
**Joint Workshop on DSS, Experimental Economics & e-Participation
June 5th-7th, 2005. Graz, Austria**

**Decision Support Systems:
The EWG-DSS in this Joint-Workshop**

EWG-DSS Historical Data

The EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems (EWG-DSS) was founded during a memorable EURO Summer Institute on DSS that took place at Madeira, Portugal, in May 1989. This Summer Institute was organised by Jean-Pierre Brans and José Paixão. It counted with the participation of 24 young researchers (*young at least in 1989! See Fig.1 below.*) of 16 different nationalities. Most of them still continue nowadays to pursue their goals, working actively in their research areas.



Fig. 1: Participants of the 6th. EURO Summer Institute, Madeira, Portugal, 1989.

The number of EWG-DSS members has substantially grown along the years. Now we are 72 members coming from 17 nationalities. There has also been established quiet a few well-qualified research co-operations within the group members, which have generated valuable contributions to the DSS field in journal publications.

EWG-DSS Major Activities and Publications

Since its creation, the EWG-DSS has held annual Meetings in various European countries, and has taken active part in the EURO Conferences on decision-making related subjects.

The first meeting of the EWG-DSS was held in Fontainebleau (France) in 1990; the second in Bruges (Belgium) in 1991, together with the 1st. Mini Euro Conference on DSS. The third meeting of the group took place in Hungary in 1992; the fourth in Sintra (Portugal) in 1993; and the fifth meeting was organised in Turku (Finland) in 1994. The sixth meeting took place in Samos (Greece) in 1995. The seventh meeting was held in Ispra (Italy) in 1996; then again in Bruges in 1997, together with the 2nd. Mini Euro Conference on DSS. The ninth meeting of the group was held in Granada (Spain) in 1998; and the tenth meeting happened in Turku in 1999. In 2000, EWG-DSS had its 11th. meeting in Toulouse (France); and in 2001 the group met in Cascais (Portugal). In 2002 the 13th. meeting of the group took place in Belgium (Brussels), together with the 12th. Mini Euro Conference on Decision Support Systems, Electronic and Mobile Commerce, Multi-criteria Decision Aid, Human Centred Processes and Ethical Dilemmas in Decision Making. Also in that year, the EWG-DSS supported the International Conference on Decision Making and Decision Support in the Internet Age (DSI-Age 2002), in Cork, Ireland. In 2003, the EWG-DSS group had its 14th. meeting during the HCP'2003, 14th Mini Euro Conference on Human Centered Processes Distributed Decision Making and Man-Machine Cooperation, in Luxembourg. Also in 2003, the group organised two sessions in the stream Group Decision Negotiation of the Joint EURO / INFORMS Conference in Istanbul, Turkey. In 2004, the group supported the IFIP WG8.3 international conference on DSS in Prato, Italy; and the 15th. Mini EURO Conference on Managing Uncertainty in Decision Support Models (MUDSM 2004) in Coimbra, Portugal.

In addition to the annual meetings and co-organisations of Euro Conferences and Mini-Conferences, some scientific activities of the group can be cited here. Special Issues of leading academic journals such as the European Journal of Operational Research (vol. 55, n° 3, 1991; vol. 61, n° 1-2, 1992; vol.145, 2003); the Journal of Decision Systems (vol. 1, n° 2-3, 1992; vol. 12, n° 3-4, 2003); and Decision Support Systems (vol. 12, n° 4-5, 1994), have been edited by members of the group. An electronic mailing list (ewg-dss@irit.fr) has also been created, hosted by the IRIT laboratory under the initiative of P. Zaraté – current head of our group, allowing a more dynamic communication among the members of the group.

In 2005, the EWG-DSS celebrates its 16th anniversary meeting in Graz, Austria, within the Joint-workshop of DSS, Experimental Economics and e-Participation. A special issue in the Journal of Decision Systems will follow from this event, assembling selected contributions of the DSS stream. F. Dargam and P. Zaraté are the guest editors of this coming special issue.

The EWG-DSS representation within the Joint-Workshop-2005 in Graz

Before concentrating on the DSS research represented by the work presented in this event, let us consider some words about how this joint-workshop was conceived. The idea of making the 2005 EWG-DSS meeting in Graz was brought up in 2002, in Brussels, during the DSS working group business meeting within the 12th Mini Euro Conference organized by Prof. Jean-Pierre Brans. In 2003, given an indication from Prof. Jakob Krarup (*thanks!*), we have contacted Prof. Ulrike Leopold-Wildburger, from the Institute of Statistics and Operations Research of the Karl-Franzens Graz University, and by then we have agreed to organize this event joining the interests of our EURO Working Group on Decision Support Systems (EWG-DSS); of the EURO Working Group on Experimental Economics (EWG E-CUBE – Prof. U. Leopold-Wildburger), and also of the ESF Project “Towards Electronic Democracy” (ESF-TED – Prof. W. Polasek), which exploits the area of e-government and e-Participation. This union made us stronger, and allowed us to count with invaluable local support of the Karl-Franzens Graz University, for which we are truly grateful (*many thanks!*).

As a result, the interdisciplinary flavor of the joint-workshop made it specially exciting, bringing together researchers of the areas of Operations Research, Computer Sciences, Decision Support, Economics, Finances, Governmental Affairs, etc, with their respective areas of applications.

Within the interests of the EWG-DSS, this workshop aimed at encouraging the exchange of ideas and innovative developments in: Complex Decision Problems; DSS Methodology and Frameworks; Distributed & Cooperative GSS / NSS; AI Methods and KB-DSS; Internet Applications; as well as Applications in E-Negotiations, Knowledge Management, Finances, Education, among others. From the contributions received, we can conclude that our initial goal was achieved, and (*as already said before*) **“Research in Decision Support Systems is alive and well as ever!”**

This workshop presents a total of 50 research contributions, among full papers and abstracts, of which 23 are concerned with DSS developments and their related issues. The topics of the DSS selected papers are various. To select some of them, we cite: fuzzy sets methodologies / fuzzy logic for decision support; design and implementation of knowledge management systems; multicriteria models; multi-attribute decision support; group decision-making; modelling and implementation of decision systems with case-based reasoning; geographic/spatial data analysis; game-theoretical methods; etc. The range of applications include public procurement; finances/ state budget; usage of water resources; building enterprise; trading markets; gas pipe maintenance; monitoring and diagnostic engineering problems; e-business; among others. This rich diversity of approaches to the design, implementation and usage of DSS within this Joint-Workshop, can be considered itself as an invaluable source of inspiration, **“food for thought”**, for our further investigations in the area.

We acknowledge the interest and cooperation of all the authors, who submitted their finished and on-going research work, as well as the highly-qualified invited speakers, who accepted to participate in this workshop. We also thank the researchers who participated in the refereeing process of the workshop papers and abstracts, for their constructive reviewing and prompt cooperation.

We hope you all enjoy the Workshop!

We for sure will!

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Joining the EWG-DSS

The EWG-DSS membership does not cost you anything. If you wish to join the EURO-Working Group on Decision Support Systems, all you have to do is to send an e-mail to Pascale Zaraté (zarate@irit.fr), with the following information:

Name; Affiliation; Mailing Address; Phone; e-mail; and personal Homepage (if available).