



# European Association for Research in Industrial Economics

Minutes of the EARIE General Assembly 2008  
Toulouse, France – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008

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The 2008 General Assembly of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE) was chaired by Reinhilde Veugelers, the EARIE President. Approximately 35 EARIE members were present, including representatives of the EARIE Executive Committee.

President Veugelers opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. by welcoming all of the EARIE members attending the 35<sup>th</sup> EARIE Annual Conference in Toulouse, France – and thanked those who were present at the General Assembly for their valued participation in today's business meeting.

She then reviewed the Agenda and asked whether there were any additions or corrections to be made.

## **AGENDA**

1. Approval of the Minutes of the EARIE General Assembly held in Valencia, Spain on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2007
2. Approval of the Accounts 2007
3. New Membership Fee Structure
4. Results of the Elections 2008
5. Report on the EARIE Conference 2008
6. Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEA)
7. *International Journal of Industrial Organization* (IJIO) Report
8. Future EARIE Conferences
9. Other Business

No remarks were made.

**The Agenda was approved.**

*[See Annex I for the slides used during the EARIE 2008 General Assembly.  
All Annexes are available to current members upon request from the EARIE Secretariat.]*

# MINUTES

## 1. Approval of the Minutes of the EARIE General Assembly held in Valencia, Spain on the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2007

The Minutes of recent General Assemblies are available on the EARIE website ([www.earie.org](http://www.earie.org)) under the Governance menu. The President asked if there were any comments or suggested revisions for the 2007 General Assembly Minutes (Annex II). No remarks were made.

**The Minutes were approved.**

## 2. Approval of the Accounts 2007

The Accounts 2007 (see Annex III) which had been circulated to the EARIE membership beforehand were reviewed by the President. She noted that EARIE was in a healthy financial situation as well as a being stable in terms of income, expenditures and surplus.

Upon reviewing the Balance Sheet, the President noted that there was a positive surplus of over €8000 EUR in 2007. She then asked whether there were any questions regarding the 2007 Accounts. No questions were asked and no remarks were made. The President asked the General Assembly for a show of hands to approve the accounts.

**The 2007 Accounts were approved.**

## 3. New Membership Fee Structure

The President reviewed the new unbundled membership fee structure beginning in 2009 (which was announced at last year's General Assembly), and asked for final approval regarding the initial fees proposed jointly by EARIE (€35 for annual membership) and Elsevier (€54 for an optional personal copy of IJIO – a special price for EARIE members only). These rates are subject to an occasional rise over the years. The new fees will be announced on the EARIE and Elsevier websites respectively (with reciprocal links as appropriate), along with a subscription page developed by Elsevier specifically geared for EARIE members.

The President asked for a show of hands to approve the new EARIE membership structure. All those present voted in favour of this motion.

**The new EARIE membership structure was approved.**

## 4. Results of Elections 2008

The President discussed the membership situation over the past few years, which has recently been hovering between 450 and 500, but has already exceed 550 this year! Germany and Spain (most probably due to EARIE 2007) have the highest membership counts to date.

The following **membership** figures were presented on a slide:

Total number of members		Top 7 countries in 2008
2008	→ 554 members (to date)	1. Germany (81)
2007	→ 487 members	2. Spain (76)
2006	→ 481 members	3. Italy (63)
2005	→ 451 members	4. UK (49)
2004	→ 528 members	5. USA (40)
2003	→ 519 members	6. France (39)
		7. Belgium (37)

The President mentioned that the statistics by country were based on the affiliations of the members, rather than the country of birth. She expressed the hope of seeing more members coming from the central and eastern European countries in the future, and stated that EARIE was steadily working towards this goal.

President Veugelers announced the results of the electronic election held in early 2008 for four new Administrators. They will take office immediately (for a 3-year term, renewable once) after the closure of today's General Assembly. She welcomed the winners to the EARIE Executive Committee by asking for a round of applause by those present.

The newly-elected Administrators are:

- **Luis Cabral** (Stern School of Business, New York University, USA)
- **Philippe Gagnepain** (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain)
- **Ines Macho-Stadler** (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)
- **Jacques Mairesse** (CREST-ENSAE, France)

The following four Administrators will be leaving the EARIE Executive Committee after the Toulouse General Assembly:

- **Pedro Pita Barros** (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)
- **Marc Ivaldi** (Université Toulouse 1 – Sciences Sociales, France)
- **Helen Louri** (Athens University of Economics & Business, Greece)
- **Pedro Marin** (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain)

The President again asked for a hearty round of applause to thank these members for their work as EARIE Administrators over the past years.

The next elections will be held in early 2009 for a President-Elect as well as for several new EARIE Administrators.

## 5. Report on the EARIE Conference 2008

The President thanked Conference Chair Wilfried Sand-Zantman and the EARIE 2008 Local Organizing Committee for their hard work in making this year's conference such a success. She also extended her appreciation to the Scientific Committee at TSE (Pierre Dubois, Carole Haritchabalet, Marc Ivaldi, Patrick Rey) and the many referees for their invaluable contribution in reviewing and selecting the academic papers to achieve this year's high-quality program.

The President invited Wilfried to say a few words. He announced the following figures related to the EARIE 2008 conference:

- Number of papers submitted: 606
- Number of papers accepted: 460 (= 76%)
- Final number of presentations (after refusals, cancellations, etc.): 382

The total cost of the conference is about €170,000 – however, Wilfried stressed that EARIE 2008 is benefitting greatly from the location and staff of the IDEI, and thanked them all for their important role. The sponsorship received is approximately €50,000 which should be enough for the conference to break even.

On behalf of the EARIE Executive Committee and membership, the President congratulated Wilfried and his team for their organizational efforts. She has heard only positive comments and is confident that the EARIE 2008 conference will be deemed a success.

## 6. Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEA)

This year in Toulouse, five YEEA awards of €1000 each (plus certificates) were presented, including the **3<sup>rd</sup> EARIE Paul Geroski Prize**. The President briefly described the selection process that had been used. For the YEEAs, there were 127 papers competing. The Scientific

Committee made a first selection of 10 papers (among the papers with the best rankings) and then narrowed the field to 5 papers. The final selection was made by the EARIE President.

#### EARIE 2008 YEEA Winners

- **Bernhard Ganglmair, University of Zurich and IZA Bonn**  
*Before Death Do Us Part: On Premature Contract Breakup and Partial Property Rights*  
Sponsored by Conseil de la Concurrence
- **Ching-I Huang, National Taiwan University**  
*Intra-Household Effects on Demand for Telephone Service: Empirical Evidence*  
Sponsored by Fondation JJ Laffont - TSE
- **Gregory Lewis, Harvard University**  
*Asymmetric Information, Adverse Selection and Seller Disclosure: The Case of eBay Motors*  
Sponsored by IDEI
- **Catherine Schaumans, Tilburg University and K.U.Leuven**  
*Strategic Interaction between General Practitioners and Specialists: Implications for Gatekeeping*  
Sponsored by CNRS
- The winner of the 3<sup>rd</sup> EARIE **Paul Geroski Prize** for the most significant policy contribution:  
**Jing-Yuan Chiou, IMT Lucca**  
*The Patent Quality Control Process: Can We Afford An (Rationally) Ignorant Patent Office*  
Sponsored by Ministère de la Recherche

The President congratulated the five award winners for their excellent work and wished them success with their continued research and careers.

## 7. IJIO

The President reviewed the IJIO Annual Report which was presented to the EARIE Executive Committee yesterday by Pat Bajari, one of the three IJIO Editors (Annex IV).

Four IJIO Co-Editors stepped down recently (A. Hortacsu, M. Shum, D. Akerberg, F. Scott) and three new Co-Editors have been selected (G. Jin, A. Petrin, H. Paarsch), leaving room for one more possible Co-Editor with empirical skills. Of the six members comprising the journal's Scientific Committee, three are EARIE Past Presidents (F. Malerba, M. Slade, M. Waterson) – the other three are from American universities (J. Levinsohn, R. Porter, M. Riordan).

Elsevier has launched a new electronic system, and the report showed some statistics from the reviewing process (e.g., 20-25 papers per year are sent to each of the 10 Editorial Board members). The report includes an overview of the articles that were downloaded most often in the first quarter of 2008.

During the first half of 2008, the IJIO had a total of 222 submissions. The summary statistics for the first half of the year are:

- Rejected at Initial Review      130
- Rejected                              15
- Under Review                        68
- Out for revision                      9

If submissions continue at the same rate, IJIO expects to have about 450 manuscripts submitted in 2008.

For papers submitted during the three year period from 01.01.2005 – 31.12.2007, we have the following summary statistics:

- Total Papers with (at least first) Editorial Decision      1272

• IRR Rejections	668
• Rejected after Review	379
• Accepted	135
• Under Revision with Authors	90

Of the manuscripts that received a revise-and-resubmit, more than 92% (121 out of 131) were eventually accepted. If we assume that the acceptance rate for papers under revision remains at 92%, 83 of the manuscripts under revision at the end of 2007 will be accepted. This would make an acceptance rate of 17% for the three year period.

Of the 135 accepted papers, 4 were accepted with no revisions, 67 were accepted after a single revision, and 51 were accepted after two revisions. Hence only 10% of the accepted papers needed more than two rounds of revisions. This is encouraging because one of the goals was to limit the number of revise-and-resubmits per paper to two rounds at the most. The true number of "real revision" rounds is even lower: once papers are formally accepted, they cannot be changed. Hence, even if a paper needed one small change, the formal editorial decision would be "revise."

The 2008 IJIO Annual Report contains several interesting tables indicating various statistics and other information, including the figures below:

• Five Year Impact Factor for 2007:	1.34
• Five-year non-cited percentage for 2007:	53.4%
• Average time to first decision:	11.1 weeks

The President thanked Pat Bajari for his report, and took this opportunity to also thank the IJIO Editors for arranging the Elsevier Publishing Workshop which took place at EARIE 2008 yesterday afternoon. Approximately 45 delegates attended this special session.

President Veugelers noted that as of 2007 the Editorial Board of the IJIO introduced an award known as the *Paul Geroski Best Article Prize* (not to be confused with the EARIE YEEA *Paul Geroski Award*). The winning articles for a given volume of the journal are announced the following year. In 2008, the following authors were recognized (for the 2007 volume of IJIO):

IJIO Paul Geroski Best Article Prize 2007 winners

- **H. R. Varian**  
*Position auctions.* [IJIO, 25(6), pp. 1163-1178]
- **Yi Deng**  
*The effects of patent regime changes: A case study of the European patent office.* [IJIO 25(1), pp. 121-138]

## 8. Future Conferences

The President moved on to the important issue of future conferences, beginning with the Executive Committee's decision to employ the two-tiered system of splitting the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) and the Scientific Committee (SC) – with the aim of logically dividing the heavy workload as well as ensuring involvement from the EARIE ExCom in the scientific component of the conference. By the association assuming responsibility for the scientific aspect of its annual conferences, EARIE will be providing quality assurance and continuity over the years – as well as opening the doors for more potential conference hosts by reducing the workload for the local organizers.

The President then announced the locations for the next two EARIE Annual Conferences:

- EARIE 2009 – Ljubljana
- EARIE 2010 – Istanbul (*to be confirmed*)

The 36th EARIE conference will be hosted by the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and will be held September 3-5, 2009. The Local Organizing Committee will be chaired by Jože P. Damijan. The Scientific Committee will be chaired by Luis Cabral (NYU).

For details on next year's conference, please see the flyer included in this year's conference bags. President Veugelers said that she was pleased to see that the event will be held in Slovenia – one of her personal goals as President has been to increase the presence of EARIE in the CEE. She affirmed that EARIE will be continuing the search for interesting future conference venues. After 2010 (Istanbul), there are currently no other commitments or proposals for hosting future EARIE conferences. All members are invited to keep this in mind and not to hesitate making suggestions as to potential EARIE conference venues and hosts for the future.

## **9. Other Business**

The President informed the General Assembly of several required amendments concerning the EARIE Statutes. She explained that the Belgian legal authorities, and in particular the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance, as well as the banks, are becoming more strict with regard to non-profit organizations. (EARIE is a registered international non-profit organization with its headquarters in Brussels.)

Banks now require that the EARIE Statutes include the following article:  
"Except in the case of special proxies / powers of attorney, all deeds binding the association must be signed by two members of the Executive Committee who do not have to justify the powers endorsed towards third parties."

The President asked for a show of hands to approve of this amendment to the Statutes. All those present voted in favour of this motion.

**It was agreed to add the required paragraph to the EARIE Statutes.**

She asked whether there were any other comments or concerns. No further issues nor questions were raised.

President Reinhilde Veugelers again thanked the members who attended this meeting for their time and participation, and invited them to attend EARIE 2009 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

**The meeting was adjourned.**

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