



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Presented at the ECCAI General Assembly on 23 July 2008 at
ECAI-2008, Patras, Greece

Founded in 1982, ECCAI currently represents 26 European societies for Artificial Intelligence and is now 26 years old! ECCAI is in very good shape to meet the challenges of the new opportunities that the field of Artificial Intelligence has. The past years have shown an increasing interest of the community in the activities of ECCAI.

The following is a summary of ECCAI's activities over the past year.

TRAVEL GRANTS

The ECCAI travel awards program support the participation of young researchers at ECAI and ACAI. This year 15 awards of 400 Euros were given to students attending ECAI-2008. Membership: ACIA (2), AFIA (2), AI*IA (2), APPIA (3), BCS-SGAI (2), IAAI (1), SSAISB (1), SAIS (1), SSKI (1). Thanks to Gerhard Brewka for organising this.

DISSERTATION AWARD

The ECCAI Artificial Intelligence Dissertation Award 2007 goes to Adrian Petcu, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland for his thesis "A Class of Algorithms for Distributed Constraint Satisfaction" (Supervisor: Boi Faltings). The Award Ceremony takes place during ECAI-2008. Thanks to Ulises Cortes for coordinating this big task. There were a total of 10 valid submissions.

ECCAI FELLOWS

Nine new fellows were selected by the ECCAI Fellow Selection Committee for 2008:

Name	Country	Society	Institute
Pavel Brazdil	Portugal	APPIA	University of Porto
Wolfram Burgard	Germany	GI/KI	University of Freiburg
Didier Dubois	France	AFIA	Université Paul Sabatier
Sašo Džeroski	Slovenia	SLAIS	Jozef Stefan Institute
Sarit Kraus	Israel	IAAI	Bar-Ilan University
Maurizio Lenzerini	Italy	AI*IA	Università di Roma
Pedro Meseguer	Spain	ACIA+AEPIA	Spanish Scientific Research Council (CSIC)
John Mylopoulos	Greece	EETN	University of Trento
Francesca Rossi	Italy	AI*IA	University of Padova

They have all made outstanding contributions over many years to the European AI community and we congratulate them. Special thanks to the Selection Panel of Luigia Carlucci Aiello, Gerhard Brewka, Marie-Odile Cordier, Werner Horn, Robert Kowalski, Luis Moniz Pereira and Constantine Spyropoulos. The ECCAI Fellows lunch took place on Wednesday 23 July lunchtime during ECAI-2008 in Patras.

ECCAI BULLETIN

In order to improve communication with the ECCAI membership, the ECCAI board has continued a Bulletin to go to each society. The Bulletin currently appears several times a year. This provides topical information and reminders of up incoming ECCAI activities; as well as the contents of the recent issues of AI Com and IEEE Intelligent Systems. Many thanks to Marie-Odile Cordier. She is managing the bulletin now for the fourth year. The bulletin appears on the ECCAI website and it is distributed via the ECCAI mailing list. The mailing list is maintained by Uli Furbach. This has proven very successful in communicating with the member societies and their members.

ECAI-2008

The preliminary report of ECAI-2008 demonstrates the stable size of the AI community and its continuing interest in the ECAI conference. By end of June already 608 registrations we counted. The paper submission rate (561 submissions) was comparable to the previous 2 ECAIs. Many thanks to the excellent organizing team headed by Nikos Fakotakis and Nikos Avouris from Patras University. Many thanks also to Malik Ghallab for governing the scientific program and Constantine D. Spyropoulos for chairing the conference.

ACAI-2007

The Advanced Course on Artificial Intelligence was devoted to the topic "Logic for AI". 59 young researchers were registered in ACAI-2007. It took place from August 20-28th 2007 in Leuven, Belgium. The strong attendance and the outstanding speakers make this event a real success. The summer school ended with a balanced financial outcome. Congratulations and many thanks to the organizer, Hendrik Blockeel from Leuven University.

COOPERATION WITH IOS PRESS

We continue to cooperate with IOS press on the publication of ECAI proceedings and of AI Coms. The current ECCAI Proceedings contract covers 3 ECAIs from 2006 to 2010. It provides a better price scheme for publication of the proceedings in softcover and on CD, based on the current (higher) volumes required by ECAI. IOS further publishes the proceedings of the STAIRS sub-conference in its "Frontiers of AI" series.

AI COMMUNICATIONS

AI Communications is edited by Enrico Giunchiglia. Enrico actively engages in setting high standards for the scientific quality of the journal. This intends to strengthen responsibilities for section editors. The members of the ECCAI member societies have access to the on-line version through the web site of Metapress. A new access scheme has been implemented. It allows easy direct online access without passwording based on a referrer scheme directly from the ECCAI web site. This access method was established on the 20th anniversary volume of AICom in 2007. It offers continuous access in 2008.

CLOSER LINKS WITH PUBLISHERS

ECCAI continues its agreement with the IEEE to be a technical co-sponsor of the publication "IEEE Intelligent Systems". Members of ECCAI member societies get a discount on this publication.

ECCAI WEB SITE

During the past year, the ECCAI web site (www.eccai.org and www.eccai.eu) has continued to serve as the major information source about the activities of ECCAI.

Werner Horn
ECCAI Chairman