

Dear Colleagues,

It is an understatement to say that we are living in exciting times under unusual circumstances. However, the good news is that there are some constant elements in this turbulence.

For one, it is July and it means that a new board (filled with some old-timers) of the European Decision Sciences Institute (EDSI) took office. I am an old-timer myself; I assisted the creation of EDSI and, in some ways, I have always been involved in its operations from the very beginning. I am humbled and honored to serve as EDSI President that could give me more opportunities to contribute to the organization that I helped to start and that I have served in many different capacities over the last 12 years or so.



Counterclockwise from the right: Jeet Gupta, Carmela Di Mauro, Bart MacCarthy, Jan Olhager, Markku Kuula, Sukran Atadeniz, and Gyula Vastag.

The members of the board represent a variety of European countries. The above photo (taken at an earlier DSI conference) shows most of the EDSI officials who are still actively involved in the EDSI Board and are, also, on various DSI Committees. Not shown on the above photo are (in alphabetical order): Sabine Baumann, PJ Byrne, Mihalis Giannakis, Melek Akin Ateş, Guido Orzes (President-Elect), Marco Sartor, and Ou Tang. In addition, Professor V. Sridharan (Sri) from Clemson University serves as a Regional Advisor to the EDSI board with a special responsibility to promote EDSI in the USA.

EDSI was established as a regional subdivision of the Decision Sciences Institute (DSI) in 2009. It is a non-profit professional organization of European researchers, managers, educators, and students interested in decision-making techniques and processes in private and public organizations. EDSI has been organizing annual conferences every year since 2010 across Europe. The 2020 conference, the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of EDSI, due to the pandemic situation had to be postponed. It was held this year as an online conference organized by Jan

Olhager (Lund University); despite its online nature, it was a superb conference attended by many old-timers and new members.

This year, we all are hoping to return to a somewhat normal life and looking forward to a traditional EDSI Conference, the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting in Dublin in 2022 organized by PJ Byrne.

On behalf of the EDSI Board, I wish you all a very happy summer and look forward to meeting you.

Gyula Vastag  
EDSI president 2021-2022