Editorial

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Biographical notes: Garyfallos Arabatzis is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Forestry and Management of the Environment and Natural Resources of Democritus University of Thrace (Orestiada). He has published over 140 articles in international and Greek journals and proceedings. More specifically, 60 articles are published in international journals (mainly in leading journals) such as: *Forest Policy and Economics*, *Energy Policy* and *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*. His research interests are: natural resource economics and policy, regional development, investments appraisal, energy economics and policy. He is a Reviewer in international journals such as: *Environmental Modeling and Assessment*, *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment* and *Journal of Environmental Management*.

The progressive realisation, that classic optimisation methods are unable to effectively respond to the demands of current problems and provide an in-depth analysis of the traditional problems affecting society, has strongly dictated the need for a multicriteria evaluation and decision-making process. Multicriteria evaluation and analysis methods constitute the latest process for an integrated approach to decision theory.

MCDM is a rapidly evolving field of operational research, which has advanced greatly in recent decades, both on a theoretical and a practical level, either in forecasting and researching results or in the decision-making process.

The 7th Multicriteria Decision Analysis meeting was held in the border region of Orestiada from 30 September to 2 October 2010, as part of a series of related meetings that have taken place with great success in previous years (in Chania, Larissa). The main objective of the 7th meeting was the presentation of new research findings and applications in the scientific field of MCDM.

The key methodological units covered by the meeting, inter alia, were the following: multi-objective mathematical programming-DEA, multi-attribute utility theory, outranking relations, preference disaggregation approaches and their applications in various sectors of the economy. The latter include natural resource management, energy, rural and regional development, education, logistics, business and organisation management, tourism, health, and production system management.

Four of the articles presented at the meeting were selected in order to be included in a special issue of the *IJMCDM*. Each article was evaluated by three anonymous reviewers. The first article is by C. Hurson, K. Mastorakis and Y. Siskos, with the title 'Application of a synergy of MACBETH and MAUT multicriteria methods to portfolio selection in Athens stock exchange'. This paper successfully uses two complementary multicriteria methods (MACBETH and MAUT) in relation to a particular case study. More

specifically, with the application of the two methods, the authors evaluate stocks in the Athens stock exchange and the investors' portfolio selection.

The second article is by E. Krassadaki and N. Matsatsinis, with the title 'Redesigning university courses based on generic skills via multicriteria analysis methods'. The authors propose a method that supports the improvement of the generic skills of students in the traditional university environment, at the initiative of the instructor. The case study was implemented with successful results over a period of two years at the Department of Production Engineering and Management of the Technical University of Crete.

The next article is by T. Ntouskas and N. Polemi, with the title 'STORM-RM: a collaborative and multicriteria risk management methodology'. This article pertains to the use of an original methodology, the multicriteria STORM-RM method (based on the AHP), which is used to identify and handle threats related to the security of information and communication systems.

The final article is by A.S. Xanthopoulos and D.E. Koulouriotis, with the title 'Comparing heuristic and evolutionary approaches for minimising the number of tardy jobs and maximum earliness on a single machine'. The authors present a heuristic method proposed in the relevant literature along with a multi-objective evolutionary algorithm, for simultaneously minimising the number of tardy jobs and maximum earliness on a single machine.

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