Final Report on the

17th European Young Statisticians Meeting,

Caparica, Lisbon, Portugal, 5–9/September/2011

The 17th European Young Statisticians Meeting (EYSM) was held in Caparica, Lisbon, between the 5th and the 9th of September, 2011.

These conferences are organized every two years under the auspices of the European Regional Committee of the Bernoulli Society. The aim is to provide a scientific forum for the next generation of European researchers in probability theory and statistics. It represents an excellent opportunity to promote new collaborations and international cooperation. Participants are less than 30 years old or have 2 to 8 years of research experience, and are invited on the basis of their scientific skills, in a uniformly distributed way in Europe (2 participants per country).

This is the first time we had the pleasure to host the EYSM in Portugal. We had 46 young statisticians registered (45 attended) from 24 different European countries. This represents the highest number of participants and countries since the beginning of the EYSM.

The organizers would like to thank to all the members of the International Organizing Committee who have done a great job in advertising the 17th EYSM and selecting the participants. Our website (http://www.fct.unl.pt/17eysm) was viewed more than 8.000 times by people from 91 countries up to the first day of the conference.

The 45 talks were organized in 14 sessions covering 14 different topics. There were no parallel sessions. We had 4 Keynote Speakers: Wolfgang Polasek (Austria); Carlos Agra Coelho (Portugal) who kindly replaced N. Balakrishnan who had to cancel his trip to Portugal due to personal matters; Maria Ivette Gomes (Portugal); and Kamil Feridun Turkman (Portugal), to whom we would like to thank for being in our Meeting.

A Satisfaction Survey was designed to know how happy the participants were about many of the items along the conference, and how it could be improved for next editions. We had 29 respondents out of the 45 participants.

The overall satisfaction with the scientific program scored an average, over the 29 respondents, of 9.82 in the scale of 0 to 10 on our satisfaction survey. 89.7% of the respondents did meet professional contacts during the 17th EYSM, and the satisfaction level with the opportunities of networking reached an average of 8.70 in the scale of 0 to 10.

The opening ceremony had represented three of our biggest sponsors: Maria Luísa Mascarenhas (Director of the Research Centre for Mathematics and Applications); Jorge Lampreia (Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Nova University of Lisbon); and Luísa Loura (member of the Board of Directors of the Portuguese Statistical Society).

We also would like to thank all the other sponsors which helped making this meeting successful. Particularly we want to express our gratitude to the Faculty of Sciences and Technology, Nova University of Lisbon, for all the administrative, design and logistic help. All the sponsors are acknowledged in our website: http://www.fct.unl.pt/17eysm.

The registration fee for this meeting, including conference materials, accommodation for 5 nights, breakfasts, coffee breaks, lunches, and social program, was 220 Euro. Since the budget was quite limited, the strategy was to save money in the accommodation (scored an average over the 29 respondents of 6.54 in the scale of 0 to 10) and provide an outstanding social program where the participants could interact (scored an average, over the 29 respondents, of 9.46 in the scale of 0 to 10)!

The financial support from the World Bank, kindly provided by the Bernoulli Society, covered some of the expenses of seven participants from developing countries. We would like to thank the World Bank and the Bernoulli Society on their behalf.

It is expected that many of presented papers will be published, after refereeing, in a Special Issue of the journal Communications in Statistics—Theory and Methods, associated with this Conference. All submitted papers must meet the publication standards of the journal and will be subject to normal, but faster, refereeing procedure.

The program also included four Social Events which allowed the participants to know each other and to have a taste of the Portuguese culture, weather, gastronomy, and hospitality.

The first social activity was just before the opening ceremony and it was a short mixer for the participants to meet each other and talk about their scientific interests (scored an average, over the 27 respondents, of 8.74 in the scale of 0 to 10). On Monday afternoon the welcome drink was held on the beach "Praia Morena" followed by dinner (scored an average, over the 28 respondents, of 9.82 in the scale of 0 to 10)!

The conference Dinner was on Wednesday, the 7th, and was held in a cruise on the Tagus River. It included 3.5 hours nonstop sailing along the margins of the beautiful Lisbon by night, and four Fado music singers. This activity scored an average, over the 26 respondents, of 9.81 in the scale of 0 to 10!
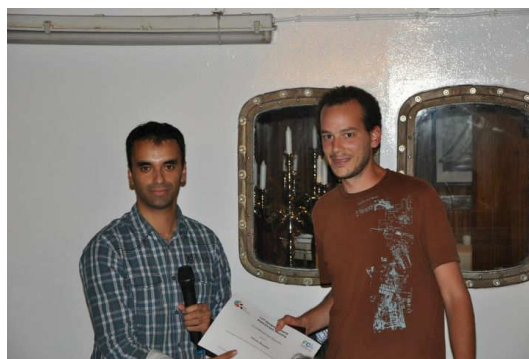
The conference excursion took place on Thursday afternoon and the program was called "Lisbon in pictures", a Lisbon Treasure Hunt to see and experience the best of Lisbon; the Discoverers City. All the participants had the chance to enjoy up to "10 Must See!" locations of Lisbon. Each of the 6 teams followed a specially prepared route with a variety of checkpoints along the way; making use of all the local forms of transport, tram, train and bus. Along with the road each team had to take pictures with digital or Polaroid camera answer some questions about statistics, probability and Portugal. On arriving at the final check point teams received the material required to personalize their photos and place them in their own

frame. The best team received the deserved award. The dinner followed the excursion. This activity scored an average, over the 25 respondents, of 9.60 in the scale of 0 to 10!

Three awards were given to the best three papers. The award committee was formed by Miguel de Carvalho, Paulo Canas Rodrigues, Anne Leucht and Alicia Nieto. The awardees were: Francesca Ieva (Italy); Johanna Ziegel (Germany) and Olivier Bouaziz (France).

Some answers on the satisfaction survey (contact with the organizers; welcome drink and dinner; conference dinner; Excursion; organization staff support; overall quality of the social program; level of satisfaction with the 17th EYSM; level of satisfaction with the trip to Portugal) had to be rounded to 10 to fit the original scale (from 10+, 10++, 10+++, 20, 50, and infinity). We are very happy that some of the comments on the satisfaction survey were such as "A week full of fun and inspiration"; "I will remember it all my life"; "One of the best and most motivating conferences that I have been to", etc.!

We thank all the participants for providing an excellent scientific program and a lot of fun in the social events. We wish you all the best and are looking forward to meet all of you again soon.

The 18th Edition of the European Young Statisticians Meeting will take place in the beautiful city of Osijek, Croatia. The Local Organizing Committee will be chaired by Nenad Suvak (Department of Mathematics, J.J. Strossmayer University of Osijek).

We wish them all the luck!

On the behalf of the Local Organizing Committee of the 17th EYSM,

Paulo Canas Rodrigues