

## THE HISTORY OF ECMS ©

Opening address at ECMS2011  
(at the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> conference in the ECMS series)  
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Ladies and gentlemen,

With pleasure I accept the request of the organizing committee to give a brief overview of the history of this conference.

When I started my scientific career in the late 60's, simulation was mainly continuous simulation, simulation of continuous systems, and we used analogue and hybrid computers to run the simulations. For us Europeans THE international Society was **AICA**, the World Association for Analogue Computing, established in '56 in Brussels, with its triennial AICA World Congress; see slide 1. The first international congress I attended in my life was the AICA World Congress '70 in Munich. Having been the secretary of both events, I personally never forget the AICA World Congresses '76 (Delft, the Netherlands) and '79 (Sorrento, Italy). In Delft AICA was renamed **IMACS** (International Association for Mathematics and Computers in Simulation) to express that simulation, the covered field of interest, includes so much more than just continuous simulation and hybrid computing. From '79 on the series of triennial IMACS world congresses continued up to nowadays.

For the European simulation community the Sorrento IMACS World Congress in '79 has been crucial. It was there that some European key persons get together and agreed to establish in the coming years new European "common-language based" Simulation Societies and to have, apart from IMACS, their own triennial European Simulation Congress under the patronage of these new societies. The first ESC (European Simulation Congress) was held in Aachen ('83) and organized by ASIM (the German speaking Simulation Society, founded in '82) in close cooperation with DBSS (the Dutch speaking Simulation Society, founded in '79). The 2<sup>nd</sup> ESC has been held in Antwerp ('86) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> one in Edinburgh ('89). During the last congress **EUROSIM** was formally established as an umbrella of the then consisting European Simulation Societies.

In this European framework suddenly, in the mid 80's, another player came on the stage: **SCS**, the Society for Computer Simulation, an American Simulation Society, founded in '54 in San Diego, with a Council in the UK (UKSC, founded in '69). They (SCS) established in '85 the SCS European Office at the

University of Ghent in Belgium. This initiative must be seen as the very origin of our series of ECMS Conferences; without this initiative we would not be together here in Krakow!! Two years later, in '87, the Office organized on behalf of the European part of SCS, the so-called "SCS Europe", the very first conference in our series, which took place in Vienna (Austria) under the name ESM (European Simulation Multiconference). Although originally the European Simulation Societies (say EUROSIM) and SCS Europe were in close cooperation and understanding – the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Simulation Congress ESC '86 in Antwerp even was a common activity--, after the 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC in Edinburgh we see both organizations going their own way: the triennial European Simulation Congress ESC was continued as triennial congress, however now under the name Eurosim Congress, and SCS Europe continued its yearly ESM (European Simulation Multiconference).

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> slide you see all conferences held in this series, from the first one in Vienna ('87) till the last one (up to now) here in Krakow. Some special ones are marked in red colour. The biggest conferences in the series were '90 (Nuremberg), '91 (Copenhagen) and '07 (Prague) with each more than 200 attendants. The conferences were all in different locations, with one exception: Prague, where the conference was held three times! All conferences were held inside Europe, with again one exception: the conference '10 was held in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), organized however by a European University (the University of Nottingham, Malaysia Campus).

You should have noticed that the name of the conference has changed somewhere on the run. From '05 on we do not speak anymore of ESM (European Simulation Multiconference) but of ECMS (European Conference on Modelling and Simulation). Under this name you know the conference. The reason of the change in name is a crucial change of the organization behind the conference. Until '04 the SCS European Simulation Council (founded in '90 to formalize SCS Europe) and the SCS Europe Ltd (founded in '95 to replace the SCS European Office) were respectively the organizational and financial body behind the conference. In '04 however, during the 18<sup>th</sup> conference in Magdeburg, it was decided to cancel this dual system of responsibility and continue with one organization **ECMS** (European Council for Modelling and Simulation), taking full responsibility for all organizational, scientific and financial issues with respect to its yearly conference: renamed ECMS, European Conference on Modelling and Simulation.

The sketched history of ECMS might sound rather complicated in your ears; I can, however, assure you that what I told is a considerably simplified version of what really happened the last 25 years. Never mind, in simulation we use to deal with complicated systems!! I congratulate ECMS with reaching this milestone of 25 conferences. I wish you all, our appreciated participants, a fruitful conference

and a pleasant stay in Krakow. We certainly hope to meet again in one of our future conferences. Thank you very much for listening.