The 2008 European Robotics Symposium (EUROS’08) was held on March 26th and 27th in Prague. (The public webpage of the event can be found here.) The local organization was taken care of by Libor Přeučil from the Department of Cybernetics, Czech Technical University in Prague. The papers presented at the conference are published as Volume 44 in the STAR series (Springer Tracts on Advanced Robotics).

The event drew 98 participants, from all over the world, in a single-track format that provided a lot of opportunities for discussion and informal meetings. Of the 98 participants, 56 were senior EURON members, 24 were non-EURON members, and 24 were PhD students.

The conference had 21 oral paper presentations, and about the same number of oral poster presentations, on a wide range of robotics topics. Prof. Kevin Warwick, University of Reading, UK, gave a keynote lecture on Robots with Biological Brains and Humans with Part Machine Brains, which did not fail to stimulate the debate about the “boundaries” of robotics. The conference was closed with a well-attended tutorial on Standardization in robotics: how can it help our research?, by Martin Hägele and Erwin Prassler of the Robot Standards project RoSta, in which they explained the needs and benefits of (mainly software) standardization and harmonization in the robotics domain.

A scientific highlight of this EUROS was Prof. Khatib’s (Stanford University, USA) presentation: his group’s work on the control of humanoid robots has been going on for about 20 years and has now culminated in a total approach of the control problem, including the interaction control between humanoid robot and its environment; EUROS was the first conference worldwide on which this total approach has been presented.