

# EURO Bulletin

Bulletin of the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO) distributed quarterly through the National Societies and on INTERNET (EURO WWW server of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, URL= "http://www.ulb.ac.be/" and anonymous ftp sever "ftp.ulb.ac.be" in the directory "pub/projects/euro". Societies or individual members having news for the EURO Bulletin are requested to E-mail their information to the EURO Bulletin editor : EURO@ULB.AC.BE. Copy deadline for next issue : 20 June 1996

from Tuula Kinnunen, EURO Vice-President 2

## EURO Working Groups a contact forum for OR researchers

Ever since EURO has existed it has provided an organizational framework for EURO Working Groups (EWGs). As a matter of fact, the corner-stone for both EURO itself and its working groups was laid in the first EURO Conference in 1975, and some of the working groups were set up at the same time. The participants of some EURO Summer Institutes (ESIs), starting from ESI I in 1984, have desired to continue to work together after the Institute which has lead into the creation of several EURO Working Groups. Some

other groups which have been working together on some OR field have found out that EWGs give an excellent framework for cooperation and have applied for the status of a EURO Working Group.

### Why Not Join a EURO Working Group?

For the members of the groups the framework EURO is providing means a chance to meet regularly (at least annually) people who are interested in the same OR topic in order to exchange ideas, experiences and research results and a chance to find a counterpart abroad to do research together. The efforts of coordinators and meeting organizers to build an open and friendly atmosphere in the meetings bear fruit; cooperation in the groups is smooth and the personal relations of the group

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members can be described best with the word friendship. While the EWGs organize sessions in conferences, publish special issues of the European Journal of Operational Research or other OR-related journals and organize conferences, the cooperation in the EWGs means better and bureaucratically easier chances for the group members to make public the results of their work.

For the groups the fact of being a EURO Working Group means organizational and financial support of 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 firms can form a research project for which additional finance could be applied e.g. from the European Union under its research programs. (Members planning such a project and support are advised to contact the secretariat of EURO.)

For EURO the EWGs mean continuity in research and in contacts to the field of research. The EWGs are a very important part of EURO and the work of the coordinators 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 coordinator of the group or the second vice-president of EURO.

## The existing EWGs

In January this year EURO Executive Committee gave the EURO label to one new group: "EURO Working Group on Automated Timetabling". At the moment EURO has 16 active Working Groups (in the order of establishment, with the year in brackets):

1. Multicriteria Aid for Decisions (1975)
2. Fuzzy Sets / IFSA European Chapter (1975)
3. ORAHS - OR Applied to Health Services (1975)
4. EUROBANKING special interest group (1975)
5. Locational Analysis (1984)
6. ESIGMA - EURO Special Interest Group on Multicriteria Analysis (1985)
7. Project Management and Scheduling (1986)
8. Financial Modelling (1986)
9. ECCO - European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimization (1987)
10. Decision Support Systems (1989)
11. Transportation (1991)
12. Information Systems (1991)
13. ORNETWORK - EURO's network for practitioners (1993)
14. European Group Decision and Negotiation Support Working Group (1995)
15. MODEST - Modelling of Economies and Societies in Transition (1995)
16. WATT - EURO Working Group on Automated TimeTabling (1996).

More information on these EWGs can be found on the following pages and on Internet ([http://www.ulb.ac.be/euro/euro\\_working\\_groups.html](http://www.ulb.ac.be/euro/euro_working_groups.html)).

from Tuula Kinnunen

## How to create a EURO Working Group?

If you cannot find a group with the OR-topic that interests you, it is possible to form a group and to apply from the EURO Executive Committee for the EURO Working Group status. There are certain requirements that such a group interested in a specific topic of OR or in the field of OR applications has to meet :

1. The EWGs should as far as possible bring together people with different professional backgrounds (industry, university, etc.).
2. The group should be international. This requirement is met if at least 4, but possibly 5 or 6 nations are represented at each meeting and if the meetings do not take place too often in the same country.
3. 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 coordinators 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 organizational 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 organize 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 a EWG obtains financial support from EURO. Financial support can be granted e.g. for printing costs of common stationery, 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 organization and activities of EWGs are stated in the charter of the EURO Working Groups (see Internet : [http://www.ulb.ac.be/euro/euro\\_brochure.html](http://www.ulb.ac.be/euro/euro_brochure.html)).

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

**Lic. Sc. (Econ.) Tuula Kinnunen,  
Turku School of Economics and  
Business Administration,  
Rehtorinpellonkatu 3,  
FIN-20500 Turku, Finland.  
Tel.: (358) (21) 33 83 304,  
Fax: (358) (21) 33 83 302  
(however, from Oct 12, 1996 on  
substitute 2 for 21 in the preced-  
ing numbers),  
E-mail: Tuula.Kinnunen@abo.fi.**

Compiled by Tuula Kinnunen, EURO vice-president 2

# The annual reports of EURO Working Groups

## Multicriteria Aid for Decisions

### COORDINATOR:

Prof. Bernard Roy, LAMSADE,  
Université Paris-Dauphine, Place  
du Maréchal De Lattre de Tassigny,  
F-75775 Paris Cédex 16,  
France. Tel.: (33) (1) 44054288,  
fax: (33) (1) 44054091, e-mail:  
roy@lamsade dauphine.fr.

### 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 make to others methodological, theoretical or applied results, to submit its 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 must not be mini-conferences but real meetings favorable to exchanges and to 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 42 meetings have been organized by 14 different countries.

### NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

approximately 300. In 1975, the group consisted of 29 members divided into 5 different countries. Among the present members, 42 were already members in 1980. At this period, 23 countries were represented. During these last years, each meeting induces 5 to 20 new members (with an average of 13). These figures show how the group is alive, to the biological sense of the term.

## EURO Working Groups

**NEWSLETTER:**

2 issues per year. Editor: Joao Climaco, INESC, Rua Antero de Quental 199, P-3000 Coimbra, Portugal.

**ACTIVITIES 1995:****The 41st meeting:**

Lausanne, Switzerland, March 16-17, 1995. Organizers: Lucien Y. Maestre, Jacques Pictet, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Département de Génie Rural, Institut de Génie de l'Environnement, Switzerland; A. Schärli, Université de Lausanne, Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, Switzerland.

**The 42nd meeting:**

Namur, Belgium, October 12-13, 1995. Organizers: Jean-Paul Leclercq, Jean Fichet, Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Institut d'Informatique, Namur, Belgium.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:****The 43rd meeting:**

Brest, France, March 21-22, 1996. Organizers: Jean-Pierre Barthélémy, Serge Garlatti, Ghislaine Le Gall, Pierre Saunier, TELECOM BRETAGNE, Brest, France.

**The 44th meeting:**

Bruxelles, Belgium, October 3-4, 1996. Organizer: Philippe Vincke, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium.

**The 45th meeting:**

Prague, Czech Republic, March 1997. Organizer: Dagmar Glückaufova, Czechoslovak Management Center, Celakovice, Czech Republic.

## Fuzzy Sets / IFSA European Chapter

**COORDINATOR:**

Dr. Hans Hellendoorn, Siemens AG, Dept. ZT SN 4, D-81730, Munich, Germany.  
E-mail: hah@zfe.siemens.de.

**PURPOSE AND HISTORY:**

This working group was formed at the EURO I Congress in Brussels in 1975. The initiator and first chairman of the group was Prof. H. Zimmermann of RTWH, Aachen, Germany. The organization of the group, the forms its activities have taken, and the vitality and activity of the group are to a great extent due to his efforts.

The second chairman, Prof. Christer Carlsson of Abo Akademi University, Finland, was acting since 1979 until 1986.

During the First IFSA (International Fuzzy Systems Association) Congress in Mallorca on July, 1-6, 1985, with due permission of the EURO Council the working group constituted itself as the European chapter of IFSA. Prof. Carlsson was elected as the first president of the European Chapter, with Prof. M. Roubens the president-elect, Prof. P. Smets treasurer, Prof. U. Hohle secretary and Dr. D. Dubois and A. Straszak members at large. Prof. Roubens served as the president from 1986 until 1993.

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The purpose of the IFSA-EC is to communicate and to promote knowledge of the theory of Fuzzy Sets and related areas and their applications.

In order to realize the objectives the IFSA-EC publishes Newsletters and Bulletins, organizes workshops and symposia, establishes sub-chapters and sponsors such other activities consistent with the objectives as may be directed by the Board.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**  
108.

#### NEWSLETTER:

The French bulletin BUSEFAL is used as a forum for newsletters to the members, and members have been encouraged to submit working papers to BUSEFAL. The group supports the Fuzzy Sets and Systems journal edited by North-Holland.

#### ACTIVITIES 1995:

- Cooperation in several sessions at the EUFIT'95 conference.
- Presentation of the European Chapter at the EURO XIV.
- Preparation of an overview of activities in the area of fuzzy in Europe.
- Organization of the Fuzzy-Neuro-Systeme Workshop '95 in Darmstadt, Germany.

#### FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- Publication of the overview in the "European Journal of Operational Research"
- Organization of sessions at the EUFIT'96.

- Organization of the Fuzzy-Neuro-Systeme Workshop'96 in Soest, Germany.

## ORAHS - The European Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services

A network of persons involved in the application of systematic, quantitative analysis in support of planning and management in the health services sector.

#### Contact persons:

#### COORDINATOR:

Dr. David Clayden, 1, Oakdale Drive, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Otley, West Yorkshire LS 21 1LJ, UK.  
Tel/Fax +44 (0)112 284 2110,  
Email:David@dclayden.demon.co.uk

#### SECRETARY:

Dr. Marek Lubicz, Institute of Organization and Management, Technical University of Wroclaw, Wybrzeze Wspianskiego 27, PL 50-370 Wroclaw, POLAND, Tel +48 (71) 20 28 64, fax +48 (71) 22 36 64.

#### PURPOSE AND HISTORY:

The EURO Working Group on Operational Research Applied to Health Services was formed in 1975 as part of a programme for developing special interest groups within the European branch (EURO) of the

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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.

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.
- cooperation 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.

The group meets every year, each summer, for one week in a different European host country. In 1995, the twentieth meeting took place in Maastricht, the Netherlands. 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.

Besides the annual meetings, the Working Group also engages in different joint projects and activities. A newsletter is produced and distributed among the members, containing reports on meetings and other informal interests. 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 (Croon Helm 1980). Since then, the Working Group has also jointly produced a series of management course and seminars in different countries on decision support for managing change in Health Care.

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

The group has at present 112 members from 22 countries, mainly in Europe but also with 17 from overseas. When we meet in different countries, new members join by taking part in our meetings. 72 of the members are regarded as ac-

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tive in the sense that they have attended a meeting in the last few years.

**NEWSLETTER:**

No newsletter has been issued this year, but one is due shortly in association with our 1996 meeting.

**ACTIVITIES 1995:**

The 21st annual meeting of the WG took place in Maastricht, the Netherlands from July 23rd to July 28th 1995. The theme of the meeting was Managing Healthcare under Resource Constraints. The meeting was organised in a very professional manner, was well attended and had two excellent keynote talks. Pre-meeting abstracts of papers were available to those attending, and a selection of the presented papers are being prepared for a special issue of EJOR. It was felt to be a very successful and enjoyable meeting, and our hosts, the University of Limburg, and other organisations including the Eindhoven University of Technology were warmly thanked for their support for the meeting. Members of the Working Group also presented a Health Stream at EURO XIV in Jerusalem in July 1995.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES :**

The meeting this year, our first ever in, will held in Lisbon, Spain from 22nd to 26th July 1996. Organiser: Dr. Jose A. A. Giria, Divisao de Epidemiologia e Biostatistica de Direccao Geral da Saude, D Alfonso Henriques 45-1056, Lisboa Codex, Portugal.  
Tel: + 351 (1) 847 5515,

Fax: +351 (1) 847 6639,  
Email: iddgs.deb@telepac.pt,  
WWWpage:  
<http://www.telepac.pt/dgsdeb>.

The overall theme of the meeting will be the Evaluation of Public Health programmes. As usual, working group members are encouraged to present papers in these broad areas, but will be welcome to present papers on other research areas. It is intended to circulate the abstracts of papers to be presented, in time for the meeting, and to publish at least a selection of the papers from the meeting subsequently.

## **EUROBANKING special interest group**

**COORDINATOR:**

Mr. Fred Ridgway, Head of Management Services, Bank of Ireland, Head Office, Lower Baggot St, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel.: (353) (1) 6615933, Fax: (353) (1) 6615473, e-mail: fridgway@iol.ie.

**PURPOSE AND HISTORY:**

The European Working Group on EUROBANKING, Operational Research in Banking, was set up in Brussels in January 1975 at the EURO I Conference sponsored by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies.

The purpose of the group is for OR practitioners to exchange and stimulate ideas about the tech-



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niques, experience, philosophy and application of operational research in banking. A secondary objective is to project operational research to bank management.

The group has members from virtually all Western European countries and the total membership is over one hundred. Membership is open to all those employed by banks in operational research or similar departments.

There is a National Co-ordinator for each country represented in the group. Normally National Co-ordinators meet with the Chairman and Secretary twice a year as the Executive Committee. The role of the National Co-ordinator is a contact point, co-ordinator of views and representative of his country.

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

Over 100.

#### ACTIVITIES:

The Group's activities consists of meetings, held at about yearly intervals. Meetings are limited in size to ensure active participation and involvement of those attending. Future meetings: Vienna 1996, Athens 1997, Amsterdam 1998.



## EWGLA - EURO Working Group in Locational Analysis

#### COORDINATOR :

Prof. Frank Plastra, BEIF (Centre for Management Informatics), INVE (Centre for Industrial Location), Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.  
Tel.: (32) (2) 6293609 (Office),  
(32) (2) 6293607 (Secretary),  
Fax: (32) (2) 6293690,  
E-mail: faplastr@vub.ac.be.

#### PAST COORDINATORS :

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

#### SCOPE AND PURPOSE:

EWGLA is a Working Group devoted to Locational Analysis within EURO, the Association of European Operational Research Societies. It was born during the first EURO Summer Institute, which was held at Brussels, July/August 1984, and was devoted to the subject of Location Theory. At that time the main aim of starting up the Working Group was to provide a network of people working together and to keep continuity in the exchanges between the Summer Institute's participants. Since that time the group has known important growth and broadened its scope and purpose. Friendship among its members continues, however, to play an important role.

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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, nonlinear, convex, global, ...) programming, multicriteria analysis, approximation theory, computational geometry, ...

EWGLA is intended to be 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 organized by one of its members (see meetings section). Anybody interested in presenting her/his work, participating in the discussions, or more simply learning and/or consulting about the subject of locational analysis may join the group; their participation will be greatly appreciated. Either theoretical contributions (concepts, methods,...) or applied research, presentation of software, are welcome. Communications, discus-

sions 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 extremely friendly come together of a relatively small group stimulated by their common centre of interest.

#### 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 (see report below)

#### COMMUNICATION :

Communication is achieved at the one hand by way of the EURO Bulletin, playing partly the role of newsletter for the group, and sent to all EWGLA-members. At the other hand a more direct way of communicating was established by the ewgla list-server. Any message sent to ewgla@upf.es by a member of this e-mail discussion group is bounced to all other members. To

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join this discussion group send a request to [ewgla-admin@upf.es](mailto:ewgla-admin@upf.es).

A WWW site was started as a means of promotion, communication and an open entry point to anyone interested in the topic of location. EWGLA has gone public on the World Wide Net 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. Of course all this is not built in a day, and at present the available information mainly concerns the working group and its activities. A short list of books and survey papers is also available.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**  
85

#### **ACTIVITIES 1995 :**

Last meeting - EWGLA8 - Report of the organising committee: The eighth meeting of the EURO Working group on Locational Analysis took place in Lambrecht (Germany), September 24-28 1995. It was organized by the group of Prof. Horst Hamacher of the University of Kaiserslautern. Some 50 scientists from 12 countries -including non-European guests from the USA and Canada - and 20 students participated in the meeting.

As much as 40 papers were presented covering a wide range of areas in locational analysis and connected fields. Since traditionally no parallel sessions are organised this led to a very intensive program.

However, thanks to the isolation and conviviality of the conference center, at which all participants were housed, a lot of time was still available for discussions around the ideas of the presented papers.

A refereed special issue of the journal "Studies in Locational Analysis", edited by H.W. Hamacher, K. Klamroth, S. Nickel and F. Plastria, will appear in mid-1996 and contain selected papers presented at the meeting.

In addition to the presentation of papers and scientific discussions an international wine tasting (supported by regional food) and a 4 hour hiking tour provided additional opportunities for scientific as well as personal exchange.

We all enjoyed this opportunity provided by the european working group framework to be together and felt that - like in the previous working group meetings - some progress was achieved in the field of locational analysis during the 4 days in Lambrecht.

On the last day of the meeting it was decided that the 9th working group on locational analysis will take place in Birmingham, September 5-8, 1996, organized by Dr. Said Salhi and his group. We are all looking forward to meet and work together there again.

#### **ESI 12:**

As an activity within EURO, not organised by our Working Group, but closely connected with its topic, and in which many group members were

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very active, we must mention here the Twelfth EURO Summer Institute held in Puerto de la Cruz on the beautiful Canary island Tenerife, Spain, from June 18 till 30, 1995. Its topic being Locational Analysis it offered the opportunity to some 18 young promising researchers in Europe to gather, present their work, be in contact with several specialists in the field, and in general build up a new international group of friends around their main theme of interest. Thereby history repeated itself after eleven years, since this is how EWGLA started at the ESI 1 in 1984. In fact ESI 12 was mainly organised by J. Moreno, an ESI 1 participant, and other ESI 1 participants were present here, but now as specialists in the field. A full report of this EURO activity is found elsewhere in the EURO Bulletin.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES :**  
Next Meeting EWGLA9 - Sept. 5-8, Birmingham, United Kingdom, Contact address : Dr.S.SALHI, Management Mathematics Group, School of Mathematics and Statistics, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, United Kingdom.



## ESIGMA - Euro Special Interest Group on Multicriteria Analysis

### COORDINATOR:

Prof. Carlos A. Bana e Costa,  
CESUR - IST, Av. Rovisco Pais, P-  
1096 Lisboa Codex, Portugal. Tel.  
(351) (1) 8409580 or (351) (1)  
8409705, fax: (351) (1) 8409884.

### ELECTED COORDINATOR (from October 1996 on) :

Prof. Theodor Stewart, University of  
Cape Town, Department of Statistical  
Sciences, Rondebosch 7700, South  
Africa.

### 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. Since then, our working group meets on either the day before, or the day after, the annual EURO Conference. The following is the full list of meetings of ESIGMA and the respective organizers:

- 1st Lisbon, Portugal, September  
19-20, 1986 (Carlos A. Bana e  
Costa)
- 2nd Brussels, Belgium, March 25-  
26, 1987 (Philippe Vincke)

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- 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 Pöyhönen)
- 8th** Lisbon, Portugal, July 11, 1993 (Carlos A. Bana e Costa and José F. Rafael)
- 9th** Glasgow, Scotland, July 23, 1994 (Valerie Belton)
- 10th** Jerusalem, Israel, July 7, 1995 (Zilla Sinuany-Stern and Lea Friedman).

Normal communications are not accepted in the ESIGMA meetings, for they can be presented in Congresses or in the meetings of the "Multicriteria Aid for Decision" Working Group. The programme of an ESIGMA meeting integrates both "Tutorial Sessions" and "Oriented Discussion Sessions". In "Tutorial Sessions", invited prominent researchers are invited to present their research and methodologies, followed by discussion. On the other hand, "Oriented Discussion Sessions" are devoted to the discussion of specific subjects, oriented by one or two members of the group.

The following scientists have been already invited:  
Bernard Roy (Lisbon), Tom Saaty (Hagen), Ralph L. Keeney (Helsinki),

Detlof Von Winterfeldt, Pekka Korhonen, Denis Bouyssou (Lisbon) and Colin Eden, John Friend (Glasgow). Examples of subjects already discussed in "Oriented Discussion Session" are: "The concept of weight" (Aachen), "What is a criterion?" (Athens), "Real applications" (Lisbon), "A Manifesto for a new MCDA Era" (Glasgow), etc.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**  
226

**NEWSLETTER:**  
2 issues per year. Editor: P. Vincke, Université Libre de Bruxelles, C.P.210, Bld. du Triomphe, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

**ACTIVITIES 1995:**  
The 10th Meeting of ESIGMA was held at Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem, Israel, July 7, 1995. The meeting was organised by Zilla Sinuany-Stern and Lea Friedman and there were about 30 participants from 13 countries in the meeting. During the meeting, Theodor Stewart was elected the new Coordinator of ESIGMA, starting functions in October 1996. The programme was:

**9.00** : Registration  
**9.30 - 11.00** :  
Tutorial Session: Data Envelopment Analysis and the links to Multicriteria Analysis by Wade Cook  
**11.00 - 11.20** : Coffee break  
**11.20 - 12.45** : Oriented Discussion Session: Data Envelopment Analysis and Multicriteria Analysis (Panel: Cooper, Stewart, Belton, Kress, Sinuany-Stern)  
**12.45** : Lunch  
**14.15 - 15.00** : Discussion session: The future of ESIGMA. Election of the new Coordinator  
**15.00** : Closing Session.

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During the EURO Conference, several sessions were organised by ESIGMA. Members and a review paper of ESIGMA activities was presented during a Semi-plenary Session (Multicriteria decision analysis: Some thoughts based on the Tutorial and Discussion sessions of the ESIGMA meetings by Carlos A. Bana e Costa, Theodor J. Stewart and Jean-Claude Vansnick). The paper will be published in EJOR.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**  
The 11th ESIGMA Meeting, Brussels, October 1996. Organizer: Philippe Vincke.

## Project Management and Scheduling

### COORDINATOR:

Prof. Luis Valadares Tavares, CESUR-IST, Av. Rovisco Pais, P-1096 Lisbon, Portugal. Tel.: (351) (1) 8409705 or (351) (1) 8409580, fax: (351) (1) 8409884, telex: 63423 ISTUTL-P.

### PURPOSE AND HISTORY:

The EURO Working Group on Project Management and Scheduling has been established by Prof. L. 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 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 1988, organized by L. Tavares. It gathered sixty participants 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 Professor Carlo Vercellis in Como, Italy in 1992. The fourth workshop took place in Leuven, Belgium in 1994 and was organized by Professor Willy Herroelen.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**  
150.

### ACTIVITIES 1995 :

The group prepared special sessions for the EURO Conference in Israel, 1995.

### FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

The group is preparing special sessions for the IFORS Conference in Vancouver, 1996. The 5th Workshop will be held in Poznan, Poland in 1996.



## EURO Working Groups

## Financial Modelling

**COORDINATOR:**

Prof. Dr. Jaap Spronk, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Department of Finance, P.O. Box 1738, NL-3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel.: (31) (10) 4081282, fax: (31) (10) 4526399, e-mail: email@finbel.few.eur.nl.

**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;
- cooperating and exchanging information with other universities and financial institutions throughout Europe.

The meetings of the Working Group are organized twice a year, in April and in November. Earlier meetings were held in Belgium, Curaçao, Cyprus, Finland, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, United Kingdom and Germany. The meetings are attended by 80-100 members on average, most of them scientists but also representatives from the financial institutions, and are usually organized on Thursday, Friday and Saturday morning. The organizers 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 1995:**

The April meeting was organized by Marida Bertocchi and Enrico Cavalli (University of Bergamo), unfortu-

### EURO Working Groups

nately the November meeting scheduled for Ljubljana had to be cancelled.

#### **FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

The next meeting will be held in Keele (England, April 18-20, 1996) and is organized by Thomas Hartman. The November meeting will be organized by professor Costas Zopounidis (Chania, Greece).

## **ECCO - European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimization**

#### **COORDINATOR:**

Prof. Catherine Roucairol, Université de Versailles, Laboratoire PRISM, 45, avenue des Etats Unis, F-78000 Versailles, France. Tel.: (33) (1) 39254088, fax: (33) (1) 39254057, e-mail: Catherine.Roucairol@prism.uvsq.fr

#### **BOARD:**

Prof. Alain Hertz, EPFL Lausanne, Switzerland;  
Prof. Paolo Toth, DEIS, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy;  
Prof. Jacek Blazewicz, Poznan University of Technology, Poznan, Poland (after ECCO IX).

#### **PURPOSE AND HISTORY:**

The EURO Working Group on

Combinatorial Optimization, ECCO (European Chapter on Combinatorial Optimization) 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 Optimization and its applications with European combinatorialists; most European countries are represented.

The group is suitable for people who are presently engaged in Combinatorial optimization, either in theoretical aspects or in business, industry or public administration applications... All the fields are taken in consideration :operations management - logistics, production scheduling, location and distribution problem, ressource 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, genetic algorithms,...), polyhedral approaches to difficult problems, recent developments in classical optimization problems (scheduling, assignment, knapsack, partitioning,...).

The meetings have a regular basis (once a year during Spring) and must 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 92, Bruxelles 93, Milano 94, Poznan 95. An abstract booklet is distributed to the participants at each meeting.

ECCO has organized in July 94 a EURO Summer Institute on Combinatorial Optimization in France, at Groupe HEC, Jouy en Josas. Twenty



## EURO Working Groups

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 350/100 at each meeting.

**ACTIVITIES 1995:**

The 8th meeting, Poznan, Poland, May 8-10, 1995. Organizer: Prof. Jacek Blazewic, Politechnika Poznanska, Instytut Informatyki, ul. Piotrowo 3a, 60-965 Poznan, Poland, tel.: (48) (61) 790790, fax: (48) (61) 77 15 25, e-mail: blazewic@pozn1v.tup.edu.pl.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

The 9th meeting, Dublin, Ireland, April 1-3, 1996. Organizer: Prof. Micheal O'Heigeartaigh, School of Computer applications, Dublin city University, Dublin 9, Ireland, Tel.: (353) (1) 7045539, Fax: (353) (1) 7045442, Email: moh@compapp.dcu.ie



## EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems

**COORDINATOR:**

Prof. Tawfik Jelassi, INSEAD, Boulevard de Constance, F-77305 Fontainebleau, France.  
Tel.: (33) (1) 60724017  
Fax: (33) (1) 60724049  
E-mail: jelassi@insead.fr

**PURPOSE AND HISTORY:**

The Group was launched at the EURO Summer Institute on DSS held in June 1989 in Madeira, Portugal. The participants of that Institute felt it necessary to set up a European forum for continuing exchange and collaboration on DSS-related topics. Since its foundation, the Group has met every year: in 1990 in Fontainebleau, France (host: Tawfik Jelassi), in 1991 in Bruges, Belgium (host: Dirk Kenis), in 1992 in Nagycekk, Hungary (host: Andras Edelmayer), in 1993 in Sintra, Portugal (host: Ant-nio Rodriguez), in 1994 in Turku, Finland (host: Timo Leino), and most recently in Samos, Greece (see below).

Other activities of the Group have also consisted of publishing a newsletter, organizing the First IFORS specialized conference on DSS, sponsoring some academic events, and editing a special issue of the European Journal of Operational Research (vol. 55, no. 3, 1991), the

### EURO Working Groups

European Journal of Operational Research (vol. 61, nos. 1-2, 1992), the Journal of Decision Systems (vol. 1, nos. 2-3, 1992), and Decision Support Systems (vol. 12, nos. 4-5, 1994).

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**  
95

**NEWSLETTER:**

EuroDSS. Editor: Philip Powell, Warwick Business School, The University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, U.K.,  
Tel.: (44) (1203) 524658,  
Fax: (44) (1203) 524539,  
E-mail:  
orspp@razor.wbs.warwick.ac.uk.

**ACTIVITIES 1995:**

The 6th meeting; Samos, Greece, May 28-30, 1995. Host: John Darzentas, University of the Aegean, Research Lab of Samos.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

The 7th meeting; Ispra, Italy, June 6-8, 1996. Information: Isabel Mendes Gieb, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Institute for Systems Engineering and Informatics, TA Sector, TP 650, I-21020 Ispra (VA), Italy,  
Tel.: (39) (332) 785633,  
Fax: (39) (332) 789394,  
E-mail: isabel.mendes@jrc.it.

Organizing the 7th Mini EURO Conference on "Decision Support Systems, Groupware, Multimedia and Electronic Commerce", Bruges, Belgium, March 25-27, 1997. Co-Chairs: Jean-Pierre Brans and Tawfik Jelassi.

## Transportation

**COORDINATOR:**

Dr. Maurizio Bielli, National Project on Transportation, National Research Council, Viale Dell' Università 11 - I - 00185 Rome, Italy.  
Tel. (39) (6) 4457125,  
Fax: (39) (6) 4457186,  
E-mail: bielli@iasi.rm.cnr.it.

**PURPOSE AND HISTORY:**

The EURO Working Group on Urban Traffic and Transportation was founded in July, 1991 in Cetraro (Italy) during the 7th Euro Summer Institute on Urban Traffic Management. The name was changed during the Meeting in Glasgow in July, 1994 to TRANSPORTATION, in order to enlarge the topics to be addressed and to involve more people in the participation.

The objectives of this EWG are:

- to provide a forum for exchange of information and experiences on research activities on the field of transportation;
- to encourage joint researches and the development both of theoretical methods and applications;
- to promote the cooperation among different institutions and organizations, leaders at national and international level in the field of transportation systems.

The primary field of interest of EWG is: Operations Research methods, mathematical models and computation algorithms to solve and support the solution of problems faced by city authorities and public transport companies.

### EURO Working Groups

Relevant areas of interest are:

- traffic control and simulation models;
- traffic network equilibrium models;
- land-use and transportation planning;
- public transport planning and management;
- applications of Combinatorial Optimization;
- vehicle routing and scheduling.

The potential activities of the working group can be the following ones:

- organization of meetings and conferences;
- editing of a Newsletter;
- promotion of joint researches;
- implementation, comparison and validation of software packages;
- application and transfer of models and tools to real case environments.

#### **BOOKS PUBLISHED: -**

Proceedings of the First Meeting of EWG held in Munich, University of Munich, 1994;

Proceedings of the Second Meeting of EWG held in Paris, INRETS, 1995;

Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on Applications of Advanced Technologies in Transportation Engineering, held in Capri, Italy, June 27-30, 1995;

"Artificial Intelligence Applications to Traffic Engineering", editors: Bielli, M., Ambrosino, G., Boero

M., VSP Publ., 1994;  
"Urban Traffic Networks", editors: Gartner, N.H., Imbrota, G., Transportation Analysis Series, Springer-Verlag, 1995.

#### **NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**

130

#### **NEWSLETTER:**

A formal newsletter has not been edited till now, but the EURO Bulletins are regularly mailed to members together with information about scientific events and activities concerning the fields the group is interested in.

#### **ACTIVITIES 1996:**

Cooperation in the organization of the IFAC Symposium on Transportation Systems, Chania, Greece, June 16-18, 1997;

Organization of the fourth Meeting in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, September 9-11, 1996.

#### **FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

Mini EURO Conference on Fuzzy Sets in Traffic and Transport Systems, Budva, Yugoslavia, September 17-19, 1997.

## Information Systems

#### **COORDINATOR:**

Prof. Georgios I. Doukidis, Athens University of Economics and Business, Department of Informatics, 76 Patission Street, GR-10434 Athens, Greece.

**EURO Working Groups**

Tel. (30) (1) 8233523,  
 Fax: (30) (1) 8226204,  
 Telex: 225363 ASOE GR.

**PURPOSE AND HISTORY:**

This new group was formed in July 1991 on the 11th EURO Conference in Aachen with Acting Chairman: Prof. G. I. Doukidis, from Athens University of Economics and Business and Acting Secretary: Ms. J. Kuljis from Roehampton Institute in London. The other members of the committee are: Dr. P. Kanof (Italy), Dr. R. J. Paul (UK), Dr. E. Whitley (UK) and Dr. D. Wikarski (Germany). The group was created to provide a European basis for furthering the study and application of all areas of information systems. It is intended that the group will complement the interests of the UK Operational Research Society, who are sponsoring the European Journal of Information Systems and the European Conferences on Information Systems, to provide a dynamic European focus for this area of interest.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**

About 80.

**NEWSLETTER:**

European Journal of Information Systems (An official publication of the Operational Research Society published by Macmillan).

**ACTIVITIES 1995:**

Active participation (in terms of program and organisation) of the WG in the 3rd European Conference on Information Systems, Athens, Greece, June 1-3, 1995.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

Active participation (in terms of program and organisation) of the WG in the 4th European Conference on Information Systems, Lisbon, Portugal, July 1996.

## ORnetwork - EURO's network for practitioners

**COORDINATOR:**

Dr. Marc Salomon, Erasmus University, Rotterdam School of Management (F1-37), P.O. Box 1738, NL-3000 DR Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel. (31) (10) 40 82 021, fax: (31) (10) 45 23 595, e-mail: M.Salomon@fac.fbk.eur.nl.

**PURPOSE AND HISTORY:**

The working group has been founded in 1986 by Paul van Beek, Leonard Fortuin, and Luk Van Wassenhove. Objective of the working group is to stimulate the application of Operations Research in practice.

**NUMBER OF MEMBERS:**

75

**NEWSLETTER:**

The EURO Bulletin is used as a newsletter.

**ACTIVITIES 1995:**

Organization of sessions on practical applications of OR at the EURO XIV conference. Organization of a panel

### EURO Working Groups

discussion on "Why is Operational Research not very popular in practice?" at EURO XIV. Introduction of the EURO Practitioners medal, handed out at EURO XIV, and preparation of the finalist session at the conference.

#### FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

Future activities include :

- the organization of sessions on practical applications of OR at international conferences, workshops, and seminars for OR and non-OR audiences,
- the stimulation of OR practitioners to write articles about their projects in technical and non-technical journals, and in newspapers,
- to interest OR journals and newspapers to publish articles on OR applications.

## European Group Decision and Negotiation Support Working Group

#### COORDINATOR:

Dr. Fran Ackermann, Department of Management Science, University of Strathclyde, 40 George Street, Glasgow G1 1QE, Scotland. Tel.: (44) (141) 55 24 400 x 3610, Fax: (44) (141) 55 26 686, e-mail: Fran@mansci.strath.ac.uk.

#### 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.

In March 1996 we will be having our 7th Meeting (2nd official EURO Working Group Meeting) at the University of Grenoble. Each year since 1990 we have arranged to hold a 1-2 day workshop in a different member state (so far France, Scotland, Finland, Belgium, and The Netherlands) so that academics and practitioners can get together and discuss research and practice. In addition to this we arranged and ran a stream at the combined Euro Conference/OR Conference, Glasgow 1994, have set up a Web page and negotiated a special issue on Group Decision and Negotiation in the Journal of Decision Systems.

#### NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

85 at present through continually growing. (see WWW page for mailing list and details)

#### NEWSLETTER:

None. It has been the intention of the group to produce a WWW page providing details regarding meetings, member details, events and other relevant material. This web page is

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accessed on:  
<http://infolabwww.kub.nl:2080/eurogdss/>

#### ACTIVITIES 1995:

6th Working Group meeting, University of Strathclyde;  
 Special Issue on Group Decision and Negotiation Support arranged and confirmed with the Journal of Decision Systems (see web page for details);  
 Development of Web page with details.

#### FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

7th Working Group meeting, April 20/21, University of Grenoble, France;  
 Special issue focusing on the area (eg EJORS/ EJIS);  
 Collaboration with the 7th Mini EURO conference in Bruges - proposed stream as well as workshop.

## MODEST - Modelling of Economies and Societies in Transition

#### COORDINATORS:

Prof. Zbigniew Nahorski and Prof. Jan W. Owsinski, c/o Systems Research Institute, Polish Academy of Sciences, Newelska 6, 01-447 Warszawa, Poland. Tel.: (48) (22) 364103, Fax: (48) (22) 372772, e-mails: [nahorski@ibspan.waw.pl](mailto:nahorski@ibspan.waw.pl) & [owsinski@ibspan.waw.pl](mailto:owsinski@ibspan.waw.pl).

#### PURPOSE AND HISTORY:

MODEST groups specialists in mathematical and computer modelling who are especially interested in problems of modelling and analysis of the economic and social transformation processes taking place in the modern world, with explicit emphasis on these processes which occur in the Central and Eastern parts of Europe. It is the purpose of the Working Group to establish 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), though theoretical models (e.g. economic political) are by no means excluded from the MODEST's perspective.

The Working Group was established in the Spring of 1994 as an entirely informal body. By the 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",

**EURO Working Groups**

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 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. The contacts with the two organizations are meant to be harmonized in accordance with their respective regulations and competence domains.

MODEST is 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:**

19

**NEWSLETTER:**

MODEST Newsletter, 2 issues in 1994, no issue in 1995, now the first issue of 1996 in preparation.

**ACTIVITIES 1995:**

In September 1995 the first meeting (workshop) of MODEST was held in Madralin near Warsaw, the conference center of the Polish Academy of Sciences. There were altogether 29 participants of the workshop, representing 11 countries. During the workshop 16 papers were presented and two discussion sessions were held. It was decided at this meeting to hold the MODEST workshops annually and the planned meeting in September 1996 (6-8),

to take place in Jablonna near Warsaw, will be the feasibility check on such a scheme. Decision was also made on publication of the volume of papers from each meeting, if financial conditions allow. Preparations of such first volume are now underway.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

(1) Publication of the volume from the first MODEST meeting. The volume will contain 11-12 papers. Its editing has been started in February 1996 and the book should appear before the second annual MODEST meeting in September 1996. The volume will be published for MODEST by The Interfaces Institute and Polish Operational and System Research Society.

(2) The second annual MODEST meeting in September 1996 (6-8) in Jablonna near Warsaw. The first announcement and call for papers was already sent out, the second one will be sent out soon together with the consecutive issue of the MODEST Newsletter.

(3) Publication of the volume from the second annual MODEST meeting.

(4) As the Systems Research Institute prepares for a larger international conference in Warsaw in June 1997 ("Transition to Advanced Market Institutions and Economies"), co-sponsored by IFORS, it is planned that MODEST organizes a session (or a series of sessions) at this conference. Appropriate plans will be set up during the 1996 annual meeting of MODEST.

## EURO Working Groups

## WATT - EURO Working Group on Automated TimeTabling

### COORDINATORS:

Dr Edmund Burke, University of Nottingham, Department of Computer Science, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD, United Kingdom, tel.: (44) (115) 9514206, fax: (44) (115) 9514254, e-mail: [ekb@cs.nott.ac.uk](mailto:ekb@cs.nott.ac.uk), and Prof. Jan Schreuder, University of Twente, Postbus 217, 7500 AE Enschede, the Netherlands, Tel.: (31) (53) 4893463, Fax: (31) (53) 4892255, E-mail: [j.a.m.schreuder@math.utwente.nl](mailto:j.a.m.schreuder@math.utwente.nl).

### 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, genetic algorithms, graph colouring, simulated annealing and others. The recent conference on Automated timetabling in Edinburgh attracted a lot of interest and was a huge success.

Most 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 will be the primary interest of the working group. However, there is some interest in other timetabling problems such as the timetabling of sports fixtures, railway timetabling and employee timetabling.

The objectives of the group are:

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

### NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

80



## EURO Working Groups

**ACTIVITIES 1995:**

1) The 1st International Conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling. Napier University, Edinburgh, August 30 - September 1, 1995 with proceedings.

2) Setting up of a timetabling e-mail group with over 200 subscribers (ttp@cs.nott.ac.uk).

3) Organisation of a timetabling bibliography on the world wide web  
(see:ftp://ftp.cs.usyd.fedu.au/jeff/timetabling/timetabling.bib.yz) with 1056 entries.

**FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES:**

1) Publishing a book: "The Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling" (eds: Edmund Burke and Peter Ross), Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science, Spring 1996. This book is a selection of the best papers from the above conference.

2) The 2nd International Conference on the Practice and Theory of Automated Timetabling (PATAT97). This conference will be held in Toronto, Canada, in the summer of 1997.

3) The 1st EURO WATT Workshop. To be organised for Summer 1998.

4) Establishing a Socrates thematic network.

5) Organising a competition for timetabling systems.



**Bulletin of the  
Association of  
European Operational  
Research Societies  
(EURO)**

**Distributed quarterly through the National Societies and on INTERNET (EURO WWW server of the Université Libre de Bruxelles,**

**URL= "http://www.ulb.ac.be/" and anonymous ftp sever "ftp.ulb.ac.be" in the directory "/pub/projects/euro".**

**Societies or individual members having news for the EURO Bulletin are requested to E-mail their information to the EURO Bulletin editor : EURO@ULB.AC.BE**

**Copy deadline for next issue : 20 June 1996**

## EURO Working Groups

## Where will a Mini EURO Conference be in 1998?

One of EURO's initiatives are the Mini EURO Conferences. They are international conferences specialized on a promising OR theme or a field of OR applications. The seventh Mini EURO Conference will be in Bruges, Belgium, March 24-27, 1997 on the theme "Advances in Managerial Technologies: Decision Support Systems, Groupware and Multimedia".

(For more information contact Prof. Jean-Pierre Brans, Center for Statistics and O.R., Pleinlaan 2, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, Phone: (32) (2) 6292070, Fax: (32) (2) 6292282, E-mail: [jpbrans@vnet3.vub.ac.be](mailto:jpbrans@vnet3.vub.ac.be).)

EURO has agreed to support at most two Mini EURO Conferences a year. EURO can offer financial assistance in the form of an interest-free loan. This loan can be needed e.g. for printing call for papers and a scientific programme. EURO also assists organizers by providing a channel to distribute

the call for papers to all EURO members through the National OR Societies. For the conference EURO is covering no losses, but is neither requesting profits for itself.

The proceedings of the Mini EURO Conference can be offered for publication in EJOR. The editors of EJOR decide if the proceedings can form a special issue of EJOR.

National OR Societies, Working Groups and OR workers can make a proposal to organize a Mini EURO Conference. If you are interested in organizing such a conference in 1998, 1999 or 2000, please, contact the second vice-president of EURO Tuula Kinnunen.

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**OR 38:  
Thirty-eighth Annual  
Conference of the  
Operational Research  
Society,  
University of Warwick,  
England.**

**September 3-5, 1996**

Information: Mrs Chris Barrett,  
Operational Research Society,  
Seymour House, 12 Edward  
Street, Birmingham B1 2RX, UK.  
Tel +44 121 233 9300;  
Fax +44 121 233 0321;  
Email : [barrett@orsoc.org.uk](mailto:barrett@orsoc.org.uk)

European Management in Face of Knowledge Driven Competition

## **EUROPEAN MANAGEMENT IN FACE OF KNOWLEDGE DRIVEN COMPETITION 19-21 September 1996, Porto, Portugal**

This Euroconference, sponsored by the European Union under its TMR Programme is organised by the Universities of Copenhagen, Groningen, Lancaster, Macedonia and Porto. It is designed to bring together participants interested in the three key areas fundamental to European competitiveness:

Knowledge work and workers; networks within and between organisations; the interface of marketing with production.

Knowledge is crucial in advanced industrial companies because successful organisations are selling the know-how of their workers, whether in high technological products or complex services, instead of continually seeking to reduce labour costs. Competing through knowledge requires good relationships to pass it on. Thus networks between organisations are needed to secure timely supplies and to sell finished products. Problems at the marketing-production interface are most frequently blamed for poor corporate performance and exemplify the necessity of networks within organisations.

Any participants from the European Union, who are no more than 35 years old, are eligible to have their fees waived and their travel and accommodation costs met by the conference organisers. Others may have half their expenses paid if they are presenting a paper.

**Further details and application forms are available from Sue Hird,**

**E-mail: [s.hird@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:s.hird@lancaster.ac.uk)**

**Tel: +44 1524 594064**

**Fax: +44 1524 592652**