

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-Iaan, B-1000 Bruxelles-Brussel

Minutes of the General Assembly

May 25, 2023, online

Present: An Caris, Yasemin Arda, Kristof Coussement, Dries Goossens, Bernard Fortz, Gerrit Janssens, Greet Vanden Berghe, Jean-Sebastien Tancrez, Kenneth Sørensen, Patrick De Causmaecker, Roel Leus, Annick Sartenaer, Celia Paquay, Dimitri Papadimitriou, Yves Crama, Tony Wauters, Thierry Pironet, Célia Paquay, Maarten Wens, Sabine Limbourg, Jochen De Weerd, Anisha Maharani, Emiline Leloup, Julie Jamar, Tanguy Baiwir, Morgane Dumont, Thierry Pironet, Benjamin Peratton, Wouter Verbeke, Pieter Vansteenwegen, Wouter Blondeel, Christof Defryn

Starting: 5.15 pm

Attached documents:

Activity report 2022 (Gerrit Janssens)

Financial report 2022 and budget 2023 (Dries Goossens)

4OR report (Yves Crama)

Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly, dated February 10, 2022

Decision: The minutes are approved without changes.

2. ORBEL activity report of the delegate Administrator

Gerrit Janssens presents the activity report for the Year 2022.

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.

Should 4OR become open access? This is proposed by the French OR society.

We support the proposal to ask for more information and to set up a working group, with the editors-in-chief, to look further into this idea.

4. Financial report by the Treasurer

Dries Goossens presents the financial situation of 2022 and the new budget for 2023.

5. Approval of the consolidated accounts for 2022 and of the budget for 2023.

Decision: The general assembly approves unanimously the consolidated accounts for 2022 and budget for 2023.

6. Clearance for the board of administrators

Decision: The general assembly unanimously gives clearance to the Administrators.

7. Membership fees for 2024

Standard (regular) membership: € 70

Students and retired person's membership: € 40

Students get free membership if they participate in the ORBEL conference.

A personal membership includes online subscription to 4OR. Any member may still request a paper version of 4OR for an additional fee (€15). Student members, registered via the conference, can request online subscription to 4OR for an additional fee (€15). If they register separate from the conference, an online subscription to 4OR is included.

8. Next ORBEL Conferences

- 2024: Antwerp University! - January/February or May(Christof Defryn, Kenneth Sörensen)
- 2025: Maastricht University - 29/01 – 31/01/2025 (Christof Defryn, Tjark Vredeveld) together with NGB (The Netherlands).

9. Nominations for the Board of Administrators

12 members elected for 2023 and 2024:

- Aghezzaf, El-Houssaine
- Beliën, Jeroen
- Caris, An
- Defryn Christof (Maastricht University/Antwerp University)
- 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
- Benoit, Dries
- Blondeel, Wouter
- Braekers, Kris
- Chevalier, Philippe
- Coussement, Kristof
- Crama, Yves
- De Baets, Bernard
- De Causmaecker, Patrick
- De Smet, Yves
- Fortz, Bernard
- Janssens, Gerrit
- Kunsch, Pierre
- Mélot, Hadrien
- Papadimitriou, Dimitri
- Paquay, Célia
- Pironet, Thierry
- Schauss, Pierre
- Schyns, Michaël
- Vandaele, Arnaud

- Vanden Berghe, Greet
- Vansteenwegen, Pieter
- Verbeke, Wouter
- Wittevrongel, Sabine

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

10. Miscellaneous:

- EURO representatives: Someone should replace Bernard Fortz and Pierre Kunsch?
- IFORS representative: Dimitri still wants to represent us.
- WISDOM representative: Someone should replace Yasemin.

We will circulate these positions by email. We should have names before the next ORBEL conference.

*Finishing: 6.19 pm.
May 25, 2023*

*Yasemin Arda
President*

*Pieter Vansteenwegen
Secretary*

ORBEL

General Assembly meeting held online

on Thursday 25 May 2023

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES IN 2022

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

This document reports on the following activities: the ORBEL 36 conference held at Gent Technology Campus, the ORBEL award 2022, the involvement of the society into scientific publications, and news from other activities of the society in 2022.

The 36th national conference on Operations Research, called **ORBEL 36**, has been organised by Tony Wauters and his team members Luke Connolly and Jeroen Gardeyn of the KULeuven at their Technology campus in Gent on Monday 12 and Tuesday 13 September 2022. After a two year break due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference provided a welcome return to a live and in-person conference for our members. The organising team has managed to host 107 participants (of which 64 (PhD)-students and 43 non-students, with 66 scheduled presentations across 23 parallel sessions, and two invited talks. For the first time, also three specific sessions on Data Science were organised. The conference enjoyed the support of three sponsors: OMP, GUROBI and N-SIDE.

The following distinguished plenary speakers took the floor: (1) Antonio Martinez-Sykora (University of Southampton, UK) with a talk entitled 'Irregular packing problems: models, algorithms and challenges'; and (2) Michael Schneider (RWTH Aachen, Germany) with a talk entitled 'Location routing problems: state-of-the-art heuristics and recent developments. The conference dinner took place at a restaurant called Brasserie Pakhuis in the historic city centre of Gent. Many thanks to the organising team for the successful conference.

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 in an online session on 11 February 2022. For the ORBEL 2022 award, the jury, presided by our board member Roel Leus, selected Joren s' Jongers from KULeuven to be the winner with his thesis entitled 'Rostering use case bij Kinderziekenhuis' with promoters our board member Patrick De Causmaecker together with Wannes Meert.

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.

Regarding other activities of our members related to ORBEL, EURO or IFORS, it should be mentioned that our board member Yves Crama chaired the jury of the **EURO Doctoral Dissertation Award** in 2022. The award was handed out during the closing ceremony of the EURO Conference in Helsinki. Among the finalists was Jérôme De Boeck, a former doctoral student of our board member Bernard Fortz at ULB.

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 live or online in 2022, to let the world know that there exists an active Operations Research Society in Belgium. Further, my thanks go to 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, the previous year and a continuation in 2023. 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. Today I want to stress the excellent work by Pieter during the last ten years and we are looking for a new secretary to serve our society. Thanks 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 May 25, 2023

ORBEL vzw

Société Belge de Recherche Opérationnelle / Belgische Vereniging voor Operationeel Onderzoek

IBAN: BE94 7390 1940 1314 — BIC: KREDBEBB

ASBL/VZW n° 406.630.532 - Siège Social/Sociale zetel: 30 Av.Renaissance-laan, B-1040

Results

IN

	2021	2022	budget 2022
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
membership	8156,00	3655,00	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	3655,00	3000,00

OUT

	2021	2022	budget 2022
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
memberships	100,00	286,25	200,00
publications	134,55	1194,46	2000,00
workshops	0,00	1000,00	2000,00
secretariat	632,83	600,00	650,00
website	25,00	30,00	25,00
bank costs	61,85	41,50	50,00
borsalino	1758,80	0,00	0,00
total	2713,03	3152,21	4925,00
net result	5442,97	502,79	-1925,00

Balance

Assets

	1/1/22	12/31/22
	[Eur]	[Eur]
KBC current	35174,36	39551,55
VAT account	2198,41	2198,41
Others	-13356,75	-17231,15
total	24016,02	24518,81

Liabilities

	1/1/22	31/12/22
	[Eur]	[Eur]
capital	18000,00	20000,00
reserves	573,05	4016,02
net result	5442,97	502,79
Total	24016,02	24518,81

BUDGET 2023

IN

	2022	budget 2022	budget 2023
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
membership	3655,00	3000,00	5000,00
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	3655,00	3000,00	5000,00

OUT

	2022	budget 2022	budget 2023
	[Eur]	[Eur]	[Eur]
memberships	286,25	200,00	300,00
publications	1194,46	2000,00	1750,00
workshops	1000,00	2000,00	2000,00
secretariat	600,00	650,00	650,00
website	30,00	25,00	30,00
bank costs	41,50	50,00	50,00
total	3152,21	4925,00	4780,00
net result	502,79	-1925,00	220,00

4OR: Activity report 2022

May 25, 2023

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

Volume 20 (2022)

(compared with Volume 19, 2021)

- 4 issues, 720 pages (vs 638)
- 4 invited surveys (vs 2)
- 20 research papers (vs 20)
- 1 educational paper (vs 3)
- 4 PhD theses abstracts (all defended in Belgium) (vs 8, 4 of which in Belgium)
- No industry paper

Facts and figures

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

- ISI Web of Knowledge latest (2021) **Impact Factor** is **1.763**.
- It was **1.545** in 2020, **1.143** in 2019, **2.056** in 2018, **1.206** in 2017, **1.559** in 2016, **1.371** for 2015. (Smaller number of surveys published in 2017-2018!)
- Scopus 2019 **Citescore** is **2.8** (221 citations in 2018-2021 for 78 papers published in same period); previously, **2.7** in 2020, **2.9** for 2019, **3.1** for 2018, **2.8** for 2017, **3.2** for 2016, **2.4** for 2015). Top 40% of publications in MIS or in MSOR

Facts and figures

- Number of submissions:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
203	231	333	278	275	281

- Number of accepted papers is stable:

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
29	27	29	40	25	29

- Percentage of accept/R&R/reject decisions

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
A	15%	16%	11%	15%	10%	10%
RR	15%	14%	9%	15%	11%	10%
R	71%	70%	80%	69%	79%	80%

Facts and figures

- \approx 75% of decisions within 30 days (\approx mostly “desk rejections”)
- Lots of very weak or inappropriate papers:
 - artificially complex models + ILP formulation + arbitrary (meta)heuristics
 - papers in economics, supply 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.

Facts and figures

- 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, 720 pages in 2021.
- For more information (2018-2020), see the editorial
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.
- Stabilized number of submissions and of accepted papers.
- Our number of citations remains too limited.
- Thanks to all the editors and reviewers!

OR Publications: Activity report

OR Publications: Activity Report

February 2022 - May 2023

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 period.

balance on February 9, 2022	188.31 EUR
bank fees	-61.14 EUR
balance on May 5, 2023	127.17 EUR