

**Proposal Submission
for the organization of ECML/PKDD 2011 Conference
in Athens, Greece**

Proposed Organization Committee:

D. Gunopulos (UC Riverside / Univ. of Athens), PKDD PC co-Chair
T. Hofmann (Google Research), ECML PC co-Chair
A. Likas (Univ. of Ioannina), General co-Chair
D. Malerba (Univ. of Bari), ECML PC co-Chair
Y. Theodoridis (Univ. of Piraeus), General co-Chair
M. Vazirgiannis (Athens Univ. of Economics & Business), PKDD PC co-Chair

Proposed date:

The proposed date is Sept 12 to Sep.16, 2011. The following week is also possible. A later date would conflict with the beginning of the Academic year in most places in Europe.

1. Chairs:

General co-Chairs

Prof. A. Likas (Univ. of Ioannina, Greece)
Prof. Y. Theodoridis (Univ. of Piraeus, Greece)

Program co-Chairs

Machine Learning

Dr. T. Hofmann (Google Research)
Prof. Donato Malerba (Univ. of Bari, Italy)

Knowledge Discovery

Prof. D. Gunopulos (Univ. of California Riverside, USA & Univ. of Athens, Greece)
Prof. M. Vazirgiannis (Athens Univ. of Economics and Business, Greece)

Aristidis Likas is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science of University of Ioannina. He has been working in machine learning/neural networks for more than fifteen years. He has published in top journals in the area of machine learning (e.g. IEEE TPAMI, IEEE TNN, Neural Computation, Pattern Recognition) and machine learning applications in image/signal processing (IEEE TIP, IEEE TSP, IEEE TMI), multimedia (IEEE TMM) and bioinformatics (IEEE TBE, Bioinformatics). His research interests mainly focus on techniques for clustering and classification. He has participated in the programme committee of several international conferences mainly in the area of neural networks. He is an associate editor of the IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks.

Yannis Theodoridis is Associate Professor in the Department of Informatics, University of Piraeus (UniPi), where he is currently leading the Information Systems Lab. (<http://infolab.cs.unipi.gr>). Born in 1967, he received his Diploma (1990) and Ph.D. (1996) in Electrical and Computer Engineering, both from the National Technical University of Athens, Greece. His research interests cover database management, geographical information management, data / text mining. In particular, current research topics include management of space and time in

information systems, ontology-driven knowledge discovery, crisp and fuzzy data mining techniques for clustering. Apart from several national-level projects, he was scientist in charge and coordinator of two European projects, namely PANDA (FP6/IST, 2001-04) and CODMINE (FP6/IST, 2002-03), on pattern-based management and privacy-preserving data mining, respectively, whereas he is or was recently involved in GeoPKDD (FP6/IST, 2005-09), MODAP (FP7/ICT, 2009-12) and MOVE (COST, 2009-12) European projects on moving objects database management, warehousing and mining. He has served as general co-chair for SSTD'03, and vice PC chair for IEEE ICDM'08. He has co-authored three monographs and over 70 articles in scientific journals and conferences with more than 500 citations in his work. He serves on the editorial board of the Int'l Journal on Data Warehousing and Mining. He is member of ACM and IEEE.

Thomas Hofmann received a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Bonn in 1997 and subsequently held postdoctoral positions at MIT and at UC Berkeley and the International Computer Science Institute. From 1999 until 2004 he was Assistant and then Associate Professor in the Computer Science Department at Brown University. Between 2004 and 2006, he held a position as a Professor of Computer Science at the Technical University of Darmstadt, while also serving as the Director of the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Publication and Information Systems. He is also co-founder and former Chief Scientist of Reconnind Inc, a privately owned company focusing on enterprise search. Since July 2006, Thomas is a Director of Engineering at Google and one of the site leads of Google's engineering center in Zurich, Switzerland. His scientific interests are in machine learning, information retrieval, and computer vision.

Donato Malerba is a full professor at the Department of Informatics, University of Bari. He has been active in machine learning and data mining for twenty years. He has regularly attended ECML since 1993, and PKDD since 2001. He was workshop co-chair of ECML/PKDD'04. He was co-author of papers presented at ECML'93, '94, '95, ECML/PKDD'01, ECML/PKDD'03, ECML/PKDD'04, ECML/PKDD'05, ECML/PKDD'07. He has been in the PC of ECML/PKDD since 2001. He organized four ECML/PKDD workshops (ECML 2000, PKDD 2002, PKDD 2005, ECML 2007). He has also been involved in the PC/Steering Committee of other scientific events relevant to the machine learning and data mining community (ICML, KDD, ILP, ECAI, IJCAI, ICDM, ISMIS, MLDM). He was program co-chair of the 18th International Conference on Industrial & Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence and Expert Systems (IEA-AIE'05), Bari, June 2005, and of the 16th International Symposium on Methodologies for Intelligent Systems (ISMIS'06), Bari, September 2006. He was program chair of the 15th Italian Symposium on Advanced Database Systems (SEBD'07), Torre Canne di Fasano (BR), Italy, June 2007. He is in the editorial board of the Machine Learning Journal, the Journal of Intelligent Information Systems, and the International Journal of Data Mining, Modeling and Management.

Dimitrios Gunopulos got his PhD from Princeton University in 1995. He has held permanent and temporary positions as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Max-Planck-Institute for Informatics, Research Associate at the IBM Almaden Research Center, Visiting Researcher at the University of Helsinki, Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in the University of California Riverside, and Associate Professor in the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications, University of Athens. His research is in the areas of Data Mining, Knowledge Discovery in Databases, Databases, Sensor Networks, Peer-to-Peer systems, and Algorithms. He has co-authored over a hundred journal and

conference papers that have been widely cited, and a book. His research has been supported by NSF (including an NSF CAREER award), the DoD, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Tobacco Related Disease Research Program, the European Commission, AT&T and Nokia. He has served as a PC co-Chair in IEEE ICDM 2008, ACM SIGKDD 2006, SSDBM 2003, and DMKD 2000, as a vice PC-Chair in IEEE ICDE 2004, in IEEE ICDM 2005, and in IEEE ICDE 2009, as a Proceedings Chair in ACM PODS 1999, and he has served as an associate Editor at IEEE TKDE, at IEEE TPDS, and at ACM TKDD.

Michalis Vazirgiannis is an associate professor in the department of informatics in Athens Univ. of Economics & Business. He has been working in data mining research for over ten years. He has a substantial international experience working in GMD-IPSI (currently Fraunhofer - IPSI), Germany, in Fern-Universitaet Hagen, in INRIA/Paris, in IBM India Research Laboratory, in Max Planck Institute fur Informatik, Germany and recently in LIX at Ecole Polytechnique, France. He has published in the top of data mining and data bases conferences (including ACM/KDD, IEEE/ICDM, ECML/PKDD, AMS/SDM) and journals (including ACM/TKDE, ACM/TODS, ACM/TKDD). His current research interests include Web Graph analysis & evolution monitoring, distributed machine learning algorithms, distributed dimensionality reduction. He has participated in programme committees of international conferences in the areas Data Bases, Data Mining/Machine learning and the Web. More specifically he has served as PC vice chair at IEEE/ICDM 2008, PC area chair in ECML/PKDD 2008 and in the PCs of other well known events including: ACM/WSDM 2010, IEEE/ICDM 2009, IEEE/ICDE2009, WWW 2009, IEEE/ASONAM2009, ECML/PLDD 2007, ACM/KDD 2006, IEEE/ICDE 2005, ACM/SSTD05, ACM-GIS'04, ACM - DocEng 2004, ER2004, ACM/CICM 2003, VLDB 2003, SSDBM 2003, ACM/DocEng 2003. He has also been PC co-chair in the 2008 and 2009 "Artificial Intelligence Techniques in Software Engineering Workshop". He also participates in the editorial board of the Intelligent Data Analysis Journal (IOS press)

2. Local Parameters.

2. 1. Accessibility: Is it easy and inexpensive for people (especially graduate students) to travel to the conference site? (show typical airfares from Europe, but also North America, and Asia. Include ground transportation from relevant airports to the site.)

Athens international airport (AIA) is a major hub, with direct connections in almost all large cities in Europe. Typical ticket prices for round trip tickets in Europe are 200-300 euros. There are also many low cost airlines flying from/to Athens to/from major European cities (such as Easyjet, Brussels airlines, Vueling, Aegean Airlines etc.). Athens has several direct connections to cities in North America (NY, Philadelphia, Washington DC, Toronto, etc) and Asia (Singapore, Tokyo, Beijing, New Delhi). Typical round trip ticket prices to North America are 800-1000 euros. All major airlines fly to Athens allowing easy connections to the rest of the world. See AIA flight destinations at: <http://www.aia.gr/pages.asp?pageid=992&langid=2>

There is a fast & regular metro and train connection from the airport to the city center and other locations in the city. Also buses run between airport and various city destinations 24 hrs a day.

2.2. Meeting Rooms, AV Equipment, etc: What are the physical facilities like? Consider rooms for plenary sessions, parallel sessions, workshops, tutorials, and poster sessions. What are the charges, if any, for using them?

Athens has significantly improved its conference and hosting facilities to world level class with the Olympic games of 2004. We will use the facilities of a large hotel in Athens. At least 6 rooms will be available for parallel sessions, as well as an auditorium with a capacity of about 500 seats. We have already identified several hotels that satisfy these requirements, either in city center (Hilton Hotel Athens, President Hotel, Divani Caravel Hotel) or seaside on the magnificent Riviera of Athens (Divani Apollon Palace & Spa at Kavouri).

2.3. Meals and Lodging: . Is there low-cost, quality housing available for attendees (especially graduate students)? How far from the meeting rooms? Where will attendees eat? Please provide estimate costs for meals and lodging.

The hotels we mention above are located either close to the historic center of Athens, or at the picturesque southern Athens beach front. In either location there are several other satellite hotels, offering accommodation at a wide price range, from under 100 euro per day to over 200. The main conference hotel that will be chosen can provide capacity for at least 200 rooms for the conference, however we anticipate that several participants will use nearby hotels in the immediate vicinity. The conference will provide ample coffee breaks during the main conference, included in the registration fee.

Our first choice for the conference venue is the 5* Divani Apollon Palace & Spa at Kavouri (<http://www.divanis.com/apollon/default-en.html>) with its Single Superior room with American Buffet Breakfast offered at 190 €. (For budget accommodation, several 2* - 3* hotels are within walking distance from the conference venue, with prices ranging between 50 € and 100 €.) The charges for the parallel sessions rooms are about 800 € per day including audiovisual capabilities while Coffee Breaks cost about 5 € per person and Buffet Lunch Break about 15 € per person.

Our second choice is the centrally located 4* President Hotel (<http://www.president.gr/>) offering significantly lower budget for guest rooms (i.e. single room at 80-100 € / night) and conference facilities. It is conveniently located next to the metro station and only a few minutes away from Museums, Archaeological Sites, Commercial and Business Centers.

2.4 Demo facilities: Will there be computing equipment and space available to support demos?

The hotels mentioned above are equipped with excellent equipment for demos.

2.5. Other features: You may mention any other aspects of the site or the region that are relevant.

Athens is the capital of Greece, with a population of 4 million. It is one of the oldest cities of the world, birthplace of modern democracy. It is a very popular tourist destination, offering excellent and new transport infrastructures, numerous cultural attractions, and sight seeing as well as a wonderful gastronomic range. Athens is also known for its lively nightlife. It is also serving as the gateway to other sites in

Greece, i.e. to the world wide known islands of the Aegean Sea. The location in the southern front is an area with exceptional physical beauty, the Athenian Riviera, with an excellent southwest orientation, extending to more than 30 kms of sand beaches, easily accessible via tram way, bus and metro. The climate in September is very mild and pleasant where one can still swim in the warm Mediterranean sea.

3. Local ML/KDD Community. Is there a local ML or KDD group/community that will be involved in the organization and funding?

There are 4 major universities in the wider Athens area, specifically: Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA), National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), and University of Piraeus (UniPi). There are strong machine learning and Data Mining groups in all these universities (three of these universities are directly involved in the proposed organizing committee: NKUA with Prof. D. Gunopoulos, AUEB with Prof. M. Vazirgiannis, and UniPi with Prof. Y. Theodoridis). We plan to draw on the human resources they will provide to man the organization posts. In addition, we will also have the support of machine learning and data mining groups in other universities in Greece, including University of Ioannina (Prof. A. Likas), the IIT/NCSR Demokritos (Dr. G. Paliouras), University of Thessaloniki (Prof. Y. Vlahavas, Prof. Y. Manolopoulos) and the Technical Univ. of Crete (Prof M. Lagoudakis).

It is also important to stress that in this effort we join forces with Dr. T. Hofmann (Google Research, Zurich) and Prof. D. Malerba (U. Bari Italy). Both will enhance the potential of the conference organization. Especially Dr. Hofmann will bring the dynamism and real world requirements from the thriving top web search industry – Google.

We anticipate that there will also be a very large number of participants from these groups. As for local funding, we are confident we will attract sponsoring from local industry as well as from the governmental sector (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Research and Development, Ministry of Tourism).

4. Draft Budget

According to the feedback and the offers that we have so far from the potential venues, it is foreseen that we can achieve a positive budget balance, bearing in mind that the registration fee will be inline with previous ECML/PKDD events.

Specific figures will be drafted during our proposal presentation at the community meeting.

5. Opportunities to co-locate with other conferences.

There is proposal to organize the WAW 2011 (Workshop on Algorithms and Models for the Web Graph, see <http://waw2009.ewi.utwente.nl/> for the 2009 event) workshop as a satellite event. The annual symposium of the (extremely large) Greek Database community will be also proposed to be co-located with ECML/PKDD as a satellite event (see http://hdms09.di.uoa.gr/index_en.html for the 2009 event), hosted in Athens by NKUA. We also plan to co-organize the 4th Artificial Intelligence Techniques in Software Engineering Workshop (see: <http://sweng.csd.auth.gr/~aisew2009/> for the 2009 event).

6. Organizational and Institutional Support. Is there a conference office that can help with local arrangements?

Major events have always been organized in Athens, thus there is credible know how in this sector. We will capitalize on our previous experience in organizing and on the ample support of our volunteering students. Our aim is to manage the conference registration, hotel registration, and local arrangements with own means reducing thus the costs.

We will also ensure ample local and international funding. Local funding is expected by i. the Greek ministries of Education, Research and Development, and Tourism ii. the local organizing Universities (NKUA, AUEB, UniPi, UoI), iii. local industry (for example, Microsoft Hellas and Oracle Hellas have extensively supported previous events organized by members of the proposed organizing committee), and iv. the University of Bari. Also the participation of Dr. Hofmann is expected to bring the support and financial contribution of Google Inc.

7. Proposed Conference Schedule

	Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Thu 15	Fri 16		
9:00	Workshops & Tutorials	Invited Talk	Invited Talk	Invited Talk	Invited Talk	9:00	
9:30							
10:00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	10:00	
10:30	Coffee Break	Paper Session	Paper Session	Paper Session	Workshops and Tutorials	10:30	
11:00							
11:30							
12:00							
12:30	Workshops, Tutorials	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	12:30	
13:00							
13:30		Paper Session	Paper Session	Paper Session	Discovery Challenge	13:45	
14:00							
14:30	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Sightseeing – the new Acropolis Museum	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	15:00	
15:30	Workshops, Tutorials	Paper Session		Paper Session	Paper Session	Discovery Challenge	15:30
16:00							
16:30							
17:00	Opening Ceremony, Invited Talk	Demo Session		Community Meeting	Community Meeting	Community Meeting	17:00
17:30							
18:00	Welcome Reception	Poster Session	Poster Session	Poster Session	Farewell Reception	18:00	
18:15							
18:30							
18:45							
19:00						19:00	
19:30						19:30	
20:00						20:00	