

ERC Meeting Minutes

European Regional Committee Bernoulli Society

When: Monday 22 July 2013, 12:00 – 13:30

Where: Meeting room, Eötvös Loránd University
EMS Meeting, Budapest

Attendees: Sandor Baran, Niels Richard Hansen, Maarten Jansen, Wilfrid Kendall (President Elect of the Bernoulli Society), Markos Koutras, Hannes Leeb, Laszlo Markus, Richard Samworth, Ernst Wit (Chair, Minutes)

Apologies: Teresa Ledwina, Markus Reiss, Havard Rue, Alexander Tsybakov, Kamil Turkman, Vladimir Vatutin

Absent: Pier Luigi Conti, Daniel Hlubinka, Ada van Krimpen (Director of Permanent Office of the ISI), Eugenia Stoimenova

1. Opening

Laszlo Markus formally hands over the chair to the incoming chair, Ernst Wit. Wit thanks Markus for his services in the past two years. Wit also welcomes the new members to the ERC, to wit, Sandor Baran, Niels Hansen, Markos Koutras, Hannes Leeb, Maarten Jansen, as well as Kamil Turkman and Markus Reiss, who were both unable to attend.

2. Introduction of members of committee

The members of the ERC committee present, as well as the BS President-Elect and the outgoing ERC chair, introduce themselves.

Kendall remarks that it might be useful to invite the Bernoulli Society Scientific Secretary, currently Nakahiro Yoshida, to the ERC meeting. Wit does not see any objection to this.

3. Determining agenda

No further points are added to the agenda.

4. Minutes from the previous meeting

There are no minutes as in the previous two years no meetings took place. The aim is to have regular ERC meetings in the upcoming two years with minutes to record the actions and decisions of the committee.

5. Formation of the committees

5.a. Election of Programme Coordinator and Conference Committee

Hannes Leeb and Niels Hansen agree to enter in the Conference Committee. The position of Programme Coordinator is still empty. Wilfrid Kendall encourages the ERC to fill the position in order to spread out the work. Wit will email the ERC to encourage a member to take the role.

5.b. Election of ERC Chair 2015-2016

ERC rules specify that the ERC chair should be elected one year before taking office. This means that the next chair should be elected by the end of 2013. ERC members are asked to think about a suitable candidate. This should be someone with a cross-European experience, preferably with an affinity for both statistics and stochastics. He or she does not have to be an ERC member yet. It would be good to have a woman. Wit will encourage nominations before the end of the year.

6. Ordinary business of the ERC

6.a. EMS 2015: Netherlands

The ERC has unanimously elected the Netherlands as organizer for the next EMS 2015 conference. The local organizing committee involves Aad van der Vaart and several other members from the Dutch statistical community. There are several issues the ERC has to be involved in:

- **Dates:** other meetings in the Summer of 2015 are JSM (8-13 August, 2015), ISI in Rio (27-31 July, 2015), SPA meeting Oxford (13-17 July 2015). Although the general rules for the EMS specify August as a preferred month, the ERC feels that July is a good month. Both Budapest (2013) and Oslo (2005) were organized in July and attracted a lot of participants, whereas Piraeus (2010) was organized in August and attracted fewer people. Potential dates seem: 5-10 July 2015, 19-24 July 2015 or, if pushed to August, 2-7 August 2015. Wit, Leeb and Hansen will communicate with the local organizing committee.
- **Programme Committee:** the ERC should appoint a programme committee and, importantly, a programme committee chair to be responsible for the scientific programme at the EMS 2015. Preferably a senior statistician with affinity for stochastics should be chosen. Potential names were mentioned at the meeting (Piet Groeneboom, Peter Buhlmann, Lutz Duembgen, Marc Hallin) but more names should be invited.

6.b. EYSM 2013 Croatia (and beyond)

Organization of the ERC 2013 in Croatia in August 2013 is well under way. Formally the ERC is responsible for appoint the International Organizing Committee of the EYSM. However, it seems that the handover takes place among the countries more informally at the EYSM meeting itself. It would be good that the rules are going to reflect this. Wit, Leeb and Hansen will amend and update the EYSM rules. Moreover, the Croatia organizers will be asked to inform the ERC as soon as the meeting is over, who will organize the next EYSM in 2015.

6.c. SemStat

Seminaires Europeens de Statistiques (or shortly SemStat) was a successful series of instructional meetings at a high level for young statisticians to be taught at a particular “frontier” of statistics. The lecture notes would be published by Chapman and Hall and would fill a particular gap in the statistical literature. The series is under the responsibility of the ERC, but since 2007 no action has been undertaken by the SemStat steering committee. Chair Martin Lindner has indicated that he wants to step down, but members Aad van der Vaart, Ingrid van Keilegom and Michael Sorensen have indicated to be willing to stay on. We do need a fresh look at the SemStat rules and regulations and potentially reformulate them the current statistical scene – if we choose to continue the SemStat series. Wit, Leeb and Hansen will come up with a proposal for (dis)continuation of the SemStat series.

6.d. ERC Website

The ERC website is very much out of date. Wit has been in touch with Bjorn Bottcher to update the content of the website.

7. Aim and objectives of ERC

The statutes of the ERC state that "the objective of the ERC is to promote European cooperation in probability theory and statistics and their applications." Partially this can be done via the usual activities (like the EMS, EYSM, SemStat), but it would be worth reflecting on what the role of the Bernoulli Society and particularly the ERC should be

within Europe. It has the unique opportunity to forge collaboration between various European societies and be involved in EU policy decision making. It should take a more active role in these matters. This should be put on the agenda for the next ERC meeting, but some ideas are:

- Cooperation with European statistics and probability societies. We could imagine to invite members of national societies to be members of the ERC to promote collaboration.
- Act as an intermediary between Cordis and statistical and probability experts.
- ... Other ideas are invited for discussion next time.

8. Bernoulli News deadline: 30 September 2013

If anyone has ERC news, please let me know before 30/9/13, so I can include it in my report to Bernoulli News.

9. Any other business

The financial situation in some member states make it hard for some people to attend the ERC meeting. Most meetings will be, however, “virtual” and should be accessible to all. In fact, the next meeting, schedule for the end of November or beginning of December 2013 will be scheduled via Google Hangouts. All ERC (regular and supernumerary members will receive an invitation from Wit to register.

10. The meeting is closed at 13:35.

Actions resulting from the meeting

Point	Action	Who
2	Invite Bernoulli Society Scientific Secretary, currently Nakahiro Yoshida <nakahiro@ms.u-tokyo.ac.jp>, as supernumerary member to the next ERC meeting.	Wit
5a	Find ERC member willing to serve as Programme Coordinator.	Wit
5b	Nominations for 2015/2016 ERC chair before the end of November 2013.	All
6a	EMS 2015: dates should not conflict with other meetings. Communicate this to local organizers.	Wit, Leeb, Hansen
6a	EMS 2015: Come up and invite more names for potential chair of the Scientific Committee.	All
6b	Update the rules of the organization of the EYSM.	Wit, Leeb, Hansen
6b	Ask the EYSM 2013 organizers to communicate who are selected as EYSM 2015 organizers.	Wit
6c	Proposal for (dis)continuation of the SemStat series.	Wit, Leeb, Hansen
6d	Update the ERC website	Wit
7	Ideas for sensible ways for implementing the ERC goal to be a source of promoting European collaboration in statistics and probability.	All
8	ERC news items to Wit before 30/9/2013	All
8	Report for Bernoulli News before 30/9/13	Wit
9	Register for a Google Hangout account for next ERC meeting (Nov/Dec 2013)	All