### **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 10, 2022, online

**Present:** An Caris, Dries Goossens, Bernard Fortz, Roel Leus, Gerrit Janssens, Jeroen Beliën, Patrick De Causmaecker, Dries Goossens, Kenneth Sörensen, Philippe Chevalier, Greet Vanden Berghe, Yasemin Arda, Dimitri Papadimitriou, Paquay Célia, Annick Sartenaer, Jean-Sébastien Tancrez, Hadrien Melot, Sabine Wittevrongel, Wouter Blondeel, Yves Crama, Tony Wauters, Pieter Vansteenwegen

Starting: 3.45 pm

Attached documents: Activity report 2021 (Gerrit Janssens) Financial report 2021 and budget 2022 (Dries Goossens) 4OR report (Yves Crama)

#### Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly, dated February 5, 2021 *Decision:* The minutes are approved without changes.

ORBEL activity report of the delegate Administrator
 Gerrit Janssens presents the activity report for the Year 2021.
 *Decision:* the report is officially acknowledged and unanimously approved.

3. Activity report from the OR Publication delegate on 4OR and OR Publications Yves Crama presents the report about 4OR and OR Publications. *Decision:* the report is officially acknowledged and unanimously approved.

4. Financial report by the Treasurer

Dries Goossens presents the financial situation of 2021 and the new budget for 2022.

5. Approval of the consolidated accounts for 2021 and of the budget for 2022. *Decision:* The general assembly approves unanimously the consolidated accounts for 2021 and budget for 2022.

6. Clearance for the board of administrators **Decision:** The general assembly unanimously gives clearance to the Administrators.

#### 7. Membership fees for 2023

**Unanimous decision:** two years ago, ORBEL increased its regular membership fee by 15 Euros and the student/retired fee by 10 Euros, to obtain a more balanced yearly budget. Any member may still request a paper (every member) or an electronic version (PhD students) for an additional fee ( $\leq$  15 each). Standard (regular) membership :  $\leq$  70

Students and retired person's membership:  ${\bf \xi}$  40

#### 8. ORBEL Conference

• ORBEL 2022 : initially planned on Feb.10-11, 2022 but cancelled due to COVID safety rules. Proposal to shift the conference to September 12-13, 2022. The organization committee and location remain unchanged (Tony Wauters, KU Leuven, Gent Technology Campus).

*Decision:* the general assembly approves unanimously to shift the ORBEL 2022 conference to September 2022.

• ORBEL 2023 : the QuantOM Research Group of HEC Liège – Management School of the University of Liège is candidate to organize the ORBEL conference in February 2023.

**Decision:** the general assembly approves unanimously the organization of the ORBEL 2023 conference by the QuantOM RG, ULiège.

9. Nominations for the Board of Administrators

#### 12 members elected for 2021 and 2022:

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

#### 24 members elected for 2022 and 2023:

- Arda, Yasemin
- Blondeel, Wouter
- Chevalier, Philippe
- Crama, Yves
- De Baets, Bernard
- De Causmaecker, Patrick
- De Smet, Yves
- Fortz, Bernard
- Janssens, Gerrit
- Kunsch, Pierre
- Mélot, Hadrien
- Papadimitriou, Dimitri
- Schyns, Michaël
- Vanden Berghe, Greet
- Vansteenwegen, Pieter
- Wittevrongel, Sabine
- Braekers, Kris (UHasselt)
- Verbeke, Wouter (KU Leuven)
- Schauss, Pierre (UCL)
- Benoit, Dries (Ugent)
- Coussement, Kristof (IÉSEG School of Management (France)
- Pironet, Thierry (ULiège)
- Paquay, Célia (ULiège)

• Vandaele, Arnaud (UMONS)

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

Finishing: 4:25 pm. online, February 10, 2021

Yasemin ArdaPieter VansteenwegenPresidentSecretary

### OR Publications Activity Report for the year 2021

#### 1 Main activity

The only activity of the GEIE OR-Publications has been to hold the rights on the name of the journal 4OR, published by Springer, and to maintain the website 4or.be.

#### 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 year.

balance on February 4, 2021	230.48 EUR
Web site fees OVH	-25.37 EUR
bank fees	$-16.80 \ \mathrm{EUR}$
balance on February 9, 2022	188.31 EUR

Yves Crama

February 9, 2022

#### <u>Results</u>

	IN			
	2020	2021	budget 2021	
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]	
membership	1570,00	8156,00	5700,00	
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	1570,00	8156,00	5700,00	

	OUT			
	2020	2021	budget 2021	
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]	
memberships	222,50	100,00	200,00	
publications	1855,69	134,55	2000,00	
workshops	1000,00	0,00	2000,00	
secretariat	600,00	632,83	650,00	
website	25,00	25,00	25,00	
bank costs	47,00	61,85	50,00	
borsalino	0,00	1758,80	1800,00	
total	3750,19	2713,03	6725,00	
net result	-2180,19	5442,97	-1025,00	

#### <u>Balance</u>

#### Assets

	1/1/21	12/31/21
	[Eur]	[Eur]
KBC current	25689,47	35174,36
VAT account	2198,41	2198,41
Others	-9314,83	-13356,75
total	18573,05	24016,02

#### Liabilities

	1/1/21	31/12/21
	[Eur]	[Eur]
capital	20000,00	18000,00
reserves	753,24	573,05
net result	-2180,19	5442,97
Total	18573,05	24016,02

#### BUDGET 2022

#### IN

	2021	budget 2021	budget 2022
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
membership	8156,00	5700,00	3000,00
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	8156,00	5700,00	3000,00

	2021	budget 2021	budget 2022	
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]	
memberships	100,00	200,00	200,00	
publications	134,55	2000,00	2000,00	
workshops	0,00	2000,00	2000,00	
secretariat	632,83	650,00	650,00	
website	25,00	25,00	25,00	
bank costs	61,85	50,00	50,00	
borsalino	1758,80	1800,00	0,00	
total	2713,03	6725,00	4925,00	
net result	5442,97	-1025,00	-1925,00	

### 40R: Activity report 2021

February 10, 2022

### 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, Kenneth Sörensen, Dorothée Honhon (U of Texas Dallas).
- Frequent movements: no statutory duration of mandate, but some resignations and replacements.

# Volume 19 (2021)

(compared with Volume 18, 2020)

- 4 issues, 638 pages (up from 532)
- 2 invited surveys (down from 4)
- 20 research papers (up from 15)
- 3 educational papers (up from 0)
- 8 PhD theses abstracts (4 of which defended in Belgium) (from 8, 2 of which in B.)
- No industry paper

Impact factors (for what they're worth...) :

- ISI Web of Knowledge latest (2020) Impact Factor is
  1.545.
- It was 1.143 for 2019, 2.056 for 2018, 1.206 for 2017, 1.559 for 2016, 1.371 for 2015. (Smaller number of surveys published in 2017-2018!)
- Scopus 2019 Citescore is 2.7 (191 citations in 2017-2020 for 71 papers published in same period); previously, 2.9 for 2019, 3.1 for 2018, 2.8 for 2017, 3.2 for 2016, 2.4 for 2015). Top 35% of publications in MIS or in MSOR

• Slightly increasing trend in long-term flow of submissions:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
203	231	333	278	275

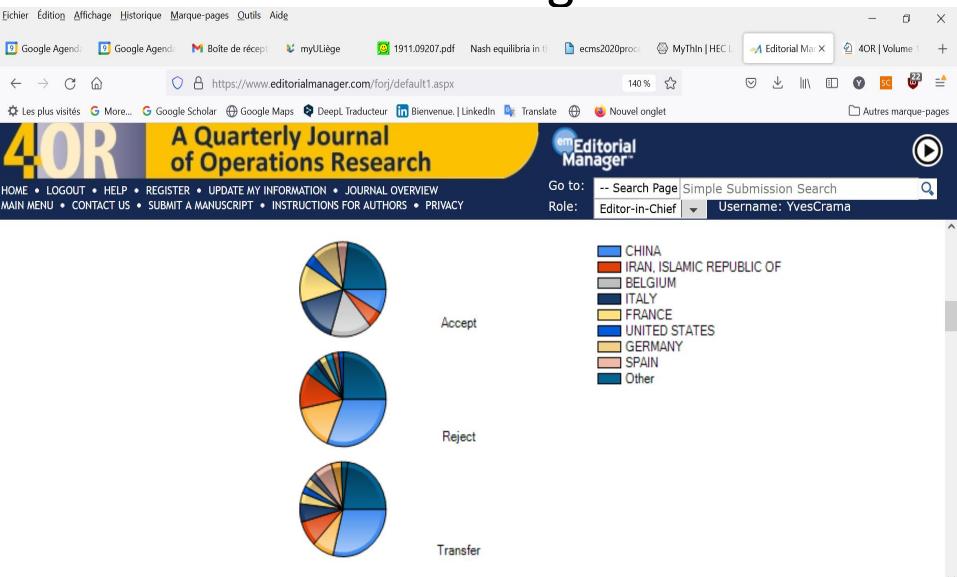
• Number of accepted papers is stable (increased in 2020):

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
29	27	29	40	25

• Percentage of accept/RR/reject decisions per year

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Α	15%	16%	11%	15%	10%
RR	15%	14%	9%	15%	11%
R	71%	70%	80%	69%	79%

- $\approx 45\%$  of decisions within 20 days ( $\approx$  "desk rejections")
- Lots of very weak or inappropriate papers:
  - artificially complex models + ILP formulation + arbitrary (meta)heuristics
  - papers in economics, suply chain management, finance, without much (if any) OR content or originality.
  - papers closer to numerical analysis than OR
  - low level (average master thesis), poor English, ...
- But also: very good papers by well-known international researchers.



- Number of published pages has been stable at around 110 pages per issue, 450 pages per year for several years.
- Increase starting in 2019 (reduction of backlog).
- 530 pages in 2019, 640 pages in 2020.
- For more information (2018-2020), see our recent editorial paper

Crama, Y., Grabisch, M. & Martello, S. 4OR comes of age. 4OR-Q J Oper Res 19, 1–13 (2021)

### Conclusions

- The journal is doing well.
- Quantity of submissions tends to increase.
- Our number of citations remains too limited.
- Thanks to all the editors and reviewers!

#### ORBEL

### General Assembly meeting held online on Thursday 10 February 2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES IN 2021

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

Despite the lack of physical interaction in our classical activities, this document reports on the following activities: the ORBEL Corona Sessions, the involvement of the society into scientific publications, and news from other activities of the society in 2021.

Long before its actual happening, it became clear that our 35<sup>th</sup> national conference on Operations Research, called **ORBEL 35**, could not take place in its usual form. The organiser, Kenneth Sörensen, launched the idea of replacing the conference by a number of online sessions and coordinated them. Five thematic sessions were scheduled. A sixth session dealt with the ORBEL award for the best Master thesis. The thematic sessions took place in January and February on the following themes: Staff Scheduling; Business Analytics; Public Transport; Collaborative Logistics; and Data-driven Decisions in OR. The sessions included four to five presentations and were attended by 30 to 50 persons. Thanks also to the colleagues who organised the content of the sessions. I would like to mention Pieter Smet, Hatice Calik, Stiene Praet, Lissa Melis, Christof Defryn, and Victor Bucarey Lopez. Please note that the recordings are available on our website <u>www.orbel.be/coronasessions/progdetail.php</u>.

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. Selected candidates presented their work at one of the Corona-sessions, the ORBEL Award session in March. For the ORBEL 2021 award, the jury, presided by our board member Roel Leus, selected Valentin Langue (ULiège) to be the winner with his thesis entitled 'Robust Optimization of Specific Scheduling Problems' with promotor Yves Crama.

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.

Note that the archiving process of our previous journal called **JORBEL** (and several other names before that) is now completed (it means the scanning work of the students has been paid) and is available through our website:

#### www.orbel.be/jorbel/index.php/jorbel/issue/archive

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 in 2021, to let the world know that there exists an active Operations Research Society in Belgium. Further, thanks go the board of administrators for observing and suggesting a good operation of the society. Let me also thank our captain, the president, Yasemin Arda, to continue to keep the society alive with a great spirit, this year and in 2022 even more. Thanks also go to Dries Goossens, for taking the responsibility as our treasurer. Thanks to Pieter Vansteenwegen for his active work as the ORBEL secretary and 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 10, 2022