



Report 6

July 24, 2008

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

Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (IAM, METU)

In our Report 5, I already draw your and our common attention to the annual international conference organized by GOR, the German OR Society, *Operations Research 2008*, which is going to take place in Augsburg, Germany (<http://www.or2008.de>). In the meantime, the preparations developed very much. Indeed, we will have a number of participants from Turkey. This is an impression of mutual confidence and of a developing collaboration! May I please invite you to visit and browse a bit in the conference sides! I myself will be at that conference, too, and long to spend a fruitful and indeed wonderful time there – with some of You! Together with our friend, the President of GOR, *Prof. Dr. Thomas Spengler*, and the members of GOR, I will love to welcome you for that purpose soon.

Then, in the next year of 2009, we will have a special highlight – the 23rd *European Conference on Operational Research, EURO XXIII 2009*, that will be celebrated in Bonn, Germany, from July 5 to 8. In these weeks and months, the conference homepage <http://www.euro-2009.de/> is under current update. We already have numerous highly valuable streams, grouped into main streams, and Invited Speakers of Top format. They really are stars – but for me everyone of *You* is a star, and I am very happy that numerous friends from Turkey are involved into the stream organization and, herewith, into preparing the program of this top event. The main organizers, especially, *Prof. Dr. Erwin Pesch*, *Prof. Dr. Gerhard Woeginger* and *Prof. Dr. Peter Letmathe*, and their teams are waiting for us. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any of your questions concerning EURO XXIII 2009. We are applying for further funds in order to facilitate participation of those friends who cannot afford to pay the registration fee. Wouldn't it be fantastic to celebrate a great Party of science, respect and friendship in the City of *Ludwig van Beethoven* next year?

With some of you I had the pleasure to meet at the occasion of *IFORS 2008* (please visit <http://www.acitravel.co.za/event/>) in Sandton (near Johannesburg), South Africa, just some days ago, at June 13-18. In those days we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the *International Federation of Operational Research Societies* (<http://www.ifors.org/>). These were unforgettable days. During the Conference Dinner, the present participants of every IFORS nation, one by one, stood up – also the ones from *Turkey*, among of them me. (You may understand that I additionally also stood up for *Germany* ☺.)

I would be very happy if also in *Bonn* in 2009 many friends from precious Turkish people could *stand up!* As you may remember, at the occasion of *EURO XXII 2007* in Prague (<http://euro2007.vse.cz/>), we from Turkey were the *No. 4* nation in terms of participation among all the nations on earth! But do you know: Turkey recently won the **Silver** Medal even: At *20th Mini EURO Conference “Continuous Optimization and Knowledge-Based Technologies”*, Neringa, Lithuania, May 19-23, 2008 (<http://www.mii.lt/europt-2008/>), the participants from Turkey were the second largest group! The **Gold** Medal was gained by the Lithuanians, the host people. To give closer witness and information about this success, I attach a report of this event in the attachment. There you can find all the precious sponsors, among of them also our sister – the German OR Society (GOR)! A closer report about this Mini EURO will appear in the next bulletin of the German OR Society, OR News. If you are interested, I will provide you then with a copy of that report about our event from Neringa, our “Antalya of the North”, as I used to called it.

May I please take the opportunity to provide you with a report about another precious event – two ones, actually, which we solemnly celebrated at Institute of Applied Mathematics of METU, Ankara: *Scientific Workshops in Honour of Professor Hayri Körezlioğlu Workshop “Recent Developments in Financial Mathematics and Stochastic Calculus”*, April 25-26, 2008, and the *Pre-Workshop Seminar Series Workshop “The Simulation Tool Box for the Financial Engineer”*, April 23-24, 2008. Friends from Germany played a central role in helping to make these days of science and friendship become a great success! Among the official sponsors of these two events, there was also *ORST* - and *GOR* served by adverting for them in its bulletin *OR News*. Please visit the attachments again.

In no. 4 of our ORST-GOR series of reports, I introduced to you *GOR Working Group “Revenue Management and Dynamic Pricing”* and its *Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Alf Kimms* <http://www.msm.uni-duisburg-essen.de/log/>. Among the GOR members, Alf belongs to the “best friends” of Turkish people indeed, likewise the colleagues aforementioned! Some months ago, a young friend of us, a graduate from Department of Industrial Engineering of METU (advisor: *Assist. Prof. Dr. Z. Müge Avşar*), joined his Chair for her doctoral studies. Her name is *MSc. Demet Çetiner*. Today, I am happy that I have the pleasure to publish Demet’s experiences in this report.

Sevgili Demet, and lieber Alf: Çok merci – ve ... vielen Dank!

Being a Turkish Ph.D. Student in Germany

**By Demet Çetiner,
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After receiving my Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from the Industrial Engineering Department of METU, I decided to continue with a PhD study in the area of Revenue Management. As I was looking for what is currently being done in this field at the other universities, I saw in one of the earlier reports of GOR that there exists a Revenue Management and Dynamic Pricing Research Group within the GOR Society. The founding president of the group is Prof. Dr. Alf Kimms, who is the chair of the Logistic and Traffic Management Department of the Mercator School of Management at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Actually I was aware of his research, because I had

cited one of his papers in my master thesis. I got in contact with him and asked about available research projects that I can work on as a PhD student. After evaluating my official documents and my master thesis, he asked me to arrange an interview with Prof. Dr. G. Wilhelm Weber at METU. In that interview, I was informed with all the aspects of the PhD position, the content of the research project and the research team at the department.

On the same day I have been informed that I was accepted to work as a research assistant at the chair of Prof. Dr. Kimms on the “Revenue Management in Strategic Alliances” project, which is financed by German Research Foundation (DFG). Different than in Turkey, the PhD studies in Germany are generally not carried out within a structured program with specified course work. The emphasis is put on the PhD dissertation, which is carried out under the supervision of a professor. This dissertation can be an individual research topic or a part of a research project funded by the university or a research institution, as it is in my case. I find this system effective, since one can concentrate only on his/her research topic and work more efficiently.

Shortly after the acceptance, we started with the administrative procedures. All the people at the chair of Prof. Dr. Kimms made great effort for that. They arranged a room in the guesthouse of the university for me, which is really comfortable. At the same time, they learned the legal procedures for hiring a foreign citizen and told me clearly what I have to do. I had to apply for a work permit, which normally could take a long time. However, when the German Embassy saw the invitation letter of the university, the Embassy gave me a “visiting scientists” visa, which can be obtained on the next day. That visa was valid for 3 months and I changed it to a work permit when I arrived to Germany without a serious problem.

Lastly, the life in Germany is different than in Turkey but not difficult. I can always find people, whenever I need any information or help. First of all, my colleagues helped me a lot with patience. Besides, we work as a team and share our academic knowledge and experience together. We also organize several social activities and get together outside the work. I believe that my years in Germany will be a successful and enjoyable experience for me.

Dear friends: let me please conclude with drawing your attention to two more forthcoming events in our OR community: Soon there will be *Mini Conference on Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Medicine*, Rome, Italy, September 15-17, 2008 (please visit <http://www.iasi.cnr.it/iasi/RomeConference/>), revealing a strong “handwriting” by us here from Turkey as you will discover. Furthermore, as approved by EURO Executive Committee during IFORS 2008, next year there will be *EURO Mini Conference - 5th International Vilnius Conference on Sustainable Development “Knowledge-Based Technologies and OR Methodologies for Strategic Decisions of Sustainable Development”*, September 30 – October 3, 2009, Vilnius, Lithuania. To that area of research, scientists from Turkey contributed a lot in our EURO family, too.

Thank you very much for your attention!

With best wishes and cordial regards,
I remain, yours sincerely,

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Appendices:

- Report about Mini EURO in Neringa, Lithuania,
- Report about the Two Workshops on Financial Mathematics and Stochastic Calculus in Ankara

(please cf. attachments).

23RD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON OPERATIONAL RESEARCH

Welcome to Bonn! Enjoy the city and its vicinity! A history of more than 2000 years has given the city most appealing and memorable facets.

Bonn is an international center of Science (e.g. CAESAR - Center of Advanced European Studies and Research, Nobel Prizes, Fields Medal, several Max Planck Institutes), Arts (Museum Mile, Arithmeum, etc.) and Politics (e.g. United Nations, German Government Buildings)

You will enjoy the picturesque impressions along the romantic Rhine, Bonn's international and political life or the magnificent Ahr wine region.

Culture in Bonn is inseparably linked to the works of Ludwig van Beethoven. The Beethoven Orchestra is one of the best in Germany.

The homes of famous Bonn citizens can be visited: the August-Macke-Haus (painter), the Schumannhaus (composer), the home of Ernst Moritz Arndt (Intellectual and poet) and the birthplace of Bonn's most famous citizen, the composer Ludwig van Beethoven. The house where he was born in December 1770 has become the symbol of Bonn.