

Lisbon
ECAI
2010
PORTUGAL

19th European
Conference
on Artificial
Intelligence
August 16-20, 2010



Final Report



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1. Introduction

The 19th European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI 2010) took place from 16 to 20 of August 2010 (Monday to Friday) at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon.

Besides the main conference, there were 18 workshops, 6 invited tutorials, a doctoral symposium (STAIRS) and the associated PAIS conference on prestigious applications of intelligent systems. Workshops, tutorials and STAIRS took place during the first two days (16 and 17), PAIS occurred on the 18th and the main conference from 18 to 20 of August. The main conference included 4 invited talks.

An overview of the program is presented bellow:

ECAI 2010 - Program Overview					
	16/08	17/08	18/08	19/08	20/08
Morning	Workshops Tutorials STAIRS	Workshops Tutorials STAIRS	Invited Talk Main conference PAIS	Invited Talk Main conference	Invited Talk Main conference
Afternoon	Workshops Tutorials STAIRS	Workshops Tutorials STAIRS	Main conference PAIS	Main conference	Main conference
Evening		Invited Talk Welcome reception		Conference dinner	

Registration Desk opened Sunday, 15th, at 14h00.

Registration for the main conference included:

- All technical sessions of the main conference and PAIS;
- Free access to all tutorial sessions;
- Coffee-breaks and lunches for 18-20 August;
- Welcome Reception;
- Conference proceedings (paper and electronic);
- Conference accessories (bag, program, info, ...).

Workshop and STAIRS participants had to register also for the main conference. Registration for these events included the correspondent proceedings as well as coffee-breaks and lunches for the first two days.

2. Attendance

2.1. Main Conference

Considering all types of participants, ECAI 2010 had **570** registrations, including invited speakers, volunteers and organizing committees (and excluding a few fictitious registrations). The distribution by type and date was the following:

	Student Member	Student Non Member	Regular Member	Regular Non Member	Unknown	Total
Early	45	136	125	123		429
Late	5	13	20	13		51
Onsite	3	3	4	14		24
Unpaid			11		55	66
Total	53	152	160	150	55	570

Table 1 - Distribution of participants (absolute values)

Unpaid registrations correspond to plenary speakers, invited tutorial speakers, free workshop registrations, some people from the organizing committees and volunteers.

The percentages corresponding to the above values are:

	Student Member	Student Non Member	Regular Member	Regular Non Member	Unknown	Total
Early	7%	24%	22%	22%		75%
Late	1%	2%	3%	2%		8%
Onsite	1%	1%	1%	2%		5%
Unpaid			2%		10%	12%
Total	9%	27%	28%	26%	10%	100%

Table 2 - Distribution of participants (percentages)

The 570 ECAI participants came from 42 countries, with the following distribution:

Argentina	1	Ireland	9
Australia	16	Israel	2
Austria	15	Italy	38
Belgium	7	Japan	6
Brazil	8	Luxembourg	1
Bulgaria	1	Mexico	1
Canada	7	Netherlands	28
China	1	Norway	6
Cyprus	2	Poland	5
Czech Republic	6	Portugal	114
Denmark	3	Singapore	1
Egypt	1	Slovenia	8
Finland	5	South Africa	2
France	51	Spain	38
Gambia	1	Sweden	6
Germany	78	Switzerland	8
Greece	3	Thailand	1
Hong Kong	1	Turkey	1
Hungary	3	United Kingdom	58
India	5	United States	18
Iran	1	Venezuela	3

Table 3 - Participants by country

So, 87% of the participants were from European countries, 7% from the Americas, 3% from both Asia and Oceania, and 1% from Africa.

About 37% of the participants were members of some ECCAI society, according to the following distribution:

Society	Country	Participants
ACIA	Spain	10
AEPIA	Spain	11
AFIA	France	21
AIAI	Ireland	6
AIIA	Italy	21
APPIA	Portugal	27
BAIA	Bulgaria	1
BCS-SGES	UK	9
BNVKI / AIABN	Benelux	23
CSKI	Czech Republic	4
EETN	Greece	2
FAIS	Finland	1
GI/KI	Germany	21
NAIS	Norway	3
ÖGAI	Austria	8
SAIS	Sweden	7
SLAIS	Slovenia	9
SSAISB	UK	16
Total		200

Table 4 - Participants by ECCAI member society

Note that the sum is 200 – less than the 213 (53 + 160) expected from Table 1 – due to the fact that member society information was not inserted for some registrations, namely the ones that were made, or changed status, onsite.

2.2. Workshops

From the 21 accepted workshops, 18 effectively took place. There were a total of **300** registrations corresponding to 269 workshop participants (27 participants registered for 2 workshops and 2 for 3 workshops).

Final registration numbers and number of accepted papers per workshop can be seen in the following table:

WS#	Acronym	#Accepted	#Regist	WS Name
W1	CLIMA	14	26	11th International Workshop on Computational Logic in Multi-Agent Systems
W2	ConfWS	11	18	13th Workshop on Configuration
W3	M-PREF	14	21	5th Multidisciplinary Workshop on Advances in Preference Handling
W4	MRC	6	12	6th International Workshop on Modelling and Reasoning in Context
W5	ARCOE	9	17	2nd Workshop on Automated Reasoning about Context and Ontology Evolution
W6	ExaCt	5	13	5th International Workshop on Explanation-aware Computing
W8	CMNA	9	10	10th International Workshop on Computational Models of Natural Argument
W9	PlanLearn	13	18	3rd Planning to Learn Workshop
W10	ERLARS	9	14	3rd International Workshop on Evolutionary and Reinforcement Learning for Autonomous Robot Systems
W11	BIMRS	8	11	Benchmarking Intelligent (Multi-)Robot Systems
W12	I-KBET	10	13	Intelligent Engineering Techniques for Knowledge Bases
W13	UDM	11	19	Ubiquitous Data Mining
W14	WASSA	11	16	Workshop on Computational Approaches to Subjectivity and Sentiment Analysis
W16	LaTeCH	10	16	Language Technology for Cultural Heritage, Social Sciences, and Humanities
W17	IAT4EB	5	12	Intelligent Agents and Technologies for e-Business
W19	KR4HC	15	22	2nd Workshop on Knowledge Representation for Health Care
W20	AILog	12	25	Artificial Intelligence and Logistics
W21	STeDY	11	17	Spatio-Temporal Dynamics

Table 5 - Workshop registrations and accepted papers

2.3. Tutorials

Six tutorials were offered to all ECAI 2010 participants. Attendance was not subject to any additional payment, as all tutorials were included in the registration fee. Participants were asked to mark, in the registration form, to which tutorials they intended to go.

T#	Invited Speaker	Title	#part
T1	Sarit Kraus	Automated Negotiation	56
T2	Ilkka Niemela	Answer Set Programming	59
T3	Joao Marques-Silva	Boolean Satisfiability and Optimization algorithms and Applications	65
T4	Rina Dechter	Advances in Search and Inference for Graphical Models	84
T5	Ulle Endriss	Computational Social Choice	66
T6	Paul Dunne	Argumentation in AI	63

Table 6 – Manifestation of interest in tutorials

Nevertheless, effective participation in the tutorial sessions was considerably lower than the numbers presented above.

2.4. STAIRS

The Fifth European Starting AI Researcher Symposium (STAIRS) had 33 accepted contributions and involved 32 participants from 16 countries. Most of the participants were students and registered early.

	Student	Regular	Total
Early	27	3	30 (94%)
Late	2	0	2 (6%)
Total	29 (91%)	3 (9%)	32

Table 7 - STAIRS registrations

STAIRS participants by country are presented below.

Australia	1
Austria	1
Czech Republic	1
Denmark	1
France	3
Germany	2
Italy	2
Netherlands	2
Norway	2
Poland	1
Portugal	5
Slovenia	2
Spain	1
Sweden	1
United Kingdom	6
United States	1

Table 8 - STAIRS participants by country

2.5. PAIS

The Sixth Conference on Prestigious Applications of Intelligent Systems (PAIS 2010) had 12 accepted contributions. PAIS sessions occurred in August 18, in parallel with the main conference.

2.6. Social events

The Welcome Reception that took place on Tuesday, August 17, in the gardens of the City Museum, had the participation of around 400 people.

The Conference Dinner had 250 participants, although only 186 paid for it. Conference dinner was free for all members of the local organization, invited people and volunteers. Participants that paid for the conference dinner had the following distribution:

	Early	Late	Onsite	Total	
Students	62	5	0	67	36%
Regular	97	17	5	119	64%
Total	159	22	5	186	
	85%	12%	3%		

Table 9 - Conference dinner participation

Coffee-breaks and lunches had the following distribution (approximate numbers):

	16/08	17/08	18/08	19/08	20/08
Coffee-break (morning)	250	300	400	400	300
Lunch	300	350	400	400	300
Coffee-break (afternoon)	250	300	400	400	200

Table 10 - Coffee-breaks and lunches

3. Balance

The final balance of the conference is the following:

	Amount
Income	238 280,00 €
Expenses	183 306,49 €
Balance	+ 54 973,51 €

Table 11 - Final Balance

As agreed, 50% of the surplus (27 486,76€) will be sent to ECCAI. To this amount, we must add the 10 000 € advance provided by ECCAI, and subtract the cost of the ECCAI Fellows lunch (758,80 €), which gives a total amount to transfer of 36 727,96 €.

3.1. Incomes

ECAI 2010 incomes originated mainly from registrations, sponsorship, and private stands. In brief, the incomes were the following:

Income	Amount
Registration fees - Main Conference	178 400,00 €
Registration fees - Workshops	21 510,00 €
Registration fees - STAIRS	3 840,00 €
Sponsorship	15 030,00 €
Exhibitions and inserts	6 500,00 €
Conference dinner tickets	11 400,00 €
Extra lunch/coffee-break tickets	1 600,00 €
Total	238 280,00 €

Table 12 - Total Income

3.1.1. Main Conference Registrations

Registration fees for the main conference (that included PAIS) were:

	Student Member	Student Non Member	Regular Member	Regular Non Member
Early	130 €	160 €	415 €	520 €
Late	180 €	210 €	515 €	620 €
Onsite	230 €	260 €	615 €	720 €

Table 13 - Conference fees

Concerning the Main Conference, there were 500 effectively paid registrations:

	Student Member	Student Non Member	Regular Member	Regular Non Member	Total
Early	45	136	124	123	428
Late	5	10	20	13	48
Onsite	3	3	4	14	24
Total	53	149	148	150	500

Table 14 - Paid registrations (absolute)

Besides the unpaid registrations mentioned earlier (cf. Table 1), there were 4 participants that never transferred the amount in debt.

Concerning this registrations, approximate percentages are as follows:

	Student Member	Student Non Member	Regular Member	Regular Non Member	Total
Early	9%	27%	25%	24%	85%
Late	1%	2%	4%	2%	9%
Onsite	1%	1%	1%	3%	6%
Total	11%	30%	30%	29%	100%

Table 15 - Paid registrations (percentages)

The numbers in Table 14 correspond to the following income values, by category:

	Student Member	Student Non Member	Regular Member	Regular Non Member	Total
Early	5 850 €	21 760 €	51 460 €	63 960 €	143 030 €
Late	900 €	2 100 €	10 300 €	8 060 €	21 360 €
Onsite	690 €	780 €	2 460 €	10 080 €	14 010 €
Total	7 440 €	24 640 €	64 220 €	82 100 €	178 400 €

Table 16 - Income from Main Conference registrations

3.1.2. Workshops Registrations

ECAI 2010 workshop fees were:

	Student	Regular
1 Day Workshop	60€	80€
2 Days Workshop	90€	120€

Table 17 - Workshop fees

It was decided that each workshop had the right to one free workshop registration. This free registration should be used by some invited speaker or by one of the workshop organizers. There were also some specific agreements with some workshops. As also happened with some conference registrations, the payment of some workshop registrations is still pending. So, there were 279 paid workshop registrations, with the following distribution, regarding the type of participant:

WS#	Acronym	#Days	Student	Regular	Total
W1	CLIMA	2	8	14	22
W2	ConfWS	1	2	15	17
W3	M-PREF	1	9	10	19
W4	MRC	1	5	7	12
W5	ARCOE	2	5	10	15
W6	ExaCt	1	3	10	13
W8	CMNA	1	1	8	9
W9	PlanLearn	1	6	11	17
W10	ERLARS	1	8	5	13
W11	BIMRS	1	2	8	10
W12	I-KBET	1	2	10	12
W13	UDM	1	13	4	17
W14	WASSA	1	11	4	15
W16	LaTeCH	1	8	7	15
W17	IAT4EB	1	6	5	11
W19	KR4HC	1	5	17	22
W20	AILog	1	5	19	24
W21	STeDY	1	9	7	16
Total			108	171	279

Table 18 - Workshop paid registrations

Taking into account registration fees the income from workshop registrations was:

Student	Regular	Total
6 870,00 €	14 640,00 €	21 510,00 €

3.1.3. STAIRS Registrations

For STAIRS, there was a single fee of 120 €. As there were 32 paid registrations, the total income was **3 840,00 €**.

3.1.4. Sponsorship

Although it was very hard to obtain sponsorship from private companies, ECAI 2010 had the following sponsors:

Institution	Amount
AI Journal	8 080 €
Agreement Technologies	3 000 €
Siscog	1 500 €
FLAD	1 000 €
Primavera Software	750 €
LabMAg	700 €
FCT/FACC	
Total	15 030 €

Table 19 - Sponsorship details

FCT/FACC, a public funding institution, although conceding a sponsorship of 3 500 €, requires that, in the case of a final positive balance, the amount must return to them. So, this value is not included.

ECAI 2010 had also the support of CML (Lisbon City Council), as they let us use the gardens of the City Museum for the Welcome Reception, at no cost.

3.1.5. Exhibitions and inserts

Three companies paid to exhibit their products at ECAI 2010: Springer, IOS and Aldebaran Robotics. Each paid a 2 000 € for the respective stands. Taylor & Francis and Cambridge University Press paid 250 € each to have publicity inserted in the bags.

This gives a total of **6 500 €**.

3.1.6. Conference dinner tickets

Conference dinner was not included in the conference fee. The number of conference dinner tickets sold was the following:

	Cost	Number	Amount
Early or Late	60 €	174	10 440 €
Onsite	80 €	12	960 €
Total		186	11 400 €

Table 20 - Conference dinner tickets

Note that some of the participants that registered early or late only bought onsite their conference dinner tickets (cf. Table 9).

3.1.7. Extra lunch/coffee-break tickets

Although tutorials were free, people that wanted to have lunch and coffee-breaks at the conference site during the first two days, and did not registered for any workshop or STAIRS, had to buy extra tickets at the cost of 25€ per day.

Day	Tickets	Amount
16/Aug	29	725 €
17/Aug	35	875 €
Total	64	1 600 €

Table 21 - Extra lunch/coffee-breaks tickets

3.2. Expenses

In brief, the expenses were the following:

Expense	Amount
Conference Venue	19 180,15 €
Invited people	19 489,14 €
Publicity and Promotion	5 451,13 €
Publications	26 915,17 €
Social Functions	67 327,81 €
Accompanying materials	15 677,21 €
Administrative Costs	29 265,88 €
Total	183 306,49 €

Table 22 – Total Expenses

3.2.1. Conference Venue

Conference venue expenses include room rental, equipment (laptops, projectors, and placards) and human resources (technicians, security and cleaning).

Conference Venue	€ 19 180,15
Rooms	14 509,58 \$
Equipment	1 087,43 \$
Human resources	3 583,14 \$

Table 23 - Conference venue expenses

3.2.2. Invited people

Expenses for 10 invited people (4 plenary speakers and 6 invited tutorial speakers) were fully covered, including traveling, accommodation, registration, conference dinner, gifts and some local expenses.

Invited people	19 489,14 €
Travel	9 956,01 €
Accommodation	4 154,00 €
Registrations	2 400,00 €
Other	2 979,13 €

Table 24 – Invited people expenses

3.2.3. Publicity and Promotion

Publicity and Promotion expenses include ECAI 2010 image design, and the production of posters, flyers and the conference booklet.

Publicity and Promotion	5 451,13 €
Poster and flyers design and production	1 725,97 €
Outdoor posters and roll-up	910,16 €
Booklet design and production	2 815,00 €

Table 25 - Publicity and promotion expenses

3.2.4. Publications

Publication expenses include the main conference proceedings published by IOS, workshop paper proceedings for 13 of the workshops, STAIRS proceedings (not yet published).

Publications	26 915,17 €
Main conference proceedings	21 600,00 €
Workshop paper proceedings	2 755,17 €
STAIRS	2 560,00 €

Table 26 - Publications expenses

3.2.5. Social Functions

Welcome reception, lunches and coffee-breaks were offered to all participants, as all as transportation to and from the conference dinner. Welcome and dinner expenses include also the accompanying music.

Social functions	67 327,81 €
Lunches and coffee-breaks	39 952,00 €
Conference dinner	19 995,81 €
Welcome reception	7 380,00 €

Table 27 - Social functions expenses

3.2.6. Accompanying Materials

Besides the bags, pens, notepads, and the USB sticks, expenses include the identification cards and lanyards, as well as the small wine bottles.

Material for participants	15 677,21 €
Bags	4 612,52 €
Pens and paper	1 669,80 €
USB sticks	5 719,43 €
Other materials	3 675,46 €

Table 28 - Accompanying materials expenses

3.2.7. Administrative Costs

This includes expenses with the Abreu travel agency, bank expenses, organization support and miscellaneous supplies.

Administrative costs	29 265,88 €
Conference secretariat	8 425,00 €
Credit card registration expenses	4 631,90 €
Conference Management System (confmaster)	700,00 €
Organization support	8 970,00 €
Missions (ECAI 2008 and Heraklion)	5 758,39 €
Miscellaneous supplies	780,59 €

Table 29 - Administrative costs

4. Conclusion

Although with registration numbers inferior to the previous ECAI edition, ECAI 2010 turned out to be a success also from the financial perspective. The overall surplus of almost 55 000 € exceeded expectations, specially taking into account the number of paid registrations. Recall that the estimated breakeven was slightly less than 500 paid registrations.

Regarding the budgeted values, the greatest savings were obtained in the conference venue expenses. ECAI 2010 benefited from a 50% discount conceded by the University, and the number of rooms effectively used was smaller than expected. Besides, the budgeted PC meetings expenses didn't occur. The other items were, with slight variations, close to the budgeted values.

One important thing to note is the relevance of early registrations. As in previous editions, these accounted for about 85% of the total (Table 15).

Finally, we would like to thank Gerhard Brewka and the ECCAI Board, for the support and valuable suggestions and comments during the preparation of ECAI.

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