

*ORBEL vzw*

“Société Belge de Recherche Opérationnelle”

“Belgische Vereniging voor Operationeel Onderzoek”

ING : BE03 3200 8587 5584 ASBL/VZW n° 406630532

Siège Social/Sociale zetel: 30 Av. Renaissance-laan, B-1000 Bruxelles-Brussel

**Minutes of the General Assembly**

**February 8, 2024**

**Present:** *Yasemin Arda, Dries Benoit, Pauline Bessemans, Wouter Blondeel, Kristof Coussement, Jérôme De Boeck, Christof Defryn, Morgane Dumont, Dries Goossens, Bernard Fortz, Gerrit Janssens, Emeline Leloup, Quentin Louveaux, Anisha Maharani, Dimitri Papadimitriou, Celia Paquay, Thierry Pironet, Pierre Schauss, Kenneth Sorensen, Greet Vanden Berghe, Elise Vandorre, Pieter Vansteenwegen, Wouter Verbeke, Tjark Vredeveld*

**Starting time:** 17h10

**Attached documents:**

- Activity report 2023 (Gerrit Janssens)
- Financial report 2023 and budget 2024 (Dries Goossens)
- 4OR report (Yves Crama)

**Agenda**

**1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly, dated May 25, 2023**

**Decision:** The minutes are approved without changes.

**2. ORBEL activity report of the delegate Administrator**

Gerrit Janssens presents the activity report for the Year 2023.

**Decision:** the report is officially acknowledged and unanimously approved.

**3. Financial report by the Treasurer**

Dries Goossens presents the financial situation of 2023 and the new budget for 2024.

**4. Approval of the consolidated accounts for 2023 and of the budget for 2024.**

**Decision:** The general assembly approves unanimously the consolidated accounts for 2023 and budget for 2024.

**5. Membership fees for 2024**

**Standard** (regular) membership : € 70

**Students and retired** person's membership: € 40

A personal, online subscription to 4OR is included. Any member may still request a paper version of 4OR for an additional fee (€15). Student members, registered via the conference, can request online subscription to 4OR for an additional fee (€15). If they register separate from the conference, an online subscription to 4OR is included.

**6. Activity report from the OR Publication delegate on 4OR and OR Publications**

Yves Crama provided a report about 4OR and OR Publications, which is presented by Yasemin.

**Decision:** the report is officially acknowledged and unanimously approved.

**7. ORBEL award**

9 submissions were received, 3 candidates were selected, winner is announced on Friday, February 9, 2024.

**8. Next ORBEL Conferences**

- 2025: Maastricht University, 29/01 – 31/01/2025 (organizers: Tjark Vredeveld, Lissa Melis, Christof Defryn) together with NGB (The Netherlands). Tjark Vredeveld presents on the organisation of the conference.

## **9. Nominations for the Board of Administrators**

### ***12 members elected for 2023 and 2024:***

- Aghezzaf, El-Houssaine
- Beliën, Jeroen
- Caris, An
- Defryn Christof
- Labbé, Martine
- Leus, Roel
- Goossens, Dries
- Sartenaer, Annick
- Spieksma, Frits
- Sörensen, Kenneth
- Tancrez, Jean-Sébastien
- Van Utterbeeck, Filip
- Wauters, Tony

### ***24 proposed members to elect for 2024 and 2025:***

- Arda, Yasemin
- Benoit, Dries
- Blondeel, Wouter
- Braekers, Kris
- Chevalier, Philippe
- Coussement, Kristof
- Crama, Yves
- De Baets, Bernard
- De Causmaecker, Patrick
- De Smet, Yves
- Fortz, Bernard
- Janssens, Gerrit
- Kunsch, Pierre
- Mélot, Hadrien
- Papadimitriou, Dimitri
- Paquay, Célia
- Pironet, Thierry
- Schauss, Pierre
- Schyns, Michaël
- Vandaele, Arnaud
- Vanden Berghe, Greet
- Vansteenwegen, Pieter
- Verbeke, Wouter
- Wittevrongel, Sabine

**Decision:** the general assembly unanimously approves and accepts these members of the administration board

## **9. Clearance for the board of administrators**

**Decision:** The general assembly unanimously gives clearance to the Administrators.

## **10. ORBEL representatives:**

- EURO representatives: Kristof Coussement and Dries Goossens

- IFORS representative: Dimitri Papadimitiriou
- WISDOM representative: Yasemin Arda

**11. Miscellaneous:**

- 4OR: move to full open access is investigated by a working group, consisting of members of ORBEL (Yves Crama as EIC of 4OR, Yasemin Arda, Bernard Fortz), ROADEF, AIRO. Anyone interested in joining the working group can contact Yasemin Arda or Bernard Fortz.
- As of now, Bernard Fortz takes over as president of ORBEL

**Finishing time:** 18h19

*February 08, 2024*

*Yasemin Arda*  
*President*

*Bernard Fortz*  
*President-elect*

*Wouter Verbeke*  
*Secretary*

# ORBEL

## General Assembly meeting held online

on Thursday 8 February 2024

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES IN 2023

Dear President, dear Members of the Administration Board, dear ORBEL Members

This document reports on the following activities: the ORBEL 37 conference held at HEC Liège, the ORBEL award 2023, the involvement of the society into scientific publications, and news from other activities of the society in 2023.

The 37<sup>th</sup> national conference on Operations Research, called **ORBEL 37**, has been organised by Célia Paquay and her team members of the QuantOM research group of the Université de Liège at their HEC campus in the city of Liège on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 May 2023. The timing of the conference was chosen to bring the conference closer to its past timing, end of January or early February, after a delayed one in September 2022 in Gent, due to COVID restrictions. The organising team has managed to host 135 participants (of which 78 (PhD)-students 57 non-students), with 77 scheduled presentations across 25 parallel sessions, and two invited talks. After the success at last conference, a whole stream on Data Science throughout the conference was organised. The conference enjoyed the support of five sponsors: FNRS, Engie, Gurobi Optimization, Local Solver, and OMP.

The following distinguished plenary speakers took the floor: (1) Maria Grazia Speranza (Università degli studi de Brescia, Italia) with a talk entitled 'Optimization in Transport and Logistics'; and (2) Stefan Røpke (Danmarks Tekniske Universitet, Lyngby, Danmark) with a talk entitled 'Applications of column generation in machine learning'. The conference dinner took place at the Club Restaurant of the Union Nautique de Liège in the heart of the city of Liège. Many thanks to the organising team for the successful conference.

The **ORBEL award** is an award handed out by our society, every year, to the best student's Master thesis in the field of Operations Research. The award amounts to 1500 Euro and is sponsored by OMP, a provider of supply chain planning software with head office located in Wommelgem near Antwerp and eight regional offices over the world. Out of six submissions, three selected candidates presented their work during a special ORBEL conference session on 26 May, live not only in front of the jury but for an audience (remember the selected candidates from the 2022 award presented their work online). For the ORBEL 2023 award, the jury, presided by our board member Roel Leus, selected Hugo Callebaut from ULB to be the winner with his thesis entitled "Models and algorithms for segment routing optimization" with promotor our board member Bernard Fortz together with Jérôme De Boeck. Congratulations to the student and the promotor.

With respect to the publications, the society is actively involved in the journal **4OR (A quarterly journal of operations research)** through the duty of the main editor Yves Crama (together with Michel Grabisch and Silvano Martello). Note that, among the area editors, also two board members appear, Kenneth Sörensen and Marc Pirlot. The details on the recent volume of the journal have been prepared by our board member Yves Crama.

Regarding other activities of our members related to ORBEL, EURO or IFORS, it should be mentioned (1) that Pieter Vansteenwegen organised, with the support of ORBEL in Leuven, the “LIM seminar on demand-responsive public transport” with international speakers, more than 50 participants, amongst them several ORBEL members, and (2) Dimitri Papadimitriou chaired the Continuous Optimization Cluster at IFORS 2023 in Santiago, Chile. Also he lectured full day on Spatial complexity of Combinatorial Optimization Algorithms at the Euro PhD school ‘Data Science meets Combinatorial Optimization’ in Bielefeld, Germany.

I would like to thank all members of the society for bringing out research in their publications and presentations at the numerous conferences in 2023, to let the world know that there exists an active Operations Research Society in Belgium. Further, my thanks go to the board of administrators for observing and suggesting a good operation of the society. Let me also thank our captain, the president, Yasemin Arda, who kept the society alive with a great spirit, during the last three years. Thanks also go to Dries Goossens, for taking the responsibility as our treasurer. Thanks to Wouter Verbeke for taking over the work as the ORBEL secretary. Thanks to Michael Schyns as our webmaster. Thanks to Roel Leus for organising the ORBEL award. Thanks to Yves Crama for being the representative of the society to the journal 4OR. Thanks to Bernard Fortz for keeping the links active with EURO and to Dimitri Papadimitriou for the links with IFORS.

Gerrit Janssens, Delegate Administrator on February 8, 2024

## ORBEL vzw

Société Belge de Recherche Opérationnelle / Belgische Vereniging voor Operationeel Onderzoek

IBAN: BE94 7390 1940 1314 — BIC: KREDBEBB

ASBL/VZW n° 406.630.532 - Siège Social/Sociale zetel: 30 Av.Renaissance-laan, B-1040

### Results

#### IN

	2022	2023	budget 2023
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
membership	3655,00	10235,00	5000,00
publications	0,00	0,00	0,00
conferences	0,00	0,00	0,00
subsidies	0,00	0,00	0,00
interests	0,00	0,00	0,00
total	3655,00	10235,00	5000,00

#### OUT

	2022	2023	budget 2023
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
memberships	286,25	176,25	200,00
publications	1194,46	1050,46	1750,00
workshops	1000,00	0,00	2000,00
secretariat	600,00	600,00	650,00
website	30,00	30,00	30,00
bank costs	41,50	39,00	50,00
total	3152,21	1895,71	4680,00
net result	502,79	8339,29	320,00

### Balance

#### Assets

	1/1/23	12/31/23
	[Eur]	[Eur]
KBC current	39549,55	51875,84
VAT account	2198,41	2198,41
Others	-17231,15	-21218,15
total	24516,81	32856,10

#### Liabilities

	1/1/23	12/31/23
	[Eur]	[Eur]
capital	20000,00	20000,00
reserves	4014,02	4516,81
net result	502,79	8339,29
Total	24516,81	32856,10

**BUDGET 2024**

**IN**

	2023	budget 2023	budget 2024
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
membership	10235,00	5000,00	3500,00
publications	0,00	0,00	0,00
conferences	0,00	0,00	0,00
subsidies	0,00	0,00	0,00
interests	0,00	0,00	0,00
total	10235,00	5000,00	3500,00

**OUT**

	2023	budget 2023	budget 2024
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
memberships	176,25	200,00	250,00
publications	1050,46	1750,00	1750,00
workshops	0,00	2000,00	3500,00
secretariat	600,00	650,00	675,00
website	30,00	30,00	30,00
bank costs	39,00	50,00	50,00
total	1895,71	4680,00	6255,00
net result	8339,29	320,00	-2755,00

# 4OR: Activity report

Yves Crama

February 2, 2024

(corrected version, February 12, 2024)



# Editorial board

Belgian editors:

- Editor-in-chief: Yves Crama (with Silvano Martello and Michel Grabisch).
- Senior editors: Frank Plastria and Thierry Marchant.
- Associate editors: Marc Pirlot, Dorothee Honhon (U. of Texas Dallas).
- Kenneth Sörensen has resigned from the board and has not been replaced.

# Volume 21 (2023)

- 4 issues, 718 pages
- 4 invited surveys
- 21 research papers
- 1 industry paper
- 7 PhD theses abstracts (including 3 theses defended in Belgian universities)

# Facts and figures

Impact factor (for what it's worth...) :

- ISI Web of Knowledge latest (2022) **Impact Factor** is **2.0**.
- It was **1.763** in 2021, 1.545 in 2020, **1.143** in 2019, **2.056** in 2018, **1.206** in 2017, **1.559** in 2016, **1.371** for 2015. Nice progression.

# Facts and figures

- As mentioned last year, the number of published pages has been stable at around 110 pages per issue, 450 pages per year for several years.
- Increase starting in 2019 in order to reduce the backlog: 640 pages in 2021, 720 pages in 2022, 718 pages in 2022
- For more information (2018-2020), see the editorial Crama, Y., Grabisch, M. & Martello, S. 4OR comes of age. *4OR-Q J Oper Res* 19, 1–13 (2021)
- An updated editorial reporting more details on the years 2021-2024 will appear in the next issue of the journal.

# Conclusions

- The journal is doing well.
- Stabilized number of submissions and of accepted papers.
- Our number of citations remains too limited.
- Thanks to all the editors and reviewers!

# OR Publications: Activity Report

## May 2023 - February 2024

### 1 Main activity

The previous report was presented in May 2023. The only activity of the GEIE OR-Publications is to hold the rights on the name of the journal 4OR, published by Springer, and to maintain the website 4or.be. No other activity is to be reported during the past period.

### 2 Financial situation

The financial situation of ORP is simple and healthy. ORP only has one bank account (Belfius, IBAN: BE43 7775 9534 9401, BIC: GKCCBEBB). Here is an overview of the income and expenses over the past period.

balance on May 5, 2023	127.17 EUR
bank fees	-30.88 EUR
balance on February 2, 2024	96.29 EUR

Yves Crama

February 2, 2024