

# ISIR SUMMER SCHOOL 2019

The **14th ISIR summer school took place in Leuven, Belgium** between **August 26-30th 2019**. The organization of the school was headed by Profs. **Robert Boute** and **Maximiliano Udenio** from the research group for operations management of the faculty of economics and business from the KU Leuven. This task would have been impossible without the invaluable help of the rest of the organizing committee, consisting of 5 Phd Students of the group: Sarah van der Auweraer, Laurens Deprez, Joren Gijsbrechts, Sebastian Rojas Gonzalez, and Nathalie Vanvuchelen.

The theme of the summer school was **"Logistics 4.0: Inventory management in a Digital Era"**. The set up of the summer school consisted of an academic program, comprised of Keynotes delivered by prestigious faculty members and student paper presentations; and a social program, comprised of fun social activities and visits to industry. Furthermore, we had a panel of experts from the industry discuss the current use and future potential of data analytics in industrial practice.

For the main part of the academic program, each faculty member was assigned one of the *yy* working papers authored by the students.

The faculty member acted as moderator to the discussion lead by a fellow student, who commented on the strengths and improvement opportunities of the work. **During the course of the week, we attended 8 keynote presentations and 21 working paper presentations. In total, the 26 faculty members and 24 students represented 27 universities from 15 countries.**

The social program combined the industrial interests of the members of ISIR with entertaining outings.

In the evening of Tuesday, we visited the world famous **Stella Artois brewery**, located in the center of Leuven, within walking distance of our university. After learning about the long history of Leuven as a beer-brewing city, and a factory tour where we saw how Stella Artois is brewed and bottled, we were treated to a "beer pouring school" where we learned how to pour a perfect glass of "Stella".

On Wednesday, we got to visit two very important sites for the industrial development of Belgium in general, and Flanders in particular.

In the morning, we visited the **Nike's European Logistics Campus in Laakdal** (located 70 Km away from Leuven). This is the logistics hub for entire EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) region. As part of our visit, we saw the operations of the apparel warehouse, which is almost fully automated and handles online as well as traditional retail channel sales.

In the afternoon, we travelled a few kilometers north to learn about the operations of the **Port of Antwerp** (located 91 Km north of Leuven), ranked second largest in Europe by total sea freight shipped. Due to timing (and traffic) constraints, we were not able to visit the entirety of the port, but were given a detailed overview of the scale of the port's operations and learned about the intensive developments to be able to achieve the future goals of the port. The social program closed with a short visit to the center of Antwerp and a group dinner, before returning to Leuven. Despite the eventful social program, attendance on Thursday morning was full!

As the organizing committee we consider that the summer school surpassed even our very optimistic expectations. Thanks to the excellent research projects presented by the students, and the insightful discussions led by students and faculty, the academic aspect was a resounding success. We got to learn and participate in discussions regarding early work of the youngest members of ISIR.

Moreover, we also enjoyed learning from some of the very top researchers in our field. In the keynotes they shared with us, not only their newest findings, but also their perspectives on the future of the field and their thoughts on how to become a better researcher.

Finally, we got to meet old friends and make new ones. In addition to the fun offered by the "oude markt", the social hub of Leuven, we hope that the participants of the summer school were also able to enrich their network.