeting will be organised by Yorgos Photis under the auspices of the European Working Group on Locational Analysis and will be hosted and supported (... so far) by the University of Thessaly.

Check its site <http://www.ntua.gr/survey/geography/ewglaXIII.htm>

ESIGMA, Special interest group on multicriteria analysis

Co-ordinator

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Purpose and History

At the end of the Second EURO Summer Institute (Brussels, July 1985) devoted to Multicriteria Analysis, the participants expressed a strong interest in continuing to work together. This was the result of three weeks of fruitful and friendly collaboration. So, the idea was born to create a new working group on Multicriteria Analysis. Up to 1997, the working group met on either the day before, or the day after, the annual EURO Conference. In years in which there was no EURO meeting (i.e. when the triennial IFORS conference takes place), another time was chosen, often in association with our sister working group on Multicriteria Aid for Decisions. At the 1997 working group meeting, it was agreed to integrate meetings of ESIGMA as special streams within the EURO meetings, and meetings in this format were held during the 1998

EURO conference (Brussels) and the 2000 conference (Budapest). There was no EURO meeting during 1999 in view of the IFORS meeting in Beijing. During the Budapest meeting it was, however, agreed to revert partially to the idea of having some separate activity prior to the main EURO meeting, and this will be implemented from 2001.

One of the characteristic features of the ESIGMA meetings is the use of "oriented discussion sessions", rather than the regular paper presentation format. An invited speaker makes a presentation on a (preferably controversial) topic, after which a few invited discussants introduce areas of debate, controversy or discussion. The floor is then open to all delegates to share their views or to pose key questions. It is usual for the discussion to continue for longer than the original presentations.

The following is the full list of meetings of ESIGMA and the respective organisers:

- 1st Lisbon, Portugal, September 19-20, 1986
(Carlos A. Bana e Costa)
- 2nd Brussels, Belgium, March 25-26, 1987
(Philippe Vincke)
- 3rd Paris, France, July 6-8, 1988
(Denis Bouyssou and Daniel Vanderpooten)

- 4th Belgrade, Yugoslavia, June 25-26, 1989
(Serafim Opricovic, Djura Kutlace, and Olga Memedovic)
- 5th Athens, Greece, June 24, 1990
(Denis Yannacopoulos)
- 6th Aachen, Germany, July 16, 1991
(Brigitte Werners)
- 7th Helsinki, Finland, June 28, 1992
(Pekka Salminen and Mari Poeyhoenen)
- 8th Lisbon, Portugal, July 11, 1993
(Carlos A. Bana e Costa and Jose F. Rafael)
- 9th Glasgow, Scotland, July 23, 1994
(Valerie Belton)
- 10th Jerusalem, Israel, July 7, 1995
(Zilla Sinuany-Stern and Lea Friedman)
- 11th Brussels, Belgium, October 1996
(Philippe Vincke).
- 12th Barcelona, Spain, July 1997
(Theo Stewart)
- 13th Brussels, Belgium (as a stream of sessions
in EURO XVI), July 1998 (Theo Stewart)
- 14th Budapest, Hungary (as a stream of sessions
in EURO XVII), July 2000 (Theo Stewart)

Number of Members

The membership list is being reconstituted. There are currently about 110 members on the new list.

Newsletter

One or two issues per year plus some e-mail circulars.

Activities 2000

The ESIGMA group was allocated four sessions during the EURO XVII conference in Budapest. These were divided into two "oriented discussion sessions", in each of which the main presenter used one conference session to open the discussion with a 90-minute tutorial, followed during the next conference session by discussions led by a few nominated discussants. Details of the tutorial presentations are given below. As these sessions took place during the main conference times, there were a number of competing themes, including other MCDA sessions, so that attendance was lower than might have been hoped (about 20-30 in each case). Nevertheless, the discussions were lively, demonstrating again the need for the oriented discussion format of the ESIGMA working group.

Decision Conferencing and Requisite Modelling

Presenter: Larry Phillips, London School of Economics and Facilitations, Ltd., London

Abstract:

Decision conferencing is a series of intensive working meetings whose unique feature is the creation, on-the-spot, of a multi-attribute decision analytic model that provides participants with a 'tool for thinking'. The model is 'requisite' in the sense that it is just sufficient in form and content to help participants resolve the issues at hand. Requisite decision models help groups to construct a shared understanding of the issues and achieve a sense of common purpose, and the decision conferencing process is designed with those objectives in mind. Research shows that decision conferences are consistently rated by participants as more effective than ordinary meetings. This paper covers the theory and practice of decision conferencing and requisite modelling. It touches on aspects of facilitation, group processes and research on decision conferencing. Finally, decision conferencing is contrasted with the more traditional approach to decision analysis which emphasises better decisions.

Evaluation and Decision Models

Presenters: Alexis Tsoukias and Denis Bouyssou, LAMSADE, Paris

Abstract:

We all (hopefully) vote. We have been often graded as students and several among us grade their students. We evaluate pollution, economy, sports and projects. We estimate costs and benefits. We use multi-criteria methods, decision trees, probabilities and utilities in our decision support activities. What common grounds have all these concepts? They are all used (more or less consciously) as formal models in evaluation and decision situations. But do they make always sense? Are they always appropriate? Are there any drawbacks? Where and when are they useful? This presentation tries to introduce the elements on which you may find an answer. To give the common issues under which different models can be discussed. To help in understanding what exactly is manipulated in these models.

Future Planned Activities

An ESIGMA session is planned for Sunday July 8 in Rotterdam, just prior to the start of the EURO conference. It is hoped that the formal meeting will be preceded by a dinner together on the Saturday evening. Full details have yet to be finalized, but the plans are to include two oriented discussions on the following themes:

1. MCDA and finance: Confirmed presenters are Jaap Spronk of The Netherlands and Joao Soares of Portugal;
2. Hierarchical structures in MCDM: Confirmed presenters are Diederik Wijnmalen, Jacques van den Dool and Freerk Lootsma of The Netherlands.

Other participants will be welcome. For updated details, please contact Theo Stewart on tjstew@maths.uct.ac.za. Two invited paper sessions on MCDA have also been organized through ESIGMA. Speakers and paper titles are as follows:

- T. J. Stewart: Treatment of Risk and Uncertainty in MCDA Models
- S. Bernd: MCA - A Tool for Policy Evaluation? - Chances, Risks and Pitfalls
- C. M. Brugha: Comparing Utility and Benchmarking MCDM Approaches: Some Empirical Results
- W. K.M. Brauers: Marketing with Multiple Objectives for Consumer Goods, with Applications for A Department Store
- L. Scott: A Soft Systems Modelling Approach to Poverty Assessment in the Context of Local Government
- S. Radjef, M.O. Bibi and M.S. Radjef: Test for Non-basic Variable Efficiency in Multiple Objective Linear Programs with Bounded Variables
- S. Radjef, M.O. Bibi and M.S. Radjef: Finding An Initial Efficient Extreme Point for Multiple Objective Linear Programs with Bounded Variables

Project Management and Scheduling

Co-ordinator

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Purpose and History

The EURO Working Group on Project Management and Scheduling has been established by Prof. Luís Valadares Tavares and J. Weglarz during the EURO VIII Conference, Lisbon, September 1986. It was decided to organize a workshop every two years. Gathering most promising theoretical and applied advances in Project Management and Scheduling and to assess the state of the art of this field and its potential to support Management systems is the objective of these workshops.

The first workshop was held in Lisbon in July 1998, organized by L.Tavares. It gathered sixty partici-

pants from 16 countries. A special issue on Project Management and Scheduling was published by EJOR including selected papers from this Workshop (November, 1990). The second workshop was organized by J. Carlier in Compiègne, France in 1990. The third workshop was organized by Prof. Carlo Vercellis in Como, Italy in 1992. The fourth workshop took place in Leuven, Belgium in 1994 and was organized by Prof. Willy Herroelen. The fifth was held in Poznan and organized by Prof. Weglarz. The last two workshops were organized by Prof. G. Ulusoy, July 1998, in Istanbul and by Prof. P. Brucker, April 2000, in Osnabrück (Germany).

Number of Members

250

Planned activities for 2002

8th Workshop PMS in Valencia, April 3-5, 2002, chaired by Prof. Vicente Valls, Universidad de Valencia, Spain.

Financial modelling

Co-ordinator

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Purpose and History

The EURO Working Group on Financial Modelling was founded in September 1986 in Lisbon. The primary field of interest for the working group can be described as "financial models that help to solve problems faced by financial managers in the firm". From this the following objectives of the working group are distinguished:

- providing an international forum for exchange of information and experience on financial modelling;
- encouraging research in financial modelling (new techniques, methodologies, empirical studies, software, etc.);
- stimulating and strengthening the interaction between financial economic theory and the practice of financial decision making;
- co-operating and exchanging information with other universities and financial institutions throughout Europe.

The meetings of the Working Group are organised twice a year, in April and in November. Earlier meetings were held in Belgium, Curaçao, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Greece, Croatia, Poland and Spain. The meetings are attended by 80-100 members on average, most of them scientists but also representatives from the financial institutions, and are usually organised on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. The organisers are expected to schedule three types of sessions: a round table session with invited speaker(s), regular sessions with the presentation of refereed papers and balloon sessions in which unrefereed papers, new topics and "loose" ideas can be discussed.

Number of Members

About 400 members from 24 different countries (of which approximately 100 members constitute the more "active kernel" of the group).

Newsletter

The newsletter of the working group, called NEWSFLOW, is published twice a year, one month before each meeting. It contains general information about the Working Group, information about the next meeting(s), abstracts of papers of the next meeting, letters from readers, announcements of financial seminars, calls for papers, a list of working papers, etc.

Activities 2000

The Spring meeting was organised by Nico van der Wijst in Trondheim, Norway. The Autumn meeting was organised by Anoop Rai in New York, USA.

Future Planned Activities

The Spring 2001 meeting will be held in May in Vilnius, Lithuania and is organised by Leonidas Sakalauskas.

The venue of the Autumn meeting will be announced later.

Next meetings will be held in Capri (Italy), Cyprus and Sheffield (UK).

Internet

Information on the Euro Working Group is now also available on the internet.

The site is: www.finance-on-eur.nl and then select 'research'.

ECCO, European Chapter on combinatorial optimisation

Co-ordinator

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Board

- Prof. Jacek Blazewicz, Poznan University of Technology, Poznan, Poland
- Dr. Van-Dat Cung, Université de Versailles-Saint Quentin en Yvelines, Versailles, France
- Prof. Alain Hertz, EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland
- Prof. Paolo Toth, DEIS, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Website

<http://www.prism.uvsq.fr/~vdc/ECCO/ECCO.html>

Purpose and History

The EURO Working Group on Combinatorial Optimisation, ECCO (European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimisation) was created in 1987 by C. Roucairol, D. de Werra and A. Rinnooy Kan. This group provides an excellent opportunity to discuss recent and important issues in Combinatorial Optimisation and its applications with European combinatorialists; most European countries are represented.

The group is suitable for people who are presently engaged in Combinatorial Optimisation, either in theoretical aspects or in business, industry or public administration applications. All these fields are taken in consideration: operations management - logistics, production scheduling, location and distribution problem, resource allocation, flexible manufacturing, scheduling..., - engineering, VLSI design and computer design, network design, ... Recent sessions in last ECCOs have attached a particular emphasis to metaheuristics or new local search methods (tabu search, genetic algorithms,

ant colonies, ...), polyhedral approaches to difficult problems and recent developments in classical optimisation problems (scheduling, assignment, knapsack, partitioning, ...).

The meetings are held on a regular basis (once a year during Spring) and nicely combine scientific works and exchange of new ideas with an exciting atmosphere like Paris, May 88; Venice, June 89; Barcelona, May 90; Dubrovnik, May 91; (cancelled), Graz, April 92; Bruxelles, April 93; Milano, February 94; Poznan, May 95; Dublin, April 96; Tenerife, May 97; Copenhagen, May 98; Bendor, May 99; Capri, May 00.

An abstract booklet is distributed to the participants at each meeting.

ECCO has organised in July 94 a EURO Summer Institute on Combinatorial Optimisation in France, at Groupe HEC, Jouy en Josas. Twenty five participants representing 15 different countries have presented their work covering the recent trends in CO like metaheuristics, polyhedral approaches as well as more traditional problem areas as scheduling, knapsack, 0-1 programming.... Keeping in pace with tradition, a special issue of EJOR has been dedicated to this institute, EJOR Volume 83, Number 2, 1995.

Number of Members

Approximately 450. Approximately 100 participants at each meeting.

Activities 2000

The 13th meeting, Capri, Italy, May 18-20, 2000.

Organizer:

Prof. Prof. Gennaro Improta
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 E-mail: improta@unina.it

Future Planned Activities

The ECCO-XIV meeting will be hosted by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Bonn, Germany. May 31- June 02, 2001.

Organizer: Professor Dr. Erwin Pesch
Faculty of Economics, BWL 3

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DSS, Decision Support Systems

Co-ordinator

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Website

Not yet done, see for the moment the web site of the next meeting: <http://ssdi.di.fct.unl.pt/~rr/ewgdss/>

Purpose and History

The group has been created in Madeira (Portugal) following the Euro Summer Institute on DSS, in May 1989. Researchers involved in this group meet them each year in different countries. The first meeting was held in Fontainebleau (France); the second in Bruges (Belgium); then in Hungary and then in Sintra (Portugal). The group migrated to a cold country and the fifth meeting was organised in Turku (Finland) and then came back to a warm land for the sixth meeting in Samos (Greece). The seventh meeting was held in Ispra (Italy); then in Bruges again and then, our chairman Tawfik Jelassi organised the ninth meeting in Granada (Spain). For the tenth birthday the group came back to Turku. The last meeting was held in Toulouse (France) and the next will be held in Caiscas (Portugal).

Researches conducted in this group has for central theme: DSS. Some on the future of DSS arose dur-

ing the last meeting, as for example: What will be DSS in the next decade and for the next millennium? Will DSS be completely influenced by Internet and the Electronic commerce or not? Some others questions related to Data-Mining, Data Warehouse or Knowledge Management are pertinent for these group members.

Number of Members

46

Major Publications

In addition to the above annual meetings, scientific activities of members of the group could be noticed: special issues of leading academic journals such as The European Journal of Operational Research (vol. 55, n° 3, 1991 and vol. 61, n° 1-2, 1992), the Journal of Decision Systems (vol. 1, n° 2-3, 1992) and Decision Support Systems (vol. 12, n° 4-5, 1994) have been edited by members of the group. Another major activity of the members of the group consists in organising the 1st Special Euro Conference on DSS which took place in Bruges, Belgium in March 1990 and the 7th Euro Mini Conference on DSS, Groupware, Multimedia and Electronic Commerce which took place in Bruges, Belgium, in March 1997.

Recent Activities

The 11th Meeting of the Euro Working Group on DSS was held in Toulouse, France, 8-10/6/2000 (IRIT, Université Paul Sabatier)

Future Planned Activities

1. The next meeting the 12th international meeting will be held in Cascais, Portugal, May 18-20, 2001
Contact: Rita Ribeiro, rr@di.fct.unl.pt
<http://ssdi.di.fct.unl.pt/~rr/ewgdss/>
2. A special issue for EJOR is in preparation and will publish a selection of papers presented during the 11th meeting in Toulouse and the 12th meeting in Cascais.
3. A special conference devoted to DSS is in preparation and will be held in Brussels, Belgium, VUB from March 2-5 2002.

The chairmen of the program committee are: J.P. Brans and T. Jelassi.

This conference will be organised on the general theme DSS and will have five particular themes:

- DSS in general; Chairperson: P. Zaraté
- E + M Commerce; Chairman: T. Jelassi
- Multicriteria Analysis; Chairperson: M. Roubens
- Human Centered Processes (HCP); Chairman: G. Coppin and J.P. Barthelemy
- Prometheus (ethic movement); Chairman: J.P. Brans and M. Despontin

Group Decision and Negotiation Support

Co-ordinator

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the details of previous workshops, workshops to come, forthcoming events and members details. The address is <http://infolab.kub.nl/eurogdss/>

Purpose and History

- To share experiences knowledge and research outcomes in the area of Group Decision, and Negotiation Support.
- To develop collaborative interdisciplinary research between academics and practitioners and between different European countries.
- To increase the awareness of other researchers in related fields (e.g. MCDM) and researchers in different countries (e.g. United States) of work being done in Europe.

Activities 2000

The 11th Group meeting took part as part of the Group Decision and Negotiation 2000 Conference held in July at the University of Strathclyde (this was run in collaboration with the INFORMS special interest group in the same area). Over 70 researchers from 40+ countries attended. As a result of the conference, a special issue in Group Decision and Negotiation has been produced and is due out in February 2001. This special issue comprises the keynote papers.

In addition the special issue produced from papers presented at the Copenhagen conference on (1999) was also completed (January 2001 Group Decision and Negotiation)

Number of Members

Approximately 130

Future Planned Activities

Building on the success of the Group Decision and Negotiation 2000 conference, it is intended that this event will be repeated in La Rochelle, June 2001. The program for this is currently being finalized but a draft version will be available on the conference's website (<http://mies.cs.depaul.edu/gdn2001/>) by March 2001.

Newsletter

None. The Working Group has developed and continued to update a WWW page providing all of

MODEST, Modelling of economies and societies in transition

Co-ordinators

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 Prof. Jan W. Owsinski
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Purpose and History

MODEST groups specialists in mathematical and computer modelling who are especially interested in modelling and analysis of the economic and social transformation processes taking place in the modern world, with explicit emphasis on the processes taking place in the Central and Eastern parts of Europe. It is the purpose of the Working Group to be a forum for exchange of ideas and experiences in this domain, and also to identify these areas where the most acute gaps exist and where modelling is feasible, and to formulate as well as promote research projects for such areas. The modelling that MODEST is most interested in is the pragmatic one (whether macro- or micro-economic, simple regression or complex dynamic, analytic or simulation, but oriented at definite currently debated and crucial questions, as well as based upon real data or real-life guesses). Yet, theoretical models (like e.g. economico-political ones, for instance based on game theory) are by no means excluded from the MODEST's perspective.

The Working Group was established in the Spring of 1994 as an informal body. By Summer 1994 it reached the critical mass in terms of international and interdisciplinary character of the core membership.

In Fall 1994 MODEST was granted affiliation with the Technical Committee of the International Federation of Automatic Control dealing with "Dynamic Modelling of National and Regional Economies", headed by Professor Berc Rustem from London and, following this, it was proposed that Professor Zbigniew Nahorski would serve as the Vice-Chair

of this Technical Committee. In January 1995 MODEST was granted, to our great satisfaction, the Working Group ("EWG") status with EURO. These two affiliations allow the Group to maintain the connection with two international communities which are essential for the methodology and implementation of modelling approaches and projects.

MODEST is - locally - institutionally assisted by the Polish Operational and System Research Society, The Interfaces Institute Co. in Warsaw, and by the Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Number of Members

Around 100 as of winter 2000/2001.

Newsletter

MODEST Newsletter is being issued more or less once-twice a year. Until now six issues were produced.

Activities 2000

Finally, a special volume of Annals of Operations Research (Kluwer/Baltzer) was published in 2000, edited by the MODEST team (Z. Nahorski, J. Owsinski, T. Szapiro), containing a number of papers coming from the MODEST members. Two other books, stemming from the same meeting in Warsaw in 1997, being in the final stages of preparation, and containing more "economic" papers, meant also to be published by another known international publishing house, are still being negotiated.

Future Planned Activities

Next, bigger meeting of MODEST is planned for September 2002 in Warsaw, in connection with the regular national conference of the Polish Society of Operational and System Research Society. It is envisaged that a number of English-language sessions will be set up at this conference by MODEST. In addition, the plan is to produce a book on the basis of the MODEST's part of the conference. The formal invitations are being sent around in Spring 2001.

WATT, Working group on automated time tabling

Co-ordinators

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Website

<http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/watt/>

Purpose and History

Computers have been used to aid the construction of timetables since the late fifties. The first generation of computer-based systems were no more than book-keeping programs that would store all the data and occasionally allow some manipulation. In the mid-sixties, computer programs that actually carried out the scheduling process were first developed. Since then there has been a consistent flow of research papers concerned with this problem.

In recent years, the interest in automated timetabling has increased to a large extent. Recent papers are covering practical issues as well as the application of many advanced algorithmic techniques such as constraint logic programming, evolutionary computation, graph colouring, simulated annealing, tabu search and others. The international conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling (PATAT) in Konstanz in 2000 attracted a lot of interest and was a huge success.

Many of the papers on automated timetabling deal with the scheduling of lecture courses or exams in educational institutions (i.e. the problem is to automatically generate a plan which indicates meetings between students, teachers and subjects at times and places). This is one of the main interests of the working group. However, there is also a high level of interest in other timetabling problems such as the timetabling of sports fixtures, railway timetabling and employee timetabling.

The objectives of the group are:

- organising workshops/conferences;
- publishing articles and books;
- establishing a network for exchange of information/students/staff;
- use of the internet;
- developing bench-marks;
- organising timetabling databases containing literature, software packages and test-data from various different institutions.

Number of Members

224

Newsletter

We have recently re-organised the e-mail digest. It is now sent out to members every 3 months.

Activities 1999-00

- The 3rd international conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling (PATAT 2000) was held in Konstanz, Germany on August 16th-18th 2000. For more details see <http://www.fh-konstanz.de/patat2000/>
- The publication of a full proceedings from the PATAT 2000 conference in August 2000 (ISBN 3-00-003866-3). For a list of the contents see <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/ASAP/ttg/kon-full-papers.html>
- Running an e-mail list for all group members.
- Organisation of a timetabling bibliography on the world wide web. See <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/ASAP/watt/bibliography.html>

- Maintaining the group's web pages. See <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/watt/>
- Organising the e-mail digest.

Future planned activities

- A volume of Selected Papers from the 3rd international conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling (PATAT 2000) will be published in early Summer 2001 by Springer in their Lecture Notes in Computer Science series.
- The 4th WATT Workshop will be held at the EURO XVIII conference, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, July 2001. For more details about this workshop see <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/ASAP/watt/callpapers.html#4thworkshop>

- A feature issue of the European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR) on "Timetabling and Rostering" will be organised in conjunction with the 4th WATT Workshop. The deadline for submission of papers is 31st August 2001. For more details see <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/ASAP/watt/callpapers.html#ejor>
- The 4th international conference on the Theory and Practice of Automated Timetabling (PATAT 2002) will be held in Ghent on 21st-23rd August 2002. For more details see <http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/ASAP/ttg/gent-conf.html>
- The re-organised WATT e-mail digest will be sent to members every 3 months.

Environmental planning

Co-ordinator

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Purpose and History

The main purpose of the EURO Working Group on Environmental Planning is to encourage communication and research between members of EURO member societies specialising in environmental planning and management. The Group has been founded during the XIV EURO Summer Institute on Environmental Planning (Lagonnissi, Greece, June 7-21, 1996).

Since the first post-war period OR techniques have been widely and successfully implemented in a wide variety of managerial problems encountered in the industrialised world. In the last two decades, a major challenge for OR theorists and practitioners

is to investigate the transferability of the experience gained towards the less developed countries, as well as to effectively cope with the new problems emerging from the developmental procedure. Environmental crisis appears as the most severe among these problems because its many different aspects threaten the development itself. The relationships linking the economic, natural and social systems lead to a redefinition of the concept of development as to encompass not only economic growth but also the stability of the ecosystem and social welfare.

Since the environment is an important point of reference of any human, economic or social activity, environmental planning comes out as a necessary function for the design of the desired future and for finding effective ways for achieving sustainability.

During the last decades, environmental problems have given rise to complex decision issues, which are receiving increasing social attention and are becoming more and more important, not only for human welfare, but even for human survival. Involvement in Environmental Planning decisions has become a major challenge for OR. Issues of

methodology and applications of OR concerning environmental decision making include among others:

- Environmental decision support systems.
- Environmental impact assessment.
- Environmental issues in business strategy.
- Environmental issues in production management and control.
- Environmental forecasting.
- Monitoring networks.
- Locational analysis.
- Risk and reliability.
- Environmental review, auditing and reporting.
- Life cycle analysis.
- Ecodesign.
- Environmental marketing and communication.
- Reverse Logistics
- Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14000, EMAS)

In fact, a short look at the literature related either to OR/MS or to environmental issues shows that opportunities for research in the field of environmental planning/management have already been quite extensively exploited by operational researchers. However, it is still not clear which are the particular stages of the environmental planning procedure needing assistance from OR/MS. It is also not yet visible at which particular topics this research is directed and which OR techniques are

used to fulfil the research requirements. Since the area is still under development, such a knowledge can considerably assist in revealing actual trends and main findings, as well as in identifying major deficiencies, either in the issues covered or in the OR techniques used.

Number of Members

60

Recent and future planned activities

The Group organised one session at the last EURO conference (EURO 2000, July 2000, Budapest), which focused on Reverse Logistics.

The next meeting of the members of the Group has been planned for July 2001, during the EURO 2001 Conference in Rotterdam. One session of this conference, focusing this time on "Logistics and Environmental Management", has been organised by the Group.

Website

Information about the group and its activities may be found at the following website <http://www.unipi.gr/gaia/gaia.htm>.



PAREO, Parallel processing in operation research

Co-ordinator

Board

- Catherine Roucairol (PRISM, University of Versailles, Versailles, France)
- Theodor Crainic (CRT, University of Montréal, Montréal, Canada)
- Jonathan Eckstein (Rutgers University, New Brunswick, U.S.A.)
- Gerard Kindervater (Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
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Purpose and History

Parallel computers may have a considerable impact on many areas of Operations Research (OR). Their use makes it possible to solve larger problems in less time, and thus leads to substantial savings. However, it is a non-trivial task to design effective algorithms for the parallel machines currently available, as well as to build suitable development environments and programming tools. Because of the considerable effort required to exploit the potential power of parallel architectures, in addition to the scarce contacts between the (classical) OR-community and specialists in Parallel Computing, many researchers in the field of Operations Research are not fully aware of the perspectives parallelism may offer.

A broad variety of real-world problems in Operations Research appears to be practically intractable using traditional hardware. At the same time, it is generally expected that parallel processing will become a major tool in solving these problems.

Unfortunately, current conferences on operations research (like the EURO meetings), are seldom attended by many specialists in parallel computing, while the OR-public appears unprepared to discuss the challenges of the design parallel algorithms, even if special sessions are organized. Conversely, conferences on parallel computing barely draw their attendees from the OR-community, as a good number of the topics at those conferences (such as architectures, parallel languages, etc.) are beyond their competence.

This reinforces the needs to create a working group interfacing between these two complementary disciplines. Consequently, the Association of European Operational Research Societies EURO has decided to create a new working group on parallel processing (called PAREO). The working group will be the meeting point for (European) researchers in operations research and computer scientists interested in the development of parallel algorithms for OR-problems. Moreover, it will enable them to obtain a double competence in both operation research and (parallel) computer science.

The PAREO working group aims to bring together researchers from both academia and industry who are interested in the development of parallel algorithms for problems in the area of operations research. Its main objective is to bridge the gap between the two complementary disciplines of operations research and parallel computing. Concerned are people from operations research working in domains like Combinatorial Optimization, mathematical programming, stochastic programming, and networks, and people from computer science dealing with issues such as performance and scalability of parallel systems, mapping of algorithms onto parallel computers, programming environments, visual interfaces.

Number of Members

Presently, there are 87 members, The membership of PAREO is free of charge. One can become a member by sending an email to pareo@prism.uvsq.fr.

Past and future planned activities

- Annual meetings.
- The first meeting - PAREO '98 has been held in Versailles, France, July 8-10, 1998.
- The PAREO group has organized 2 sessions in the

Inform's'99 conference in China.

- The PAREO'2000 meeting has been held in Paderborn, Germany, June 14-16 2000, <http://www.uni-paderborn.de/~PAREO2000/>
- The PAREO group organizes 2 sessions in the EURO 20001 conference (Rotterdam, July 9-11, 2001, Netherlands).
- We are preparing the 2002 meeting.

The maintenance of a (moderated) mailing list with announcements, recent developments, etc. (Contributions can be sent by email to pareo@prism.uvsq.fr.)

DEAPM, Data envelopment analysis and performance measurement

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Purpose and History

In July 1996, at the IFORS conference in Vancouver, the idea of a DEA Euro Working Group emerged, from the realisation that so many people working in the field could profit from a forum where they could discuss their ideas and foster collaborative work.

DEA (Data Envelopment Analysis) is the optimisation method of mathematical programming that generalises Farrell's (1957) single-input/ single-output technical efficiency measure to the multiple-input/ multiple-output case. Thus DEA became a new tool in operational research for measuring technical efficiency. It was originally developed by Charnes, Cooper and Rhodes (1978) with constant returns to scale, and was extended by Banker, Charnes and Cooper (1984) to include variable returns to scale. So the basic DEA models are known as CCR and BCC. Since 1978 over 1000 articles, books and dissertation have been published, and DEA has rapidly extended to returns to scale, dummy or categorical variables, discretionary and non-discretionary variables, incorporating value judgements, longitudinal analysis, weight restrictions, stochastic DEA, non-parametric Malmquist indices, technical change in DEA and many other topics. Up to now the DEA measure has been used to evaluate and compare educational departments (schools, colleges and universities), health care (hospitals, clinics) prisons, agricultural production, banking, armed forces, sports, market research, transportation (highway maintenance), courts, benchmarking, index number construction and many other applications.

At the moment researchers follow wide ranges of DEA and related topics. The main research areas of DEA are:

- Returns to scale
- Dummy or categorical variables
- Discretionary and non-discretionary variables
- Incorporating judgement
- Longitudinal analysis
- Weights restrictions
- Stochastic DEA
- Non-parametric Malmquist indices
- Technical change in DEA, and many other topics.

Based on the above, the EURO Working Group on DEA and Performance Measurement has been established in 1997, after an application to EURO Executive Committee.

The main objectives of the group are to:

- Foster collaborative research between members of different institutions, countries, and professional backgrounds.
- Organise specialist conferences and workshops in the area of DEA and Performance Measurement.
- Specialist publications of issues in the area.
- Organisation of good quality conference streams in the area.

Number of Members

As of now approximately 120 people, from 26 different countries have joined the group.

Recent Activities

The first working group meeting and seminar day was held in conjunction with the 6th European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis in 1999. The 2000 meeting took place within the North American Productivity Workshop. The Workshop organizers provided funding for seven European graduate students to participate in the workshop. This funding was coordinated by the working group.

Future Planned Activities

Near future:

- Group meeting within the 7th European Workshop on Efficiency and Productivity Analysis in Oviedo, Spain (September 25-27, 2001).

Possible projects for the longer term:

- Workshops specifically for practitioners.
- Mini EURO Conference.

DDM, Distributed Decision Making

Co-ordinator

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Purpose

'Distributed Decision Making (DDM)' is the new name for the European Working Group (EWG) on 'Hierarchical Organizational Planning (HOP)'. At its business meeting in March 2000 in Vienna, the WG decided to change its name to the more comprehensive and less misunderstandable term 'Distributed Decision Making (DDM)'. A characterization of the group's area of research is given hereafter. Those who feel attracted are cordially invited to join the group.

Distributed Decision Making analyses the segregation and subsequent coordination of a complex decision problem. Such a problem may consist of one or of several decision makers who may possess private information and may act opportunistically. Accordingly, one has a wide range of methodological approaches starting from deterministic multi-stage programming to describe a complex decision problem of one well informed person, and ending up with non-cooperative game theory. Between these antipodes, one has a considerable number of theories like stochastic multi-stage programming, hierarchical production planning, principal agent theory, contract theory, auction theory, multi-agent decision theory etc. Some of these approaches, like multi-stage programming, are more OR-oriented and put their emphasis to a greater extent on concrete solution aspects. Others, like principal agent theory or, more generally, game theory, are primarily originated in economics and are focusing specifically on general concepts. As a third group one might identify areas of application, like hierarchical production planning or managerial accounting, in which solution procedures and general concepts are needed.

It is this aspect of application that the working group is mainly focusing on. It is concerned with problems of coordinating complex models for team and non-team situations having a symmetric or an asymmetric state of information. These problems often exhibit a hierarchical structure as is it described in the general theory of hierarchical planning. Moreover, in many of these applications aggregation and disaggregation play an important role as well as the concept of reactive and non-reactive anticipation being developed in hierarchical planning.

As a nice and highly relevant example one might take supply chain management. In this new field of research one has a network of fairly independent companies that have to be coordinated. Due to private information and opportunistic behavior, these companies often cannot be controlled by a

central decision unit, but by rather a market-like coordination mechanism. Hence, in solving coordination problems in the supply chain the whole range of solution techniques and concepts has to be made use of. Moreover, coordination is not only necessary between different members of the chain but also between different planning levels, e.g., the strategic design level and the operational level of short term material and information exchange. In more general terms, the purpose of the WG on DDM is to foster this challenging field of Operations Research. In doing so, conceptual questions concerning formal organisational theory may hopefully gain a greater attention in the OR community as well. Thus, in strengthening the more conceptual direction of OR, one might be able to provide a substantial contribution to the general theory of business administration and the management process.

For more extensive information regarding the scope of the Working Group, see its homepage (www.bwl.uni-mannheim.de/Schneeweiss/ddm/ddm.html) and particularly the papers presented at its last meetings and the papers scheduled for the DDM stream at EURO 2001 in Rotterdam.

Number of Members

The number of members is up to now about 60 persons.

Activities 1997/98/99/2000

HOP I: EURO XV, Barcelona 1997
 HOP II: Mannheim, March 27/28, 1998
 Special session: at EURO XVI, Brussels 1998
 HOP III: Mannheim, March 5/6, 1999
 HOP IV: Vienna, March 10/11, 2000

Future Planned Activities

Stream on DDM: at EURO 2001
 DDM V: Eindhoven, October 2001

Methodology for Complex Societal Problems

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- Prof. Dr. Marjan Vezjak, University of Ljubljana, Slovenian

The interest for the Euro Working Group Complex Societal Problems is still growing. In July 2000 on the EURO XVII conference in Budapest Hungary the Euro Working Group 19 organized nine sessions and a workshop. This means that during the whole conference there was a continuous discussion of the subject of Methodology for Complex Societal Problems. The papers and the discussions were very inspiring. The presenters of the papers were selected based on the abstract reviewed by the board of the Euro Working Group 19. The Euro Working Group 19 is very glad that it was able to invite such a large group of high qualified researchers from all over the world to present their research. The abstracts of the papers were published in the way of the tradition of the Euro Working Group 19 in a special booklet (see below). The Chair of the Euro Working Group 19 was invited to present a semi plenary lecture on the Euro XVII conference. Many people attended the presentation.

In October 2000 the International Society on Complex Societal Problems organized the second international meeting of researchers on the subject of Complex Societal Problems. This session was organized on the 5th International Conference on Social Science Methodology in Koln, Germany. There the International Society on Complex Societal Problems organised several sessions in which twelve researchers presented their papers (see below).

The Euro Working Group 19 works closely together with the Dutch Nosmo Research Group on Complex Societal Problems in The Netherlands and with the International Society on Complex Societal Problems. The Dutch Nosmo research group on Complex Societal Problems organized in the year 2000 four meetings with paper presentations and discussions.

In order to intensify the discussion and the scientific exchange Prof. Dr. Jean-Pierre Brans and his group of researchers from the VU Brussels in Belgium and Prof. Dr Frans Liebl from the Witten-Herdecke University in Germany and some of his German colleagues joined the Dutch Nosmo Group of Dr. DeTombe in a Euro Subgroup named the West-Euro Working Group 19 on Complex Societal Problems. The West-Euro Working Group 19 started in October 2000. It promised to be a very vivid and fruitful research group.

The number of members of the Euro Working Group 19 is steadily growing. The members of the Euro Working Group 19 come from different fields and are work at universities all over the world. There is a high degree of activity and interaction amongst the members of the group. By the reaction of the audience there is a feeling that this relatively new subject of the Operational Research field is winning more and more interest. Having a growing number of members is needed, because the problems society is confronted with, such as the troubles in the agro-industry as the Mad-Cow disease and the Mouth and Foot disease, are difficult to handle and there is a growing gap between the complexity of these problems and the human

capacity to deal with them. There is a need for better methods and tools, more knowledge and imagination. Scientific knowledge is needed to survive amidst these problems.

Handling complex societal problems needs a special approach. Handling societal problems in an interdisciplinary way has become a must for our society and a challenge for the human sciences.

Methodology for handling complex societal problems has become a new field of scientific attention. Some of the scientific reasons for this special approach are that the problems are seldom defined, change during their development, many actors are involved often with a different view and a different interest on the problem and with different 'solutions' in mind. It is a problem that includes (lack of) knowledge power and emotion. Societal reasons for this special approach is the importance of these problems for society, the impact they have on many people, and the large amount of money involved.

Combining the effort of scientists who are working in this field is an inspiring serious challenge from the perspective of a number of disciplines. Combining existing knowledge and creating new insights with methods and tools for supporting complex societal problems is a challenge for scientists from different fields.

The goal of the Euro Group 19 on Complex Societal Problems is to increase and to combine the available scientific knowledge regarding the handling of complex societal problems. Means to reach this goal are organizing workshops and conferences, and publishing proceedings and books in which discussion on this subject can take place.

Publications of the Euro Working Group 19 Complex Societal Problems in 2000:

- DeTombe, Dorien J. (2000) (Ed.) *EURO XVII, EURO 2000 Methodology for Handling Complex Societal Problems*. Book of Abstracts, Volume 7. Euro Working Group 19. Pp.31, Delft: Delft University of Technology. ISBN 90-5638-0524
- DeTombe, Dorien J. (2000) (Ed.) *5th International Conference on Social Science Methodology. RC33 Methodology for Handling Complex Societal Problems*. Book of Abstracts, Volume 8. Pp.18 Delft: Delft University of Technology. ISBN 90-5638-0516

Special sessions and conferences organized on Complex Societal Problems:

- ISAGA conference Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA, July 1994.
- The First International Conference on Methods and Tools for Handling Complex Societal Problems, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands, November 1994.
- EURO XIV, 14th European Conference on Operational Research, 1995- 20th Anniversary of Euro, Jerusalem, Israel, July 1995.
- Second International Conference on Methods and Tools for Handling Complex Societal Problems, Munich University of Technology, Germany, organized in conjunction with WACRA-Europe Society on Case Method Research, June 1996.
- IFORS '96 conference, Vancouver, Canada, July 1996.
- ISAGA conference University of Tilburg, The Netherlands, July 1997.
- EURO/INFORMS conference Barcelona, Spain, July 1997.
- WACRA- Europe conference, Madrid, Spain, September 1997.
- EURO XVI Operational Research. Brussels, Euro Working Group 19 Methodology for Handling Societal Problems, July 1998.
- 14th International Sociology Conference, Montreal, Canada, July 1998.
- Simulation in Industry Conference, Nottingham, UK, October 1998.
- IFORS'99, Beijing, Euro Working Group 19 Methodology for Handling Societal Problems, August 1999.
- EURO XVII, EURO 2000, 17th European Conference on Operational Research Budapest, Hungary, July, 2000.
- 5th International Conference on Social Science Methodology. RC33. Methodology for Handling Complex Societal Problems, October 2000, Koln Germany.
- EURO XVIII, EURO 2001, 18th European Conference on Operational Research Rotterdam, The Netherlands, July 2001.
- IFORS 2002: Edinburgh, UK.

EUROPT, Continuous Optimisation Working Group

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History

EUROPT was established at the second day of the second IPM Workshop (IPM-2000), organized just before the EURO-XVII meeting in Budapest, July 2000. IPM-2000 was the first workshop of EUROPT. 58 founding members joined EUROPT during the EURO-XVII conference.

Purpose

- Facilitate the dissemination of state-of-the-art knowledge and research on continuous optimization;
- to contribute to the education of young optimization people;
- to get the continuous optimization community in Europe organized under the umbrella of EURO;
- to establish regular information channels and regular meetings;
- to build links to users of continuous optimization methods, to involve industrial organization in the activities.
- Build and maintain links with sister special interest groups inside and outside EURO. Inside EURO the Combinatorial optimization, MCDM and Fuzzy

theory WG are the closest sisters, Outside EURO we plan to contact SIAM's, INFORM's and APOR's Optimization groups.

Number of active Members

83

International composition

EUROPT has members from almost all European countries including: Portugal, Spain, France, Britain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Croatia, Yugoslavia, Slovakia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania etc. Trans-continental members are from USA, Canada, Chile, Japan, China.

Major Publications

A special issue of EJOR related to the workshop and the Continuous Optimization sub-stream of the Budapest EURO meeting and the IPM-2000 workshop is in preparation.

Ongoing activities

- The EUROPT homepage is under development.
- The organization of the second EUROPT workshop after the EURO-XVIII meeting in Rotterdam is in an advanced state.
- Sessions are organized for the EURO-XVIII meeting in Rotterdam.
- Two semi-plenary speakers represent EUROPT at the EURO-XVIII meeting in Rotterdam.

Future activities

- EUROPT is co-organizing the XX. EURO Summer Institute "Stochastic and Heuristic methods in Optimization" at the Baltics, Neringa, Lithuania, 26/06/2002-06/08/2002.
- EUROPT will continue to organize 2 days workshops before or after the EURO-k conferences.
- EUROPT will continue attract prominent semi-plenary speakers for the EURO-k conferences.
- There are some preliminary plans to organize EURO-Summer Institutes on continuous optimization methods.

HCP, Human Centered Processes

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Purpose

The study of operational strategies and processes used by human beings has been the place where Cognitive Science and more traditional approaches recently met, and has led to the concept of Human Centered Designs and Technologies. Such a movement is an important challenge for both scientists and firms concerned by human beings in a workday context because the complementarity of cognitive and traditional approaches provide a

great number of additional dimensions that allow to design and analyse more complete and complex systems.

This group will be concerned with analysis and modelling of advanced manufacturing, information, or action systems which are strongly dependant on a balanced integration between human and computer skills: collaborative working, cooperation, user adapted interaction... Its activities will be supported both by industrial fields and by scientific research in cognitive sciences and operational research, as well as mathematical and computer modelling.

Several kinds of systems and processes will be concerned: production systems, information systems, action systems... A special challenge is the multiple bind between systems and users, systems and systems and users and users: this raise the question of how a system (resp. a human user) can recognize a human user (resp. a system) and adapt it to its / his / her behavior. The actual development of communication tools (Web, Internet, Intranet, Hypermedia tools...) involving distributed, shared and multi-modal information makes such questions very accurate from social and technical points of view.

As a consequence, the HCP group will be pluridisciplinary and application oriented. It will be mainly concerned by the study of operational strategies and processes. Embodied in the broad domain of information sciences, it will be more concerned with semantics and qualitative aspects than by digital and quantitative ones.

Framework and History

In 1992 the European Communities have elaborated the notion of Anthropocentric Production Systems and proposed a number of actions to account for the place of human operators in complex industrial production systems.

In September 1994 was held in Luxembourg (Luxembourg) the First European Conference Cognitive Science in Industry.

This conference was the initiating step towards an European Brite-Euram project COMAPS (Cognitive Management of Anthropocentric Production Systems, BE 96 - 3941) that was handled from 1997 to 1999. This program was the first to be explicitly devoted to the taking into account of human and cognitive factors within production systems. It involved four firms and three academic partners.

In September 1999 was held in Brest (France) the first Human Centered Processes conference ("HCP'99", which had the status of a Mini EURO Conference). The purpose of this conference was to gather Operational Researchers interested in discussing human centered approaches applied to complex industrial problems, industrialists faced to questions related to cognition and researchers who are expert in Cognitive Science. More than 20 different countries were represented in the conference. Proceedings of HCP99 are available (Human Centered Processes, 1999, Philippe Lenca (editor), Espace Edition ENST-Bretagne, ENST-Bretagne (France) - Centre de Recherche Public - Centre Universitaire (Luxembourg), Brest (France), September 22nd-24th, 10th Mini EURO Conference), including 79 papers for more than 500 pages.

These events and programs have shown that the approach was now mature enough to launch a research initiative at European Level within the EURO framework.

HCP group has been officially accepted by EURO during the last EURO XVII Conference (Budapest, Hungary). Sunday the 16th of July 2000 can be considered as HCP EURO Working Group day of birth.

Number of Members

The HCP EURO WG has registered 28 (active) members, as well as about 10 associated contacts (people likely to be informed of the WG activities).

HCP WG Publications

PhD Thesis: E. Lesaux, Extraction et implémentation de stratégies expertes - Application au contrôle de processus industriels (Extraction and implementation of expert strategies - Application to industrial process control), 14th december, 2000, EHESS, Paris, France.

EJOR Issue Human Centered Processes to appear (expected September 2001) including:

- J.-P. Barthélemy, R. Bisdorff & G. Coppin, Human Centered Processes and Decision Support Systems.
- J. Shanteau, D. J. Weiss, R. P. Thomas & J. C. Pounds, Performance-Based Assessment of Expertise: How to Decide if Someone is an Expert or Not.
- C. G. Lundberg & B. M. Nagle, Post-Decision Inference Editing of Supportive and Counter indicative Signals Among External Auditors in a Going Concern Judgment.
- W. Müller & E. Wiederhold, Applying decision tree methodology for rules extraction under cognitive constraints.
- P. Brézillon, L. Pasquier & J.-C. Pomerol, Reasoning with contextual graphs.
- E. Le Saux, P. Lenca & P. Picouet, Dynamic adaptation of rules bases under cognitive constraints.
- M. Sharples, N. Jeffrey, J.B.H. du Boulay, D. Teather, B. Teather & G.H. du Boulay, Socio-Cognitive Engineering: A Methodology for the design of Human-Centred Technology.
- Crévits, S. Debernard & P. Denecker, Model building for air-traffic controllers workload regulation.
- M. Lewkowicz & M. Zacklad, A structured groupware for a collective decision-making aid.
- J.-P. Brans, Ethics and Decision.

InCognito journal (french):

- Kanellos, T. Thlivitits & A. Leger, 2000, Indexation anthropocentrée d'images au moyen de texts: arguments théoriques et direction applicatives du projet SemIndex, InCognito, 17, p. 33-44.
- P. Kuntz, R. Lehn, F. Guillet, H. Briand & J. Philippé, Un processus d'extraction de règles d'association dans une base de données relationnelle centré sur l'utilisateur, InCognito, to appear.

Recent Activities

HCP WG initialisation and launching during EURO XVII in Budapest (July 2000) :

- Semi-plenary session: Human centered processes and decision support systems, Barthélemy J.P, Bisdorff R. and Coppin G.
- Session Human centered processes (Org.: Lenca P.): Conditional learning of expert's strategies from promising combination of aspects (Lépy N.); COMAPS: anthropocentric management of control strategies (Le Saux E.); On the roles of deviant logic and multiple hypotheses in professional judgment (Lundberg G.)

HCP Board meeting in Brussels, September 27th 2000

HCP WEB Site design (<http://www-hcp.enst-bretagne.fr>)

First issue of HCP News letter to appear (March 2001)

Organisation of HCP stream for EURO XVIII (Rotterdam, July 2001):

- Nine invited sessions (3 papers each)
- One semi-plenary session (to be delivered by Ghustav C. Lundberg, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh)

First HCP members meeting during EURO XVIII

Future Planned Activities

HCP 2002 within 12th Mini-EURO conference in Brussels (2-5 April 2002)

E-CUBE, Experimental Economics E-CUBE - European Workinggroup on Experimental Economics

Co-ordinator

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Purpose and History

Our general plan is to bring together researchers from the field of Experimental Economics and related disciplines like business administration, behavioral sciences, and Operations Research.

Since 1999 there exists the CEEL-group at the University of Trento/ Italy and the ExLab-group at the University of Graz. As an enlargement of these two groups the E-CUBE wants to combine their ideas.

The first announcement of the E-CUBE WG was already given at the October 2000 meeting of ExLab in Graz.

Number of Members

Approx. 50 members from nearly all EU-countries, Croatia and US.

Several publications planned.

Recent and Future planned Activities

- Labor - Experiments from different fields, mainly from the field of economics and business administration; esp.: public good theory, criminal environment, bargaining theory, forecasting.
- Meetings and Conferences: Mainly in Graz and Trento, (details will be worked out).
- 8th of July WG meeting combined with the EURO 2001.
- Workshop on Experimental work: 14 and 15 th of Sept. at University of Grenoble.

EU-ME, European Chapter on Metaheuristics

Co-ordinator

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Number of Members

After a short life of less than one year, EU/ME already counts 101 members from 22 countries and from both academic and non-academic circles.

Purpose and History

On March 4-18, 2000, EURO organised a EURO Winter Institute on "Metaheuristics in Combinatorial Optimisation" in Lac Noir, Switzerland. Both for the participants and the organisers (Alain Hertz and Marino Widmer), it was a great success. During the winter institute, seventeen young researchers worked together and shared experiences for fifteen days. This resulted in a group of seventeen motivated young researchers, eager to continue their joint work in their future careers. The organisers, Alain Hertz and Marino Widmer, and also Manuel Laguna, encouraged the participants to create a EURO working group, to stimulate ongoing co-operation in this field of research.

The topic of the Winter Institute was "Metaheuristics in Combinatorial Optimisation". It was decided to create a new group working in the field of metaheuristics to allow us to include people that use and develop metaheuristics for other than combinatorial optimisation problems.

In Europe and around the world, there exists already a large community working on that subject. The MIC (Metaheuristics International Conference) conference that takes place every two years, is a great success each time. EMO (International Conference on Evolutionary Multi-Criterion Optimisation), EuroGP 2001 (4th European Conference on Genetic Programming Congress on Evolutionary Computation), GECCO 2001 (Genetic and Evolutionary Computation Conference) and CEC 2001 (Congress on Evolutionary Computation) are other recent conferences in that field. Many workshops and streams in conferences or workshops are ded-

icated to metaheuristics. Also, mailing lists are growing and the modern-heuristics mailing list is one of the most important today. Moreover, the Journal of Heuristics concretises the work done by researchers in the field of metaheuristics.

Marc Sevaux, Kenneth Sörensen and Christelle Wynants decided to found a working group on metaheuristics to provide a forum for researchers, to intensify the joint European research and to maintain complete and updated information about events, papers, surveys, new algorithms, free positions, etc. One of the first acts of this new working group was to create a comprehensive web site of metaheuristics-related topics.

In January 2001, the EU/ME working group was officially endorsed by EURO and given the status of EURO working group.

Recent Activities

Creation of a web site providing interesting web links, bibliographic references and upcoming events related to metaheuristics. The first step of the group was to design a web page presenting the aim of the group, the logo, etc. Kenneth Sörensen is in charge of it. On this web page, people can join the EU/ME working group easily by filling an electronic form and we now count more than 100 members including Fred Glover (USA), Alain Hertz (Switzerland), Manuel Laguna (USA), Raphael Martí (Spain), people very well known in the metaheuristics community around the world. With the help of Ibrahim Osman, we will be able to reach over 500 metaheuristics researchers in the world.

Publication of a regular Newsletter (December 2000, February 2001). The newsletter is available online at <http://tew.ruca.ua.ac.be/eume/eume.newsletters.html> for both members and non-members.

Future planned activities

We are still working on improving the web site. Working papers can be submitted and we are looking for tutorials and surveys to publish on the web site. Contributions will be appreciated.

The forthcoming conference, MIC 2001, which will take place in Portugal will be a very good forum to advertise our group. With our colleague Jorge P. Sousa, we plan to organise sessions and also special events for members of the working group. Furthermore we plan to advertise for EU/ME at conferences visited by members of our organising committee, for example the EU/ME working group will be officially announced at EURO 2001.

We plan to organise a board meeting at least annually and local seminars related to a specific aspect of metaheuristics. They will be announced on the web site and in the EU/ME newsletters.

Special thanks

In the name of the members, we would like to thank EURO and its committee to give us this opportunity to create and develop metaheuristics under a recognised organisation like the Euro Working Groups.

From the Past President

According to tradition, it is the past president's task and privilege to reflect upon the period he was in office as a president. Time runs fast, particularly when it takes the hurdle from one millennium to another. In the period 1999-2000 two Executive Committees were in charge of EURO: The 1999 EC consisted of Christoph Schneeweiss (President), Jan Weglarz (Past President), Valerie Belton (VP1), Raymond Bisdorff (VP2), Alexis Tsoukias (Secretary), and Philippe Solot (Treasurer). By the end of 1999, after four successful years, Valery Belton and Jan Weglarz left the EC. Zilla Sinuany-Stern and Philippe Vincke joined the Executive Committee so that the following persons belonged to the EC 2000: Christoph Schneeweiss (President), Philippe Vincke (President-Elect), Zilla Sinuany-Stern (VP1), Raymond Bisdorff (VP2), Alexis Tsoukias (Secretary), and Philippe Solot (Treasurer). Finishing his second term, Raymond Bisdorff left the EC by the end of 2000, while Alexis Tsoukias and Philippe Solot were elected for a second period. I sincerely would like to thank all my friends in the two ECs, including Philippe van Asbroeck as manager of the EURO office, for their kind collaboration and their considerable commitment they devoted to EURO in the past two years. Without their continuous efforts, EURO would not have made progress and the considerable workload of the day-to-day work could not have been handled. My thanks are particularly due to the colleagues that are no longer members of the current EC.

The highlight of the 'millennium period' 1999/2000 certainly was EURO 2000 in Budapest at which we could celebrate EURO's 25th anniversary. The particularly suitable venue of the University of Economics which, at each conference break, allowed all the participants to meet in the Aula, the beautiful reception in the Gellert Bath, the banquet with its 25th anniversary fireworks, for short: the excellent organisation and scientific monitoring of the OC and PC deserve our distinct appreciation: Many thanks, particularly to the main organizers, Andras Prekopa, Gusztav Hencsey, and Victor Richter, and to the PC chairman Jakob Krarup, and, last but not least, to Daniel Schell who greatly contributed to the appropriate atmosphere of a 25th anniversary. Bulletin 9(3) 2000 gives some impressions of this successful congress in Budapest.

Structuring this report, let me first summarise the main developments and events regarding our traditional instruments, and let me then point out some of the new instruments being created in the millennium period 1999/2000. Finally some ideas as to the achievements and desiderata for the near future will be brought up.

Traditional instruments and their further improvement

Area VP1: EURO k-conferences and ESWIs

Besides the congress in Budapest, the EC prepared EURO 2001 in Rotterdam and EURO 2003 in Istanbul. For these and future EURO k-conferences new guidelines were prepared to clarify the mutual role of OC, PC, and EC, and to accommodate some new IFORS and EURO instruments. I am confident that the conference in Rotterdam which is organised by Jo van Nunen (chairman of the OC) and Luk van Wassenhove (chairman of the PC) will be an upcoming highlight. Thanks to their joint efforts, we will witness a strong practice component at this conference. As to EURO 2003, Istanbul will be an exciting venue and the engineering department of the renowned Bosphorus University will be a competent partner together with INFORMS and Gerhard Waescher as EURO-PC chairman. In March 2000, we had the very successful ESWI on 'Metaheuristics and Combinatorial Optimization' organized by Alain Hertz and Marino Widmer. A Summer Institute on Decision Analysis and Artificial Intelligence, Toulouse, September 2001 is in preparation (Alexis Tsoukias) as well as an ESWI on 'Supply Chain Management and Advanced Planning', Germany, Summer 2002 (Hartmut Stadler, Germany). For the further details see the excellent summarising account of Zilla Sinuany-Stern and Philippe Van Asbroeck in Bulletin 9(3) 2000.

Area VP2: Working Groups and EURO Mini Conferences

Two EURO Mini Conferences took place in August and September 1999: 'Human Centered Processes' in Brest, France, and 'Artificial Intelligence in Transportation Systems' in Espoo, Finland. A further Mini Conference is planned for 2002 in Belgium on DSS and electronic markets.

In 1999/2000, four new Working Groups were established:

1. EUROPT, EURO Continuous Optimisation Working Group (1999)
2. HCP, Human Centered Processes (2000), as an outcome of the successful Mini Conference in Brest
3. EU/ME, EURO Working Group on Metaheuristics, as an outcome of the successful ESWI in Switzerland mentioned above (early 2001)
4. Ethics in OR (early 2001).

A fifth EWG, E-CUBE on 'experimental economics' is on the way. Special thanks are due to all EWG co-ordinators, particularly to those of the newly created groups. Their efforts are highly appreciated. Raymond Bisdorff has prepared an excellent EWG report in Bulletin 9(2) 2000.

EJOR: In the last two years we could witness a smooth transition to EJOR's new editorship Roman Slowinski, Jacques Teghem, and Jyrki Wallenius. Managing this highly important instrument is an enormous challenge and the editors deserve all our support and full appreciation. Bulletin 8(4) 1999 describes the new perspectives of EJOR in full detail.

IFORS: Thanks to the activity of the IFORS President of the years 1998 to 2000, Andres Weintraub, and the IFORS representatives of EURO, Dominique de Werra and Rainer Burkard, the relationship to IFORS has become more intense. In particular, IFORS is organising special events at EURO k-conferences, like the IFORS/EURO lecture of an invited non-European renowned scientist. EURO and IFORS are exchanging places for young scientists at EWSIs and Summer Institutes in non-European countries. Moreover, EURO is supporting the Africa initiative of IFORS and is developing an own initiative with its Africa project, and finally EURO takes part in the IFORS Educational Resources Initiative. Bulletin 9(1) 2000 is particularly devoted to the new activities of IFORS.

After its acceptance by IFORS, the Byelorussian OR society was welcomed by the Council in Beijing as the 28th member of EURO. The Formation of further East European OR societies is still on the way.

Excellence in Practice Award

After the little-encouraging experiences with the 'Best Applied Paper Award' and the helpful highly

appreciated comments of Costas Pappis, the jury chairman of the 2000 BAP Award, the prize needed a substantial 'upgrading'. Its name was changed to 'Excellence in Practice Award', the endowment was raised to 5000 CHF, and the certificate will not only be conveyed to the winner but also to the company involved. Simultaneously the 'BAP-related working group ORNET' terminated its activities. First experiences of the Jury 2001, chaired by Bernhard Fleischmann, have already shown the success of this substantial change in that the number of applications has increased considerably.

New instruments

Initiatives for young researchers

After the not really encouraging experiences with EURO Prime Conferences which were designed as OR conferences for young researchers in a year when no IFORS conference takes place, the Council followed the EC to cancel this instrument and to replace it with two new initiatives for young researchers. The ESYR-EWG (EURO Support for Young Researchers) initiative supports up to 5 researchers per year to participate in EWG meetings. The ORP3 (Operational Research Peripatetic Post-Graduate Programme) instrument supports an OR workshop for young colleagues hosted by a research laboratory and organised by young OR researchers of that institution. The first ORP3 event is going to take place at University Dauphine, Paris, Sep 26-29, 2001).

MSSIP (Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize)

This new instrument is a highly endowed prize on theoretical or practical achievements in a highly innovative and strategically important area of management science. The endowments of 20000 CHF, sponsored by the SAP AG, Germany, show the importance of the MSSIP. The first conferment of the prize will be at EURO 2003 in Istanbul in the area of 'Market Coordination Schemes in Supply Chain Management'. The Jury Chairman is Christof Weinhardt, a call for applications will be distributed at EURO 2001 and in various Bulletins and Newsletters.

New Perspectives

EURO comprises almost 50% of the membership of IFORS and it is certainly one of the most active OR-regions on our globe. Still, its level of organi-

sation is far from being as effective as that of INFORMS which has about the same membership of 10.000 individual scientists. In the last two years the EC got green light by the Council to move in a direction that allows EURO to develop a more direct contact with individual members. As a first step, a considerable improvement of the EURO homepage is envisaged extending it so that it becomes a real information tool about EURO and OR. In parallel, the EURO office will get a better outfit which is not only necessary for managing the new activities but even now for the traditional ones. The many financial transactions, for instance, caused by the various supports EURO is offering need some administrative support. Regarding the new activities and being aware that most of the societies do not possess a regular monthly Newsletter EURO needs a direct access to individual members via email. At the council meeting in Budapest following an extensive panel discussion, the societies expressed their support in providing EURO with the individual email addresses. The EC greatly appreciates this far reaching and wise decision, and I would like to thank the presidents and representatives of our member societies for their supportive cooperation.

With the direct access the EURO Bulletin could reach far more readers than it is reaching now. Moreover, the accessibility of EJOR could possibly be improved and a European version of Interfaces or of the UK professional journal OR-Insight could be published electronically. All these perspectives have been discussed during the strategic sessions of the EC and concrete steps towards their realisation are on the way.

Desiderata

On several occasions (e.g., see Bulletin 9 (3) 2000) I tried to position Operations Research and particularly EURO in relation to its scientific and societal environments. More than ever it became evident that research in OR and trained students in our field are desperately asked for. An increased joint effort together with adjacent societies, industry and commerce and politics is needed to induce young people to take an interest in our field and to attract persons from outside Europe. Attempts have been made but we have to do far more to prevent us from falling behind.

Another important field is that of EURO's contact to the practice. The EC improved the Practice Award and with the MSSIP for the first time it was possible to find a sponsor for an OR prize on a European level. This can only be a first step. In a situation in which OR is of utmost importance for industry and commerce we should actively employ the instrument of sponsoring which, besides the journal, would give us a second financial pillar. At EURO 2001 we will have several streams on OR in practice. It is hoped that a working group might be established focusing, e.g., on implementation aspects of OR.

These are only a few fields of the many challenges EURO will have to master in the immediate future and in the years to come. I am sure that the EC under the new presidency of Philippe Vincke will continue EURO's successful path. I wish him and his team all the best.

Christoph Schneeweiss

Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize 2003 (MSSIP 2003)

Call for Applications

The European Association of Operational Research Societies (EURO) is offering the Management Science Strategic Innovation Prize (MSSIP) to foster specific areas of application of Operational Research in management. The prize is intended to award outstanding contributions in theory or in practice to a well-chosen scientific area encouraging innovative researchers and possibly entire research groups to focus their work on a domain of particular strategic interest. The prize is conferred at each EURO-k conference and is sponsored by the SAP AG, Germany, with an endowment of 20000 CHF, each.

The MSSIP is awarded the first time at EURO 2003 in Istanbul for an innovative contribution in the area of

Market Coordination in Supply Chain Management

Coordination within and between companies primarily accounts for the increasing participation of companies in electronic marketplaces and supply chain hubs. The management of these newly constructed supply chains is one of the fastest growing fields in logistics and operations management. The improved flow of information within and between companies brought about by the adoption of new information technologies (WWW, GPRS, UMTS, etc.) allows for a wide range of market based coordination schemes to integrate the logistic systems of the collaborating firms.

The market coordination of supply chains evokes a number of challenging questions, such as

- What is the general role of distributed decision making in market-driven supply chain coordination?
- What is the significance and possible relationship of long term and short term market coordination?

- How should markets be organised, particularly in the case of products having multiple attributes, and how can a market coordination scheme be evaluated?
- How could contract theory, auction theory, or negotiation theory be applied in view of a coordination of logistic systems?
- What is the impact of information asymmetry and which information should be disclosed to improve the overall performance of the supply chain?
- What is the role of planning activities in the presence of quick market responses?

The prize is particularly focusing on researchers working in Operations Research, Operations Management, Information Systems, Computer Sciences, and Economics. More specifically, the contribution may be rooted primarily in the following areas: Logistics, artificial intelligence, particularly multi agent systems, game theory, particularly contract theory, and auction theory.

Submission

The contribution can be a theoretical achievement or an innovative practical implementation and should consist of a paper in which the theoretical result or the practical implementation is described.

The paper is to be submitted in electronic form to the chairman of the jury not later than January 15, 2003.

Chairman of the MSSIP Jury 2003

Prof. Dr. Christof Weinhardt
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We have the pleasure to announce the

**12 th MINI-EURO CONFERENCE,
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
APRIL 2-5, 2002**

on the following themes and under the responsibility
of the persons listed below:

**DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS (DSS) (P. Zaraté)
E-AND MOBILE COMMERCE (EMC) (T. Jelassi)
MULTICRITERIA DECISION AID (MCDA) (M. Roubens)
HUMAN-CENTERED PROCESSES (HCP) (G.Coppin)
ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN DECISION-MAKING (ETH) (JP. Brans)**

A tutorial day on E and M-Commerce will be organised on April 2, 2002.

For more information, please visit the conference website
at the following address: <http://www.DSS.Brussels-2002.vub.ac.be>

The above themes present important issues and major challenges for both researchers and practitioners. Furthermore, the related business, technological and socio-economic implications are relevant for a large variety of industries and sectors. This conference aims at addressing these issues from a conceptual as well as from an application point of view, and advancing the existing body of knowledge within the scope of the selected themes. It is also the first conference in Europe combining Human and Ethical aspects with efficient Decision Making.

In recognition of your international prominence in one or more of the above themes, we would greatly appreciate it if you could help us to promote this event and disseminate information about it among relevant parties. In any case we invite you to participate and to present a paper or a session of 3 papers (possibly chaired by you).

Warm regards,
J.P. Brans, T. Jelassi, G Coppin, M.Roubens, P Zaraté

EURO events calendar

9-11/07/01	EURO-k	EURO XVIII Conference Rotterdam, The Netherlands info@euro2001.org http://www.euro2001.org
9-11/07/01	EWG	Methodology for Handling Complex Societal Problems Rotterdam, The Netherlands detombe@tbn.tudelft.nl http://www.tbn.tudelft.nl/webstaf/detombe/index.htm
9-11/07/01	EWG	WATT Working group on automated time tabling Rotterdam, The Netherlands sxp@cs.nott.ac.uk http://www.asap.cs.nott.ac.uk/watt/events/events.html
12-13/07/01	EWG	Workshop on Smooth and Nonsmooth Optimization: Theory and Applications Rotterdam, The Netherlands brinkhuis@few.eur.nl http://www.math.utwente.nl/~still/snopt/
30/07-03/08/01	EWG	Operational Research Applied to Health Services Vienna, Austria marion.rauner@univie.ac.at http://www.bwl.univie.ac.at/bwl/inno/orahs2001.html
09-19/09/01	ESWI	Decision analysis and artificial intelligence Toulouse, France Patrice.Perny@lip6.fr Alexis.Tsoukias@lamsade.dauphine.fr http://www-poleia.lip6.fr/~perny/ESI2001
25-27/09/01	EWG	Efficiency and Productivity Analysis Oviedo, Spain 7ewepa@econo.uniovi.es aalvarez@econo.uniovi.es http://www19.uniovi.es/7ewepa/
26-29/09/01	ORP3	Conference for young OR reserchers Paris, France bouyssou@essec.fr http://www.orp3.com
4-5/10/01	EWG	Multicriteria Aid For Decisions Durbuy, Belgium pvincke@ulb.ac.be http://www.ulg.ac.be/stat-mqg/mcda54/
12-13/10/01	EWG	Distributed Decision Making Eindhoven, Netherlands beta@tm.tue.nl http://www.tm.tue.nl/beta/ddm5/index.htm

EURO events calendar

15-17/11/01	EWG	EURO Working Group on Financial Modelling Haarlem, The Netherlands ewgfm@few.eur.nl http://www.eur.nl/topics/finance/ewgfm/index.htm
28/11-2/12/01	EWG	EWGLA, Locational analysis Volos, Thessaly, Greece mvalas@uth.gr http://www.ntua.gr/survey/geography/ewglaXIII.htm
2-5/04/02	Mini EURO	Decision Support Systems and HCP Brussels, Belgium jpbrans@vnet3.vub.ac.be http://www.DSS.Brussels-2002.vub.ac.be
3-5/04/02	EWG	8th International Workshop on Project Management and Scheduling Valencia, Spain pms2002@uv.es http://www.adeit.uv.es/pms2002/
21-23/08/02	EWG	The 4th International Conference for the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling Gent, Belgium ekb@cs.nott.ac.uk http://project.kahosl.be/patat2002/
27-28/09/02	EWG	MODEST, Modelling of economies and societies in transition Warszawa, Poland nahorski@ibspan.waw.pl owsinski@ibspan.waw.pl http://www.euro-online.org/wg/modest.html

If you want to add any EURO event, please contact the EURO Office (euro@ulb.ac.be).

ESWI: EURO Summer & Winter Institute

EURO-k: EURO Conference

EWG: EURO Working Group Meeting

Mini EURO: Mini EURO Conference

ORP3: Operational Research Peripatetic Post-graduate Programme

EURO XVIII

18th European Conference on Operational Research

Rotterdam, the Netherlands, July 9-11, 2001

www.euro2001.org

SMART LOGISTICS AND INNOVATIONS

Hosted by the Operational Research Society of
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Deadline for abstract submission: 1 March 2001

Deadline for early registration: 1 May 2001