General Assembly Meeting in Beijing, China

August 06, 2013, 18:00-20:00

Minutes of the ECCAI 2013 General Assembly Meeting

1. **Welcome and Opening**

   Attending Board Members: Patrick Doherty (Chair), Mike Wooldridge (Vice Chair), Gerhard Lakemeyer

   Minutes: Gerhard Lakemeyer

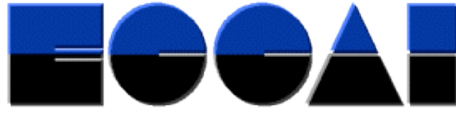2. **Approval of Minutes of Last GA Meeting**

Approved.

3. **Chairman's Report**

There is a written report which can be accessed on the ECCAI web site. The following are highlights:

- **[Finances ECAI 2012]** *ECAI 2012 was considered very successful. The conference generated a surplus of over €100,000.*

- **[Members]** *ECCAI currently has 29 member countries, two of which are inactive.*

- **[ECCAI Travel Grants]** 25 travel grants were available, but only 8 were awarded for ACAI 2013.

- **[ECCAI Dissertation Award]** There were 12 nominations this year. The committee chose one winner and two honorable mentions.

  Winner: Tias Guns (Leuven, Belgum), Declarative Pattern Mining Using Constraint Programming.

  Honorable mentions: Long Tran-Thanh (Southampton, UK), Budget-Limited Multi-Armed Bandits. Markus Brill (TU Munich, Germany), Set-Valued Solution Concepts in Social Choice and Game Theory.

  Tias Guns presented his thesis at a special award session at IJCAI 2013 in Beiing, China.

- **[ECCAI Fellows Program]** The fellows committee selected 5 out of 12 nominees this year: *Elisabeth Andre (Germany), Frank Dignum (Netherlands), Ilkka Niemelä (Finland), Juan Anonio Rodriguez Aguilar (Spain), Alessandro Saffiotti (Sweden).*

4. **ACAI 2013**

Elisabeth Black and Sanjay Modgil reported on this year's ACAI Summer School on Argumentation in Artificial Intelligence, held at King's College London July 1-5:

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ACAI was co-located with the 15th European Agent Systems Summer School (EAS), and shared sessions were arranged. ACAI had 40 attendees (EAS had 65). Both foundational and applied topics were covered. 22 student papers were submitted, out of which 9 were accepted. The feedback from participants was very positive, ranging from good to excellent. Funding was received from AIJ, Agreement Technogies and the European Network for Social Intelligence. The budget had a surplus of 1915 GBP.

5. Treasurer's Report

Since Ann Nowé, treasurer of ECCAI, was not able to attend the meeting, Patrick gave the report.

Currently ECCAI has assets of about 200,000€ (time deposits and cash account). For 2013 a loss of 8,300€ is forecast. (This is less than expected because of the low number of travel grants awarded.) For 2014, a surplus of 13,700€ is forecast.

A motion was made to approve the budget: 20 votes in favor, no abstentions, no votes against. The budget was therefore approved.

6. Distinguished Service Award

Nominations are sought for ECAI 2014.

7. ECCAI Sponsored Conferences

The 7th International Conference on Web Reasoning and Rule Systems was sponsored under the regular scheme (no funding).
ICAPS 2013 received funding under the special scheme. The ECCAI invited speaker was Giuseppe De Giacomo, Rome. A request for funding an invited speaker for KR 2014 was approved.

8. International Affiliations

ECCAI became a member of the European Forum for Information and Communication Sciences and Technologies (ICST) in 2012.

ECCAI will acquire observer status in the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE).

9. Future ECAI Conferences

2014: Prague, Czech Republic
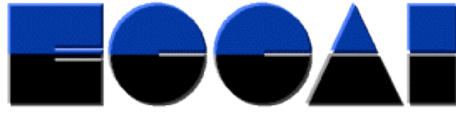
2016: The Hague, The Netherlands

2018: Preliminary bids were made for the first joint ECAI/IJCAI conference by:

> Freiburg, Germany
>
> Nice, France
>
> Rome, Italy
>
> Stockholm, Sweden

All preliminary bids will go to the second round.

10. ECAI 2014 Status Report

Torsten Schaub, PC Chair, reported on the preparations for ECAI 2014:

The Paper Deadline will be March 1, 2014; Confmaster will be used as the conference management system, with an ASP tool for paper assignments; there will be two co-Chairs per sub-event (such as workshops or tutorials); leaflets are being sent out to other conferences; all invited speakers are lined up; the budget figures will be similar to previous conferences; the venue looks fine (site visit last December by Torsten); it is not yet decided where workshops will be held; requirements for special events need to be gathered; PAIS will play a more prominent role; there will be special "Frontiers of AI" sessions.

11. Status of AICOM

Nothing to report.

12. Date for the next General Assembly Meeting for 2013

It was agreed that the next GA will take place in Prague during ECAI 2014.

13. Any other business

None.

14. Closing

The meeting was closed at 19.30.