









Baltic Journal on Sustainability 2008

14(4): 462-477

# MULTICRITERIA SELECTION OF PROJECT MANAGERS BY APPLYING GREY CRITERIA

Edmundas Kazimieras Zavadskas<sup>1</sup>, Zenonas Turskis<sup>2</sup>, Jolanta Tamošaitienė<sup>3</sup>, Valerija Marina<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup> Dept of Construction Technology and Management, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University,
 <sup>4</sup> Dept of Foreign Languages, Institute of Humanities, Saulėtekio al. 11, LT-10223 Vilnius, Lithuania E-mail: <sup>1</sup>edmundas.zavadskas@adm.vgtu.lt; <sup>2</sup>zenonas.turskis@st.vgtu.lt;
 <sup>3</sup>jolanta.tamosaitiene@st.vgtu.lt; <sup>4</sup>lynx\_114@yahoo.com

Received 24 September 2008; accepted 25 November 2008

**Abstract.** There is a number of criteria and associated sub-criteria influencing the match of managers to construction projects. Criteria and sub-criteria were identified based on a thorough review of the related literature and interviews of management personnel involved in the project managers selection. Project managers characteristics are considered to be less important for an effective project management. The model is based on multicriteria evaluation of project managers. The evaluation embraces the identified criteria influencing the process of construction project manager selection. This paper considers the application of grey relations methodology to defining the utility of alternatives, and offers a multiple criteria method of *COmplex PRoportional ASsessment* of alternatives with grey relations (COPRAS-G) for analysis. In this model, the parameters of the alternatives are determined by the grey relational grade and expressed in terms of intervals. A case study presents the selection of construction project manager. The results obtained show that this method may be used as an effective decision aid in multicriteria selection.

Keywords: COPRAS, grey relations, manager, selection.

**Reference** to this paper be made as follows: Zavadskas, E. K.; Turskis, Z.; Tamošaitienė, J.; Marina, V. 2008. Multicriteria selection of project managers by applying grey criteria, *Technological and Economic Development of Economy* 14(4): 462–477.

### 1. Introduction

In recent years, the number of construction projects has been growing rapidly. Nowadays, companies have to face rapid transformation of their competitive environment. The design and construction processes are unique, always dealing with risk (Zou *et al.* 2007; Zavadskas *et al.* 2008a) and risk management (Schieg 2007; Savčuk 2007; Shevchenko *et al.* 2008). In

ISSN 1392-8619 print/ISSN 1822-3613 online http://www.tede.vgtu.lt

462

the field of design, project managers are aware of both the impact of the designers' competencies in the project performance and of the requirement for a fast development of these competencies (Belkadi *et al.* 2007). Projects are collective, purposeful activities based upon the development of common understandings and interpretations of means and ends. They generate the personal and group knowledge contributing to their own success (Jackson and Klobas 2008). Often, a construction project has limited resources (Gabriel *et al.* 2006). Therefore, it is very important to find the right project managers for such projects. Different projects require different skills and capabilities of the project manager. All stakeholders, consultants and contractors are looking for a few good project managers. They are indeed hard to find and even a search firm is hardly capable of finding the suitable staff even though the target candidate (a good project manager) can practically write his own pay. This paper presents the analysis of matching managers to construction projects.

### 2. Multicriteria problem of project manager selection in construction

### 2.1. Problem of project manager in construction

The construction process is risky and its success largely depends on the choice of the right project manager. The construction project-related risk criteria show a significant inverse correlation with financial success. The level of venture managers' prior experience in the venture's target market area and their level of prior experience show an even greater correlation with financial success.

Modern management control systems in construction are supposed to provide local management with useful information, reflecting company's performance from different stakeholders' perspectives. However, the tools of management control (Jurkšienė *et al.* 2008) sometimes fail to provide this main function.

Sykes (1986) classified success criteria of project as follows:

- *a) Extrinsic or environmental criteria* are those determined by the form of investment sponsorship and the characteristics of the investment into a construction project. Extrinsic criteria are segregated into two categories:
  - Structural criteria (technology, market, organization, and people) are summed up as
    the overall degree of structural congruence. The authors postulate that the degree of
    congruence is directly related to venture success within the corporation. To take the
    corporation into new markets some incongruence is required. Too much incongruence
    probably pushes the risk of failure too high. The corporation's procedures in managing
    this incongruence will determine the degree to which it can successfully diversify its
    business.
  - Procedural criteria (control, selection of venture managers, incentive compensation, and financing) are dealt with as differences between the project environment and an independent venture environment.
- *b) Intrinsic criteria* are those inherent in the venture itself, and are subdivided into two categories:

- product-related (market and technical risk levels);
- managerial (relative experience levels).

Project management processes organize and describe the work of the project. These procedures are performed by people and, much like project phases, are interrelated and interdependent. The project management processes include 5 groups:

- · Initiating,
- · Planning,
- · Executing,
- Monitoring and Controlling,
- · Closing.

Project manager's influence on construction process is shown in Fig. 1.

Collins (1998) takes a holistic view on the project manager candidates, which also includes the addition of any selection criterion deemed relevant to a specific project. The results are scored and, in case of a close score between candidates, the candidates' availability could help swing the decision.

While this has some merit, it must be noted that using the criteria in the table could result in selecting a project manager for the wrong reasons. Collins (1998) states: "The process focuses on the premise that a successful project manager must master two primary skill sets: the project manager's technical skills and leadership skills."

The criteria influencing project manager selection, mentioned in the review of the related literature, are presented in Table 1.

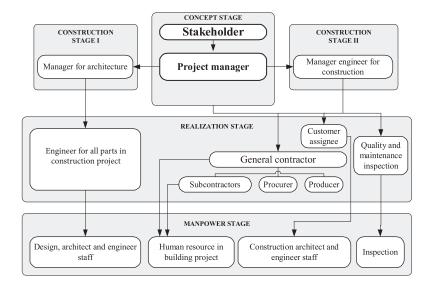


Fig. 1. Team of project and role of the project manager in construction process

Table 1. A set of the main construction manager selection criteria

No.	CRITERIA	No of reference											Σ	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1.	Education level	•			•		•			•			•	5
2.	Age				•					•			•	3
3.	Racial stock				•								•	2
4.	Insufficient time spent in family								•				•	2
5.	Gender											•	•	2
6.	Personal skills													23
6.1.	Personal skills					•								1
6.2.	Mobilizing										•		•	2
6.3.	Verbal communications		•		•		•	•	•	•	•		•	8
6.4.	Coping with situation										•			1
6.5.	Delegating authority										•			1
6.6.	Political sensitivity										•		•	2
6.7.	Conflict resolution diplomacy		•						•	•				3
6.8.	High self-esteem										•		•	2
6.9.	Enthusiasm									•	•		•	3
7.	Dependability	•												1
8.	Experience (in similar projects)	•		•	•	•		•	•			•	v	8
9.	Self views			•		•		•	•					4
10.	Self relevant goals			•		•		•	•				•	5
11.	Paperwork								•					1
12.	Job stress								•	•			•	3
13.	Pay									•			•	2
14.	Problem specification, selection, analysis of alternatives						•	•	•		•			4
15.	Conceptual and organizational skills													5
15.1.	Planning										•		•	2
15.2.	Organizing										•		•	2
15.3.	Strong goal orientation										•			1
16.	Project management skills													13
16.1.	Project management skills												•	1
16.2.	Leadership of team		•						•					2
16.3.	Developing resource plans		•				•			•				3
16.4.	Knowledge of project implementation process		•	•		•	•	•	•		•			7
17.	Business skills (markets)													9
17.1.	Business skills (markets)												•	1
17.2.	Strategic thinker		•				•							2
17.3.	Ability to meet the requirements of the customer		•				•							2
17.4.	Business case development		•				•							2
17.5.	Internal investments							•						1
17.6.	Venture capital							•						1
18.	Technical skills													5
18.1.	Technical skills						•							1
18.2.	Engineering background		•			•		•			•			4
19.	Appropriate computer tools developed						•				•		•	3
20.	Control							•		•			•	3
21.	Quality	•					•		•					3
41.	Zumity	•					•		•					

References: ¹Figueira et al. 2005; ²Collins 1998; ³Lorda and Brown 2001; ⁴Adobor 2004; ⁵Lievens et al. 2003; ⁵Sykes 1986; ³Haynes and Love 2004; <sup>8</sup>Chen et al. 2008; ¹El-Sabaa 2001; ¹Ogunlana et al. 2002; ¹¹Ling 2003; ¹²Mustapha and Naoum 1998.

#### 2.2. Multicriteria selection models

The survey of literature (Table 1) shows that manager selection in construction is a multicriteria problem. Multiple criteria decision-making problems are encountered in various situations where a number of alternatives and actions or candidates need to be chosen based on a set of criteria. In Fig. 2 a set of the most often mentioned criteria in the surveyed references is presented. According to this graphical representation, it is clear that the most important criteria for a project manager in construction selection are personal skills, project management skills, business skills and experience.

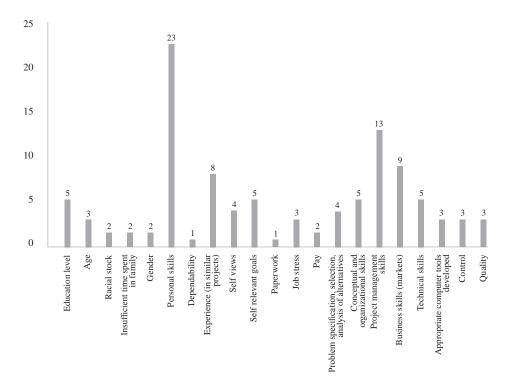
When we consider a discrete set of alternatives described by some criteria, there are three different types of analyses that can be performed for providing a significant support to decision-makers:

- Ensure that the decision-maker follows a "rational" behaviour (normative option) Value functions, Utility theory, distance to the Ideal;
- Give some advice based on reasonable (but not indisputable) rules;
- Find the preferred solution from the partial decision hypothesis Interactive methods.

The analysis of the purpose can be performed by the criteria of effectiveness, which have different dimensions, different significances (Zavadskas and Vilutienė 2006) and different directions of optimization (Kendall 1970; Kaklauskas *et al.* 2006; Viteikienė and Zavadskas 2007; Bardauskienė 2007). The discrete criteria values can be normalized by applying different normalization methods (Zavadskas and Turskis 2008). The purpose of analysis can also be different (Banaitienė and Banaitis 2006; Kaklauskas *et al.* 2007; Ginevičius and Podvezko 2006; Ginevičius *et al.* 2007; Bregar *et al.* 2008). Multiple criteria decision aid (Hwang and Yoon 1981) provides several powerful and effective tools (Figueira *et al.* 2005; Zavadskas and Kaklauskas 2007; Zavadskas *et al.* 2007; Ustinovichius *et al.* 2007; Banaitienė *et al.* 2008; Ginevičius *et al.* 2008; Zavadskas *et al.* 2008b) for confronting sorting problems.

There is a wide range of methods based on multicriteria utility theory: SAW – Simple Additive Weighting (Ginevičius *et al.* 2008; Sivilevičius *et al.* 2008); MOORA – Multi-Objective Optimization on the Basis of Ratio Analysis (Brauers and Zavadskas 2006; Brauers *et al.* 2008; Kalibatas and Turskis 2008); TOPSIS – Technique for Order Preference by Similarity to Ideal Solution (Hwang and Yoon 1981; Zavadskas *et al.* 2006); VIKOR – a compromise ranking method (Zavadskas *and* Antuchevičienė 2007); COPRAS – Complex Proportional Assessment (Zavadskas *et al.* 2007); games theory methods (Peldschus and Zavadskas 2005; Antuchevičienė *et al.* 2006) and other approaches (Turskis 2008).

The solution of each multicriteria problem begins with constructing the decision-making matrix X. In this matrix, the values of the criteria  $x_{ji}$  may be real numbers, intervals, probability distributions, possibility distributions, qualitative labels or grey numbers.



**Fig. 2.** The most important criteria of project manager selection in construction (the points indicate how many times they are mentioned in the reviewed literature)

# 3. Research methodology

# 3.1. Grey system theory

The project manager's work always deals with the future, and values of criteria cannot be expressed exactly. This multicriteria decision-making problem must be determined not with the exact criteria values, but with fuzzy values or with values taken from some intervals.

Deng (1982) developed the Grey system theory. According to him, the Grey relational analysis has some advantages: it involves simple calculations and requires a smaller number of samples; a typical distribution of samples is not needed; the quantified outcomes from the Grey relational grade do not result in contradictory conclusions from the qualitative analysis; the Grey relational grade model is a transfer functional model that is effective in dealing with discrete data (Deng 1988).

Many authors investigated Grey system theory in decision-making. Zhang *et al.* (1994) analysed information entropy of discrete grey numbers, Liu and Lin (2006) – information content of grey numbers, Olson and Wu (2006) – multicriteria models for grey relationships, while Kuo *et al.* (2008) used grey relational analysis in multiple criteria decision-making problems. The Grey system has been applied in many fields, such as economics, agriculture,

geography, weather, earthquakes, science etc. Noorul Haq and Kannan (2007) developed a hybrid normalized multicriteria decision-making model for evaluating and selecting the vendor using Analytical Hierarchy Process and Fuzzy Analytical Hierarchy Process and an integrated approach of Grey Relational Analysis to a Supply Chain model. Lin and Lee (2007) proposed a novel forecasting model. Lin *et al.* (2008) presented subcontractor selection model by applying grey TOPSIS method.

#### 3.2. COPRAS-G method

In order to evaluate the overall efficiency of a project, it is necessary to identify selection criteria, to assess information, relating to these criteria, and to develop methods for evaluating the criteria to meet the participants' needs. Decision analysis is concerned with the situation in which a decision-maker has to choose among several alternatives by considering a particular set of criteria. For this reason COPRAS method can be applied. This method was applied to the solution of problems in construction (Kaklauskas *et al.* 2006; Viteikienė and Zavadskas 2007; Zavadskas *et al.* 2007; Zavadskas *et al.* 2008c) presented the main ideas of COPRAS-G method. The idea of COPRAS-G method with the criterion values expressed in terms of intervals is based on the real conditions of decision making and applications of the Grey system theory. The COPRAS-G method uses a stepwise ranking and evaluating procedure of the alternatives in terms of significance and utility degree.

The procedure of applying the COPRAS-G method consists of the following steps:

- 1. Selecting the set of the most important criteria, describing the alternatives.
- 2. Constructing the decision-making matrix  $\otimes X$ :

$$\otimes X = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{11} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{12} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{1m} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{21} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{22} \end{bmatrix} & \vdots & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{2m} \end{bmatrix} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{n1} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{n2} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes x_{nm} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \\ \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{11}; \overline{x}_{11} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{12}; \overline{x}_{12} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{1m}; \overline{x}_{1m} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{21}; \overline{x}_{21} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{22}; \overline{x}_{22} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{2m}; \overline{x}_{2m} \end{bmatrix} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{n1}; \overline{x}_{n1} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{n2}; \overline{x}_{n2} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \underline{x}_{nm}; \overline{x}_{nm} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}; \quad j = \overline{1, n}; \quad i = \overline{1, m},$$

where  $\otimes x_{ji}$  is determined by  $\underline{x}_{ji}$  (the smallest value, the lower limit) and  $\overline{x}_{ji}$  (the biggest value, the upper limit).

- 3. Determining significances of the criteria  $q_i$ .
- 4. Normalizing the decision-making matrix  $\otimes X$ :

$$\underline{\tilde{x}}_{ji} = \frac{\underline{x}_{ji}}{\frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{n} \underline{x}_{ji} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \overline{x}_{ji} \right)} = \frac{2\underline{x}_{ji}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} \underline{x}_{ji} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \overline{x}_{ji}}; \quad \underline{\tilde{x}}_{ji} = \frac{\overline{x}_{ji}}{\frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{j=1}^{n} \underline{x}_{ji} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \overline{x}_{ji} \right)} = \frac{2\overline{x}_{ji}}{\sum_{j=1}^{n} (\underline{x}_{ji} + \overline{x}_{ji})}; \quad (2)$$

$$j = \overline{1, n}$$
 and  $i = \overline{1, m}$ .

In formula (2),  $\underline{x}_{ii}$  is the lower value of the *i* criterion in the alternative *j* of the solution;  $\overline{x}_{ii}$  is the upper value of the criterion *i* in the alternative *j* of the solution; m – the number of criteria; n – the number of the alternatives compared.

Then, the decision-making matrix is normalized:

$$\otimes \tilde{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{11}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{11} \right] & \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{12}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{12} \right] & \cdots & \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{1m}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{1m} \right] \\ \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{21}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{21} \right] & \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{22}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{22} \right] & \cdots & \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{2m}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{2m} \right] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{n1}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{n1} \right] & \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{n2}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{n2} \right] & \cdots & \left[ \underline{\tilde{x}}_{nm}; \overline{\tilde{x}}_{nm} \right] \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(3)$$

5. Calculating the weighted normalized decision matrix  $\otimes \hat{X}$ . The weighted normalized values  $\otimes \hat{x}_{ii}$  are calculated as follows:

$$\otimes \hat{x}_{ji} = \otimes \tilde{x}_{ji} \cdot q_i \text{ or } \hat{\underline{x}}_{ji} = \underline{\tilde{x}}_{ji} \cdot q_i \text{ and } \hat{\overline{x}}_{ji} = \overline{\tilde{x}}_{ji} \cdot q_i.$$
 (4)

In formula (4),  $q_i$  is the significance of the i-th criterion.

Now, the normalized decision-making matrix is of the form:

$$\otimes \hat{X} = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{11} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{12} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{1m} \end{bmatrix} \\ \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{21} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{22} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{2m} \end{bmatrix} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{n1} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{n2} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \otimes \hat{x}_{nm} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{11}; \hat{x}_{11} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{12}; \hat{x}_{12} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{1m}; \hat{x}_{1m} \end{bmatrix} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{n1}; \hat{x}_{n1} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{22}; \hat{x}_{22} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{2m}; \hat{x}_{2m} \end{bmatrix} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{n1}; \hat{x}_{n1} \end{bmatrix} & \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{n2}; \hat{x}_{n2} \end{bmatrix} & \cdots & \begin{bmatrix} \hat{x}_{nm}; \hat{x}_{nm} \end{bmatrix} \end{bmatrix}$$
 (5)

6. Calculating the sums  $P_i$  of the criterion values, whose larger values are more preferable by the formula:

$$P_{j} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{k} (\hat{\underline{x}}_{ji} + \hat{\overline{x}}_{ji}).$$
 (6)

7. Calculating the sums  $R_i$  of the criterion values, whose smaller values are more preferable by the formula:

$$R_{j} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=k+1}^{m} (\hat{\underline{x}}_{ji} + \hat{\overline{x}}_{ji}); \quad i = \overline{k, m}.$$
 (7)

In formula (7), (m - k) is the number of criteria which must be minimized.

8. Determining the minimal value of  $R_i$  as follows:

$$R_{\min} = \min_{j} R_{j}; \quad j = \overline{1, n}. \tag{8}$$

9. Calculating the relative significance of each alternative by  $\mathcal{Q}_j$  the expression:

$$Q_{j} = P_{j} + \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{n} R_{j}}{R_{j} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \frac{1}{R_{j}}}.$$
(9)

10. Determining the optimality criterion by *K* the formula:

$$K = \max_{i} Q_{j}; \quad j = \overline{1, n}. \tag{10}$$

- 11. Determining the priority order of the alternatives.
- 12. Calculating the utility degree of each alternative by the formula:

$$N_j = \frac{Q_j}{Q_{\text{max}}} 100\%, \tag{11}$$

where  $Q_i$  and  $Q_{\text{max}}$  are the significances of the alternatives obtained from Eq. (9).

## 4. Case study: selection of project manager in construction

Stakeholders decided to build a large office building in Vilnius. They needed a good manager for this project. In order to obtain a set of criteria for selecting senior managers, successful project managers were asked to provide a list of all qualitative and quantitative demands to a manager of a complex project. In other words, they were asked for a detailed job description focussing on large-scale construction skills. Based on the review of literature and managers' questionnaires, 6 key indicators were identified for project manager selection:

- $\otimes x_1$  Personal skills (Score);
- $\otimes x_2$  Project Management skills (Score);
- $\otimes x_3$  Business skills (Score);
- $\otimes x_4$  Technical skills (Score);
- $\otimes x_5$  Quality skills (Score);
- $\otimes x_6$  Time of decision-making (Score).

Optimization directions of the selected criteria are as follows:

• 
$$\otimes x_1, \otimes x_2, \otimes x_3, \otimes x_4, \otimes x_5 \xrightarrow{optimization \ direction} \max;$$

# • $\otimes x_6 \xrightarrow{optimization \ direction} \rightarrow \min$ .

Personal skills. Personal skill (Lorda and Brown 2001; El-Sabaa 2001) is used to connote the ability of a project manager to work effectively as a group member and to build a cooperative effort within the team he leads. Personal skill includes *political and cross-cultural management skills* (Adobor 2004; Ogunlana *et al.* 2002), that equates political behaviour with self-interested behaviour. The political model in organizations is conceptualized as coalitions accept, and political activity may actually be beneficial for decision making (Ogunlana *et al.* 2002). Cross-cultural management skills will be useful in adapting the challenges of working in a multi-cultural organization.

Project management skills include technical competence and business knowledge and concept of leadership. Technical competence and business knowledge will positively affect the performance of key management tasks such as that the higher the technical competence and business knowledge of a manager, the greater the likelihood that he or she will be effective in the role (Ogunlana et al. 2002). Leadership includes items like individual influence, integrity, strategic leadership, teamwork and collaboration, communication and tenacity (Collins 1998). Team members are characterized by an understanding of the need for cooperation and emphasis on listening to people and by the motivation of the staff, individual approach (Adobor 2004; Tafel and Alas 2007), etc. Championing is positively associated with the use of influence tactics and transformational leadership, such as the higher the championing ability of a manager, the greater the likelihood that he or she will be effective in the role (Ogunlana et al. 2002).

*Business skills.* These include an excellent understanding the business (Adobor 2004), an ability to hire, train, and motivate other employees. In addition, managers need to be flexible, cooperative, and open to opposing viewpoints.

Technical skill implies (El-Sabaa 2001) an understanding of, and proficiency in, a specific kind of activity, particularly one that involves methods, processes, procedures or techniques. Technical skills mentioned by Collins (1998) include the following items: integration management, scope management, time management, cost management, quality management, risk management and procurement management.

Quality skills. Based on the economic theory of the firm which states that the objective of the firm is to maximize its profit, it is hypothesised that a stakeholder may select project manager who quotes low fees so as to minimize the initial costs. This hypothesis is tested in the fieldwork, with the awareness that fees should be not an important issue, and value adding by project manager is much more important. Added value by project manager is difficult to quantify, but it can manifest itself in designs, which have a high technical and functional quality, are accurate and error-free, being within the stake holder's budget (Ling 2003).

*Time of decision-making* depends on management, business and technical skills in terms of planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and controlling.

The significances  $q_i$  of attributes (Table 2) were determined by the expert judgment method by Kendall (Kendall 1970; Zavadskas 1987; Turskis *et al.* 2006; Zagorskas and Turskis 2006). A survey has been conducted and 35 experts have been questioned. The respondents were stakeholders and managers of construction projects having the experience in construction project administration of 5 and more years.

Criteria values describing the performance of each potential project manager are collected according to the test results, on the basis of direct communication with stakeholders and according to their past work experience.

Stakeholders rated managers for performance of a project by applying COPRAS-G method. The initial decision-making values and intermediary calculation data as well as the weighted normalized values of the criteria describing the compared alternatives, are also presented in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Initial decision-making matrix with the criterion values described in intervals  $\otimes X$  and normalized weighted matrix  $\otimes \hat{X}$ 

				Initia	l decisi	on-mak	ing matı	$rix \otimes X$				
						Cr	iteria					
	$\otimes x_1$		$\otimes x_2$		$\otimes x_3$		$\otimes x_4$		$\otimes x_5$		$\otimes x_6$	
Opt.	max		max		max		max		max		min	
$q_i$	0.25		0.15		0.12		0.20		0.13		0.15	
Mana-	$\otimes x_1$		$\otimes x_2$		$\otimes x_3$		$\otimes x_4$		$\otimes x_5$		$\otimes x_6$	
ger	<u>x</u> <sub>1</sub>	$\overline{x}_{l}$	$\underline{x}_2$	$\overline{x}_2$	<u>x</u> <sub>3</sub>	$\overline{x}_3$	$\underline{x}_4$	$\overline{x}_4$	<u>x</u> <sub>5</sub>	$\overline{x}_5$	<u>x</u> 6	$\overline{x}_6$
1	50	60	40	55	10	20	50	70	50	45	30	40
2	70	80	60	70	40	45	60	75	70	80	70	60
3	60	70	55	70	30	40	70	80	55	65	40	50
				Nor	malized	l weight	ed matr	ix $\otimes \hat{X}$				
	$\hat{\underline{x}}_1$	$\hat{\overline{x}}_1$	$\hat{\underline{x}}_2$	$\hat{\overline{x}}_2$	$\hat{\underline{x}}_3$	$\hat{\overline{x}}_3$	$\frac{\hat{x}}{4}$	$\hat{\overline{x}}_4$	$\frac{\hat{x}}{5}$	$\hat{\overline{x}}_5$	$\frac{\hat{x}}{6}$	$\hat{\overline{x}}_6$
1	0.064	0.077	0.034	0.047	0.013	0.026	0.049	0.069	0.036	0.032	0.031	0.04
2	0.090	0.103	0.051	0.060	0.052	0.058	0.059	0.074	0.050	0.057	0.071	0.062
3	0.077	0.090	0.047	0.060	0.039	0.052	0.069	0.079	0.039	0.046	0.041	0.052

According to the values presented in the initial decision-making matrix (Table 2), we can state that:

- the first alternative is the worst, according to the optimistic values that must be maximized, and the best, according to the sixth criterion, that must be minimized (according to the pessimistic values, the same conclusion can be made);
- the second alternative is the best, according to the optimistic values of first, second, third and fifth criteria, but it is ranked second according to the fourth criterion and the third according to the sixth criterion values (according to the pessimistic values, a similar conclusion can be made);
- the third alternative is ranked second, according to all the criteria values (except for the fourth criterion, according to which it is ranked first) in both cases, when decision is made according to the pessimistic and optimistic criteria values.

According to the algorithm presented above, the utility degree of each alternative was estimated. The vector of significance of alternatives is Q = [0.260; 0.394; 0.346], while the vector of utility degree values is N = [65.93; 100; 87.66]. According to the significance of alternatives of  $Q_2 = 0.394$ , the second project manager is the best. The second project manager is also the

best in terms of the utility degree that  $N_2 = 100\%$ . The third project manager with the utility degree of  $N_3 = 87.66\%$  is ranked second. The first project manager with the utility degree of  $N_1 = 65.93\%$  is ranked third. According to N, the ranks obtained in the procedure of project manager selection are as follows: project manager  $2 \succ$  project manager  $3 \succ$  project manager 1. Based on the results of this ranking, the second project manager was selected.

#### 5. Conclusions

- Project manager selection in construction is a multicriteria problem.
- In actual multicriteria modelling of multi-alternative assessment problems, the criteria values referring to the future can be expressed in terms of intervals.
- COPRAS-G (a COPRAS method with grey criteria values) is a method for assessing the alternatives by multiple-criteria values expressed in terms of intervals.
- This approach is intended to support decision-making and to increase the efficiency of the resolution process.
- The method COPRAS-G may be applied to solving a wide range of problems associated with the construction project selection.

#### References

- Adobor, H. 2004. Selecting management talent for joint ventures: A suggested framework, *Human Resource Management Review* 14(2): 161–178.
- Antuchevičienė, J.; Turskis, Z.; Zavadskas, E. K. 2006. Modelling renewal of construction objects applying methods of the game theory, *Technological and Economic Development of Economy* 12(4): 263–268.
- Banaitienė, N.; Banaitis, A. 2006. Analysis of criteria for contractors' qualification evaluation, *Technological and Economic Development of Economy* 12(4): 276–282.
- Banaitienė, N.; Banaitis, A.; Kaklauskas, A.; Zavadskas, E. K. 2008. Evaluating the life cycle of building: a multivariant and multiple criteria approach, *Omega-International Journal of Management Science* 36(3): 429–441.
- Bardauskienė, D. 2007. The expert's estimates application in the preparation of city general plan, *Technological and Economic Development of Economy* 13(3): 223–236.
- Belkadi, F.; Bonjour, E.; Dulmet, M. 2007. Competency characterisation by means of work situation modelling, *Computers in Industry* 58(2): 164–178.
- Brauers, W. K.; Zavadskas, E. K. 2006. The MOORA method and its application to privatization in a transition economy, *Control and Cybernetics* 35(2): 443–468.
- Brauers, W. K.; Zavadskas, E. K.; Peldschus, F.; Turskis, Z. 2008. Multi-objective decision-making for road design, *Transport* 23(3): 183–192.
- Bregar, A.; Györkös, J.; Jurič, M. B. 2008. Interactive aggregation/disaggregation dichotomic sorting procedure for group decision analysis based on the threshold model, *Informatica* 19(2): 161–190.
- Chen, H.-Ch.; Chu, C.-I.; Wang, Y.-H.; Lin, L.-Ch. 2008. Turnover factors revised: a longitudinal study of Taiwan-based staff nurses, *International Journal of Nursing Studies* 45(2): 277–285.
- Collins, P. 1998. Project manager selection and development process. *PMI International Symposium in Long Beach, California.* 1998.
- Deng, J. L. 1982. Control problems of grey system, Systems and Control Letters 1(5): 288–294.

- Deng, J. L. 1988. Properties of relational space for grey systems, in *Essential Topics on Grey System–Theory* and Applications, China Ocean, 1–13.
- El-Sabaa, S. 2001. The skills and career path of an effective project manager, *International Journal of Project Management* 19(1): 1–7.
- Figueira, J.; Greco, S.; Ehrgott, M. (eds.). 2005. *Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis: State of the Art Surveys*. Springer, Berlin.
- Gabriel, S. A.; Kumar, S.; Ordonez, J.; Nasserian, A. 2006. A multiobjective optimization model for project selection with probabilistic considerations, *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences* 40(4): 297–313.
- Ginevičius, R.; Podvezko, V. 2006. Assessing the financial state of construction enterprises, *Technological* and Economic Development of Economy 12(3): 188–194.
- Ginevičius, R.; Podvezko, V.; Andruškevičius, A. 2007. Quantitative evaluation of building technology, *International Journal of Technology Management* 40(1/2/3): 192–214.
- Ginevičius, R.; Podvezko, V.; Bruzgė, Š. 2008. Evaluating the effect of state aid to business by multicriteria methods, *Journal of Business Economics and Management* 9(3): 167–180.
- Haynes, N. S.; Love, P. E. D. 2004. Psychological adjustment and coping among construction project managers, *Construction Management and Economics* 22(2): 129–140.
- Hwang, C. L.; Yoon, K. S. 1981. *Multiple Attribute Decision-Making / Methods and Applications*. Springer-Verlag. Berlin, Heidelberg, New York.
- Jackson, P.; Klobas, J. 2008. Building knowledge in projects: A practical application of social constructivism to information systems development, *International Journal of Project Management* 26(4): 329–337.
- Jurkšienė, A.; Darškuvienė, V.; Dūda, A. 2008. Management control systems and stakeholders' interests in Lithuanian multinational companies: cases from the telecommunications industry, *Journal of Business Economics and Management* 9(2): 97–106.
- Kalibatas, D.; Turskis, Z. 2008. Multicriteria evaluation of inner climate by using MOORA method, *Information Technology and Control* 37(1): 79–83.
- Kaklauskas, A.; Zavadskas, E. K.; Raslanas, S.; Ginevičius, R.; Komka, A.; Malinauskas, P. 2006. Selection of low-e windows in retrofit of public buildings by applying multiple criteria method COPRAS: A Lithuanian case, *Energy and Buildings* 38(5): 454–462.
- Kaklauskas, A.; Zavadskas, E. K.; Trinkūnas, V. 2007. A multiple criteria decision support on-line system for construction, *Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence* 20(2): 163–175.
- Kendall, M. G. 1970. Rank correlation methods (4th ed.). London Griffin.
- Kuo, Y.; Yang, T.; Huang, G.-W. 2008. The use of grey relational analysis in solving multiple attribute decision-making problems, *Computers & Industrial Engineering* 55(1): 80–93.
- Lievens, F.; Harris, M. M.; Van Keer, E.; Bisqueret, C. 2003. Predicting cross-cultural training performance: the validity of personality, cognitive ability, and dimensions measured by an assessment center and a behavior description interview, *Journal of Applied Psychology* 88(3): 476–489.
- Lin, Y.-H.; Lee, P.-C. 2007. Novel high-precision grey forecasting model, *Automation in Construction* 16(6): 771–777.
- Lin, Y.-H.; Lee, P.-C.; Chang, T.-P.; Ting, H.-I. 2008. Multi-attribute group decision-making model under the condition of uncertain information, *Automation in Construction* 17(6): 792–797.
- Ling, Y. Y. 2003. A conceptual model for selection of architects by project managers in Singapore, *International Journal of Project Management* 21(2): 135–144.
- Liu, S.; Lin, Y. 2006. On measures of information content of grey numbers, Kybernetes 35(6): 899-904.
- Lorda, R. G.; Brown, D. J. 2001. Leadership, values, and subordinate self-concepts, *The Leadership Quarterly* 12(2): 133–152.

- Mustapha, F. H.; Naoum, S. 1998. Factors influencing the effectiveness of construction site managers, *International Journal of Project Management* 16(1): 1–8.
- Noorul Haq, A.; Kannan, G. 2007. A hybrid normalised multicriteria decision-making for the vendor selection in a supply chain model, *International Journal of Management and Decision Making* 8(5/6): 601–622.
- Ogunlana, S.; Siddiqui, Z.; Yisa, S.; Olomolaiye, P. 2002. Factors and procedures used in matching project managers to construction projects in Bangkok, *International Journal of Project Management* 20(5): 385–400.
- Olson, D. L.; Wu, D. 2006. Simulation of fuzzy multiattribute models for grey relationships, *European Journal of Operational Research* 175(1): 111–120.
- Peldschus, F.; Zavadskas, E. K. 2005. Fuzzy matrix games multi-criteria model for decision-making in engineering, *Informatica* 16(1): 107–120.
- Savčuk, O. 2007. Internal audit efficiency evaluation principles, *Journal of Business Economics and Management* 3(4): 275–284.
- Shevchenko, G.; Ustinovichius, L.; Andruškevičius, A. 2008. Multi-attribute analysis of investment risk alternatives in construction, *Technological and Economic Development of Economy* 14(4): 428–443.
- Schieg, M. 2007. Post-mortem analysis on the analysis and evaluation of risks in construction project management, *Journal of Business Economics and Management* 8(2): 145–153.
- Sivilevičius, H.; Zavadskas, E. K.; Turskis, Z. 2008. Quality attributes and complex assessment methodology of the asphalt mixing plant, *Baltic Journal of Road and Bridge Engineering* 3(3): 161–166.
- Sykes, H. B. 1986. The anatomy of a corporate venturing program: factors influencing success, *Journal of Business Venturing* 1(3): 275–293.
- Tafel, K.; Alas, R. 2007. Various types of Estonian top-managers, *Journal of Business Economics and Management* 8(3): 189–194.
- Turskis, Z. 2008. Multi-attribute contractors ranking method by applying ordering of feasible alternatives of solutions in terms of preferability technique, *Technological and Economic Development of Economy* 14(2): 224–239.
- Turskis, Z.; Zavadskas, E. K; Zagorskas, J. 2006. Sustainable city compactness evaluation on the basis of GIS and Bayes rule, *International Journal of Strategic Property Management* 10(3): 185–207.
- Ustinovichius, L., Zavadskas, E. K.; Podvezko, V. 2007. Application of a quantitative multiple criteria decision-making (MCDM-1) approach to the analysis of investments in construction, *Control and Cybernetics* 36(1): 251–268.
- Viteikienė, M.; Zavadskas, E. K. 2007. Evaluating the sustainability of Vilnius city residential areas, *Journal of Civil Engineering and Management* 13(2): 149–155.
- Zagorskas, J.; Turskis, Z. 2006. Multi-attribute model for estimation of retail centres influence on the city structure. Kaunas city case study, *Technological and Economic Development of Economy* 12(4): 347–352.
- Zavadskas, E. K.; Antuchevičienė, J. 2007. Multiple criteria evaluation of rural building's regeneration alternatives, *Building and Environment* 42(1): 436–451.
- Zavadskas, E. K.; Kaklauskas, A. 2007. *Mehrzielselektion für Entscheidungen im Bauwesen*. Fraunhofer IRB Verlag (Multiattribute Decisions in Construction).
- Zavadskas, E. K.; Turskis, Z. 2008. A new logarithmic normalization method in games theory, *Informatica* 19(2): 303–314.
- Zavadskas, E. K.; Vilutienė, T. 2006. A multiple criteria evaluation of multi-family apartment block's maintenance contractors: I–Model for maintenance contractor evaluation and the determination of its selection criteria, *Building and Environment* 41(5): 621–632.

- Zavadskas, E. K.; Zakarevičius, A.; Antuchevičienė, J. 2006. Evaluation of ranking accuracy in multicriteria decisions, *Informatica* 17(4): 601–618.
- Zavadskas, E. K.; Kaklauskas, A.; Peldschus, F.; Turskis, Z. 2007. Multi-attribute assessment of road design solutions by using the COPRAS method, *The Baltic Journal of Road and Bridge Engineering* 2(4): 195–203.
- Zavadskas, E. K.; Turskis, Z.; Tamošaitienė, J. 2008a. Contractor selection of construction in a competitive environment, *Journal of Business Economics and Management* 9(3): 181–187.
- Zavadskas, E. K.; Liias, R.; Turskis, Z. 2008b. Multi-attribute decision-making methods for assessment of quality in bridges and road construction: State-of-the-art surveys, *The Baltic Journal of Road and Bridge Engineering* 3(3): 152–160.
- Zavadskas, E. K.; Kaklauskas, A.; Turskis, Z.; Tamošaitienė, J. 2008c. Selection of the effective dwelling house walls by applying attributes values determined at intervals, *Journal of Civil Engineering and Management* 14(2): 85–93.
- Zhang, Q. S.; Han, W. Y.; Deng, J. L. 1994. Information entropy of discrete grey numbers, *Journal of Grey Systems* 6(4): 303–314.
- Zou, P. X. W.; Zhang, G.; Wang, J. 2007. Understanding the key risks in construction projects in China, *International Journal of Project Management* 25(6): 601-614.
- Завадскас, Э.-К. 1987. Комплексная оценка и выбор ресурсосберегающих решений в строительстве [Zavadskas, E. K. Complex estimation and choice of resource saving decisions in construction]. Vilnius: Mokslas (in Russian).

### PROJEKTŲ VALDYTOJO PARINKIMO DAUGIATIKSLIO VERTINIMO MODELIS

### E. K. Zavadskas, Z. Turskis, J. Tamošaitienė, V. Marina

#### Santrauka

Rodiklių ir susietų subrodiklių skaičius daro poveikį statybos projektų vadovo parinkimui. Išnagrinėjus literatūrą buvo atrinkti pagrindiniai rodikliai, turintys įtaką projektų valdytojo atrankai. Išskirtos svarbiausios projektų valdytojo charakteristikos, gerinančios efektyvų statybos projektų valdymą. Projektų valdytojo modelis pagrįstas daugiatikslio vertinimo metodais. Straipsnyje apžvelgtas intervalais išreikštų sprendinių metodologijos pritaikymas, apibrėžtas alternatyvų naudingumas. Pateiktas daugiatikslio vertinimo kompleksinio proporcingumo įvertinimo metodas naudojant intervalais išreikštus rodiklius intervalais (COPRAS-G). Pateikiamame modelyje alternatyvų parametrai išreikšti intervalais, alternatyvos ranguojamos, nustatomas jų prioritetas. Sprendžiamas uždavinio pavyzdys rodo efektyvų statybos projektų valdytojo parinkimą. Tai iliustruoja gauti rezultatai.

Reikšminiai žodžiai: COPRAS, sprendiniai, išreikšti intervalais, valdytojas, parinkimas.

Edmundas Kazimieras ZAVADSKAS is a principal vice-rector of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University and head of the Dept. of Construction Technology and Management at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Vilnius, Lithuania. He has a PhD in building structures (1973) and Dr Sc (1987) in building technology and management. Member of Lithuanian and several foreign Academies of Sciences and Doctor honoris causa at Poznan, Saint-Petersburg, and Kiev Universities. Also, a member of international organisations and a member of steering and programme committees at many international conferences. E. K. Zavadskas is a member of editorial boards of several research journals as well as the author and co-author of more than 300 papers and a number of monographs in Lithuanian, English, German and Russian. Research interests: building technology and management, decision-making theory, automated design and decision support systems.

**Zenonas TURSKIS.** PhD, a senior research fellow in Construction Technology and Management Laboratory of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania. His research interests include building technology and management, decision-making theory, computer-aided design and expert systems. Author of 20 research papers.

**Jolanta TAMOŠ AITIENĖ**. PhD student at the Dept. of Construction Technology and Management, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, Lithuania. BSc degree (construction technology and management), Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (2000). MSc degree (Construction management and economics), Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (2002). Research interests: decision-making theory, construction technology and organisation, economics and project administration in construction.

Valerija MARINA. Assoc. Prof. Dr at the Dept of Foreign Languages, Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, the author of more than 40 scientific publications. Research interests: technical English, linguistic relativity, educology, multicriteria evaluation methods, comparative analysis of English and Lithuanian technical terms.