

ORBEL

General Assembly meeting held online

on Friday 5 February 2021

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES IN 2020

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

This document reports on the following activities: the ORBEL 34 conference held at Lille Central, the ORBEL award 2020, the involvement of the society into scientific publications, and news from other activities of the society in 2020.

The 34rd national conference on Operations Research, called **ORBEL 34**, has been organised by Diego Cattaruzza and his team members of the Ecole Centrale de Lille at their campus in Villeneuve-d'Ascq on Thursday 30 and Friday 31 January 2020. The organising team has managed to host 158 participants, with 82 scheduled presentations by researchers from 13 different countries, and two invited talks. The following distinguished plenary speakers took the floor: (1) Adam Letchford (Lancaster University, UK) with a talk entitled 'Fairness in Optimization (and Elsewhere)'; and (2) Miguel F. Anjos (The University of Edinburgh, Scotland) with a talk entitled 'Convex Optimization Approaches for Large-Scale Optimal Power Flow Problems'. The conference dinner took place at a restaurant called La Terrasse des Remparts in the old part of Lille (Vieux Lille). 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 number of participants probably has never been so high in the history of the ORBEL conferences.

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 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 2020 award, the jury, presided by our board member Jeroen Beliën, selected Lisa Popelier (Ghent University) to be the winner with her thesis entitled 'Balancing disassembly lines by consideration of tools and limited space' with promoter Veronique Limère and co-promoter Nico Schmid.

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, were non-existing. The society sponsored the International Colloquium on Graphs and Optimization (GO XI), to be held in Spa, but the event has been postponed till July 2021.

I would like to thank all members of the society for bringing out research in their publications and presentations at the numerous conferences, be it mostly online, 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, for being the president in the last two years and hopefully acting as vice-president for a number of years to come. Let me also welcome the new president, Yasemin Arda, to continue to keep the society alive with a great spirit. Thanks to Dries Goossens, for taking the responsibility as our treasurer. Thanks also to the ORBEL 34 organisers and hoping further successful ORBEL conferences will be hold in the near future. Thanks to the members who took the initiative for organising the 'corona sessions' as an alternative for an ORBEL conference in 2021. Thanks to Jeroen Beliën for organising the ORBEL award before and during the conference. Thanks to Pieter Vansteenwegen for his active work as the ORBEL secretary. 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 to Dimitri Papadimitriou for the links with IFORS.

Gerrit Janssens, Delegate Administrator on February 5, 2021