

EUROPT Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization

On July 4-5, 2003, *Workshop on Advances in Continuous Optimization* took place in Istanbul, Turkey. This was the third one in a line of workshops of EURO Working Group on Continuous Optimization, **EUROPT**. The first was in Budapest, July 2000, where EUROPT was founded, the second one in Rotterdam, July 2001. Both were neighbouring annual EURO conferences. Our recent workshop preceded EURO/INFORMS Joint International Meeting. The workshop organizers, Ilkay Boduroğlu (Boğaziçi University, Istanbul), Jürgen Friedrich (METU, Ankara), Bülent Karasözen (METU, Ankara), Mustafa Pınar (Bilkent, Ankara) and Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber (METU, Ankara) were glad to welcome about 43 participants, to spend two days of scientific exchange together with these colleagues from so many countries and backgrounds in theory, methods and applications of continuous optimization and related fields. Besides the valuable contributed talks, further highlights consisted in the talks given by the invited speakers: Farid Alizadeh (Rutgers University, New York), Jean-Louis Goffin (McGill University, Montréal), Ivo Novak (TU Berlin), Oliver Stein (RWTH Aachen), Marc Teboulle (Tel-Aviv University, Ramat-Aviv) and Tamas Terlaky (McMasters University, Hamilton). There were many young participants. Scientific experience and youth's enthusiasm met! Positive responses were given to the organizers. Participants enjoyed Turkish hospitality and Istanbul, one of the most beautiful towns in the world. On a boat trip on the Bosphorus, dinners there and in famous Cicek Pasaji, new friendships were made and collaborations initiated. At the workshop, Tamas Terlaky (McMasters University) and Tibor Illés (Eötvös Lorand University of Sciences, Budapest) became appointed as *Honorary Coordinators* of EUROPT. Florian Jarre (Universität Düsseldorf) became new coordinator, G.-W. Weber new vice-coordinator. There will be a special issue of EJOR (European Journal of Operational Research) proceeding our Istanbul workshop. Since its days of foundations, EUROPT is in friendly and vivid contact with *POP*. If you wish to know more about our working group which plans a fourth workshop next year on Rhodes (Greece) and a EURO Summer Institute in Ankara (Turkey), please visit www.iam.metu.edu.tr/EUROPT. You are sincerely invited!

With best wishes,

yours sincerely,

Gerhard-Wilhelm Weber

gweber@metu.edu.tr