

# ICALP 2011

## REPORT ON THE EATCS GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011

The 2011 General Assembly (GA) of EATCS took place on Tuesday, July 5th, 2011, at the ETH in Zurich (Switzerland), venue of ICALP 2011. The President, Burkhard Monien, opened the GA at 18:10. The agenda consisted of the following items:

1. Report of the EATCS President
2. Nominations for the EATCS Council Election 2011
3. Report of the EATCS Treasurer
4. Report of the EATCS Secretary
5. Report on ICALP 2011 and 2012
6. Proposal for ICALP 2013
7. Report on EU research matters
8. Miscellaneous

### **1 Report of the EATCS President:**

First of all, in memory of Carl Adam Petri, who passed away on July 2, 2010, and Philippe Flajolet, who died on March 22, 2011, the President asks the attendees to rise for one minute silence.

Afterwards, the President reports about the main activities of EATCS in the period from July 2010 - June 2011 (see also the Annual Activity Report on the EATCS website). In particular, the President reports that the number of members slightly decreased during the last year down to 787 (not counting the ICALP 2011 registrations).

Concerning the sponsoring situation, the President reports that EATCS is still in good shape. All the known sponsors (The Bertinoro International Center for Informatics (BiCi), the Danish Center for Massive Data Algorithmics (MADALGO), the Greek Technology and Research Institute on Computers and Informatics (CTI), the publishing houses ELSEVIER and Springer, and Microsoft Research) have promised to extend their commitments. Moreover, the German Max Planck Institute for Informatics (MPI) has agreed to sponsor five scholarships each to support

participation of students at ICALP 2011 and 2012. Furthermore, Google has also agreed to sponsor 2-3 student scholarships for this year's ICALP.

One of the major activities of EATCS is to promote research in theoretical computer science. EATCS attempts to stimulate scientific excellence by supporting and encouraging the very best, truly creative scientists. In this context, EATCS has contributed again to a variety of awards, namely, the Gödel Prize, the EATCS Award, the Presburger Award, and the Dijkstra Prize. The Gödel Prize 2011 was awarded to Johan T. Hastad for his paper *Some optimal inapproximability results*, Journal of the ACM (JACM), 48, 798-859, 2001. The presentation took place this year at STOC. The EATCS Award 2011 goes to Boris Trakhtenbrot and the Presburger Award 2011 to Patricia Bouyer-Decitre. The President reminds the attendees that on Thursday afternoon of this ICALP week there will be a special Award Ceremony where these two will be honoured. The decision on the Dijkstra Prize 2011 has not been specified at the time of the GA and will be announced at this year's DISC conference. Moreover, EATCS was involved in various Best Paper Awards and Best Student Paper Awards at major conferences in theoretical computer science (ICALP, ETAPS, ESA, MFCS).

Next, the President reports that there are three categories of conferences in which EATCS is involved. The first category consists only of ICALP as the main conference of EATCS and the most important instrument to recruit new members. In the second category, there are some conferences that have *closer ties* to EATCS and also collect EATCS membership fees, or provide and offer a reduced conference fee to EATCS members, respectively. During the period under consideration, the President has redefined and formalized the arrangements with the conferences of this category by formal contracts in order to reach a *fair cooperation* for the future. At present, in this category there are ESA (The Annual European Symposium on Algorithms) and MFCS (The International Symposium on Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science). Another contract with DISC (Distributed Computing) is under negotiation and, additionally, the President is currently conducting dialogues with LICS (Logic in Computer Science) and CSL (Computer Science Logic). In the third category, there are the rest of the *sponsored conferences* where the EATCS sponsoring is usually confined to making advertisement. During the period under consideration, EATCS has sponsored twelve major scientific events in this category.

The annual main conference of EATCS since 1972 is the ICALP conference. In 2010, ICALP took place in Bordeaux, in 2011 in Zurich, and in 2012, the ICALP conference will be organized by Artur Czumaj in Warwick. The PC-chairs for 2012 will be Kurt Mehlhorn (track A), Andrew Pitts (track B), and Roger Wattenhofer (track C). As invited speakers we will have Daniel Spielman, Stefano Leonardi, Gilles Dowek, Berthold Vöcking, and Kohei Honda. The decision about the venue for 2013 has to be made later during this GA. EATCS has got a proposal

from the University of Latvia in Riga to organize ICALP 2013 and the prospective conference chair, Rusins Freivalds, will present the proposal later at this GA.

After this, the President reports that the ICALP 2011 Proceedings have again been published in the LNCS subline ARCoSS (Advanced Research in Computing and Software Science), but buying printed Proceedings is no longer compulsory for ICALP participants. Concerning the EATCS bulletin, the President reports that since issue 101 the bulletin is fully electronically published using the Open Journal System. Furthermore, the President reports that in 2011 seven more volumes have been printed by Springer in the EATCS series of Texts and Monographs.

Subsequently, the President reports on the results of the various elections. Burkhard Monien points out that he will act as President of EATCS only until next year. Thus, during its meeting at July 4th, 2011, the EATCS council has installed a selection committee for a new EATCS President consisting of the former Presidents Giorgio Ausiello and Mogens Nielsen. The council has also decided about the composition of the various EATCS committees: The ICALP-EATCS liaison committee remains unchanged of Pino Italiano (chair), Luca Aceto and Juhani Karhumäki. The EATCS publication committee now consists of Luca Aceto (chair), Josep Diaz, Juhani Karhumäki, Catuscia Palamidessi, Vladimiro Sassone, Maria Serna, and Madhavan Mukund. The EATCS representatives in the ETAPS steering committee remain unchanged. Don Sannella and Catuscia Palamidessi are elected for these positions. Moreover, the President reports to the audience about the situation of the different chapters of EATCS. Tiziana Calamoneri is the new head of the Italian Chapter of EATCS, Jean-Pierre Jouannaud is still the head of the French Chapter of EATCS and Kazuo Iwama is the head of the Japanese Chapter of EATCS.

The selection committees for the awards always consist of three persons, where each year one of them leaves the committee on a regular cycle after a term of three years. Consequently, the EATCS Award Committee 2012 now consists of Eugenio Moggi (chair), Friedhelm Meyer auf der Heide, and Leslie Ann Goldberg. The Presburger Award Committee 2012 now consists of Stefano Leonardi (chair), Monika Henzinger and Antonin Kucera. The Gödel Prize Committee 2012 now consists of Mogens Nielsen (chair), Josep Diaz and Giuseppe F. Italiano as EATCS representatives, and Sanjeev Arora, Cynthia Dwork and Eli Upfal as ACM SIGACT representatives.

Next, the President reports about two meetings of the most important European Scientific Societies in Informatics. These meetings are a consequence of the initiative taken by the EU Commission to stimulate the creation of a unified European Scientific and Professional Society in the field of ICT capable to play a role similar to the role played by ACM and IEEE in the US. The first meeting has been held on October 13, 2010, in Prague during the European Computer Science Summit. The follow-up meeting took place in Brussels on March 17, 2011. Both meet-

ings were moderated by Jan van Leeuwen. Besides representatives of the EU, the panel consists of various members of the participating societies like Cepis, EAI, Digitrust, Informatics Europe, ERCIM, ACM Europe Council, EATCS, EAPLS, and EASST. The panel decided to form a task group to address the following two issues:

- a) Develop a blueprint for an open platform organization for closer contact and cooperation between the Informatics/ICT societies in Europe.
- b) Develop an implementation plan for the platform, including one or more scenarios for how the platform should operate and be sustained.

Finally, the President summarizes the situation on the future of the publication of the ICALP proceedings. There are two offers from LIPIcs and Springer, and as a result of a vote the EATCS council recommends to the EATCS membership to go along with Springer for the next four years. However, the final decision will be made by a ballot of the EATCS membership at the end of this summer. There will be a quorum of 25 % of the EATCS members. Before the ballot of the EATCS membership takes place, all necessary information will be provided via email or within the EATCS member area. This includes, in particular, the following relevant papers:

- a) The EATCS Council Recommendation
- b) A minority report by some EATCS Council members
- c) The list of Pros and Cons of the two proposals
- d) The proposal from LIPIcs
- e) The proposal from Springer

If the ballot overrules the EATCS Council recommendation, then LIPIcs will be asked to publish the proceedings of ICALP 2012.

## **2 Nominations for the EATCS Council Election 2011**

The President reports that every odd year, half of the members of the council are elected for a term of four years, and every even year, the officials are elected for a term of two years. Consequently, this year the term of office of the following ten council members that were elected in 2007 expires:

Krzysztof Apt (The Netherlands), Pierre-Louis Curien (France), Josep Diaz (Spain), Zoltan Esik (Hungary), Fedor Fomin (Norway), Juhani Karhumäki (Finland), Madhavan Mukund (India), David Peleg (Israel), Andrzej Tarlecki (Poland), and Gerhard Woeginger (The Netherlands).

The electronic election of ten new members will take place in September 2011. The list of nominations for this election is the following:

Krzysztof Apt (The Netherlands), Jos Baeten (The Netherlands), Pierre-Louis Curien (France), Benjamin Doerr (Germany), Josep Diaz (Spain), Pierluigi Sanpietro (Italy), Zoltan Esik (Hungary), Erol Gelenbe (UK), Fedor Fomin (Norway), Fernando Orejas (Spain), Juhani Karhumäki (Finland), Stefano Leonardi (Italy), Madhavan Mukund (India), Berthold Vöcking (Germany), David Peleg (Israel), Roger Wattenhofer (Switzerland), Andrzej Tarlecki (Poland), Elvira Mayordomo (Spain), Gerhard Woeginger (The Netherlands), Hadas Shachnai (Israel), Amos Fiat (Israel), and Monika Henzinger (Austria).

According to the EATCS statutes no more than 3 of the members of the council (including elected and appointed members) may come from any single country, interpreted as the country of the main employer at the time of his/her election/appointment. Therefore, four of the nominees are ineligible. These are

Benjamin Doerr (Germany), Pierluigi Sanpietro (Italy), Stefano Leonardi (Italy), and Berthold Vöcking (Germany).

Moreover, Andrzej Tarlecki decided not to stand for re-election. The GA unanimously approves the remaining list of seventeen nominees and decides that the President should ask the nominees whether they are willing to stand as candidates.

### **3 Report of the EATCS Treasurer**

Dirk Janssens gives an overview on financial matters. The financial situation of EATCS is solid, even when the balance for the period June 18, 2010, to June 15, 2011, is slightly negative. This is due to the fact that so far some of the sponsors of EATCS haven't transferred the money agreed upon. Overall, EATCS can dispose on round about 160 thousand Euros.

### **4 Report of the EATCS Secretary**

The Secretary, Ioannis Chatzigiannakis, reports about the upgrade of the EATCS website. The page layout of the conference section was restructured to make a

clear distinction among the conferences EATCS is involved in. Moreover, the webpage includes a lot of useful information (e.g. a list of the invited speakers for all ICALPs since 1976, a list of all satellite workshops of ICALP since 1997, a list of all sponsored events of EATCS since 2005, etc.). Similarly, Ioannis and his team have added a lot of information to the awards webpages (e.g. the venue and the committee members for all Gödel Prizes since 1993, links to the homepages of all winners of the various awards, etc.).

Moreover, the team around Ioannis has developed a system for automatic validation of memberships. This system is used for the first time by the MFCS 2011 organizing committee during the registration process of the conference participants. The EATCS secretary office provides web services that allow conference organizers to automatically check membership status. In cooperation with Springer, the web team has implemented a system so that the members of EATCS are able to access the ICALP 2011 proceedings via a reading room within the internal member area of the EATCS website.

A total of 163 announcements were made on the young researchers internal area related to post doc positions and job announcements. These announcements have also been distributed via twitter and LinkedIn. Currently, there are 84 young researchers registered in this new category of members. Membership expiration reminders have been streamlined during the reported period. Three times (August 2010, December 2010 and April 2011) the EATCS secretary office has queried the database and informed members of the expiration of their membership.

In cooperation with the Italian Chapter, the electronic election of the new president and council members took place from March 11th at 00:00:00 CET until April 8th at 24:00:00 CET. During this extended period of 4 weeks, a total of 70 ballots were received. The results of the election were published on the website and to the membership mailing list. Finally, Ioannis presents some website statistics and sketched out some ideas for the future.

## 5 Report on ICALP 2011 and 2012

At this point, the President invites ICALP 2011 organizer Michael Hoffmann to present a summary of the state of the organization. Michael reports that roughly 300 people have registered to ICALP 2011, but roughly 50 of them only for the five satellite workshops. Compared to the last ICALP in Bordeaux the numbers has remained stable, but the high number and quality of submitted papers shows that ICALP is strengthening its role as one of the world's leading conferences in theoretical computer science as Jiri Sgall from the PC Committee reported. The paper figures are as follows: Track A, Submitted 243, Accepted 68; Track B, Submitted 103, Accepted 29; Track C, Submitted 52, Accepted 17. The conference

budget will be nearly balanced. Finally, on behalf of EATCS the President gives a warm thanks to all organizers in Zurich and their staff and to the three PC Chairs.

Next, Artur Czumaj, the conference chair of ICALP 2012, gives an entertaining and amusing report on the location Warwick/Coventry and the venue at the University of Warwick. The organization is progressing well and the whole team in Warwick is looking forward to be a good host for ICALP 2012. The 39th ICALP conference will take place from July 9 -13, 2012, and is embedded in the activities of the *Alan Turing Year - Centenary Celebration of the Life and Work of Alan Turing*.

## **6 Proposal for ICALP 2013**

Rusins Freivalds from the University of Latvia presents the proposal from Riga as the possible host for ICALP 2013. He shows many photos and tells many stories on the past and present of Riga. Moreover, he explains that the conference will be hosted in the buildings of the university in order to keep the costs at a minimum. Rusins emphasises that there are no plans to involve commercial agencies for the organisation of ICALP 2013. After this presentation, the President asks the members present for their vote for Riga and the GA decides by a clear majority that ICALP 2013 will take place in Riga.

## **7 Report on EU research matters**

At this time, the President invites Paul Spirakis to provide a brief account of recent developments regarding EU research. The same report will be posted in the EATCS website. For the period 2007-2013, the *Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)* with a budget of roughly 54 billion Euros was the main funding instrument. The successor to FP7 will be the *Common Strategic Framework (CSF)* for the period 2014-2020, respectively, the new subtitle for CSF which is *Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation*. The most important message here is that we can be almost sure that ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and FET (Future and Emerging Technologies) will have some increase which will probably focus on the innovation type actions/demonstrations. With respect to the FET flagships, Paul Spirakis informs the audience that in the meantime six Flagships and one Horizontal Action were approved. Although not absolutely clear how these will evolve, there is the intention to use these flagships as a *blueprint* for FET activities in CSF.

## 8 Miscellaneous

The President gave the floor to Manfred Kudlek who commented on the statistics of the authors who published repeatedly at ICALP. This year there is no author having reached 5 or more full papers at ICALP. Thus, according to the tradition, Manfred Kudlek presented the special EATCS badges *only* to the Editors of the ICALP 2011 Proceedings.

In conclusion, the President expressed his most sincere thanks to all those present for their contributions to the life of the association and closed the 2011 General Assembly of EATCS at 19.40, Tuesday, July 5th.

*Burkhard Monien*