



Report 3

August 27, 2007

***On the “Life” in the German Operations Research Society
GOR – a Partner of ORST***

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At September 4-7, 2007, *Operations Research 2007*, the annual international conference organized by GOR, the German OR Society, will take place in Saarbrücken, Germany (<http://www.or2007.de/htdocs/index.html>). Saarbrücken is the capital of the state of Saarland, located in the south west of Germany, and characterized by a long and changeful French-German history and mixed culture, with its hard times but, especially since 50 years, more and more good and peaceful times. In these decades, a transformation from traditional industries, e.g., on steel, to high tech and modern service sectors, is conducted successfully today. The University of the Saarland has a good name, in particular, in the areas of informatics (especially, bioinformatics), with its relations to the health services and OR in general.

Taking this into account, the self-introduction and special focus of the Saarbrücken conference days seem to be consequent and appropriate:

OR in the Service Industry

The transition in Germany (and many other countries in Europe) from a production orientation to a service society combined with a continuous demographic change generated a need for intensified Operations Research activities in this area. On that account this conference is devoted to the role of Operations Research in the service industry. The links between service industry and Operations Research are manifold and include many different topics which are particularly emphasized in scientific sections of OR 2007.

The OR 2007 is preceded by a one day tutorial on Operations Research in Hospitals (<http://www.or2007.de/htdocs/Tutorial.html>). **Presenter:** *Michael Carter* is Professor in the Dept. of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the University of Toronto and Director of the Healthcare Resource Modelling Lab.

The conference itself comprises the following *17 Sessions*:

- **Applied Probability and Stochastic Programming**
- **Artificial Intelligence, Business Intelligence and Decision Support**
- **Continuous Optimization**
- **Discrete and Combinatorial Optimization**
- **Econometrics, Game Theory and Mathematical Economics**
- **Energy, Environment and Life Sciences**
- **Entrepreneurship and Innovation**
- **Finance, Banking and Insurance**
- **Forecasting and Marketing**
- **Health Care Management**
- **Managerial Accounting and Auditing**
- **Multi Criteria Decision Making**
- **Production and Service Operations Management**
- **Retail, Revenue and Pricing Management**
- **Scheduling and Project Management**
- **Simulation, System Dynamics and Dynamic Modelling**
- **Supply Chain Management and Traffic**

There will be *2 Plenary Talks*:

The Hype of Business Process Management – Opportunities for OR

Scheer, August-Wilhelm (Universität Saarbrücken, IDS Scheer AG)

Operations Research in the Health Care or “How Can we Get More O.R. Into the O.R.?”

Carter, Mike W. (University of Toronto, Canada)

and *9 Semiplenary Talks*:

Branch-and-Price in Passenger Transportation

Desaulniers, Guy (École Polytechnique Montreal, Canada)

Assessing Decision-Making Practices: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Papamichail, Nadia (University of Manchester, UK)

Performance Analysis and Shift Scheduling in Inbound Call Centers

Helber, Stefan (Universität Hannover)

Effects of Modeling Error on Dynamic Processes

Kleywegt, Anton (Georgia Tech Atlanta, USA)

Inventory Dimensioning in Manufacturing – Theory and Practice

Lippolt, Christian (Robert Bosch GmbH, Stuttgart)

Sensor Placement for Water Distribution System Security:

Intersection Between Operations Research and Computer Science

Phillips, Cynthia A. (Sandia National Laboratories, USA)

Metaheuristics – The State of the Art

Voß, Stefan (Universität Hamburg)

Scheduling with Small Buffers

Woeginger, Gerhard (Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands)

Neural Networks in Economics

Zimmermann, Hans-Georg (Siemens AG, München)

I will participate at this conference. In case you will be there, too, please do not hesitate to contact me. In fact, I would be very happy to welcome you in my (original) country!

During the conference, the two presidents of the two national OR societies, *ORST* (of Turkey), *Prof. Dr. Refik Güllü*, and *GOR* (of Germany), *Prof. Dr. Thomas St. Spengler*, will have a *Presidents' Lunch* and discuss about important questions on the state and perspectives of the common relations. After the collaboration agreement became signed, several proposals were already made by members of the two societies. Among of them is also the wish for scientific collaboration between scientists on both countries, exchange of their students, etc., and possible support of such valuable ventures. These are special - presidential - matters indeed.

Let us in this third ORST-GOR report start with a series of short introductions of the *GOR Working Groups*. The first one shall be about

GOR Working Group **OR in Environmental Protection** (in short: **OR and Environment**)

Facing the increasing impact of environmental issues in today's management processes, the working group "OR and Environment" tries to identify, analyze and evaluate environment related management decisions and provide sufficient (quantitative) OR tools.

Aim of the working group is to discuss new environmental challenges together with scientists, managers and politicians. On this basis, new OR methods will be developed and applied.

Actual topics of the working group are sustainable supply chain management, reverse

logistics, emission trading, environment-orientated production and transportation management, development of environmental information and decision support systems, risk management and the design of quality management systems.

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Axel Thuma

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Prof. Dr. Peter Letmathe will be the Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee of *EURO XXIII 2009* which is going to take place in Bonn, Germany, in early July 2009. OC Chair will be *Prof. Dr. Erwin Pesch* from the University of Siegen, too. PC Chair will be *Prof. Dr. Gerhard Woeginger* from Eindhoven University of Technology (The Netherlands). In forthcoming ORST-GOR reports, the programme and the organizing committees of that special and unique conference in 2009 will become closer introduced. There are quite a number of precious streams guaranteed even today – a remarkable number with stream organizers: from Turkey! If you become interested in an active participation at EURO 2009, for example, as a stream or session organizer, please do not hesitate to send your proposal (e.g., via gweber@metu.edu.tr). The enrichment by you will be very much appreciated!

Let us please conclude with a look back at the *EURO season* of this year *2007*. The Prague days were very successful at all and, especially, from the Turkish point of view. At EURO XXII 2007 (<http://euro2007.vse.cz/>; about 2000 participants), the scientists from Turkey achieved the *no. 4* in the list of all the nations' participation! This is really sensational: Congratulation! But the Turkish contribution to the success of EURO 2007 was not of a quantitative nature only but of a very high quality, too. This also expressed itself in the many devoted stream and session organizers from Turkey. What is more, the three satellite events, *Joint EUROPT-OMS Conference*, *2nd Conference on Optimization Methods & Software* and *6th EUROPT Workshop "Advances in Continuous Optimization"* (<http://cio.umh.es/europt-oms/>; about 160 participants, for a report please

cf. <http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/Joint%20EUROPT-OMS%20Conference%20short.pdf>), *PhD Workshop in OR for Development: EURO Working Group OR for Development* (<http://www2.ing.puc.cl/~fcrespo/eurofdv/conference/homepage.htm>) and *EURO-CBBM Workshop – Workshop on OR in Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Medicine* (<http://euro-cbb.ku.edu.tr/conference/homepage.htm>) would not have been possible without the initiative, engagement and original scientific contributions of Turkish colleagues in all areas of modern OR! The EURO Working Groups which prepared and conducted these events, EUROPT (<http://www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT/>), EURO ORD (<http://www2.ing.puc.cl/~fcrespo/eurofdv/>), EURO CBBM (<http://euro-cbb.ku.edu.tr/>), and all the other EURO WGs (http://www.euro-online.org/display.php?page=working_groups&), cordially invite you for membership (free of charge).

Inviting you finally to *EURO Mini-Conference 2008* in *Neringa, Lithuania* (the “Antalya of the North”; please find the poster below), I remain, with my best wishes,
yours sincerely,

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EURO WG CBBM

EURO WG ORD



International conference
EURO Mini Conference
“Continuous Optimization and Knowledge-Based Technologies”
EurOPT-2008
May 20-23, 2008, Neringa, LITHUANIA
<http://www.mii.lt/Europt-2008>

The Association of European Operational Research Societies
Litors
Lithuanian Operational Research Society
EUROPT
EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization
EU/ME
The European Chapter on Metaheuristics
GOR
Germany OR Society
IBM
IBM Europe – Zurich Research Lab