

Ten Years of CSL Conferences (1987-1997)

EGON BÖRGER

Dip. di Informatica
Universita di Pisa
Cso Italia 40
I-56100 PISA
boerger@di.unipi.it

With pleasure I use the occasion of the *European Association for Computer Science Logic* 1997 membership meeting and of the election of the new EACSL Board for the term 1997-2002, during CSL'97 at BRICS in Aarhus (Danemark), to report on the first ten years of the series of CSL conferences (and on the first five years 1992-1997 of activities of the EACSL which have been directed by the exiting Board).

1 The Conferences

In the Spring of 1985 I discussed with Hans Kleine Büning and Michael Richter the idea of creating a regular scientific forum for researchers working on the borderline between logic and computer science. This resulted in the series of annual CSL workshops with the typical format of a one-week meeting, possibly in a place where the participants can live together, with one invited speaker per session, with plenty of time devoted to discussion (in particular to start or to continue joint research work among the participants) and with the publication (as "Proceedings" in Springer's LNCS) of selected *complete* papers which elaborate the extended abstracts presented to the meeting and are submitted, reviewed and revised after the conference.

The series started with the first two workshops in Karlsruhe in 1987 (LNCS 329) and in Duisburg 1988 (LNCS 385) which were attended mainly by participants from Germany. This fact reflects the historical circumstance that our decision to create such an annual meeting was triggered by the extensive but nevertheless unsuccessful attempts we had made within the German logic group (formally represented by the DVMLG) to enforce the

role mathematical logic could and as we thought should play for computer science. In retrospective we see that the need for a forum to represent the new role of logic for computer science was felt more widely, as is indicated also by the creation of the series of LICS conferences which has been started independently and at the same time, in 1986. Therefore it is of no surprise that since 1989—in the CSL meetings in Kaiserslautern in 1989 (LNCS 440), Heidelberg 1990 (LNCS 533) and Bern 1991 (Switzerland) (LNCS 626)—the participation of researchers from all over Europe has grown rapidly and now covers all the major European research groups in the field. This has led in the Spring of 1992 to the foundation of the *European Association for Computer Science Logic* (EACSL) by a group of about 50 researchers from logic and from theoretical computer science who came together for a Dagstuhl meeting on *Computer Science Logic*. The EACSL is chartered in Heidelberg and has taken care of organizing the annual CSL conferences: the one held in San Miniato/Pisa 1992 (Italy) (LNCS 702) was followed by the conferences in Swansea 1993 (United Kingdom) (LNCS 832), Kazimierz 1994 (Poland) (LNCS 933), Paderborn 1995 (Germany) (LNCS 1092), Utrecht 1996 (Netherlands) (LNCS 1258), Aarhus 1997 (Denemark). The next CSL conferences will take place in 1998 in Brno (Czech Republic), in 1999 in Madrid (Spain), in 2000 in Munich (Germany). For the next millenium there are already proposals from other countries to organize a CSL conference there.

The conferences have been financed with money from different sources, typically through grants from national research foundations (for example the first workshop in Karlsruhe in 1987 was supported by the Volkswagen foundation), from computer companies and banks and through the fees which we have tried to keep low (sometimes by asking invited speakers to pay themselves for their travel expenses). In 1993 together with Klaus Ambos-Spies I have applied on behalf of the EACSL to HCM for a grant for the CSL Conferences 1994-1996. This grant is gratefully acknowledged although for a bureaucratic error of the HCM office in Bruxelles the granted 76K ECU could be spent only partly and only for the conferences held in 1995 (Paderborn, Germany) and in 1996 (Utrecht, Netherlands) and not for the 1994 conference (Kazimierz, Poland).

Since 1995 it has been tried successfully to have tutorials preceding CSLs. The tutorial preceding CSL'95 was devoted to "Finite Model Theory" and was organized by H.-D. Ebbinghaus (with lectures by Flum and Grädel). The tutorial preceding CSL'96 was devoted to "Applications of Categorical Logic to Computer Science (Concurrency)" and was organized by I. Moerdik (with lectures by Jacobs, van Oosten, Winskel). The tutorial preceding CSL'97 was devoted to "Games in Computer Science Logic" (with lectures by Abramsky, Emerson, Thomas, Walukiewicz).

For 1998 for the first time the idea of joint conferences will be tried out, namely CSL'98 will be held and is planned together with MFCS'98 in

Brno (Czech Republic).

2 School Program

On July 1, 1992, Michel Parigot as scientific coordinator and myself for the EACSL have applied to HCM for financing a series of three schools on *Advanced Logical Tools for Computer Science*. We proposed the following three schools: (1) Proof theory and the foundations of functional programming (with applications to the development of correct programs), (2) Logical tools for mechanising proofs: automatic and interactive theorem proving, (3) Logical tools for specifications of real systems. The program has been financed by the HCM program and Michel Parigot has organized with great success the first two of these schools at the university of Chambéry (France) from June 28-July 9, 1993 (with lectures by Berardi, Girard, Krivine, Leivant, Parigot, Regnier, Ronchi, Scedrov, Tiuryn), and July 4-15, 1994 (with lectures by Basin, Comon, Coquand, Dowek, Leitsch, Mints, Moore, Wallen).

Since 1993 some of the *International Schools for Computer Science Researchers*, held on the Lipari Island during June/July, have been organized under the auspices of the EACSL. This includes the 1993 school on *Specification and validation methods* (with lectures by Apt, Börger, Damm, Fourman, Gurevich, Pnueli and the homonymous book published by OUP in 1995), the 1994 school on *Parallel Algorithms and Architectures* (with lectures by Kung, Mehlhorn, Preparata, Rabin, Ranade, Rosenberg) and the 1997 school on *Architecture Design and Validation Methods* (with lectures by Camposano, De Micheli, Eueking, Manna, Otten, San Giovanni Vincentelli, Börger and a homonymous book coming out with Springer Verlag next summer).

3 Sponsoring Conferences and Workshops.

The following conferences and workshops have been sponsored by the EACSL or have been organized under the auspices of the EACSL.

- Two workshops on *Higher-order algebra, logic and term rewriting*. The first one was organized in 1993 in Amsterdam (Proceedings edited by Heering, Meinke, Möller, Nipkow as Springer LNCS 816). The second one was organized in 1995 in Paderborn during the week preceding the CSL'95 (Proceedings edited by Dowek, Heering, Meinke, Moeller as Springer LNCS 1074). The third one will be organized from September 3-5 in Southampton, UK together with PLILP '97 (Ninth International Symposium on Programming Languages, Implementations, Logics, and

Programs) and ALP '97 (Sixth International Conference on Algebraic and Logic Programming).

- The conference on *Proof Theory, Provability Logic and Computation* held from March 20–24, 1994 in Bern (with 65 participants and invited lectures by Beklemishev, de Jongh, Buchholz, Montagna, Buss, Stärk, Constable, Troelstra, Hajek; selected papers have been published in the *Annals of Pure and Applied Logic*).
- The colloquium *Logic and computer science around the 42nd parallel* held from June 27th - July 1st, 1994 at Centre International de Rencontres Mathematiques (CIRM), Luminy, Marseilles (with 50 participants and 20 invited lectures).
- The workshop on *Models of Parallel Computation* organized by Mascari from December 12-14, 1994 in Rome.
- The conference on *Logical foundations of mathematics, computer science and physics* held from August 25-29, 1996, in Brno, Czech Republic, on the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of birth of Kurt Gödel.

4 Cooperation and Publicity

Hans Kleine Büning (Paderborn, Germany) has started the EACSL Newsletter, assisted by Igor Durdanovic. Since October 1996 Simone Martini (Udine, Italy) is in charge of the EACSL publicity, whose activity may be summarized as follows.

1. Support to the organizing and program committees of the annual CSL Conference. A list of electronic mail addresses of people and organizations interested in computer science logic is maintained and supplied for the forwarding of the Call for papers. Also (sketches of) forms useful to the committees are provided (referee reports, letters of acceptance, rejection, etc.).
2. Maintenance of a web page for EACSL at URL

<http://www.dimi.uniud.it/~eacsl>

from which info on the association and its annual conference may be retrieved. The availability through the home-page of the preliminary version of the Proceedings volume, or also of the preliminary version of the papers presented to the conference may be added in the future.

3. Production of an electronic newsletter. It is essentially a multiplier of announcements of call for papers and books. In presence of other very good newsletters (e.g., LICS, AMAST) it does not seem useful to extend this service to more than the barely essential.
4. Maintenance of an electronic database of current members of the Association. The actual database is not updated. More cooperation of the Publicity Chair and of the Secretary should be sought in the future. The publicity chair may be reached by e-mail at eacsl@dimi.uniud.it.

Shortly after the foundation of EACSL a cooperation agreement has been made with the EATCS for which I wish to express here thanks to G. Rozenberg, at that time President of the EATCS. This agreement includes that the EATCS Bulletins contain a regular report on EACSL activities (under the heading "Reports from Sister Organizations" where you are reading this text now); most of you will have seen the regular reports which did appear there.

An agreement has been reached with the series of LICS conferences that the President of the EACSL is member of the LICS Organizing Committee. It has also been agreed to keep the submission deadlines of the two conferences at a reasonable distance to allow the researchers in the field to have twice a year the possibility to submit a paper to a conference in their subject area. I wish to express here my thanks to M. Vardi for his commitment, when he was the LICS General Chair, to reach this cooperation.

I want to conclude by thanking for the invaluable constant help and advice I have received as EACSL president from the colleagues who were willing to serve from 1992-1997 as members of the EACSL Board, namely D. van Dalen (vice-president), K. Ambos-Spies (treasurer), C. Böhm, B. Buchberger, J.-Y. Girard, Y. Gurevich, K. Meinke (secretary) and L. Pacholski. I conclude by wishing the (EA)CSL community the continuation of its flourishing development for the next millenium and an enjoyable and fruitful cooperation for the newly elected EACSL Board consisting of Marc Bezem (Utrecht, president), Ian Stewart (Leicester, vice-president), Clemens Lautemann (Mainz, treasurer), Peter Hajek (Prague), Simone Martini (Udine), Erik Palmgren (Goeteborg), Christine Paulin (Paris), Alexander Razborov (Moscow), Moshe Vardi (Houston).