2004

ecoop

OSLO, norway

18th European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming

Oslo, June 14–18, 2004

Final Report

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1 Introduction

This document constitutes the final report on the 18th European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming (ECOOP 2004), which was held in Oslo, Norway, from June 14 to June 18, 2004.

The conference followed the general structure of previous ECOOP events. The first two days were dedicated to Workshops and Tutorials, while the main conference run from Wednesday to Friday. All events happened at the premises of the University of Oslo.

The total number of participants was 436. Comparing this figure with the ones from the last 4 conferences, this number is along the lines of three of them —,ECOOP'99 (480), ECOOP'01 (450), ECOOP'02 (483) and ECOOP'03 (369)—, but well below the numbers of attendees for ECOOP'98 (700) and ECOOP'00 (600).

Workshops and Tutorials were held during the first two days. The technical program consisted of 8 technical sessions (in which 25 papers were presented), 2 invited talks, 1 keynote speech at the banquet dinner, 1 panel, 3 demos, and 9 posters..

The profit was 14 000 Euro, slightly below the average profit of previous ECOOP's (about 29,000 Euro).

Many lessons were learnt from the experience of organizing an event such as ECOOP. The following sections try to cover some of these experiences.

ECOOP 2004 would not have been possible without the help and support of many people, including the Conference Chair, Birger Møller-Pedersen, the Programme Chair, Martin Odersky, the members of the Programme and Organizing Committees, and the Aito members. Special thanks to our sponsors and co-operating organizations, in particular to Microsoft Research, Simula research laboratory, IBM, Mesan, NOKIA, COMPUWARE, Fast, The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, the Norwegian Research Council, the Department of Informatics at the University of Oslo, Norwegian Computing Center (NR), SINTEF, the Town Hall of Oslo.. We want to acknowledge all the help we received from Ole L. Madsen, Walter Olthoff, and Jan Erik Ripel. We also want to express our gratitude to the student volunteers, who did an excellent job..

Oslo, June 15th, 2005.

Arne Maus

ECOOP 2004 Organizing Chair

Financial Statement

1.1 Fees

Price structure for ECOOP 2004

Category	Registration	Price NOK	1 tutorial	2 tutorials	3 tutorials	4 tutorials
Regular	Early	4 400	1 700	3 000	4 100	5 000
	Late	5 250	2 050	3 350	4 450	5 350
	On site	6 000	2 200	3 500	4 600	5 500
Student	Early	2 000	850	1 600	2 150	2 600
	Late	2 500	1 200	1 950	2 500	2 950
	On site	3 000	1 350	2 100	2 650	3 100
Discounted	Early	2 950	1 700	3 000	4 100	5 000
	Late	2 950	2 050	3 350	4 450	5 350
	On site	2 950	2 200	3 500	4 600	5 500
Workshops only	Early	1 700				
	Late	1 950				
	On site	2 050				
Workshops only student	Early	1 000				
	Late	1 250				
	On site	1 350				
Tutorials only	Early		2 000	3 500	4 800	6 000
	Late		2 350	3 850	5 150	6 350
	On site		2 500	4 000	5 300	6 500
Tutorials only student	This category did not appear in Darmstadt ECOOP 2004 either					
Accompanying	Early	1 300				
	Late	1 500				
	On site	1 700				

It should be noted that we offered a very flexible payment scheme. We had projected that most participants would use the online e-pay system, and this was indeed the case, but our labor was spent on all those that did not use that online system. Through our meeting organizers (Meeting Management) we offered bank payment and invoicing, and use of credit cards manually. We also in practice offered the participants to pay before the venue, during the venue and unfortunately also after the venue.

We would strongly advise that the organizers of coming conferences do not accept payment after the venue. Very much effort was spent to try and collect fairly large sums of money that was due for months after the event. Very often big, well known and respected companies were very slow to pay.

1.2 Global Financial Statement

ECOOP04	Budget		Rate:		8,323 NOK/EUR		Rate:		8,323 NOK/EUR
					as of August 2003				as of August 2003
			Income	Expenses	Balance	Income	Expenses	Balance	
Publicity&Printing	10	Call-for-papers							
	11	Call-for-participation							
	12	Advertizing		9 611,92 EUR			4 927,50 EUR		
	13	Mailing							
	14	Final Program		1 501,86 EUR			2 659,38 EUR		
	15	Signposts, Badges, T		1 066,92 EUR			1 508,41 EUR		
? Publicity&Printing			0,00 EUR	12 180,70 EUR	-12 180,70 EUR	0,00 EUR	9 095,29 EUR	-9 095,29 EUR	
Conference	20	PC Meeting Support		8 410,43 EUR			9 704,22 EUR		
	21	Invited Speakers		7 208,94 EUR			10 092,35 EUR		
	22	Conference fees	119 223,84 EUR	12 965,40 EUR		174 811,38 EUR	25 845,10 EUR		
	23	Donations	27 297,85 EUR			40 636,79 EUR			
	24	Insurance		841,04 EUR					
	25	Proceedings							
	26	Room Rent		6 194,88 EUR			3 114,86 EUR		
	27	Panels							
	28	Banquet Room							
	29	Banquet		27 752,61 EUR			28 200,17 EUR		
? Conference			146 521,69 EUR	63 373,30 EUR	83 148,38 EUR	215 448,17 EUR	76 956,71 EUR	138 491,46 EUR	
Tutorials	30	Speaker reimbursem		12 014,90 EUR			12 155,03 EUR		
	31	Material							
	32	Tutorial fees	16 496,46 EUR						
	33	Tutorial Lunches							
	34	Tutorial Notes							
	35	Fees WS only	19 518,20 EUR						
? Tutorials			36 014,66 EUR	12 014,90 EUR	23 999,76 EUR	0,00 EUR	12 155,03 EUR	-12 155,03 EUR	
Catering	40	Receptions, Coffee B		60 044,46 EUR			67 363,45 EUR		
	41	Wages							
? Catering			0,00 EUR	60 044,46 EUR	-60 044,46 EUR	0,00 EUR	67 363,45 EUR	-67 363,45 EUR	
Exhibition	50	Booth rental				1 402,98 EUR	4 007,69 EUR		
	52	Exhibition fees				468,82 EUR	468,82 EUR		
? Exhibition			0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR		1 871,80 EUR	4 476,51 EUR	-2 935,84 EUR	
Merchandise	60	Shirts/Bags				162,20 EUR	6 229,44 EUR		
	61	Proceedings		8 925,87 EUR		294,37 EUR	7 051,64 EUR		
? Merchandise			0,00 EUR	8 925,87 EUR	-8 925,87 EUR	456,57 EUR	13 281,09 EUR	-12 824,52 EUR	
Organisation	70	Students Honorarium		2 402,98 EUR			480,60 EUR		
	71	Office Material, Stati							
	72	Machines							
	73	Rental fees / Technic		3 604,47 EUR			322,24 EUR		
	74	AITO Meeting					2 685,21 EUR		
	75	Transportation		8 535,38 EUR			7 447,49 EUR		
	76	Food							
	77	Telefon							
	78	Banking, Credit Card		3 880,96 EUR		113,81 EUR	3 386,26 EUR		
	79	Interest							
	80	Administration		2 402,98 EUR			2 211,44 EUR		
	81	External Services		600,74 EUR			192,60 EUR		
	82	Registration							
	83	Miscellaneous		2 402,98 EUR			3 513,85 EUR		
	84	AITO loan				25 303,39 EUR	25 303,39 EUR		
	85	East European Supp							
? Organisation			0,00 EUR	23 830,50 EUR	-23 830,50 EUR	25 417,20 EUR	45 543,08 EUR	-20 125,88 EUR	
Taxes	90	Taxes: IVA							
	91	Taxes: IRPEF							
	92	Taxes: various							
? Taxes			0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR		0,00 EUR	0,00 EUR		
Total			182 536,35 EUR	180 369,73 EUR	2 166,62 EUR	243 193,74 EUR	228 871,16 EUR	13 991,45 EUR	
				2 166,62 EUR			13 991,45 EUR		

Notes to the financial statement:

Account	Comment
12 Advertizing	We decided to spend less on direct marketing than projected
20 PC meeting sup	Main cost was Cyberchair = 7500 EUR
21 Invited speakers	Most of this cost came from one air travel (7500 EUR)
22 Conf. fees	The income is for conference+tutorials+workshop only while the budget has them separate
23 Donations	Some sponsorship was tied to special social events
26 Room rent	Very special price for us
50-52 Exhibition	Special exhibition on People behind Informatics

We are proud to report a healthy surplus, but the situation was not considered so bright during the months after the venue. During the period where we had absolute certain predictions on neither achieved income nor expenses, it could break either way. That we finally were able to collect all our potential income from late sponsors as well as late paying participants made the income side as large as possibly be expected. On the other

side, some of our originally budgeted expenses became smaller than anticipated, such as room rent and tutorial reimbursement.

As for comparing with earlier venues such as the ECOOP 2003, one can find that Oslo, Norway is an expensive place to buy restaurant food, but a wonderful place to visit with daylight 24/7 such that more people than projected came to the venue.

If one compares with our very first budget that accompanied our application to AITO, both the income and expense sides have grown to almost the double. Some of this considerable deviance can be found in the fact that we underestimated the number of people that would attend, and we decided to offer more social events that were specifically sponsored. We also found that we should keep approximately the same pricing strategy as the year before.

Organization

1.3 General Organization

ECOOP 2004 was organized in a traditional style, with an OC in charge of the general organization, and Chairs for the main tasks (Tutorials, Workshops).

Tutorials and Workshops Chair roles were fulfilled by 2 people each: a local person, and an experienced person nominated by AITO (Hanspeter Mössenböck and Jacques Malenfant, respectively). Those teams worked really well. Tutorials and Workshops are two of the strongest assets of ECOOP conferences, and they should be carefully managed. Having experienced people acting as Chairs is crucial.

Susanne Jucknath and Eric Jul were the PhD workshop/doctoral symposium Chairs

In addition to the traditional ECOOP schema of chairs, we also set up an internal schema of chairs for dealing with local issues.

Our treasurer was Øystein Haugen.

Stein Krogdahl acted as a "local facilities chair", dealing with room assignments and equipment.

Arne Maus was responsible for the social programme, including banquet and boat-trip.

Arne Jørgen Berre was our sponsor chair.

Dag Langmyhr was responsible for Registration and for theWeb.

Posters, exhibition and demos were taken care of by Ole Smørdal.

Egil P. Andersen chaired the Practitioners Reports session.

Odd Aurmo acted as Student Volunteers Responsible.

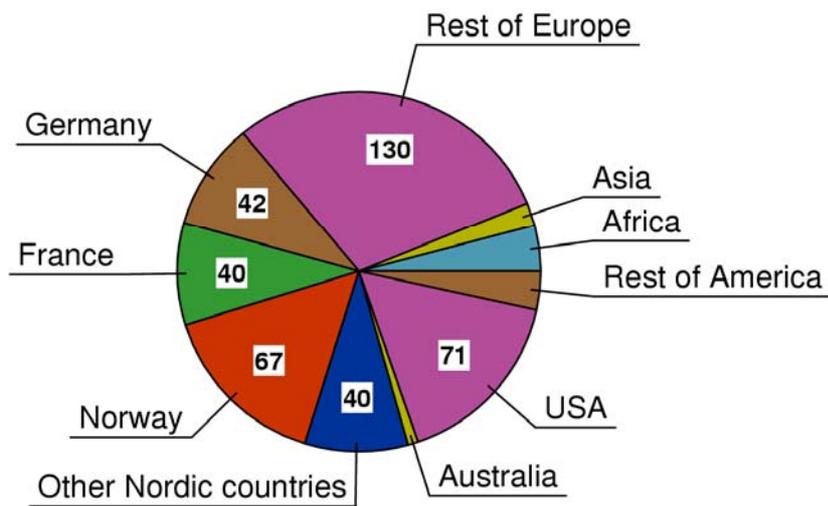Håvard Hegna was responsible for the Memorial Exhibition.

1.4 Registration Process

As is common practice today, the participants registered using a form on our web pages. The program handling the registrations and the database were written from scratch in Perl. This worked well, but we found that a constant watch and manual intervention was needed on a day-to-day basis.
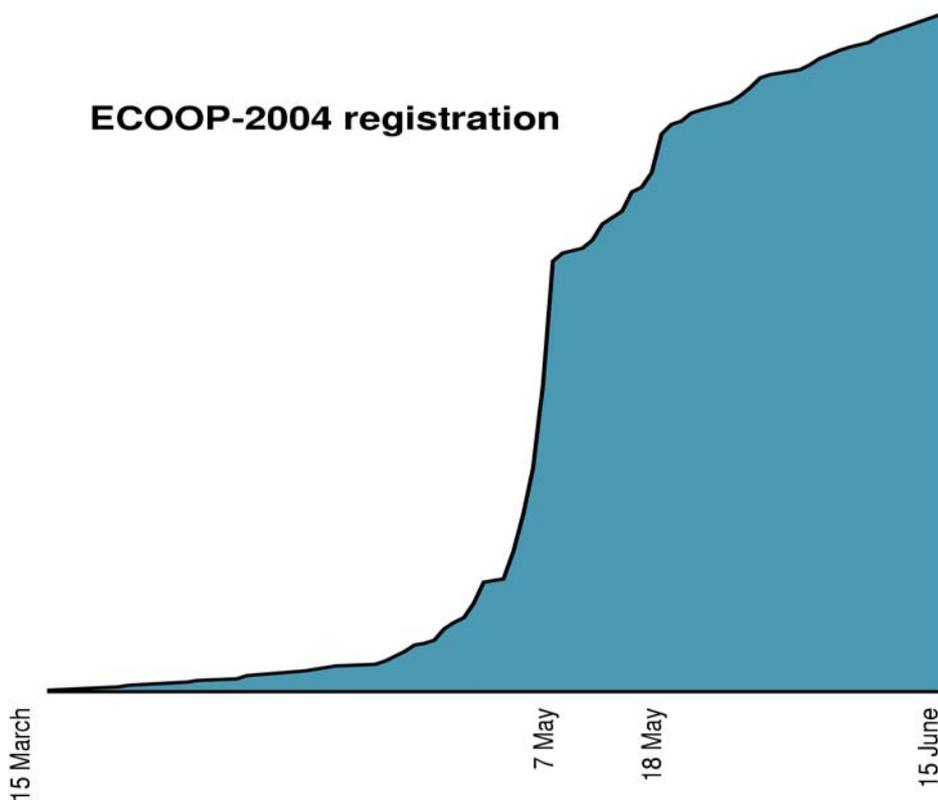
- Many attendants send several registration forms because they changed their mind regarding certain options.

- Quite a few participants included questions in their form regarding particular requirements.

We received 436 registrations from 36 different countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada. Chile, Cyprus. Denmark. Egypt, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, UK and USA.
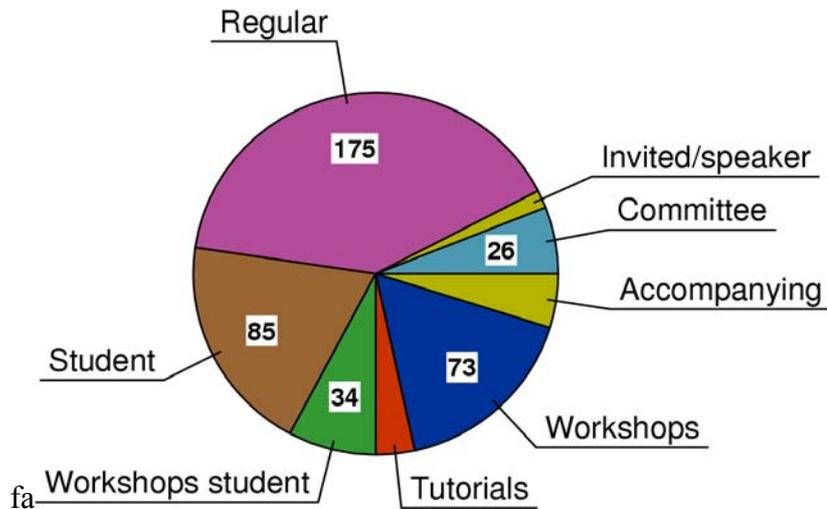
ECOOP–2004 participants

Considering the registration time, we experienced the traditional pattern of a slow start followed by a rush the last days before early registration ended.

When the possibility for early registration expired the 7th May, 70% of the actual participants had registered. Extending the time until 18th May brought the next 15%.

The following diagram shows what the participants registered for:

ECOOP–2004 participants

Regular 175
Invited/speaker
Committee 26
Accompanying
Student 85
Workshops 73
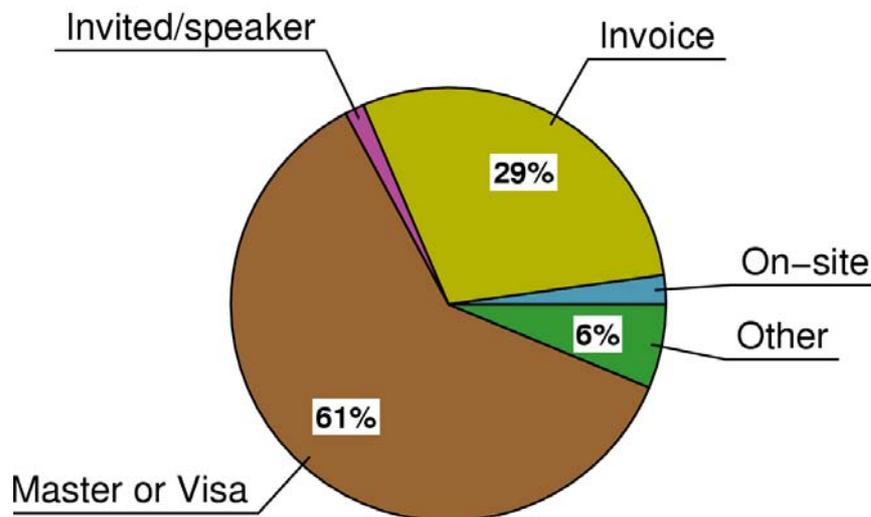Workshops student 34
fa
Tutorials

One thing we forgot to ask about in the registration form was which days the participants intended to come. (This was important, for instance, when ordering lunch.) However, we found we could get a rough estimate based on hotel bookings, and this estimate proved to be quite accurate.

1.4.1 Payment

We offered conference participants three choices of paying the conference fee: credit card (Master or Visa), invoice or bank transfer. (Accommodation was paid directly to the hotel.)

ECOOP–2004 payment

Invited/speaker
Invoice 29%
On-site
Other 6%
Master or Visa 61%

We had hoped that nearly all would use the opportunity to pay using a credit card, but the world is apparently not quite ready for that. 29% wanted an invoice, most probably because the fee was paid by their employer. A few participants from more remote corners of the world (viewed from Norway) needed special arrangements like bank transfers. And we had to allow for individual arrangements, for instance for Romanians who had enormous problems bringing anything other than cash out of the country.

All actual handling of money was done by the University of Oslo (for credit card payments) and Meeting Management. It was a relief to leave this to the professionals.

1.4.2 Invitation letters

Some foreigners need to apply for a visa to be allowed to enter Norway. To those who asked, and had paid the conference fee, we sent an official looking letter to help them get a visa. This letter just stated the fact that the recipient had registered to attend the conference and had paid the fee – we never used the term "invitation" as we had been warned that such letters has been misused.

Like other conferences, we had surprisingly many registrations from West Africa. As mentioned, we did not send any kind of official letter until the conference fee had been paid. Only two paid (with stolen credit cards, we learned later) but none appeared at the conference.

All in all, we had only two real complaints from people who could not get a visa, and in both cases the problem was time. Apparently, you need 4–6 months to obtain a visa from some countries. In view of this, we should perhaps have started registration earlier than 15th March.

1.4.3 On-site registrations

1.4.4 Participation

1.5 Technical Program

Monday and Tuesday had Tutorials and Workshops. The main conference ran from Wednesday to Friday. Registration was opened Monday morning, i.e. there was no early registration on Sunday afternoon. The main reason for this was that the conference site was a 10-15 minutes tram ride from the city centre, so we anticipated that very few would use the opportunity to register on Sunday. We did not experience capacity problems during registration.

The conference program is attached. It gives all the details on the various elements of the conference. The following is a report on experiences and lessons learned.

1.5.1 Workshops

This year ECOOP hosted 21 workshops, including a combined PhD students' workshop and doctoral symposium (WS10). Call for papers were issued for 23 workshops, but two were subsequently cancelled (WS15 and WS19). All workshops were full-day events, except WS10 that lasted for two days.

Using a peer review process the 23 workshops were chosen from 27 submitted workshop abstracts by a Workshop Selection Committee consisting of the two Co-

chairs, Jacques Malenfant and Bjarte M. Østvold, and Bente Anda, Martine Devos, and Jean-François Perrot.

Jacques Malenfant was a previous ECOOP Workshop Co-Chair and that helped the whole process, from selection to publishing of the Reader, considerably.

To facilitate organization and marketing all workshops used the same dates in their call for contributions:

- Workshop Call for Contributions: March 1, 2004
- Workshop Contribution Submission: April 5, 2004
- Workshop Contribution Notification: April 26, 2004

Continuing the tradition from previous years a collection of workshop reports, with chapters on each workshop written by organizers, were published by Springer as the ECOOP Workshop Reader (LNCS 3344). (WS11 and WS17 did not provide a report for the Reader, thus explaining why the Reader erroneously says that only 19 workshops were hosted.)

To facilitate the production of the volume, the chairs required that all manuscripts use LaTeX and the LNCS LaTeX2e format from Springer.

1.5.2 Tutorials

The following is an overview of the final participation to the tutorial programme at ECOOP 2004.

The tutorials were given on Monday and Tuesday, as half day tutorial units only.

Suggested full day tutorials were either converted into half day tutorials, or split into two separate half day tutorials on the same day. This facilitated more easy combination of tutorial units by the attendees, and seemed to work out fine.

Tutorial#	Tutorial title	Contact	#rReg.persons
TN1	Introduction to .NET using C#,	Michael Stal	6
TL2	J2EE versus .NET	Michael Stal	9
TM1	Distributed .NET	Michael Stal	6
TS1	Building secure software applications	Frank Piessens	8
TS2	Critical (and Secure) Systems Development with UML: Methods and Tools,	Jan Jürjens	16
TU1	Model-Driven Architecture in practice,	Petter Graff	24
TU2	MDA and metamodelling,	Brian Henderson-Sellers	15
TW2	Programming Internet-scale Distributed Applications in the 21st century: BPEL and Beyond	Vivek Sarkar	10
TN2	An Introduction to the Common Language Infrastructure (CLI),	Damien Watkins	5

TD1	Design by Contract and Automatic Verification for Java with JML and ESC/Java2	Joseph Kinir, Erik Poll, University of Nijmegen, David Cok	10
TL1	Foundations of object-oriented languages: Types and Language Design	Kim Bruce	5
TJ1	New Features in J2SE 1.5,	Angelika Langer	9
TE1/2	Contributing to Eclipse: Plug-ins and how to write your own.	Kai-Uwe Mätzel (Split into 2 tutorial units)	6 / 7
TP1	Seeing the forest and the trees --- Using system dynamics for high-level decision and project improvement,	Martine Devos	5
TD2	Adaptive Object-Model Architecture: How to Build Systems That Can Dynamically Adapt to Changing Requirements	Joseph Yoder	22
TG1:	Generative Programming: Methods, Techniques, and Applications,	Krzysztof Czarnecki,	19
TG2:	The UML 2.0 Testing Profile - The approach for test design and generation in UML-based development processes	Ina Schieferdecker/O.H	6

Table 1   Attendance of paying participants per tutorial unit

In addition to the given number of paying participants, the tutorials were popular among the student volunteers, - so there was on average 2-3 more persons attending every tutorial.

On Sunday, Monday and Tuesday it was also possible for ECOOP participants to attend the parallell Architecture-oriented tutorials from the WICSA conference. The number of participants in total (WICSA and ECOOP) for these were as follows.

TA1:	Architecture-centric Software Engineering	Jan Bosch	15
TA2:	Software Architectures for Safe and Secure Systems	Jan Jürjens,	12
TA3:	Software Variability Management,	Jan Bosch	16
TA4	Software Architecture Documentation with the Unified Modeling Language (UML)	Robert Nord, Judith Stafford	23
TA5	Implementing Domain specific modelling languages for Product	Juha-Pekka Tolvanen	8

Table 2 Attendance of paying participants per tutorial unit - WICSA

Proposals were decided basically by the two Tutorial Chairs, who also asked for advice from some of the Organizing Committee members, and some students at the University of Oslo. In general we decided to accept the various tutorial proposals, with the constraint of addressing the wish for split into half day tutorial units.

In collaboration with the Finance chair and Organisational committee we defined the following more detailed tutorial compensation rules.

In order to accomodate for the situation that there might be few registered paying attendees to your tutorial, and you still are interested in giving it, the ECOOP budget committee has now defined the following more detailed compensation rules.

If there are less than 6 participants there will be no compensation, but you will still have free registration for the first two days of the conference (Monday and Tuesday), including access to workshops and free lunches and coffee breaks.

If there are between 6 and 8 participants we will also cover your travel expenses (up to € 500 for European travel and € 750 for other international travel) and up to two nights of hotel.

If there are more than 8 participants you will also get the full honorarium of € 500 for one tutorial unit. Since this is based on an expense coverage strategy we need to evaluate the likely situation in the period between early registration deadline and late registration deadline, - experience has shown that many registrations appear in this period.

This resulted in one tutorial being withdrawn due to low number of attendees two weeks before the conference. One tutorial was cancelled due to sickness of the tutorial holder, and one tutorial was combined with another tutorial unit by the same tutorial holder.

1.5.3 Main Conference

As an experiment we had an opening session that did not involve any official person(s) representing the organisers, but rather a short (1/2 hour) combined opening and technical talk. This can be recommended – participants tend to drop (or drop out) during official opening talks. Half an hour may be too short, but we ended up with a very tight schedule.

The technical program is the responsibility of the Program Chair and the Program Committee, while the Organising Committee is responsible for the layout of the program. It is highly recommended to have an up front discussion of how many papers the conference layout can facilitate. Local conditions and non-technical arrangements can put constraints on how long sessions may be. As mentioned we ended up with a very tight schedule due to many accepted papers. We had 25 accepted papers (18 in 2003 and 24 in 2002).

In addition to two student volunteers at each session it is important that one from the organising committee has the responsibility for all sessions of a day, e.g. ensuring that session chairs and speakers are ready.

Apart from minor issues with some of the microphones, we did not have major problems with the technical sessions.

1.5.4 Practitioners Reports

For the second time this ECOOP conference included a Practitioners Reports session in parallel with the paper presentations. Practitioners Reports offers an opportunity to hear about problems, solutions, experiences in applying object-oriented technologies, or related software development practices, as presented by the industry. Typically how a concept that sounds good on paper (and possibly at conferences) works, or does not work..., in the real world. The scope of the ECOOP conference is quite wide, covering much more than just core OO principles, and so was the scope of this year's Practitioners Reports. There were 9 presentations in all (see list below), ranging from modelling and code generation to what to expect from application development in coming years. The average number of participants was a little lower than expected (an average around 20-25), but the presentations were well received and we suggest that this tradition is also included in the next ECOOP.

1.5.5 Exhibits

ECOOP 2004 invited commercial exhibits. Only two publishers showed interest, and Springer-Verlag decided to exhibit. They had a stand in the main conference hall during Wednesday to Friday. Arrangements had to be done from our side regarding shipment of the books and customs.

1.5.6 Posters

9 posters were presented at ECOOP 2004. The posters were displayed in the main conference hall in the coffee break area from Wednesday until the conference closed on Friday. The official poster session took place in the Thursday afternoon coffee break. During this break the poster authors were present next to their poster and could explain and discuss their work and answer questions from the attendees. The posters did not require power outlets or network connections.

1.5.7 Demos

ECOOP 2004 hosted 3 demonstrations. These were sheduled i parallel to the main technical program. Each demonstration lasted 45 minutes, and were presented twice. There were one room allocated for this purpose, located two floors above the main conference hall. The room had internet connection and a projector (two projectors were used for one of the demos). The demonstrators brought their own computers. Particitaption varied, from 10 to about 20.

1.5.8 Exhibition

ECOOP 2004 hosted an exhibition in memory of three well-known and important European computing scientists who died within a very short time during the summer of 2002: Edsger Wybe Dijkstra from the Netherlands, and Ole-Johan Dahl and Kristen Nygaard from Norway. The exhibition showed the evolution of the field of information and communication technology during the lifetime of Dahl, Dijkstra, and Nygaard, as well as their main accomplishments and places in the history of computer science, programming, and object oriented technology.

It was our experience that it was a good idea to have this exhibition, or some similar attraction, near the entry of the main conference site. It served both as an eye-catching meeting point, as an interesting piece of historical display, and as a relaxing theme for study and discussion between the technical sessions.

The exhibition, which was most fittingly named People behind Informatics, was originally conceived at the University of Klagenfurt, Austria, in connection with two conferences (Euro-Par and JMLC) held in Klagenfurt at the end of August 2003. It was generously turned over to the Department of Informatics at the University of Oslo and was displayed at the main conference site during ECOOP 2004.

The prime idea-maker for establishing the exhibition in Klagenfurt was Univ. Prof. Dr. Laszlo Böszörmenyi of Institute for Information Technology, University Klagenfurt. Senior Researcher Håvard Hegna of the ECOOP 2004 Organizing Committee was responsible for re-using, re-factoring, and compacting the original exhibition into an ECOOP 2004 format.

Although the exhibition was conceptually well organised before it was transferred to Oslo, it turned out that it took a lot more work than expected to get it in place and in shape on its new site. Many people had to work hard to make the transition possible. In addition to the group headed by Böszörmenyi, we would like to mention the families of Dijkstra, Dahl, and Nygaard. They contributed both material and information necessary for making the result so professional, personal, and relevant for our profession. Thanks also go to the student volunteers and the technical staff of the George Sverdrup House for their excellent support in installing the exhibition and to The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters for covering the re-print of the book "People behind Informatics" that is an integral part of the exhibition. The 120-page book was included in the conference handouts.

Professor Jens Kaasbøll, Head of the Department of Informatics at the University of Oslo, officially opened the exhibition. The families of Ole-Johan Dahl and Kristen Nygaard, representatives of the Dutch and Austrian Embassies, and representatives of The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters were invited to the exhibition opening.

1.6 Social Program

The social program started on Monday with a get together reception in the new University Library where also the technical program and the exhibition took place. The next day, Tuesday, a similar reception was hosted the same place by Eclipse/IBM. Tappas and wine on both occasions.

 On Wednesday we had a very nice reception in the Town Hall of Oslo which also included a guided tour of all the artwork in the Hall. After the reception, the participants walked across the town hall square down to a large chartered ferry that took 300 of us on a three hour boat trip on the fjord. Refreshments were also served on board and it returned in due time for the participant to get a meal in one of the many restaurants in that area of Oslo.

The conference banquet was on Thursday evening in the Old Lodge in downtown Oslo. The invited banquet speaker was Douglas C. Engelbart, one of the grand old men of computer science. But unfortunately for many of us, the sound system in the banquet room was not good enough, so in spite of a hired technician, many participants were not

able to hear the presentation. Anyway, it was a successful banquet attended by almost 300 of the participants and a few of the accompanying persons. Those of the participants who went home so early that they missed the banquet, were asked to hand in their banqet-ticket. In this way we were also able to make room for all the student volunteers at the banquet.
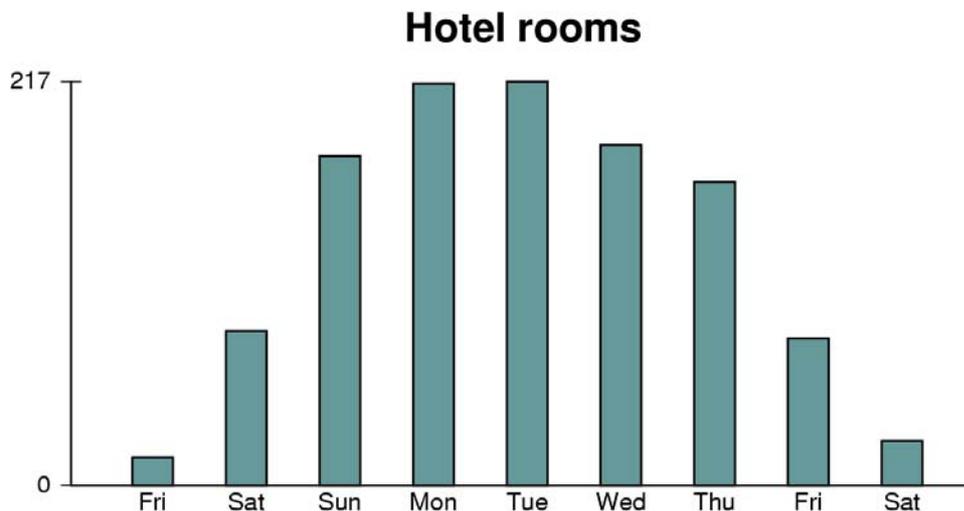
1.7 Accompanying Person's Program

Our offer to the accompanying persons was a ticket that included the Town Hall reception, the boat trip on the fjord and the conference banquet. That ticket was sold at self cost.

In addition, we offered through a travel agency, some popular packaged tourist tours in Norway ("Norway in a nutshell") with train crossing of our central mountains and a visit to the West Coast fjords. These tours were available both before and right after the conference, and some of the participants signed up for these trips.

1.8 Accommodation

Prior to the conference, we made arrangements with six Oslo hotels ranging from ** to **** (in some generally accepted rating).

It turned out that the number of participants exceeded our expectations, so all the reserved rooms were taken and we had to find new hotels. It was interesting to note that the cheapest hotels were filled first, then the most expensive ones and finally the mid-range ones. The following chart gives the number of hotel rooms booked each night:

Hotel rooms

There was a lot of work in handling all the special requests, changes in arrival dates, etc., etc. Fortunately for us, this was handled by Meeting Management.

One omission we made, was to forget that the student volunteers wanted quite cheap accommodation. We were able to find some on short notice, but not quite as cheap as we would have wanted.

1.9 Transport

Since the conference was held at the University campus located about 5 kilometers outside downtown Oslo, all regular conference participants and student volunteers were given a free pass to all public transport in Oslo.

1.10 Internet Access

The conference building was supplied with a WLAN, but University restrictions made it useless for out purpose. Instead, we set up a special WLAN and this proved very successful. In particular, the main hall became a busy area at all times where participants met and talked over their computers.

We experienced that the majority were able to help themselves when it came to connect to the WLAN, but a surprisingly large minority were quite helpless. We had to spend a lot of time helping them – this was not anticipated.

Another unexpected problem was that many users had rather old WLAN cards offering only 40 bit encryption. (Our WLAN required 108 bit.) To help these, we set up a router enabling them to connect by cable.

We also put a laser printer in the conference hall. This was a good idea; it was used quite extensively.

Finally, we provided a standard University guest account to those participants who wanted to use the regular computers (both Windows and Linux) in a nearby building. About 40 people asked for accounts, but our impression is that they were not used very much.

1.11 Student Volunteers

The student volunteers (SV) were very important help to run the conference.

One person (Odd Aurmo) in the local organization committee was responsible for SV management.

We issued a call for SV in the invitation and on the web. The peak of the work load for the SV was on Monday and Tuesday, where 17 parallel sessions took place. We therefore engaged 34 SV – 12 national students and 22 from abroad. The students were selected more or less by random from the 60 applications, except that those with previous experience were preferred.

The SV were on duty from Saturday afternoon to Friday afternoon. Saturday and Sunday were used for preparations. The duties for the SV were:

- Preparing and installing equipment in the rooms.
- Preparing and installing the exhibition
- Registration – preparing delegates material and handouts in advance and registration and information desk during the conference
- Admittance control
- Equipment control (installing, removal and checking)

- Technical help to speakers
- Information
    - Making and placing of information outside and inside the conference buildings
    - General information to the delegates
    - Handout material
- Co-hosting at social events
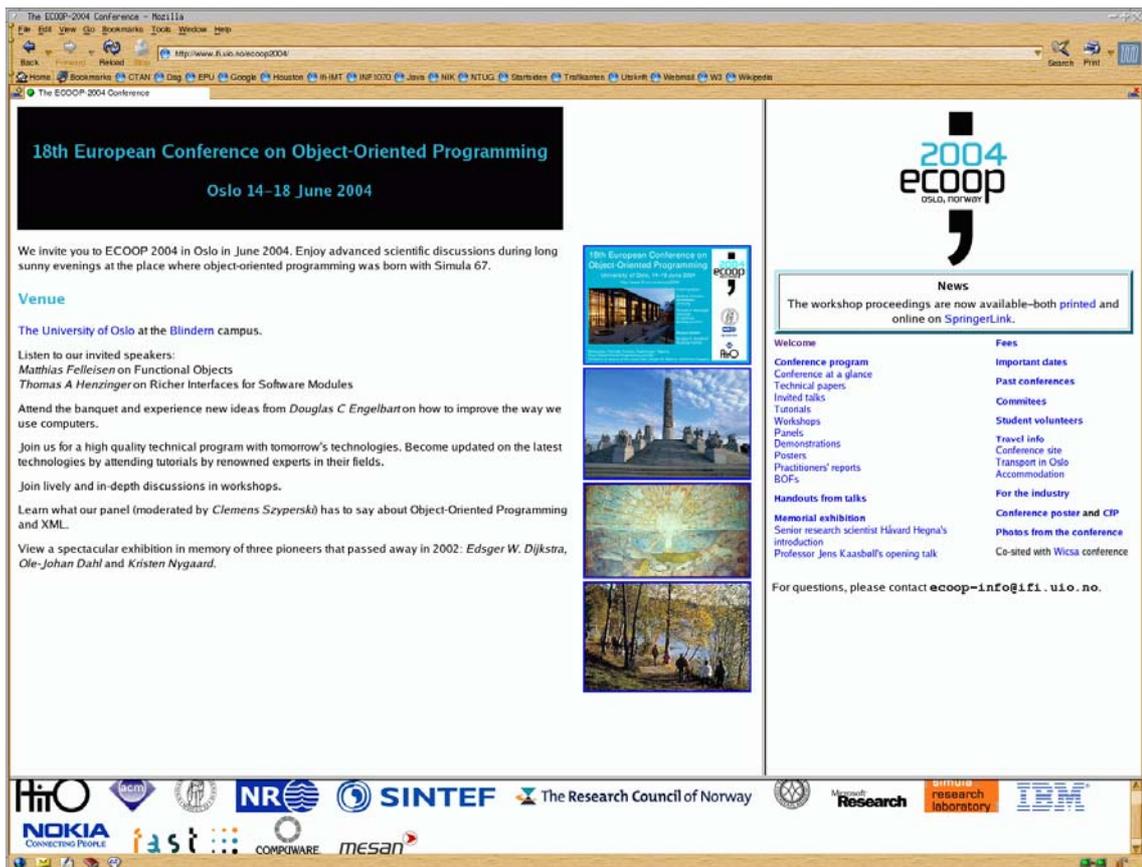- Removing the exhibition, equipment and cleaning up.

The communication with the SV was entirely based on email. During the conference most of the SV had their own computers hooked up on the local wireless network and read their emails.

The number of SVs was good - double of the simultaneous activities are a good measure.

The SV were organised in 4 groups with one leader from the organising university. The groups were mostly self driven (after careful briefing) and they shared the work load within the group. The group leaders were given some money to facilitate social events among the group – making them a working group from the start of the conference.

1.12 Web Site

The web pages were our main form of contact with the conference participants; a proof of that was that the first registration arrived the same day our web pages were made available.

Besides the obvious goals of being appealing to look at and providing easy access to the information, our main concern was that there should be no technical difficulties with the pages. For that reason, they were hand-coded in HTML using only very standard features like frames and style sheets.

Our experience was that this approach was successful: we had no reports about technical problems.

One popular feature of the web pages was the photographs. Every evening a selection of photographs from that day were made available.

The web pages can still be seen at **//www.ifi.uio.no/ecoop2004/**.