

**MINUTES of the meeting of the European Regional Committee of the Bernoulli Society
On 21 July 2009 at the EMS in Toulouse**

Present were: Petros Dellaportas (proxy for Jon Forster), Markos Koutras (proxy for Simon Meintanis), Laszlo Markus, Carlos Braumann, Gerda Claeskens, Melanie Birke (proxy for Holger Dette), Tatjana Krivobokova (proxy for Axel Munk), Jean-Claude Fort (chair LOC EMS Toulouse), Trevor Sweeting (chair Scientific Committee EMS Toulouse), Aad van der Vaart.

Agenda :

1. Opening
2. Minutes ERC (internet) meeting June 2008 (attached)
3. EMS 2009
4. EMS 2010
5. Future EMS
6. EYSM 2009 and later
7. SEMSTAT
8. Composition ERC
9. Program Coordinator/Conference Committee
10. Time and location next ERC meeting
11. Other business
12. Closing

Minutes:

2. The minutes are approved.
3. The EMS Toulouse has about 250 participants, compared to 250 in Torun and 500 in Oslo. Laszlo qualifies 250 as a failure, and sees as reasons: very few Russians, Poles, Romanians and Slovakes among the participants; many prominent statisticians are not present, in particular older ones; special invited lectures have been scheduled next to contributed papers; there is too much focus on applied statistics; suggestions for topics or speakers have not been taken seriously: bad timing, for instance relative to the Vilnius and Stochastic Processes conferences, which are within two weeks. Trevor and Jean-Claude answer that they also would have liked more participants, say around 400. Trevor does not believe the program was unbalanced, that there had been age discrimination, or that suggestions have not been considered, and mentions that a number of invited speakers declined. Jean-Claude mentions that it was hard to get a good data-base for invitations (the Bernoulli Society did not supply it). Carlos mentions that there were many competing meetings this year. Finally it is remarked that for the financial accounting in some countries it would be good if the conference fee can be paid in December.
4. The EMS 2010 will be held in August in Piraeus. It is unfortunate that an IMS meeting will be held in Goteborg just a week later. After email consultation within the ERC and with the local organizer Markos Koutras and the program secretary Enno Mammen, it has been decided not to change the dates of the EMS. The preliminary program is discussed. Laszlo remarks that there is no talk on insurance.
5. There will be no EMS in 2011 (because of an ISI meeting in Dublin) and 2012 (because of the Bernoulli World Congress in Istanbul). Nominations for the location of the EMS 2013 will be sought during 2010. A program committee should be appointed preferably before 2011. Laszlo will investigate organizing the meeting in Budapest. The Toulouse meeting had 24 invited sessions and special invited speakers, the Piraeus meeting will have 56 invited sessions and 9 or 10 special invited speakers. Both, and the EMS 2011 in particular, are well above the number recommended in the EMS guidelines. It will be good to consider an update of the guidelines, taking into account the experiences in the last EMSs.
6. The EYSM 2009 was held in Bucharest. (A short report is attached.). The EYSM 2011 will probably be held in Portugal. The meetings are faithful to the established format, with two participants per country, and with the organization in the hands of the young statisticians themselves.
7. The last SEMSTAT was in 2007. There has been little action since then. The current chair of the SEMSTAT committee, Alexander Lindler, has expressed a wish to be released from his duties. (See his report attached.) Other members of the SEMSTAT committee are Bärbel Finkenstädt, Ole E. Barndorff-Nielsen, Michael Sørensen, Leonhard Held, Gesine Reinert, Aad van der Vaart, Enno Mammen, Ingrid Van Keilegom. We need to find a new chair, possibly rotate the committee members, and new ideas for funding, topics and locations are welcome.
8. Eight members will leave the ERC in 2010, and the chair will end his term as well. It is decided to carry out this process by email over the year to come.
9. The Program coordinator Martin Janzura will also step down in 2010. His succession will also be

decided by email.

10. The EMS 2010 in Piraeus is the natural location for the next ERC meeting. Of course this also depend on who will attend the meeting.

11. Laszlo makes a number of suggestions for activities by the ERC: 1. take some action against the flow of PhD students from East to West (following the money), for instance by asking the EU to give grants for shorter periods; 2. promote statistics as a priority area in the EU; 3. extend the statute/mandate of the ERC; 4. invite representatives of other regional sections of the Bernoulli Society to meetings, and foster contacts between the regions.

Report on SEMSTAT

The last SemStat meeting was in 2007 on the topic "Statistics for Stochastic Differential Equations models", hold in LaManga, Spain. Contributors were: Jean Jacod, Michael Sorensen, Gareth Roberts, Per Mykland and Lan Zhang, Valentine Genon-Catalot, Andrew Stuart, Alexander Lindner.

The corresponding book is in process. We have most of the contributions (also refereed) and should be able to have all papers refereed by the end of September, so that the book should come out then late 2009 / early 2010.

We have so far not organised a new SemStat meeting, but it is the plan to start a thinking round in the near future and organise some new meeting. One problem at the moment is the funding, since the Marie Curie Actions (wich we used to apply for) seem not to cover these events at present.

That is about the report. Regarding my chairman ship of the SemStat steering committee: I am not terribly keen to continue. If I have to, I will do it, but if people have another person in mind I would be glad to pass the chairmanship on. This might be also a good moment just before we think about possible topics for the next meeting, so that in case a new chairman could influence the topic into his direction of research.

Best wishes,
and have a nice meeting in Toulouse,

Alex