General Assembly Meeting in Prague, Czech Republic

August 20, 2014, 18:00-20:00

Minutes of the ECCAI 2014 General Assembly Meeting

1. **Welcome and Opening**

   Attending Board Members: Patrick Doherty (Chair), Michael Wooldridge, Gerhard Lakemeyer, Jerome Lang

   Minutes: Gerhard Lakemeyer

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

Approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

Patrick Doherty, filling in for Ann Nowe, gave a summary of the Financial Report. Especially because of the success and surplus of ECAI 2012 and ACAI 2013, ECCAI is in good financial health. Figures for the 2014 budget are in line with previous projections. The 2015 budget will include increases for travel grants and the Fellows Program.

The 2013 budget was unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

4. **Dissertation Award**

The 2013 ECCAI Dissertation Award was given to Guy van den Broek, KU Leuven, Belgium, for his thesis "Lifted Inference and Learning in Statistical Relational Learning."
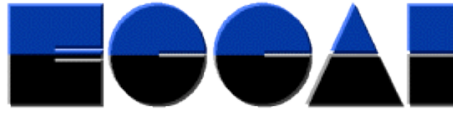
There were also two honorable mentions:
Anastasia Paparrazou, University of Western Macedonia, Greece, for her thesis "Efficient Algorithms for Strong Local Consistencies and Adaptive Techniques in CSPs"

Ringo Baumann, University of Leipzig, Germany, for his thesis "Metalogical Contributions to the Nonmonotonic Theory of Abstract Argumentation"

5. **Fellows**

The Fellows Committee accepted 10 new Fellows:
Leila Amgoud, France
Jerome Euzenat, France
Helene Fargier, France
Joachim Hertzberg, Germany
Andreas Herzig, France
Janusz Kacprzyk, Poland
Stephen Muggleton, UK

Francois Pachet, France
David Pearce, Spain
Steffen Staab, Germany

A Fellows Lunch took place at ECAI 2014.

6.   ECCAI Distinguished Service Award

The 2014 winner of the award is Liugia Aiello, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.
The next award will be given at ECAI 2016.

7.   ECAI 2014 Report

Olga Stepankova and Torsten Schaub gave a report on ECAI 2014.

Some Highlights:

There were more than 550 paying attendees of the main conference and 13 workshops. There were 611 paper submissions to the main conference. The research areas with the most submissions were *Agents, Knowledge Representation*, and *Machine Learning.* The *Frontiers of AI* track was sponsored by IOS Press.

8.   ECAI 2016 Status Report

Virginia Dignum gave a report on the status of ECAI 2016, to be held in The Hague, Netherlands.

Some Highlights:

The General Chair is Frank van Harmelen, VU Amsterdam, and the Program Chairs are Maria Fox, King's College London, and Gal Kaminka, Bar Ilan University. The Local Organizing Committee is chaired by Virginia Dignum and Frank Dignum, Utrecht University. A website has been set up at www.ecai2016.org. Registration fees are expected to be similar to ECAI 2014 and will include lunches and a bus ticket. The break-even point is calculated at 500 attendees.
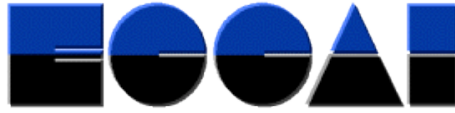
9.   Travel Grants

8 travel grants were awarded for ACAI 2013 and 25 for ECAI 2014.

10.   IJCAI/ECAI 2018

The joint IJCAI/ECAI 2018 conference will be held in Stockholm, Sweden. The Conference Chair will be Jeffrey S. Rosenschein, and the Program Chair will be Jerome Lang.

11.   New York AI Summit

Patrick Doherty reported on the New York AI Summit, organized by IJCAI and AAAI and held Februray 23-24, 2014. As an outcome of the meeting, efforts will be made

to better integrate AI sub-disciplines and societies. The aim is also to create a new AI umbrella organization.

12. AI-COM Status Report

Daniele Magazzeni was elected as co-Editor-in-Chief. Dan Bryce and Luc de Raedt joined the Board as Associate Editors for Planning and Machine Learning, respectively. Peter Gregory took the role of thesis summaries editor.

The 2013 Impact Factor is .466, compared to .449 in 2012.

Thesis summaries will no longer appear in the printed journal, and are published electronically instead.

13. ECCAI Membership

ECCAI currently has 29 members. Ukraine and Latvia are inactive.

14. ECCAI Sponsorship

Jerome Lang reported on the ECCAI sponsorship activities for conferences and related events. The sponsorship guidelines were explained and are available online. Highlights for 2014 were the sponsorship of two invited speakers: Malik Ghallab (ICAPS) and Franz Baader (Vienna Summer of Logic).

15. Next ECCAI GA

The next General Assembly will take place at IJCAI 2015 in Buenos Aires.

16. ECCAI Board Elections

Grigoris Antoniou and Patrik Doherty, who both finished their maximal three consecutive terms, are leaving the board.

The remaining board members, Gerhard Lakemeyer, Jerome Lang, Ann Nowe, and Michael Wooldrige, were re-elected by acclamation.

There were two nominations for new board members: Michela Milano, University of Bologna, Italy, and Barry O'Sullivan, University College Cork, Ireland.

Both nominees were elected by the GA unanimously.