

SOGESCI-B.V.W.B.
General Assembly meeting at KULAK Kortrijk on Thursday February 7, 2013
Annual report of activities in 2012

Dear Chairman, Dear Members of the Administration Board, Dear Members of SOGESCI-B.V.W.B.,

As usual I will be first mentioning three main activities and services of our society in 2012, namely the ORBEL 26 conference, the ORBEL award 2012, and the 4OR publications.

The 26th yearly national conference of SOGESCI-B.V.W.B. ORBEL 26 on Operations Research was held at ULB Brussels on Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd February 2012. This edition was chaired by our administrator and Treasurer Bernard Fortz. Thank you very much to the organising and scientific committees for the perfect organisation, and the high scientific level. There were 109 participants at the conference, with 60 presentations in 18 parallel sessions, plus the two invited plenary presentations by Angel Corberan on *Arc Routing Problems with Profits*, and Luis Gouveia *On a formulation for the time-dependent travelling salesman problem*. And of course there was the special plenary session dedicated to the ORBEL 2012 award to which I come back below. I do not forget to mention the very pleasant dinner at Auberge De Boendael among so many friends, the new researcher generation being very well represented, and I was very pleased to notice that the 'relève' is on the way. Regarding finances the conference generated an impressive benefit of about 5.100 EUR. Congratulations!

This year the winners of the ORBEL 2012 sponsored by OM Partners were two sharing the 1.000 EURO award bestowed on the author of a scientifically oriented Master's thesis. Bart Gadeyne and Pieter Verhamme of UGent made a very dynamic presentation on their common work supervised by Professor Birger Raa entitled *Optimizing maritime container operations*. This award is continuously successful with five valuable Master's Theses in the 2012 shortlist. For 2013 on, I have been replaced in the task of jury president by our colleague at KUL Frits Spieksma, I would like to thank heartily for taking over. More information will come during the plenary award session at ORBEL 27.

During the General Assembly, which took place during the ORBEL 26 conference, we did welcome four new members for the board of administrators: I like to mention and thank first Wouter Blondeel of OM Partners, who has been so constantly present during so many past ORBEL conferences, and as a trustworthy member of the ORBEL award jury. Welcome also to Philippe Chevalier of UCL, Benoit David of N-side, and Mathieu Van Vyve of UCL.

Thierry Marchant, the Belgian Editorial Manager of 4OR provided the following information: since January 2012 the journal uses an online submission system, which is now running smoothly; the new website is active under the address <http://4OR.be>. The journal is currently preparing a volume with the surveys from the years 2009 to 2001, due to appear in Annals of Operations Research this year. Unfortunately the impact factor (IP) decreased from 0.69 in 2010 to 0.323 in 2011, because the number of citations from the two previous years decreased: there has been no editorial in 2011 for citing 4OR articles, and there were still many PhD abstracts that are never cited. There has been again an editorial in 2012, and the format of PhD abstracts has been changed, so that it is strongly hoped for that the IP will be increasing again from 2012 on. Volume 10 of 4OR was published during 2012. It contains 401

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pages, including 1 editorial, 3 invited surveys, 13 research papers, 16 PhD Thesis summaries, 1 Acknowledgement to Referees.

I now continue with other activities in 2012, which was particularly rich in scientific events connected to our society:

The Doctoral course 2012 was organised by Yves De Smet, Thierry Marchant and Marc Pirlot; it provided six lectures held at ULB and UMONS over the last academic year to doctoral students in multicriteria decision analysis and multi-objective optimisation.

BELSPO, the Belgian Science Policy Office has started in 2012 an *Interuniversity Attraction Pole* (IAP) as a support to the project «Combinatorial Optimization: Metaheuristics and EXact methods (COMEX)» coordinated by Bernard Fortz. The herewith created COMEX network involves seven Belgian research teams, active in this field on both sides of the linguistic border, all of them being well-represented within SOGESCI-B.V.W.B. Congratulations!

Michaël Schyns took an active part in the organising committee of the annual conference of the Belgian Statistics Society BSS 2012 at University of Liège.

The Wolsey award was organised for the first time in 2012: It rewards the author of the best and most significant OR implementation contributed to Open-Source during the year. Eight applications were introduced; the nominee will be known during ORBEL 27.

Our society gave a financial support to two activities in 2012:

- ✓ PMS 2012 - the 13th International Conference on Project Management and Scheduling held in Leuven, April 1-4, 2012.
- ✓ Workshop DA2PL - From multiple criteria Decision Aiding to Preference Learning, held at UMONS, November 15-16, 2012, organised by Marc Pirlot in the framework of the GDRI (Groupement de Recherche International) "Algorithmic Decision Theory", which is recognized and supported by CNRS (France), FNRS (Belgium), FNR (Luxemburg). Several of our administrators were members of the scientific committee.

Additional news from EURO in 2012:

- Fabrice Talla Nobibon (KUL) participated to the ELAVIO 2012 conference in Vale dos Vinhedos, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, in February;
- Jan Verstichel (KaHo Sint-Lieven in Ghent) participated to the EURO Summer Institute on 'Marine Logistics' held at Bremen/Germany in June;

To conclude this 2012 report I would like to thank you all for your contributions to our society, in particular our president Patrick De Causmaecker, also for organising ORBEL 27 at KULAK; Michaël Schyns for creating the brand-new ORBEL site www.orbel.be, and to François Glineur for the excellent job he has done as webmaster till last year; Bernard Fortz, our treasurer and liaison officer with EURO and IFORS, and for chairing ORBEL 26 in 2012; Filip Van Utterbeek, hosting our meetings at the Royal Military Academy.

Finally SOGESCI-B.V.W.B. also thanks the French Community of Belgium for its financial support.

On behalf of our society I wish you all a very happy and successful year 2013!

Pierre Kunsch, Delegate Administrator