Editorial

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This special issue presents some innovative methodological and application OR approaches generated by the members of the Section for Operations Research of the Slovenian Society Informatika (SDI-SOR) and their colleagues and collaborators from abroad. In particular during economical crisis it is important to emphasize that the mathematical, statistical and informational theories and methods to analyze and optimize complex situations can contribute to responsible decision making, planning and efficient use of the resources, and that there is a growing need for such approaches in many fields of our society.

The call for papers for the special issue of CEJOR was launched during the 10th International Symposium on Operations Research, SOR'09, that took place in Nova Gorica, Slovenia, in September 2009. It was not restricted to the participants of the conference, however we found the symposium an excellent opportunity for the call to be answered by a sufficient number of high quality submissions. The symposium was attended by approximately 150 scientists who came from all around the world; 61 papers were presented, written by more than 100 authors. The papers to be presented at SOR'09 ([Zadnik Stirn 2009](#)) were accepted after a review process carried out by the members of the Program Committee of the conference assisted by additional

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reviewers appointed by SDI-SOR. The presentations were divided into 10 sessions: plenary lectures, discrete mathematics, multiple criteria decision making, production and inventory, scheduling and control, finance and investment, location and transport, environment and human resources, OR perspectives, and statistics. In this way SOR'09 proved to be a perfect forum for the exchange of recent OR scientific developments and for the discussion of new trends.

Altogether we have received 30 submissions for the special issue. Each manuscript was reviewed by two or three anonymous reviewers, and after some rounds of peer reviewing, 8 papers were accepted.

The accepted papers cover a wide range of theoretical and application aspects of operations research: combinatorial optimization, control, multiple criteria decision making, scheduling, supply chain management, transport, location and statistics. Traditionally, operations research is motivated by the need to provide sound theory for decision making. Two papers discuss novel approaches to assist decision making regarding land valuation (Bogataj et al. 2011) and forest management (Grošelj et al. 2011). Optimization of production cost is of vital importance in industries, and in the special issue we have three contributions that deal with related topics: integrated supply chain management (Ivanov et al. 2011), job scheduling (Hentsch and Köchel 2011), and reverse logistics of material flows (Kovačič and Bogataj 2011). A statistical analysis of the regional GDP in Croatia is reported in Jurun and Pivac (2011). The paper Žerovnik and Žerovnik (2011) proposes a novel heuristics for optimizing the spent nuclear fuel repository.

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