



**Dear Reader,**

Our efforts as organizers and host of the first General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association were rewarded as the speakers and participants rated the conference as highly interesting and very well organised. Please read more in this issue.

Sincerely yours,

**Annette Hexelschneider,**

Head of Knowledge and Information Management Support Unit

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## Events

### **About the first General Conference of the International Microsimulation Association**

The conference was hosted by the European Centre and lasted from 20 to 22 August. The first two days were devoted to various papers on the application of microsimulation models to public policy-making and the third day was reserved to mini-workshops presenting the technical specifications of models in use.

The conference included almost 40 individual sessions, each of them containing up to 4 different presentations. The plenary talks were given by distinguished experts in the area of microsimulation modelling reporting on the progress and development of different kinds of microsimulation modelling and lessons that can be drawn from good practices.

There were in excess of 200 participants, who represented their work in over 30 countries of the world. Experts from many national governments attended the conference, including government analysts from the Australian Treasury, from various Canadian ministries and the Statistical Office Canada, from ministries and their affiliated research centres in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland and the modelling team of the UK's Department for Work and Pensions. There were also many experts from academia, the international research centres and consultancy groups, in particular NATSEM (University of Canberra), ISER (University of Essex), WIDER (Helsinki), DIW (Berlin), the Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy (Leuven), the Pensions Policy Institute (London), and the Social Disadvantage Research Centre (Oxford).



The topics included analyses of tax/benefit reforms and their impact, pensions, health and care, small area level estimations and modelling for spatial decision-making, modelling techniques and data challenges, labour markets and intergenerational redistribution. All the papers submitted to the conference as well as the slides will be made available at the conference website in the near future. Selected papers will be included in a book, to be edited by Asghar Zaidi and others.

The participants of the conference also discussed the future development of the International Microsimulation Association and elected its future office bearers. Ann Harding of NATSEM will be the president of the Association, and Asghar Zaidi of the European Centre will be the Vice President of the Association, for the period of the next two years. The members of the Association also approved that the 2nd General Conference will be held in Canada, under the auspices of Statistics Canada.

We tried to capture the atmosphere and comments of the participants in a conference blog. Moreover, the International Microsimulation Association is looking into the blog idea for the microsimulation topic to network the community.

Read more about: [conference website](#), [conference blog](#)

For further information please contact: conference co-ordination [Asghar Zaidi](#)

## Publications

### Newspaper Articles

[Marin, Bernd \(2005-2007\) Various Articles in Der Standard, Vienna, 2007](#)

For further information please contact: [Bernd Marin](#)



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