

ORBEL

General Assembly meeting held at Centrale Lille

on Thursday 30 January 2020

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES IN 2019

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

This document reports on the following activities: the ORBEL 33 conference held at Hasselt University, the ORBEL award 2019, the involvement of the society into scientific publications, and news from other activities of the society in 2019.

The 33rd national conference on Operations Research, called **ORBEL 33**, has been organised by our board member An Caris and her team members at the Hasselt University on Thursday 7 and Friday 8 February 2019. The organising team has managed to host 109 participants, with 53 scheduled presentations and three invited talks. The following distinguished plenary speakers took the floor: (1) Claudia Archetti (Università degli Studi di Brescia, Brescia, Italy) with a talk entitled 'Vehicle routing problems and recent business trends'; (2) Sandra Transchel (Kühne Logistics University, Hamburg, Germany) with a talk entitled 'Quantitative modelling to manage supply chains for perishable products'; and (3) Richard Hartl (Universität Wien, Austria) with a talk 'Vehicle routing with equity and balance criteria: models, methods, insights'. The conference dinner took place in a place called Smaaksalon in the center of Hasselt city. The financial results and the number of ORBEL memberships obtained through subscription to the conference will be reported in the financial report to be presented by the treasurer. Many thanks to the organising team for the successful conference.

The **ORBEL award** is an award handed out by the 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 OM Partners (currently called OMP), a provider of supply chain planning software located in Wommelgem near Antwerp. Selected candidates present their work at the ORBEL conference and the award is handed over to the winner during the conference. For the ORBEL 2019 award, the jury, presided by our board member Jeroen Beliën, selected Hendrik Wijnant (Ghent University) to be the winner with his thesis entitled 'The influence of line balancing on line feeding for mixed-model assembly lines' with promoter Veronique Limère.

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). The details on the recent volume of the journal have been prepared by our board member Yves Crama.

Other activities, organised by members of the society, with support of the society, include the Belgian Mathematical Optimization workshop and the on-line availability of the articles of the JORBEL journal.

- (1) The Belgian Mathematical Optimization workshop took place at the Floréal in La-Roche-en-Ardenne on 25 and 26 April 2019. In a single session, twelve presentations were made by speakers from various Belgian universities, and two invited talks by Silvano Martello and by Claudia d'Ambrosio were added to the program. The organisation was in hands of our board member Bernard Fortz.
- (2) Our society had its own journal from 1961 till 2001 under different names, of which the last one was JORBEL. In the past years, the papers have been scanned in order to put them accessible through the website of ORBEL. In 2019 this website has been set up by our president Kenneth Sörensen and is now ready to go into operation.

I would like to thank all members of the society for bringing out research in their publications and presentations at the numerous conferences abroad to let the world know that there exists an active Operations Research Society in Belgium. Further, the board of administrators for observing and suggesting a good operation of the society. Let me mention at this point, the president, Kenneth Sörensen, who served already for one year, to keep the society alive with a great spirit. Thanks to Dries Goossens, of taking over the responsibility as treasurer for a long time. Thanks also to the ORBEL 33 organisers and hoping they can repeat this effort in a not too long time. Thanks to Jeroen Beliën for organising the ORBEL award before and during the conference. Thanks to Yves Crama for being the representation of the society to the journal 4OR. Thanks to Bernard Fortz for keeping the links active with EURO and IFORS. Thanks to Pieter Vansteenwegen for his active work as the ORBEL secretary.

Gerrit Janssens, Delegate Administrator on January 30, 2020