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Foreword

The main objectives of the APDIO – the Portuguese OR Society (in Portuguese: Associação Portuguesa de Investigação Operacional) are to disseminate the latest advances in Operational Research, its best practices, and, furthermore, to foster the bonds within the OR Community, helping it to pursue its research interests and meet future challenges. Accordingly, the APDIO promotes Operational Research through courses, seminars, workshops, and conferences, while also providing editorial support for scientific publications (e.g., scientific journals, newsletters, and books). The APDIO is a scientific society that brings together Portugal's Operational Research Community. It was created in 1978 by 140 founding members, including university researchers, industrial practitioners, and several Portuguese institutes and companies as institutional associates. The APDIO has been a member of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) and International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC) since its inception. It has gone on to become a member of the Association of European Operational Research Societies (EURO) and was involved in the creation of the Association of Latin-Iberoamerican Operational Research Societies (ALIO) in 1982. Over the years, the APDIO has organized a total of 16 National Conferences: Lisbon, 1982; Porto, 1984; Coimbra, 1987; Lisbon, 1989; Évora, 1992; Braga, 1994; Aveiro, 1996; Faro, 1998; Setúbal, 2000; Guimarães, 2002; Porto, 2004; Lisbon, 2006; Vila Real, 2008; Caparica, 2009; Coimbra, 2011; and Bragança, 2013. The next National Conference will be held in Portalegre in September 2015.

The publication of this volume, with a selection of papers from IO2013 – the 16th National Conference of the APDIO, held in Bragança, Portugal, June 3–5, 2013 – is in keeping with the society's main purposes. We hope that it will be the first volume in a Springer Edition Series devoted to the main findings presented at our National Conferences.

We are very much indebted to the Editors of this volume, Professors João Paulo Almeida, José Fernando Oliveira, and Alberto Adrego Pinto, to whom I express my gratitude for having embraced this project and brought it to fruition. I am also grateful to the authors who contributed to this volume; their papers are excellent examples of the current research activities of the Portuguese OR Community

members. Lastly, I would also like to thank the reviewers, whose anonymous work was essential to guaranteeing the publication's high quality.

Aveiro, Portugal
May 25, 2015

Domingos Moreira Cardoso
(President of the Directive Committee of the APDIO)

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Bragança, Portugal
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