

SOGESCI-BVWB
Annual General Assembly on February 15, 2008
Activity Report of the year 2007

In 2007 our society was traditionally active with four tools:

- the ORBEL conference
- the Sogesci-BVWB Prize
- the workshops or symposia
- the Sogesci-BVWB scientific publications

The ORBEL21 conference at the Université du Luxembourg in Luxembourg on January 18-19, organized by Raymond Bisdorff was a complete scientific success. More than hundred participants attended, including 63 speakers. For detailed information see the website of [ORBEL 21: http://sma.uni.lu/orbel21/](http://sma.uni.lu/orbel21/). During this conference the Sogesci-BVWB prize 2007, sponsored by OM Partners, was awarded to *Dieter Claeys* for his thesis "*A discrete-time Queueing Model with Batch Service*" (UGent, promotor: H. Bruneel). This award, organised by the Belgian OR-society (SOGESCI-B.V.W.B.), is bestowed on the author(s) of a scientifically oriented student's thesis with the exception of PhD theses.

The conference CPAIOR07 was organized by L.Wolsey and E.Loute (CORE) on 23-26 May at FUSL. Our society sponsored this event with a financial contribution of 1000 Euro. Feedback about the meeting was excellent (www.cs.brown.edu/sites/cpaior07).

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 publishing invited surveys, educational papers, regular scientific contributions (among which book reviews), industrial topics, and PhD summaries. This last category is characterizing the "national" nature of our journal. We are grateful to the dynamic team, which was responsible for most of the work done: Denis Bouyssou, Silvano Martello and Frank Plastria. The worldwide visibility of the journal, already strongly increased by its inclusion in online journal-packages to libraries, was further enhanced in 2007. During 2007 the fifth volume of our journal 4OR has been published. As usual it has appeared in 4 issues of around 80 pages each, and as always containing a survey paper by a renowned specialist. In addition it contained 7 research papers, 2 industry papers, 11 PhD thesis summaries and 1 book review. In view of the good online access statistics, the editors have obtained from the publisher that the size of the next volumes will be increased to 4 issues of 100 pages each. Also, ISI has accepted to add our journal to its Science Citation Expanded List starting with 2008, and will obtain its first impact factor rating starting with 2009, to appear in 2010. The team of editors announces that there is no shortage of papers for the next year, but it remains every member's task to contribute to the success of this initiative by submitting their work for publication in our journal, and encouraging others to submit. 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 2007.

- The web-site of the society, physically located at ULB (EURO server), 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), Jacques Teghem (past editor of EJOR), Raymond Bisdorff (Vice-President of EURO and Vice-President of IFORS representing EURO) and Martine Labbé (President of EURO) for the dynamic style with which they represented us in EURO and IFORS. In addition to these EURO mandates, several of our members were contributing to many EURO working groups.
- The initiative of E.Loute to edit and to distribute an ORBEL Newsletter was much appreciated by our members. S.Wittevrongel took the responsibility to continue editing and distribute our ORBEL Newsletter. The board appreciates that this initiative will be continued in the future.
- The Borsalino project, under Gerrit Janssens' leadership, aiming to make the past Sogesci-BVWB publications electronically available, is now in its final state.

Concerning our financial situation I would like to mention our current stability and safety, thanks to the careful management of our treasurer, thanks to the organizers of the last ORBEL conferences, 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 2008, I wish you personally and the Sogesci-BVWB a very productive year 2008, strengthening the position of OR in an academic and industrial environment, in the public and in the private sector.

Hugo Pastijn
Delegate Administrator