The 11th EUROPT Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization was hosted by the University of Florence, Italy. Workshop started registration on June 25, followed by three working days, June 26-28.

This Workshop continued the line of the past EUROPT workshops. The first one was held in 2000 in Budapest, followed by the workshops in Rotterdam in 2001, Istanbul in 2003, Rhodes in 2004, Reykjavik in 2006, Prague in 2007, Remagen in 2009, Aveiro 2010, Ballarat 2011 (the first annual workshop outside Europe), Siauliai 2012. Most of these international workshops were organized by the EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization (EUROPT; [www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT]) as a satellite meeting of the EURO Conferences. The 11th EUROPT Workshop was a satellite meeting before the EURO 2013/INFORMS joint international meeting in Rome.

The preparation of the 11th EUROPT Workshop, the organizational duties were distributed between a Scientific Committee, an Organizing Committee, and the two Conference Chairs Laura Palagi (Sapienza University of Rome) and Fabio Schoen (University of Florence).

During the workshop a Local Committee helps in organization and logistics.

- The Scientific Committee was composed by: Immanuel Bomze, University of Wien; Gianni Di Pillo, Sapienza University of Rome; Mirjam Dür, University of Trier; Sourour Elloumi, ENSIEE, vry; Luigi Grippo, Sapienza University of Rome; Nelson Maculan, Univ. Federal de Rio de Janeiro; Kaisa Miettinen, University of Jyväskyla; Yurii Nesterov, Université Catholique de Louvain; János D. Pintér, PCS Inc. (Current EUROPT Chair); Gesualdo Scutari, SUNY at Buffalo; Tatiana Tchemisova, University of Aveiro; Tamas Terlaky, Lehigh University; Philippe Toint, Université de Namur; Luis Nunes Vicente, Universidade de Coimbra; Gerhard Wilhelm Weber, Middle East Technical University.
- The Organizing Committee was composed by: Francisco Facchinei, Sapienza University of Rome; Giovanni Fasano, University Ca Foscari Venezia; Giampaolo Liuzzi, IASI CNR; Marco Locatelli, University of Parma; Stefano Lucidi, Sapienza University of Rome; Benedetta Morini, University of Florence; Veronica Piccialli, University of Rome Tor Vergata; Francesco Rinaldi, University of Padova; Marco Sciandrone, University of Florence.
- A Local Committee that helped a lot in the logistic and organization was composed by Luca Bravi, David di Lorenzo, Niccoló Bulgarini, Tommaso Bianconcini, Daniela Selvi, Laura Prati.
The collaboration given by all the members of the Committees is highly appreciated. We are also very indebted to the sponsors. Namely, EURO (the Association of European Operational Research Societies), EUROPT (the Continuous Optimization Working Group of EURO), ACTOR: Analytics, Control Technologies and Operations Research - Sapienza Spin-off (http://www.actorventure.com), Sapienza University of Rome and University of Florence.

Due to support of EURO and the sponsors of the Workshop, the Organizing Committee managed to give a financial help to a few participants from weak currency countries in the form of fee waiving and partial support of accommodation.

Scientific program

The Scientific Program of the Workshop started 26 of June, with the Opening Ceremony chaired by Laura Palagi (Sapienza University of Rome) and Fabio Schoen (University of Florence), the Chairs of the Workshop. The Presidium was composed by Gerhard Wilhelm Weber, Middle East Technical University, Tatiana Tchemisova, University of Aveiro, Oliver Stein Stein, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology.

The Programme of the Workshop included three plenary talks:

- Prof. Chih-Jen Lin (National Taiwan University), who gave the talk “Optimization and Machine Learning”;
- Prof. Marco Locatelli (Università di Parma), who gave the talk “Towards better bounds: The interplay of convex underestimators, branching rules and domain reductions”;
- Prof. Jacek Gondzio (University of Edinburgh), who gave the talk “Inexact search directions and matrix-free methods for large-scale optimization”.

The topics of this Workshop were the following: Linear and nonlinear local optimization, Optimal control, Large-scale optimization, Multi-objective optimization, Mixed integer nonlinear optimization, Robust optimization, Derivative-free optimization, Semi-infinite programming, Global optimization, Stochastic optimization, Complementarity and variational problems, Optimization in data mining, Conic optimization and semi-definite programming, Optimization in industry, business and finance, Complexity and efficiency of optimization algorithms, Analysis and engineering of optimization algorithms, Convex and non-smooth optimization.

We have 32 Invited Sessions and 15 contributed sessions with overall 160 contributed talks that were scheduled in four parallel sessions. The Workshop was attended by more than 180 participants from 29 countries representative of the five continents.
Social Program

To complement the rich and intensive scientific program of the Workshop, the Organizers offered the participants and their accompanying persons an interesting social program.

The social program consists in a Social Dinner on Wednesday June 26th in the magnificent location of Villa Bardini, an historical place built in the seventeenth century connected with a magnificent garden in a panoramic position dominating the whole historical center of Florence.

A farewell cocktail and a Renaissance art exhibition was offered on Thursday June 27th in the courtyard of Palazzo Strozzi, thanks to the kind permission offered to our participants by Fondazione Palazzo Strozzi. After this cocktail, all registered participants had the opportunity to visit the exhibition The Springtime of the Renaissance. Sculpture and the Arts in Florence 1400-1460 Palazzo Strozzi.

Special issue OMS

The journal OPTIMIZATION METHODS AND SOFTWARE is dedicating a special issue to papers presented, or related to presentations at EUROPT2013. Guest Editors: Prof. Laura Palagi and Prof. Fabio Schoen.
After EUROPT questionnaire

After the workshop the organizers asked participants to fill an anonymous survey, which could be helpful for planning new similar events. 55 participants answered to the questions. The results can be found on the web page of the workshop, following the link “After Workshop Facts” [http://www.europt2013.org/EuroptAfter.html]. We report here only the graphic of the overall evaluation of the workshop.

Next EUROPT Workshops

During the Closing Session of the Workshop it was announced that the next 12th EUROPT Workshop is planned to be held in July 2014 in the University of Perpignan (France) organized by Didier Aussel (Perpignan). Didier Aussel gave a short presentation about the workshop.

Some pictures of the Workshop will be available in [http://www.europt2013.org/EuroptAfter.html].

The organizers of the 11th EUROPT in Florence pass the baton to Didier Aussel and his team of the Université de Perpignan Via Domitia (France), wishing them a fruitful work and success in organizing of the next Workshop EUROPT2014 [europt2014.univ-perp.fr/index.html].

We thank all the partecipants, colleagues, friends, sponsors that contributed to the success of the EUROPT2013!