

## 20 Years of Variable Neighborhood Search

Variable neighborhood search (VNS), proposed by Nenad Mladenović and Pierre Hansen on November 1st, 1997 in the article:

[1] N. Mladenović, P. Hansen, Variable neighborhood search, *Computers & OR*, 24(11) (1997), 1097-1100,

marks this year its 20th anniversary. This article and a subsequent paper:

[2] P. Hansen, N. Mladenović, Variable neighborhood search: Principles and applications, *EJOR*, 130(3)(2001), 449-467

have attracted an enormous attention of the OR community, and according to Google Scholar data base, now, they have been cited more than 5000 times. In the 40th anniversary paper: S. Laengle et al., Forty years of the European Journal of Operational Research: A bibliometric overview, *EJOR*, 262(3)(2017), paper [2] is put on the fifth place in the list of 50 most cited articles in *EJOR* according to WoS, and both Nenad Mladenović and Pierre Hansen are included in the list of 50 most productive and influential authors in *EJOR*. The paper J. M. Merigo and J. B. Yang, A bibliometric analysis of operations research and management science, *OMEGA*, 27(1)(2017), includes both [1] and [2] in the list of two hundred most cited papers in operations research and management science. From this list it also follows that [1] is the third most cited article in *Computers&OR*.

Up to now five international conferences devoted to VNS have been organized: two Mini EURO Conferences on VNS - 1st in Tenerife, Spain (2005), 2nd in Herceg-Novi, Monte Negro (2012), and three International Conferences on VNS - 1st in Djerba, Tunisia (2014), 2nd in Malaga, Spain (2016), 3rd in Ouro Preto, Brasil (2017). The next International Conference on VNS is scheduled for Oct. 4-7, 2018 in Sithonia, Halkidiki, Greece (<http://vns2018.uom.gr/>).

The Computer Science and Applied Mathematics Colloquium is honoured to participate in marking the 20th anniversary of the VNS. Professor Nenad Mladenović will give a lecture on VNS methodology and its numerous applications. The lecture will be held on:

**Tuesday, November 28, 2017, at 14:15, room 301f, Mathematical Institute of Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Kneza Mihaila 36.**

After the lecture, a cocktail in honour to Professor Mladenović will be organized in the Library of the Mathematical Institute.