



# European Association for Research in Industrial Economics

Minutes of the EARIE General Assembly 2009  
Ljubljana, Slovenia – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2009

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The 2009 General Assembly of the European Association for Research in Industrial Economics (EARIE) was chaired by Reinhilde Veugelers, the EARIE President. Approximately 25 EARIE members were present, including several representatives of the EARIE Executive Committee.

President Veugelers opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. by welcoming the EARIE members attending the 36<sup>th</sup> EARIE Annual Conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia – and thanked those who were present at the General Assembly for their valued participation in today's EARIE business meeting.

## AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes of the 2008 EARIE General Assembly held in Toulouse, France
2. Approval of the Accounts 2008
3. Membership Situation
4. Results of the Elections 2009
5. Report on the EARIE Conference 2009
6. Young Economists' Essay Awards (YEEA)
7. *International Journal of Industrial Organization* (IJIO) Report 2008-2009
8. Future EARIE Conferences
9. Other Business

She reviewed the Agenda and asked whether there were any additions or corrections to be made. No remarks were made.

**The Agenda was approved.**

*[The slides used during the EARIE 2009 General Assembly as well as the reports submitted to the Executive Committee are available to current members upon request from the EARIE Secretariat.]*

# MINUTES

## 1. Approval of the Minutes of the EARIE General Assembly held in Toulouse, France, on 6th September 2008

The President asked if there were any comments or suggested revisions for the 2008 General Assembly Minutes. No remarks were made.

**The Minutes were unanimously approved.**

[NOTE: The Minutes of recent EARIE General Assemblies are accessible online on the EARIE website ([www.earie.org](http://www.earie.org)) under the Governance menu.]

## 2. Approval of the Accounts 2008

The Accounts 2008 (which had been duly circulated to the EARIE membership prior to the meeting) 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.

While reviewing the Balance Sheet, the President noted that there was a positive surplus of over €11,000 in 2008. She then asked whether there were any questions regarding the 2008 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 2008 Accounts were unanimously approved.**

## 3. Membership Situation

The President reviewed the new unbundled membership fee structure which was implemented in 2009, and reminded members that the annual membership fee had been reduced to €35. EARIE members no longer automatically receive the journal as part of their membership or renewal, but are invited to contact Elsevier for an optional personal copy of IJIO at a cost of €54– a special subscription rate for EARIE members.

The following membership figures were presented on a slide:

Total number of members	Top 10 countries in 2009
2009 → 569 members (to date)	1. Germany (91)
2008 → 553 members	2. France (81)
2007 → 487 members	3. Italy (58)
2006 → 481 members	4. UK (41)
2005 → 451 members	5. Spain (38)
2004 → 528 members	6. USA (36)
2003 → 519 members	7. Netherlands (29)
2002 → 496 members	8. Japan (25)
	9. Belgium (20)
	10. Austria (18)

The President was pleased to report that there were over 550 members in 2008 – and this figure has already been topped this year. She would like to see an increase in the number of members from the central and eastern European countries in the future and is hoping that holding the EARIE conference in Slovenia will help in this regard. It is interesting to see Japan among the top 10 countries in 2009. She was surprised that the membership in the UK was not higher and hopes that this will improve in years to come. The President noted that the statistics by country were based on the affiliations of the members, and not the nationality.

#### **4. Results of Elections 2009**

President Veugelers announced the results of the electronic elections held in 2009 for six new Administrators (for a 3-year term, renewable once) and a President-Elect (for a 2-year term). The newly-elected officers will take office immediately after the closure of this 2009 EARIE General Assembly in Ljubljana.

The President-Elect whose term as President will be for the next two years (2009-2011) is:

- Luís CABRAL – IESE Business School, Spain

Reinhilde congratulated the Chair of this year's Scientific Committee as the incoming President.

The newly-elected Administrators for the next three years (2009-2012) are:

- Marcus ASPLUND – Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden
- Izak ATIYAS – Sabanci University, Turkey
- Jože P. DAMIJAN – University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Wilfried SAND-ZANTMAN – TSE, Toulouse, France
- Armin SCHMUTZLER – University of Zurich, Switzerland
- John VAN REENEN – London School of Economics, UK

Reinhilde welcomed the new Administrators to the EARIE Executive Committee and thanked them in advance for their support and commitment to the Association.

The following 4 Administrators will be leaving the EARIE Executive Committee after the Ljubljana General Assembly since their terms have ended:

- Giancarlo SPAGNOLO – University of Mannheim, Germany
- George SYMEONIDIS – University of Essex, UK
- Otto TOIVANEN – Helsinki School of Economics, Finland
- Nikolaos VETTAS – Athens University of Economics and Business, Greece

On behalf of the Association, the President thanked these 4 members for their work as EARIE Administrators over the past 6 years.

There were also farewells and a warm round of applause for the outgoing President:

- Reinhilde VEUGELERS – KUL – Leuven Catholic University, Belgium

She will be stepping down this year and joining the ranks of the EARIE Past Presidents. The next elections will be held in early 2010 for several new EARIE Administrators.

#### **5. Report on the EARIE Conference 2009**

The President reviewed the two-tiered system used for the EARIE Annual Conferences – the host is responsible for all logistics and the Local Organizing Committee whereas EARIE takes charge of the Scientific Committee and the academic program thereby dividing the workload.

Jože Damijan, Chair of the EARIE 2009 Local Organizing Committee, thanked EARIE for giving the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana the opportunity to host this event. He especially thanked the excellent coordinating skills of his team headed by Monika Lapanja for their hard work. He complimented the President on having selected Luís Cabral as this year's Scientific Chair since the conference program is proving to be an excellent one.

Of the papers submitted to EARIE 2009, 412 were accepted and 381 presenting authors registered for the conference. The total number of delegates is 470. To date, they have received €134,000 in registration fees and about €50,000 in sponsorship money.

The President congratulated Jože and his team for their exceptional organization. She has heard very positive comments and has no doubt that the EARIE 2009 conference will be deemed a success. Reinhilde is very pleased that an EARIE conference is finally being held in the CEE; one of her goals as President was to promote this important connection.

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

Luís Cabral, Chair of the EARIE 2009 Scientific Committee, reviewed the procedures followed and thanked his team of 67 Referees for their professionalism and efficiency in reviewing the submissions received. The Scientific Committee made a first selection of the top 30 papers (among the papers with the best rankings) and the final selection was made with the input of the EARIE President. Luís and Reinhilde will announce the YEEA winners at the Gala Dinner.

This year in Ljubljana, thanks to the support of the EARIE Association and the EARIE 2009 Local Organizing Committee (chaired by Jože Damijan), five YEEA awards will be presented. One of these YEEAs has been further subtitled the "4<sup>th</sup> EARIE Paul Geroski Prize for the most significant policy contribution". A money prize of €1000 will also be awarded for each winning paper presented at the conference. (One of the authors was unfortunately not able to attend.)

EARIE 2009 YEEA Winners:

- **Christian Roessler** (Rice University) & **Philipp Koellinger** (Erasmus School of Economics) for the paper "*Entrepreneurship, Firm Creation, and Organizational Design*"
- **Sergei Koulayev** (Columbia University) for the paper "*Estimating Search with Learning*"
- **Jura Liukonyte** (Cornell University) for the paper "*Is Comparative Advertising an Active Ingredient in the Market for Pain Relief? An Empirical Model of Advertising Content*"
- **Andrew Rhodes** (University of Oxford) for the paper "*Multiproduct Firms and the Diamond Paradox*"
- **Leonardo Iacovone** (World Bank) for the paper "*The Better You Are the Stronger it Makes You: Evidence on the Asymmetric Impact of Liberalization*"  
[4<sup>th</sup> EARIE Paul Geroski Prize for the most significant policy contribution]

Reinhilde thanked Luís and his team for their hard work. She is pleased with the way the awards were selected and is confident that the presentation at the Gala Dinner will be a success with most authors in attendance to receive them.

The President officially 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 Neil Gandal, one of the three IJIO Editors.

The cooperation between the association and the IJIO continues to be very good. The Editorial Board has several new members: Co-Editor David Martimort stepped down at the end of 2008 and Yossi Spiegel came on board; 8 new Associate Editors from top universities joined the team. The Scientific Advisory Board remains unchanged.

The 2008 IJIO Annual Report revealed some interesting statistics. Between 1 January 2005 and 25 July 2009, there were 2,042 papers that received a first editorial decision of which 55% were rejected at the initial review stage, resulting in a 16% acceptance rate. During 2008, the IJIO had a total of 444 submissions. This compares with 429 submissions in 2007, 482 submissions in 2006, and 417 submissions in 2005. Prior to the current Editors taking on the journal, the IJIO received about 350 manuscripts (in 2004), which had been the steady rate for several years. Currently, IJIO is running at a pace of more than 500 submissions for 2009.

The year-to-date summary statistics as of 25 July 2009 are:

- Rejected at Initial Review      259
- Rejected                              69
- Accepted                              8
- Under Review                      91
- Out for revision                    17

The (two-year) journal Impact Factor, which is published by Thomson Reuters, is a measure of the frequency with which the average article that appeared in a journal in the previous two years is cited in a particular year. The IJIO's 2008 impact factor - which is based on papers published in 2006 & 2007 - was just published: it is 1.08.

This is the first time the journal has had an impact factor above 1 (based on data going back to 1995), and it represents a more than doubling of the impact factor over the 2007 level. More importantly, IJIO did very well relative to its IO competitors.

On behalf of the IJIO Editors, the President announced the winners of the **IJIO Paul Geroski Best Article Prize** for the best papers published in the IJIO in 2008:

- *The timing of movie releases: Evidence from the home video industry, 2008, 26:1059-1073*, by **Lesley Chiou**
- *Cartel price announcements: The vitamins industry, 2008, 26: 762-802*, by **Robert C. Marshall, Leslie M. Marx, Matthew E. Raiff**

## 8. Future Conferences

The President discussed future conferences, stating that since last year's decision to employ the two-tier system of splitting the Local Organizing Committee and the Scientific Committee has been implemented, it should be easier to find local organizers. Due to the fact that the Association is 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 announced the locations for the next two EARIE Annual Conferences:

- EARIE 2010 - Istanbul
- EARIE 2011 - Stockholm (*to be confirmed*)

The 37th EARIE conference will be hosted by Sabanci University, Istanbul, Turkey, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, September 2-4, 2010. The Local Organizing Committee will be chaired by Izak Atiyas. The EARIE 2010 Scientific Committee will be chaired by Otto Toivanen.

Otto Toivanen will take charge of selecting the other members of the Scientific Committee, including referees, etc. In close cooperation with the LOC Chair, Izak Atiyas, and the EARIE President, Luís Cabral, Otto will also coordinate the invited sessions and keynote speakers since these are closely tied to each other and should be incorporated into the program accordingly. Suggestions for keynotes, sessions, etc. are to be submitted to Otto Toivanen.

Although it is yet to be confirmed, the President stated that EARIE 2011 is scheduled to be held in Stockholm, Sweden (hosted by the Royal Institute of Technology) - and that EARIE Executive Committee member Marcus Asplund would be the Conference Chair.

Proposals for 2012 and beyond must be solicited soon. Please contact the President with any suggestions or expressions of interest for hosting a future EARIE Annual Conference.

## 9. Other Business

EARIE is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Ljubljana - and by way of commemorating two of the founding members of EARIE, Mike Scherer and Jürgen Mueller, as well as providing a brief history of the association, Dennis Mueller gave a short speech after the first keynote speaker.

Unfortunately, the ceremony originally planned for the Welcome Reception had to be cancelled at the last minute due to a change in travel plans, but the two beautiful plaques created in honor of the founders of EARIE are to be displayed at the Gala Dinner on Saturday night and then forwarded to their deserving namesakes. Happy 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to EARIE!

The President thanked Dennis Mueller for having taken the lead on this special EARIE event, as well as commending the efforts of Ene Kannel at EIASM in Brussels and the Ljubljana team.

The President asked whether there were any other comments or concerns. No further issues or questions were raised. Reinhilde again thanked the members who attended this General Assembly for their time and participation, and invited them to attend EARIE 2010 in Istanbul next year.

President Reinhilde Veugelers then officially stepped down as the EARIE President and warmly welcomed Luís Cabral as the new EARIE President. Luís Cabral thanked everyone for having confidence in him and said a few words about continuing the goals set by Reinhilde Veugelers.

Both Presidents invited their colleagues to the Gala Dinner and Awards Presentation this evening. They also wished everyone a safe journey back after the EARIE 2009 conference.

**The General Assembly meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.**

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