



Antonio Diglio

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■ Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering, 2019

M.Sc. in Management Engineering, 2015

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■ Research interests

- Districting/Territory Design Problems under uncertainty
- Applications of Facility Location Problems in public and general interest service sectors

Proposal for a new member in the EWGLA coordination board

Motivation

I feel a strong connection with EWGLA, and I particularly cherish my history with and within its community. My first EWGLA meeting was in Malaga in 2016, and I have attended every meeting since, including the ISOLDE conferences in 2017, 2021, and 2023. One of my fondest memories was participating in the 2019 edition in Brussels as one of the grant awardees. It was also there that Carmen, who is now stepping down from her role, was elected to serve on the board. I also regularly attended related meetings these years, such as the IWOLOCA organized by the Spanish Location community. What I truly appreciate about EWGLA is its welcoming and supportive atmosphere. It offers young researchers the opportunity to engage with and learn from world-renowned experts, forge strong professional connections, and, much more than that, make friends that go beyond mere colleagues. Indeed, I stay in touch with several members, some of whom I actively collaborate with and visit when possible.

The work that the coordination board has accomplished so far has been impressive. I will continue to work in their direction and hopefully assist with some (ordinary) tasks:

- Managing the financial resources of EWGLA;
- Facilitating the organization of the EWGLA meetings;
- Supporting the organization of location-related workshops and streams at other conferences (such as EURO).

In addition, I believe there is room to (i) keep the EWGLA spirit alive outside the EWGLA meetings, especially among the younger members, and (ii) increase the visibility of the community to potentially attract the interest of new researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders in a broader sense.

As for (i), I would like to promote networking activities to encourage research collaborations and as forum for exchanging ideas. To this end, simple ideas may consist of:

- Organizing short workshops for young researchers on facility location and related problems, potentially even in an online format.
- Hosting open seminars voluntarily led by a young researcher presenting a full paper, which will be commented on by a senior researcher (a “discussant”) and followed by an open discussion.

As for (ii), communication within and outside the community can be improved using social media such as Instagram and LinkedIn. To achieve this, a “communication” office could be established with members who are comfortable with social media. They would be responsible for managing social communication under the supervision of and in agreement with the coordination board.

Many thanks for considering my proposal and look forward to seeing you all in Sheffield!

Sincerely,

Antonio Diglio