

Newsletter ORAHS

May 2006



Introduction

Dear colleagues/friends! Please find here the spring 2006 edition of our ORAHS Working Group Newsletter. With this newsletter we intend to give information on activities of the Working Group to its members and others who are interested in the Working Group.

If you have any relevant information, or if you want to write a short contribution for the next newsletter you can send it to Sally Brailsford (scb@soton.ac.uk).

Agenda of coming meetings

June 25-28, 2006

INFORMS International, Hong Kong

Organizers Health Care Stream: Yasar Ozcan (ozcan@hsc.vcu.edu) and Marion Rauner (marion.rauner@univie.ac.at)

July 2-5, 2006

EURO XXI Conference Iceland

Organizers Health Care Stream: Sally Brailsford (scb@soton.ac.uk) and Jan Vissers (vissers@bmg.eur.nl)

July 23-28, 2006

ORAHS32 Wroclaw Poland

Organizer Marek Lubicz (m.lubicz@pwr.wroc.pl)

September 11-13, 2006

OR48 Bath UK

Organizers of the healthcare stream Christine Currie (Christine.currie@soton.ac.uk) and Simon Jones

ORAHS 2006 *(report by Marek Lubicz)*

The XXXII Annual Meeting of the EURO Working Group on ORAHS is organized in Poland. This years' conference will be held in the "Venice of Poland", consisting of over two hundred bridges in the city of Wroclaw.

As to the meeting, Wrocław University of Technology is going to be the host for whole conference, workshop sessions and panel discussions. It is reckoned to one of the most renowned technical colleges in Poland. Set in 1945 it has grown to twelve faculties and is quite surrounded by candidates for students and students themselves.

The accommodation types also shows two faces of the city. The Pension of John Paul the Second is placed on Ostrów Tumski, in the oldest part of the city. Surrounded by old tenements, close to the Botanical Garden and Metropolitan Cathedral of St John the Baptist the Pension illustrates



calm and peaceful side of the city. Nevertheless if you want to be closer to “living” part of the city you can choose The Mercure Panorama Hotel. Close to Market Place and Ostrów Tumski, this hotel is also next door to the shopping centre and just a stone’s throw from night attractions of Wrocław. There is also a low-price accommodation offer for students.

Anyway, before you can unpack your luggage and lie down on the bed, you have to get to the place you stay in. Providing you’re planning to come by car, the easiest access from West

would be A4 highway although if you’re coming from Southern or Eastern Europe it may be a bad idea. If you’re flying to Wrocław, there are direct links from many European cities. Whether there is such a connection or not, you may want to change somewhere. In Poland you can do that from almost every big town including Warsaw (capital), Kraków (university capital), Gdańsk or Poznań. Coming by train seems to be simple too.



After you got to the city and you’re standing at the airport, you may take a taxi or a bus. Prices for taxi travel may vary from 40 to 60 PLN. Bus and tram tickets are the same and cost 2 PLN apiece for one ride. Though Wrocław’s public transport vehicles have been replaced for new ones you still have the opportunity to see old ones used in Polish People’s Republic. Coming by car may be not a bad idea but you may get stuck in a traffic jam, not so unusual for probably every bigger city.

This years’ meeting is not the first one organized in Poland. The previous one was done in 1990 in Wrocław and Książ Castle. After sixteen years ORAHS is back to Wrocław and Poland with the meeting subject “ORAHS in action – Revisited”. General theme is a reflection on the aims of the previous meeting in the Lower Silesia capital. It is planned to organize every k*16 ORAHS in Poland. Reminding the main organizer, Institute for the Organization and Management from Wrocław University of Technology and the University itself, we can’t forget about co-organizers: Wrocław Medical University and Lower Silesian Centre for Advanced Technologies.





The list of supporters consists of Wrocław Regional Development Agency, Polish Operational and System Research Society, Systems Research Institute on Polish Academy of Sciences and is finished by Higher School for Management and Finance in Wrocław. Support by the Ministry of Health and the National Health Fund are also anticipated. On 23rd of July it will be officially opened, but this town isn't only for work.

If you come earlier you won't be bored. Wrocław has so many things to see or attend that you may happen to lose your head whilst thinking where to go. Theatres, museums, cinemas or lots of private small galleries, there are also many music festivals like Wratislavia Cantans or Chamber and Organ Music Festival. Cosy cafes are placed near the Market Place and so do clubs or pubs with many other places hidden in corners. Just to mention the greatest, there is the 'Panorama of the Battle of Raclawice', beautiful cyclorama painted by Jan Styka, Wojciech Kossak and many others. Then comes Romanesque church of St Idzi, Gothic Town Hall, Arsenal and Metropolitan Cathedral of St John the Baptist. Plenty of architecture styles and plenty of histories of Wrocław citizens make it really special city.



Although Wrocław is great, there's no need to stay only there, because Lower Silesia has a lot more to offer. Castle Książ, where the previous meeting in Poland was held is one of the biggest castles in Poland and definitely has its own charm. On the way north from Wrocław lies Trzebnica with its Marian sanctuary. There are many southern villages near and in the Karkonosze mountains to discover, but the main attractions you can find in Szklarska Poręba and Karpacz. These places are surrounded by pure gifts from Nature, just to mention gorgeous waterfalls.

Poland is big enough to spend few weeks and not get bored – no matter if it's summer or a winter, if it's hot or cold. Beginning from Tatra mountains and Zakopane with enormous

cultural output you can go to Kraków. This is a place for everybody. Called "cultural capital of Poland" with universities, well-known monuments like Wawel castle and special atmosphere really deserves that title. Warsaw, as a capital has built its surroundings up. There you can e.g. see Culture and Science Palace built in 1955. Natural goods in Poland aren't leftovers. Błędowska desert, shifting sand dunes in lake district, karst forms made by the water are just examples.



Wrocław is a city, one may say, where Poland starts. For some people it surely is, but history of this town remembers Czech and German, who left significant changes here and in Lower Silesia. Nevertheless it's a place where new technologies are built and new healthcare systems are developed. Unique beauty and pleasant atmosphere is valued by citizens as well as guests. That's why the following statement is true: "Wrocław – the meeting place".

You may find all the details concerning ORAHS 2006, including information on how to register and how to book your accommodation at our Web page:

<http://www.ioz.pwr.wroc.pl/konferencje/orahs>.

ORAHS 2007 PROPOSAL *(report by Xiaolan Xie)*

We propose to jointly organize the ORAHS 2007 meeting in Saint Etienne by two universities ENSM.SE and UJM and a large university hospital center CHU-SE. CIS and G2I divisions of ENSM.SE and the LASPI research laboratory of UJM closely collaborate with CHU-SE for modernization and re-engineering of its complex hospital system.

The organization team will also bring together the ORAHS working group and the French speaking group GISEH. GISEH (Gestion et Ingénierie des Systèmes Hospitaliers) is a working group of over 120 members in management and engineering of healthcare systems and holds a series of bi-annual meetings (see www.tudor.lu/giseh06).

The proposed theme for the meeting is: **OR for healthcare delivery engineering.** ORAHS2007 will follow the tradition of ORAHS annual meetings with (i) presentation and debate with local health decision-makers and leaders of research initiatives in health care delivery, (ii) technical presentations, and (iii) field visits and tours. ORAHS2007 will enforce the collaboration and synergy between the ORAHS and GISEH working group. ORAHS2007 will also identify challenges of health care delivery that need joint European research efforts and explore strategies and actions for joint proposals for EC-funded research and development projects.

Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines de Saint-Etienne (ENSM.SE) is a French Graduate Ivy League School (in TOP 10 "Grandes Ecoles" in France). The School is under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry, each division and department maintains close links with leading French and international firms. The EMSE is a graduate engineering school with a population of over 360 graduate students and 150 Ph.D. candidates. The faculty comprises 250 professors and lecturers, which ensures a very favourable staff/student ratio. This gives the School a top-flight environment for studies, guarantees excellent research facilities and provides students with personal guidance, but also means that there is an arduous process of selection before entering the School.

Participants of ENSM.SE are all from the division CIS in Engineering and Health and the division G2I in Industrial Engineering and Computer Science. The two divisions include over 70 researchers and staffs. Its participants in industrial engineering are active in design, performance evaluation and production planning and scheduling of both manufacturing systems and healthcare systems and their related supply chains. They have gained rich industrial application experiences with European industries through various national and EC-funded projects. Its participants in computer science focus on computer network and multimedia systems and multi-agent systems and are working on an RTD project on the monitoring of patient weight. Through the recent creation of the division CIS, ENSM.SE works closely with the university hospital centre CHU-SE to re-engineer healthcare delivery.

Université Jean Monnet de Saint Etienne (UJM) is one of the 20 pluridisciplinary universities in France with 14 000 students and 850 Professors or lecturers. Each year more than 100 Ph.D students are graduated. The UJM has 37 research laboratories with over 350 researchers in different research fields including management, economics, medicine, physics, mathematics, engineering, ...

The “*Laboratoire d’analyse des Signaux et des Processus Industriel*” (LASPI), is one of UJM laboratory located in Roanne with two major research areas: equipment maintenance and decision-aid for production system re-engineering. Equipment maintenance aims at developing methodologies and tools for predictive maintenance based on signal processing analysis. The goal of the second research area is to develop methodologies and tools for design, organization and performances improvement of production systems. Over the last six years, the LASPI has been focusing on healthcare delivery systems re-engineering for facilities or hospitals merging.

Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Saint Etienne (CHU-SE) is a public university hospital centre located in Saint Etienne, France with three fundamental missions - healthcare, teaching and research. It is a general purpose hospital including almost all specialities and has an inventory of advanced medical technological platforms such as MRI, scanographs, gamma-cameras, an automatic biological testing platform, etc. It has over 1800 beds, performs over 20,000 surgical operations and delivers over 2900 births per year. Its annual budget is about 345 millions euros and employs about 6300 persons including 403 medical personals. CHU-SE is currently engaged in a re-engineering process to group its 5 sites into a single one. A close collaboration is in process with ENSM.SE and UJM to apply engineering technologies to healthcare industry. Facing higher and higher pressure of ever scarce medical personals, CHU-SE is particularly interested in topics of ORAHS meeting and can provide extensive knowledge evidence about practice of health care delivery and needs for innovation. Serving also as a test bed of joint research with ENSM.SE and UJM, CHU-SE will welcome ORAHS participants for field visits to show how its healthcare delivery re-engineering is in work.

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EURO- info

EURO has an extensive website with information on EURO conferences and EURO Working Groups. The website contains also an annual report of ORAHS. The EURO vice-president 2 in charge of the Working Groups is Professor Chris Potts, Faculty of Mathematical Studies, University of Southampton, who is not only *ex officio* a member of our working group, but has become a regular attender of our meetings. For more information about EURO, see www.euro-online.org

Web-site news *(report by Sally Brailsford)*

The ORAHS website contains information about many of the previous meetings of the group, going back as far as 1975 when the first ever meeting was held (in Exeter, UK under the chairmanship of Duncan Boldy). It is updated again with new members' details and updates from current members. Please check your details and if you would like anything changed, email Sally (scb@soton.ac.uk). We welcome ideas and suggestions for the website.

The new website is up and running at <http://www.management.soton.ac.uk/orahs/>. If you have not already done so, please update your bookmarks. For the time being, you will be re-routed here from the old site, but I'm not sure how long this will continue. There are some features which still remain to be updated, but the site is database-driven which means that it will be much easier to maintain in the future. Many thanks to Paul Davie for his work on this.

Short communications

Proceedings ORAHS2004 meeting in Stockholm (report by Marten Lagergren)

The proceedings of the 30th meeting of the Group, which took place in Stockholm in 2004, are going to be published shortly. In total 14 papers are included. Marten reports that the manuscript has been delivered in May to the printing office, and that he hopes to send them out to the ORAHS group in a few weeks time.

Proceedings ORAHS2005 meeting in Stockholm (report by Sally Brailsford)

Sally Brailsford and Paul Harper are about to turn their undivided attention to the 2005 Proceedings. Until now we have been occupied with the Special Issues of JORS and EJOR which arose from the conference and from the EURO Summer Institute respectively. Many thanks to all who contributed papers and to all the referees - we still hope to have this out by the end of the year, but we realise it's a very time-consuming process!

Income 2006 Saint Etienne (report by Xiaolan Lie)

Xiaolan Lie, our new French link member, is organizing a health care track on 'innovative engineering techniques in healthcare delivery' as part of INCOM2006 17-19 May in Saint Etienne (www.emse.fr/incom06). The topics include medical pathways, healthcare facility organization, health care resource allocation, health care system modelling and simulation, patient admission planning, etc. More information via Xiaolan Lie (xie@emse.fr).

EURO XXI Iceland (report by Jan Vissers)

Sally Brailsford and Jan Vissers are involved in the organization of the health care stream in EURO XXI, taking place July 2-5 in Iceland. The healthcare stream contains at the moment 10 sessions with in total 36 papers. The themes of the sessions are: emergency services planning, health services planning, prevention and health promotion, primary and ambulatory care, hospital planning models, resource allocation, modelling of disease, pharmaceutical models, operating room scheduling and master surgical scheduling. Many members of ORAHS are involved in chairing sessions and presenting papers. For more information, contact Sally (scb@soton.ac.uk) or Jan (Vissers@bmg.eur.nl).

IEE Transactions Special Issue on Healthcare Engineering (report by Jan Vissers)

James Benneyan (benneyan@coe.neu.edu) invites on behalf of IEE Transactions authors to submit a paper for a special issue of IEE Transactions on healthcare engineering to be published in Fall 2007. They are seeking high quality manuscripts that are motivated by

current healthcare issues and use industrial engineering, operations research and related methods in the design, analysis, or optimization of healthcare systems. Submission deadline is August 2006. For more information contact James Benneyan.