

SOGESCI-BVWB

Annual General Meeting on January 19, 2006

In 2005 our society was traditionally active with four tools:

- the ORBEL19 conference
- the Sogesci-BVWB Prize
- the workshops
- the Sogesci-BVWB scientific publications

The ORBEL19 conference in Louvain-la-Neuve January 27-28, 2005, organized by Bernard Fortz and François Glineur, was a scientific success. The number of participants was about 117 and the number of contributed papers was 63.

During this conference the Sogesci-BVWB prize 2005, sponsored by OM Partners, was awarded to Evy Hellinckx of KULeuven with her Master's thesis (under the supervision of Frits Spijksma): "Customer relationship management : De optimalisatie van de planning van campagnes".

A workshop on "Data-mining" was organized by Gerrit Janssens (LUC) at FUSL in Brussels, on March 16, 2005. The attendance was about 30 people, 8 papers presented. Feedback on the meeting was excellent

The publication of the journal 4OR, in cooperation with the French and the Italian OR societies, is strengthening its growing reputation of a high quality journal. During its three first years of existence (2003-2005), it was - on about 1020 pages - covering high quality papers, among which there were eleven invited surveys, one educational paper, thirty seven regular scientific contributions (among which three book reviews), four industrial topics, and seventeen PhD summaries. This last category is characterizing the "national" nature of our journal. The high quality of the other contributions will ensure its international value and recognition in the future. Papers from the countries of the three participating national societies account for 46% of all submissions with a 60% rejection rate whereas the overall rejection rate of the 189 submitted papers has been 71%. We are thankful to the dynamic team, which was responsible for this initiative. Good luck to the team of editors, Denis Bouyssou, Silvano Martello and Frank Plastria who have been reinstated for a second three year mandate. There is no shortage of papers for the next year, but it is however everybody's task to contribute to the success of this initiative by encouraging our members to submit their work for publication in our journal.

The average time between submission-acceptance and publication is very short, compared to many other journals: mostly much less than one year. It is however too early to produce any meaningful statistical material about lead-time matters.

The distribution of 4OR is done among some 650 members in Belgium, France and Italy. 4OR is now also available online at a growing number of libraries worldwide.

Let me briefly mention some other activities of the year 2005.

- The web-site of the society, physically located at FUSL, under the address www.orbel.be, was maintained by F.Glineur.
- A very positive fact is related to our constant presence on the EURO scene. Traditionally our Belgian colleagues are actively involved in a wide range of European OR activities.

We are proud to have such important delegates of Sogesci-BVWB in the EURO Board and Council. On behalf of our society I would like to congratulate especially Philippe Vincke, past president of EURO, and Jacques Teghem, main editor of EJOR, for the dynamic style with which they represented us in EURO and IFORS. I also congratulate our colleague Martine Labbé who has been elected as “President Elect”.

- The initiative of the president to edit and to distribute an ORBEL Newsletter is much appreciated by the currently about 140 members of our society. Input can be sent to orbel@fusl.ac.be.

Concerning our financial situation I would like to mention our current stability and safety, thanks to the careful management of our past treasurer Etienne Trauwaert, thanks to the organizers of the last two ORBEL conferences which brought financial contributions to our society, thanks to the careful management of our memberships, and finally thanks to the subsidy offered by the French Community of Belgium for the support of the activities of our society.

At the beginning of 2006, the SOGESCI-BVWB presidency will be taken over by our colleague Gerrit Janssens of LUC. I take the opportunity to thank the leaving president Etienne Loute of FUSL to have led our society in a very dynamic and efficient way.

Dear colleagues, I wish you personally and the Sogesci-BVWB a very productive year 2006, strengthening the position of OR in an academic and industrial environment, in the public and in the private sector.

Delegate Administrator

Hugo Pastijn,