



European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE)

Minutes of the 2018 EARIE General Assembly
Athens, Greece – September 1, 2018

The 2018 General Assembly (GA) of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE) was held on September 1, 2018, at 17:45-18:15, in the College Theater of the Athens College & Psychiko College (Hellenic American Educational Foundation). Outgoing EARIE President Xavier Vives chaired the GA (immediately following his Presidential Address) at which approximately 75 delegates / EARIE members were present, including several EARIE Executive Committee members, some Past EARIE Presidents, and President-Elect John Vickers.

The President called the meeting to order at 17:50 by welcoming the EARIE delegates / members attending the 45th EARIE Annual Conference in Athens, Greece – 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 2017 EARIE General Assembly (Maastricht)
2. Approval of the Accounts 2017
3. Membership Situation
4. Elections 2018
5. Report on the EARIE Annual Conference 2018
6. Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEAs) 2018
7. Future EARIE Conferences
8. Any Other Business / Q & A

President Vives 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 2018 General Assembly Agenda was approved.

MINUTES

1. Approval of the Minutes of the EARIE General Assembly held in Maastricht, Netherlands, on September 1, 2017

The President asked if there were any comments on or final revisions to be made to the 2017 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 2017

The 2017 Accounts (which had been duly circulated to the EARIE membership prior to the GA) were summarised by President Xavier Vives as he went over the Income & Expenditures and then the Balance Sheet for the calendar year 2017. 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). The main difference in the 2017 figures from 2016 is that Elsevier (and not the EARIE Secretariat) handled the disbursal of the YEEA money prizes directly – this ongoing YEEA sponsorship is greatly appreciated by EARIE.

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 2017 Accounts.

The 2017 EARIE Accounts were unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

3. 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 2018</i>
2018 → <u>415</u> members (to date)	1. Germany (82)
2017 → 422 members	2. United Kingdom (38)
2016 → 430 members	3. United States (34)
2015 → 472 members	4. Italy (31)
2014 → 446 members	5. France (29)
2013 → 551 members	6. Netherlands (27)
2012 → 388 members	7. Japan (26)
2011 → 457 members	8. Spain (21)
2010 → 464 members	9. Switzerland Canada (14 each)
2009 → 567 members	10. Austria (13)

[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 EARIE members-by-country list, there is a considerable gap between it and the following countries – with two countries at a tie in ninth place. There are usually some fluctuations from one year to the next (e.g., note the 'conference effect' of more members than usual from the Netherlands this year since the EARIE 2017 conference was hosted in Maastricht) – but overall the situation is quite stable.

President Vives reminded the GA that the delegates of the EARIE 2018 Athens conference will be the mainstay of the 2019 EARIE membership numbers. He encouraged those who do not attend a given EARIE Annual Conference to nonetheless renew their membership online each year. The EARIE network benefits by and relies on the continuity and support of its members.

The President reminded those at the GA that last year a motion to raise the EARIE membership fee from €40 to €50 as of 2019 (i.e., collected from most members along with the EARIE 2018 Athens registration fees) had been unanimously approved by the EARIE Executive Committee, and ratified by the EARIE membership at the 2017 General Assembly in Maastricht. He noted that when EARIE legally acquired a VAT number (in 2012) the annual membership fee was not adjusted accordingly (to avoid a sudden fee hike) – but professional society dues are no longer tax exempt. For the past five years EARIE has collected a lower amount per member to cover its operational costs and activities than previously (i.e., €40 minus 21%) – a deficiency that is reflected in its Accounts. Adjusting its membership fee to €50 ensures that the obligatory VAT is added on top of the standard €40 amount, thus leaving EARIE sufficient funds to operate as a non-profit organization once 21% per member is deducted for the (Belgian) tax authorities.

The General Assembly accepted the yearly EARIE membership due of €50 as of 2019.

4. Elections 2018

The terms of seven EARIE Directors are ending at the 2018 General Assembly, so today marks their last day on the EARIE Executive Committee in this official capacity (regardless of whether they are present). President Vives thanked these colleagues for their collective contributions over their years of service and acknowledged the following Directors who are stepping down:

- Heski BAR-ISAAC – University of Toronto, Canada
- Natalia FABRA – Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain
- Alberto IOZZI – Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”, Italy
- Hans-Theo NORMANN – Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics (DICE)
- Trond E. OLSEN – Norwegian School of Economics (NHH), Bergen, Norway
- Marco OTTAVIANI – Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- Yossi SPIEGEL – Tel Aviv University, Israel

The President reminded the GA that an anonymous vote by electronic ballot was conducted this past spring, and welcomed the newly-elected EARIE Directors for the term 2018-2021:

- Mark ARMSTRONG – Oxford University, UK
- Ramon CAMINAL – Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica (IAE), Spain
- Jan DE LOECKER – KU Leuven, Belgium
- Chiara FUMAGALLI – Bocconi University, Italy
- Paul HEIDHUES – Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics (DICE), Germany
- Elisabetta IOSSA – Università di Roma Tor Vergata, Italy
- Lars PERSSON – Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Sweden

President Vives noted that as of next spring (2019), any new Director nominations would be managed by incoming President John Vickers; elections to be held via e-mail, as appropriate. [NOTE: Only fully subscribed & current EARIE members are eligible to vote; e-ballots are delivered to e-mail inboxes.]

According to the established practice, those Directors in good standing whose first three-year term is ending may be invited by the EARIE President to serve a subsequent (non-renewable) three-year term (if they are willing). This ongoing policy helps to ensure continuity, proactive participation, and geographic representation on the EARIE Executive Committee. President Vives was pleased to announce the following EARIE Director renewals for the term 2018-2021.

- 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 2018 General Assembly signals the official start of term for incoming EARIE President: John VICKERS – All Souls College, Oxford, UK. Nominated to succeed President Xavier Vives upon completion of his term, the EARIE Executive Committee has unanimously supported the appointment of John Vickers as President-Elect – which was formally ratified at the 2017 EARIE General Assembly, and via e-ballot circulated to EARIE members in the spring of 2018. The Association is looking forward to his able leadership over the coming two years (2018-2020).

Today also marks the end of term for current EARIE President, Xavier VIVES – IESE Business School, Spain – who is stepping down at the end of the 2018 GA. EARIE thanks Xavier Vives for steering the Association forward in the right direction during his presidential term – and anticipates his continuing guidance in his new role as Past President. A spontaneous round of applause ensued to thank Xavier Vives and welcome John Vickers. According to the Statutes, the outgoing President remains on the EARIE Executive Committee in the official capacity of Past President for one year to ensure a smooth transition & continuity for the Association. It is hoped that Xavier Vives will go on participating in an advisory capacity for many years to come (as has become the invaluable & much appreciated tradition for many EARIE Past Presidents).

5. Report on the EARIE Conference 2018

On behalf of the participants and membership, the President thanked the EARIE 2018 Athens team for their hard work in staging this year's conference. Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chair, Nikos Vettas, has very efficiently & effectively 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 2018 Athens – the 45th EARIE Annual Conference, hosted and organized by Athens University of Economics & Business (AUEB) along with the Foundation for Economic & Industrial Research (IOBE). EARIE 2018 is being held at the Hellenic-American Educational Foundation, Athens College – Psychiko College. Nikos Vettas congratulated Paul Heidhues (the 2018 Scientific Committee Chair) for putting together a very good program, and also acknowledged the EARIE 2018 LOC members: Christos Genakos, Yannis Katsoulakos, & Helen Louri-Dendrinou – who (together with himself as LOC Chair) have been responsible for the overall organization & logistics. In addition to the LOC, 15 student hosts & other assistants are helping to support the event. There was no PCO hired – the LOC handled most of the organizing internally & with established contacts. Nikos showed a slide depicting some ideas for touristic attractions & outings not far from Athens. He thanked the participants for their support in helping to make EARIE 2018 Athens a success.

The EARIE 2018 conference received 543 submissions, of which 480 were accepted. The final program consists of 403 papers (including 12 invited speakers) – approximately 90 papers were withdrawn. Both the SC & LOC Chairs are pleased that (despite the early indications) EARIE 2018 Athens attracted more submissions & registrations than in previous years. About 100 of the 443 participants are students who (along with 40-50 regular members that served on the SC) paid the lower conference registration fee. Of these registrants, there are about 40 who are not presenters or part of the EARIE 2018 program (e.g., loyal EARIE members, etc.). The LOC managed to solve financial issues and kept the fees low (in line with previous years).

On behalf of EARIE, President Vives thanked LOC Chair Nikos Vettas for the significant roles he and his team have performed by hosting the 45th EARIE Annual Conference in Athens, Greece. The President also warmly thanked all delegates & members for participating in EARIE 2018.

6. Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEAs) 2018

The President acknowledged the EARIE 2018 Scientific Committee (SC) Chair, Paul Heidhues, for his hard work in managing the process used by the SC to select the papers accepted for presentation at this year's conference, and for selecting the best conference papers written by young scholars for the Rising Stars sessions (a popular feature of the EARIE Annual Conference since 2015) as well as for determining the winners of the 3 Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEAs). The EARIE 2018 SC was also thanked for their professionalism & diligence in reading & reviewing the submissions, as well as for their comments which were helpful to authors and assisted the SC Chair in assigning accepted papers to sessions. The SC first selected the top papers (with the best rankings), and the final selection was made with the input of the EARIE Presidents and other notable IE/IO professionals. Overall, the refereeing process worked well.

There were 98 submissions eligible for the 2018 YEEA prizes; 78 of these are on the program, but only 66 authors wanted to be considered for the award. All YEEA prize submissions were initially reviewed by two members of the SC. Based on the reviews, SC Chair Paul Heidhues created two short-lists: one based on papers that were proposed for the YEEA by a member of

the SC – and another based on the overall ratings. Then, the members of the YEEA Selection Committee each individually selected potential candidates for the award. This process led to consensus on a shortlist – and eventually to a unanimous decision on the YEEA prize winners.

The President thanked all those involved for their various roles in ensuring the smooth process & handover of this year's YEEA prizes. Elsevier is again sponsoring the YEEAs, and 3 prizes of €1,000 EUR each have been awarded. Authors of the winning papers were notified that they had been short-listed for the YEEAs and were asked to attend the Presidential Address where a formal announcement of the YEEA winners was made at the start of the session. The 2018 YEEA prizes will be posted on the EARIE conference & association websites. Thomas Thayer (Senior Publisher, Elsevier) was present at EARIE 2018 and is organizing the money prizes.

EARIE 2018 YEEA Winners:

- **Johannes Johnen** (Université Catholique de Louvain – UCL)
Dynamic Competition in Deceptive Markets.
 - **Hugo Molina** (École Polytechnique, CREST)
Buyer Alliances in Vertically Related Markets.
 - **Yuta Toyama** (Northwestern University)
Incentives to Invest, Storable Permits, and Transaction Costs in Market-Based Environmental Regulation.
- [13th **EARIE Paul Geroski Prize** for the most significant policy contribution]

YEEA 2018 Selection Committee:

Jan De Loecker (KU Leuven); Alessandro Gavazza (London School of Economics); Paul Heidhues, SC Chair (Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf – DICE); Volker Nocke (University of California, Los Angeles); Xavier Vives (IESE).

7. Future EARIE Conferences

The President announced that the 46th EARIE Annual Conference is to be held from August 30 to September 1, 2019, in Barcelona, Spain – at the venue Ciutadella Campus of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), co-organized by the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics (Barcelona GSE) and the Public-Private Sector Research Center of IESE Business School (PPSRC-IESE). The EARIE 2019 Barcelona program follows the traditional 3-day Friday-to-Sunday schedule. Albert Banal-Estañol (UPF and Barcelona GSE) is taking on the role of Chair of the EARIE 2019 Local Organizing Committee (LOC) – and Jan De Loecker (KU Leuven) is serving as the Chair of the EARIE 2019 Scientific Committee (SC). President Vives thanked next year's organizers & chairs as well as the collaborative team of schools in Barcelona for hosting EARIE 2019 – he will be indirectly involved & hopes that many EARIE members will submit papers & participate.

The President briefed the GA on the few proposals received for hosting a future EARIE Annual Conference. Although there are a couple of potential bids in the pipeline (TBC), he challenged EARIE members to become involved in their Association by actively promoting this professional IE/IO conference amongst colleagues & within their own networks & communication channels. Comments, suggestions or (potential) expressions of interest for hosting a future EARIE Annual Conference may be directed to the attention of the EARIE President via the EARIE Secretariat.

8. Any Other Business / Q & A

The President asked the GA if there were any other issues or questions related to EARIE and its activities; no further comments were raised. He thanked the members at the General Assembly for their time & participation and invited all members to attend EARIE 2019 in Barcelona next year. President Vives again congratulated the Athens team for their warm reception & for hosting EARIE 2018. He also thanked EARIE Executive Secretary, Ene Kannel, & the team at EIASM for their ongoing support behind the scenes to support & promote EARIE. Xavier Vives shook hands with incoming President John Vickers & officially ended his mandate.

The 2018 EARIE General Assembly meeting was officially adjourned at 18:05.