

## **Vision statement for International Rough Set Society**

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Rough sets theory has been introduced by Zdzisław Pawlak in early 80's and influenced many researchers. Besides working on basic problems of this theory, many researchers also used it to solve important issues in other domains like artificial intelligence, uncertainty management, decision theory, knowledge discovery and data mining. Moreover, it is worth to mention many applications of rough sets or related combined approaches. The current development of this field, which is proved by an impressive number of scientific papers, books and also by organizing several conferences, workshops, etc., has led to thinking about establishing a scientific society. Several colleagues did good job in starting and keeping active International Rough Set Society. Therefore, we should stay with its good aspects but it is also necessary to think how to improve it in further years.

Among possible directions I would like to focus our attention on the following points:

1. Keeping conference activities – I think that members of IRSS Council and Executive Board should more deeply cooperate with local organizers of rough sets conferences – in particular if the conference is organized by smaller and still not well recognized groups, e.g. by a kind of support for organizing steering committees, program chairs or even publicity.

2. However, I think that we should start a kind of coordination of main rough sets conferences (which should be somehow more formally affiliated by IRSS). In my opinion the main and the most important conference should RSCTC (organized once per two years) and we should put more efforts in preparing it as a main and prestige conference gathering our community. We should encourage our colleagues to submitting their good papers for this conference and make it much stronger. I am afraid that in last years we had some “conflicting” ideas – other conferences or workshops which were put to close to previous RSCTC conferences and make even a kind of competition. Thus, we should definitely more focus on development of this conference, both from scientific point of view and increasing a number of participants.

3. Saying this, I would not like to block good ideas of colleagues which could submit interesting workshops or special sessions at the most prestige or leading world conferences, like ECML/PKDD, ACM SIGMOD KDD, AAI, DEXA/DaWaL, EURO and others. We should even spend some time in helping these colleagues with preparing some conference issues, as e.g. program committees and publicity.

4. Developing education activities, which could include several sub-activities:

- Adding special tutorial sessions to main and other RST conferences and coordinating the choice of topics and presenters (this should mainly concern events organized by smaller groups which are not still strong in our community or areas, where we want to expand our ideas),
- Similarly to above / thinking on supporting extra industrial or application oriented tracks at these conferences,
- Trying to organize special teaching schools – similar idea to so called summer/spring thematic schools of European programs (e.g. COST), activity networks like EURO, MLNet or KDUBiq – which should be oriented to young researchers, Ph.D students etc.

- Co-operating with colleagues responsible for IRSS Web system and Electronic Bulletin and providing electronic versions of the most recent (state of the art) teaching materials on on rough sets.
- Working on integration rough sets bibliography data base (project started by Z.Suraj and his students) with other IRSS Web resources

5. The strong co-operation with Editors in Chief of Rough Set Journal, in particular helping in promotion of TRS and negotiations with Springer on putting it in citation systems.

6. There are also some formal or organizational points for IRSS Council as “controlling” somehow membership to IRSS (I am definitely for the free of payments membership , but I am also afraid that it is difficult to establish who is currently a member -- it was not so easy to encourage our colleagues to register to the Web system, etc. so we should try to find simple system of registering our members); finding a new idea on reactivation of Electronic Bulletin and many other smaller but important activities.