



European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE)

Minutes of the 2016 EARIE General Assembly
Lisbon, Portugal – August 28, 2016

The 2016 General Assembly (GA) of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE) was held on August 28, 2016, in the Reitoria auditorium of the Nova School of Business and Economics (Nova SBE), Campus de Campolide. Outgoing EARIE President John Sutton chaired the GA (immediately following his Presidential Address) at which approximately 55 delegates / EARIE members were present, including several representatives of the EARIE Executive Committee, some Past Presidents, and President Elect Xavier Vives.

The President called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. by welcoming the EARIE delegate members attending the 43rd EARIE Annual Conference in Lisbon, Portugal – thanking those who were present at the General Assembly for their participation in this important annual EARIE business meeting.

[NOTE: The EARIE General Assembly slides (as well as most EARIE Executive Committee reports) are available to members via the EARIE Secretariat, upon request. The Minutes of EARIE General Assemblies are available on the EARIE website www.earie.org (under Community & Governance).]

AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2015 EARIE General Assembly (Munich)
2. Approval of the Accounts 2015
3. Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEAs) 2016
4. Report on the EARIE Annual Conference 2016
5. Membership Situation
6. Elections 2016
7. Future EARIE Conferences
8. Any Other Business / Q & A

President Sutton reviewed the proposed GA Agenda (which had been duly circulated via e-mail to the current EARIE membership, as per the Statutes) and asked whether there were any updates or additions or to be made to the Agenda. No remarks to this effect were voiced.

The EARIE 2016 General Assembly Agenda was approved.

MINUTES

1. Approval of the Minutes of the EARIE General Assembly held in Munich, Germany, on August 30, 2015

The President asked if there were any comments on or final revisions to be made to the 2015 General Assembly Minutes. (The link to this document had been circulated via e-mail to the current EARIE membership along with the GA announcement.) No remarks were made.

The Minutes of the last EARIE General Assembly were unanimously approved.

2. Approval of the Accounts 2015

The 2015 Accounts (which had been duly circulated to the EARIE membership prior to the GA) were summarised by President John Sutton as he went over the Income & Expenditures and then the Balance Sheet for the calendar year 2015. He commented that the financial situation remains stable, with enough funds in EARIE's bank account as a disaster reserve to potentially cover one EARIE Annual Conference (should the need arise). Since EARIE has a VAT number, some of the tax transfers between international organisations can be (partially) defrayed.

The President asked if there were any questions regarding the EARIE Accounts. No questions were raised; the President thus put forward a motion to the GA to approve the 2015 Accounts.

The 2015 EARIE Accounts were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

3. Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEAs) 2016

The President invited the EARIE 2016 Scientific Committee (SC) Chair, Alessandro Gavazza, to briefly relate the process used by the Scientific Committee to select the papers accepted for presentation at this year's conference, as well as for the Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEAs). Alessandro thanked the EARIE 2016 SC team for their professionalism and diligence in reading and reviewing the submissions. The Scientific Committee made a first selection of the top papers (from amongst the papers with the best rankings) and the final selection was made with the input of the EARIE President, among other notable individuals in the IE/IO field.

The conference received 553 submissions, of which 413 were accepted. The program includes 350 papers (including 12 invited speakers) – which implies that 70 papers were withdrawn at various stages of the process. The SC provided useful and timely reports, with commentary that helped decide on marginal cases and in assigning accepted papers to sessions. Overall, the refereeing process worked well and he is grateful to all committee members for their help.

After a successful introduction at EARIE 2015 Munich, the EARIE 2016 Lisbon program also features "Rising Star" sessions, intended to highlight the work of PhD students. Eligible papers included those where all authors are current PhD students. The quality of the eligible papers was quite high, thereby confirming that this was a positive innovation. 81 submissions were eligible, and the final program includes 18 of them in these sessions. The inclusion criteria were: (1) papers with the top scores from the SC reviewing process; and (2) the fit with discussants. Senior faculty were selected to discuss each paper – Alessandro is grateful to them for so generously providing these invaluable discussions to promising PhD candidates.

The team made the decision to keep the Conference Maker (CM) platform introduced last year. They are pleased with the support of the CM team who were responsive in resolving technical issues. The process of finding and allocating appropriate session chairs remains among the most time-consuming tasks. In many instances, SC and other participating members of the EARIE community stepped up to the task, so it is hoped that this trend will continue to ensure that there are useful and interesting discussions in all EARIE Annual Conference sessions.

There were 113 submissions eligible for the 2016 YEEAs; 66 of these are on the program, but only 58 authors wished to be considered for an award. Submissions for the YEEAs were first reviewed by two members of the SC; based on this initial feedback, a short-list was drawn up and the selection committee chose the best from amongst these – leading to a consensus on the three YEEA winners for 2016 (all from North America). The SC Chair named the selection committee (see below) and thanked those involved for their various roles in helping to ensure the smooth process and handover of this year’s awards. Elsevier again sponsored the YEEAs, and 3 prizes of €1,000 EUR each were presented. Prize winners were notified and their details appear in the EARIE 2016 Lisbon program as well as on the conference website. A formal announcement was made at the EARIE 2016 opening (where all prize winners were present).

EARIE 2016 YEEA Winners:

- **Lorenzo Magnolfi** (Yale University) & **Camilla Roncoroni** (Yale University)
Estimation of Discrete Games with Weak Assumptions on Information.
- **Samir Mamadehussene** (Northwestern University)
Do Low Price Guarantees Hurt Consumers? Theory and Evidence.
[11th **EARIE Paul Geroski Prize** for the most significant policy contribution]
- **Zhe Yuan** (University of Toronto)
Network Competition in the Airline Industry: A Framework for Empirical Policy Analysis.

YEEA 2016 Selection Committee:

Gregory Crawford (University of Zurich), Alessandro Gavazza (London School of Economics), Patrick Rey (Toulouse School of Economics), Michelle Sovinsky (University of Mannheim), John Sutton (London School of Economics).

The President congratulated the YEEA winners, thanking Scientific Committee Chair Alessandro Gavazza and his team for their excellent work, as well as the Lisbon team and sponsors for their respective roles, contributions, and support of the EARIE 2016 programme and awards. He is very pleased with the quality of this year’s papers and is sure that the participants have also found the conference stimulating and worthwhile.

4. Report on the EARIE Conference 2016

On behalf of the delegates and membership, the President thanked the EARIE 2016 team at Nova SBE for their hard work in staging this year’s conference. Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chair, Steffen Hoernig, has very efficiently headed up the team – and has also shown great initiative in planning a social programme to suit a variety of EARIE needs and tastes with limited resources. The LOC Chair was invited to say a few words about EARIE 2016 – the 43rd EARIE Annual Conference, hosted by the Nova School of Business and Economics, in Lisbon, Portugal. Steffen acknowledged that the EARIE 2016 LOC responsible for the overall logistics and organization consists of himself (LOC Chair), Patrícia Poças (Conference Secretariat), and team members Carlos Santos, Duarte Brito, and Guido Maretto – with about ten volunteers and students (wearing EARIE 2016 t-shirts) acting as hosts and helping participants find their way, providing technical support as needed, calling taxis, etc.

The LOC delegated the following activities to the Mundiconvenius agency: Conference and hotel registration, payment processing, conference dinner logistics, and website – while the LOC organized the on-site catering, fado entertainment (at the conference dinner), conference bags and booklets, sponsorships, and event coordination. To cut costs, they did not hire an official photographer but are instead taking pictures themselves as the event progresses. All parallel and invited sessions and catering took place at the main building of Nova SBE, while keynote addresses were held at the Rectorate (in front of Nova SBE). Session rooms were on the ground and first floors, with the Reception Desk at the entrance of the main building – near the inner courtyard, where coffee and lunch breaks were arranged (under tents). The Conference Dinner was held downtown at Pátio da Galé (which opens onto Praça do Comércio and the Tagus river). The EARIE 2016 Welcome Reception took place outdoors at Nova SBE.

The LOC followed the EARIE Annual Conference cycle of recent past years, with a couple of modifications. For example, the detailed EARIE 2016 programme was posted in early August – but subsequent withdrawals required that changes be made to that version; however, due to the early communication, there seem to have been fewer cancellations than in previous years.

The LOC is not aware of any problematic issues with the recently-adopted Conference Maker (CM) system; however, for EARIE 2016 Lisbon, they have handled the paper submission and conference registration via two independent platforms (whereas EARIE 2015 Munich ran both using CM); this bilateral approach was easily coordinated with minimal problems. A total of 397 participants registered (via the Mundiconvenius agency system), and paid fees online, by credit card, or by bank transfer. Sticking to their break-even budget has actually resulted in a small surplus! Steffen ended his report with an update on the registration status, noting that the registration-by-country figures represent just under 400 delegates from over 35 countries.

On behalf of EARIE, President Sutton thanked LOC Chair Steffen Hoernig for the significant role he and his team have played in hosting the 43rd EARIE Annual Conference in Lisbon, Portugal. The President also warmly thanked all delegates and members for participating in EARIE 2016.

5. Membership Situation

The President reviewed the EARIE membership figures over the past decade:

<i>Total # members per calendar year</i>		<i>Top 10 countries in 2016</i>
2016	→ 429 members (to date)	1. Germany (97)
2015	→ 472 members	2. France (36)
2014	→ 446 members	3. USA (35)
2013	→ 551 members	4. Japan (32)
2012	→ 388 members	5. UK (28)
2011	→ 457 members	6. Italy (24)
2010	→ 464 members	7. Netherlands (21)
2009	→ 567 members	8. Norway (19)
2008	→ 551 members	9. Spain (15)
2007	→ 487 members	10. Austria Sweden
2006	→ 481 members	Switzerland (13 each)

[NOTE: The EARIE membership statistics by country are based on the professional affiliations of EARIE members (as per the information stored in their profiles), which do not necessarily reflect their nationalities or countries of origin.]

The President remarked that while Germany continues to top the members-by-country list, there is a considerable gap between it and the following countries (which are more or less in line with each other with respect to the number of EARIE members) – with three countries at a tie in tenth place. There are usually some fluctuations from one year to the next; however, while EARIE membership from European countries (except for Germany) may be dwindling, membership from the US and Japan seems to be stable and/or on the rise. It would be more balanced for the Association (as well as for IO / IE research in Europe) to somehow attract more members from other parts of the European continent, and from elsewhere in the world.

President Sutton reminded the GA that the delegates of the EARIE 2016 Lisbon conference will be the mainstay of the 2017 EARIE membership numbers. He encouraged those who do not attend a given EARIE Annual Conference to nonetheless renew their memberships online each year. The EARIE network benefits by and relies on the continuity and support of its members.

6. Elections 2016

The President reminded the General Assembly that an anonymous vote by electronic ballot was conducted last fall, and welcomed aboard the elected EARIE Directors for the term 2015-2018:

- David GENESOVE – Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Bruno JULLIEN – Toulouse School of Economics (TSE), France
- Tobias KRETSCHMER – Munich Ludwig-Maximilians University (LMU), Germany
- Michelle SOVINSKY – University of Mannheim, Germany

The (second) terms of several EARIE Directors are ending at the 2016 General Assembly – so today marks the last day in their current capacity (regardless of whether they are present). We thank them for their contributions over years of service, and say farewell to those EARIE colleagues who have completed their Director mandates on the EARIE Executive Committee:

- José Luis MORAGA – Spain / Netherlands
- Winand EMONS – Switzerland
- Greg CRAWFORD – United Kingdom

Today also marks the end of term for current EARIE President, John SUTTON, who is stepping down at the end of this meeting – and is passing the baton to incoming President Xavier VIVES (IESE Business School, Spain). EARIE thanks John Sutton for steering the Association in the right direction during his presidential term – and for his continuing guidance in his new role as Past President over the years to come. Xavier initiated a round of applause in honour of John.

As per a recently-adopted policy (to ensure active participation and representation on the EARIE Executive Committee), those elected Directors whose first three-year term is nearing completion are approached by the President to invite them to serve a second (non-renewable) term. However, there are no such term renewals to be considered for the term 2016-2019.

This coming fall, 3-5 nominations will be confirmed by incoming President Xavier Vives, and an e-ballot will be duly circulated to the current EARIE membership to ratify the election of EARIE Directors / Administrators for the three-year term 2016-2019. The first 3-year term of their mandate will commence immediately upon election. The names of these elected Directors will be announced at the 2017 General Assembly in Maastricht during the EARIE 2017 conference.

The outgoing President took this opportunity to formally thank the EARIE Executive Committee members for their ongoing efforts as EARIE Directors over the past and coming years – as well as for the welcome support and invaluable historical input of those Past EARIE Presidents who often participate in the EARIE Executive Committee meetings and discussions. The President urged EARIE members to actively participate in their Association by duly exercising their voting rights and submitting their e-ballots – as well as their suggestions for future EARIE Directors.

7. Future EARIE Conferences

The President announced that the 44th EARIE Annual Conference will be held from August 31 to September 2, 2017, in Maastricht, Netherlands – at Maastricht University School of Business and Economics (MUSBE). The EARIE 2017 programme will follow the traditional 3-day format, but will run from Thursday to Saturday (instead of from Friday to Sunday). Martin Carree of MUSBE will be the Chair of the EARIE 2017 Local Organizing Committee (LOC). Volker Nocke (University of Mannheim & UCLA) has agreed to serve as the Chair of the EARIE 2017 Scientific Committee. The President thanked next year's chairs and organisers as well as the MUSBE authorities for agreeing to host EARIE 2017 – he hopes many EARIE members will participate.

The President summarized the situation regarding the few proposals received for hosting future EARIE Annual Conferences. He challenged the EARIE membership to become more involved in their Association by promoting this professional conference throughout their own networks and communication channels. Any comments, suggestions or expressions of interest for hosting a future EARIE Annual Conference should be directed to the attention of the EARIE President.

8. Any Other Business / Q & A

The President asked the audience whether there were any other comments, questions, or concerns related to EARIE and its activities; no further issues or questions were raised.

President Sutton again congratulated the Lisbon team for their warm reception and conference. He also thanked the EARIE Executive Secretary, Ene Kannel, and the team at EIASM for their day-to-day work behind the scenes and throughout the year to support and promote EARIE. The President thanked those attending the General Assembly for their time and participation, and invited all members to attend EARIE 2017 in Maastricht next year. John Sutton proceeded to shake the hand of incoming EARIE President Xavier Vives, and officially ended his mandate.

The 2016 EARIE General Assembly meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.