

ORBEL

General Assembly meeting at University of Mons on Thursday January 30, 2014 Annual report of activities in 2013

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

SOGESCI-B.V.W.B. proposed to change its solemn, but also somewhat dusty name, into ORBEL, and it will get new statutes – when approved by the General Assembly - from 2014 on. On behalf of all members I would like to thank the new president Yves Crama for this long-expected change!

As usual I will be starting my report by mentioning the three main activities and services of our society in 2013, namely the ORBEL 27 conference, the ORBEL award 2013, and the 4OR publications.

The 27th yearly national ORBEL conference of SOGESCI-B.V.W.B. on Operations Research was held at KUL At Kortrijk (KULAK) on Thursday & Friday February 7-8, 2013. This edition was chaired by our president Patrick De Causmaecker. Thank you very much to the organising and scientific committees for the high quality of the conference: there were 92 participants, of which 49 students, 29 regular, 1 retired, 2 others and 11 institutional at the conference, with 54 abstracts presented in 20 parallel sessions. Two invited plenary speakers took the floor: El-Ghazali Talbi spoke about *Metaheuristics for multi-objective optimization - A unified view*, and Andrea Schaerf lectured about *Educational Timetabling: Problems, Benchmarks, Algorithms, Software Tools, and Practical Issues*. Of course there was also the special plenary session dedicated to the ORBEL 2013 award to which I come back below. Around 1700-1800 euro of profit is expected, next to membership fees. During the Administration board following the GA in Kortrijk Yves Crama took over the presidency for the coming two years from Patrick. Congratulations to Yves and good luck for the presidency!

This year the winners of the ORBEL 2013 sponsored by OM Partners were two sharing the 1000 EURO award bestowed on the author of a scientifically oriented Master's thesis. The jury, presided for the first time by Frits Spijksma, selected Cyrille Lefevre and Sophie Marquet from UCL/Core for their Master's Thesis entitled "Optimization of patient transport dispatching in hospitals" supervised by François Glineur.

Regarding 4OR volume 11 was published during 2013: it contains 400 pages, including 1 editorial, 4 invited surveys, 13 research papers, 13 PhD Thesis summaries, 1 Acknowledgement to Referees. Unfortunately the Impact factor problem was not entirely solved in 2013, but it should be noted that the IF moved up to 0.73 in 2012 from a much lower value in 2011. Thank you to Thierry Marchant for his dedicated work.

I now continue with other activities in 2013, which was particularly rich in scientific events connected to our society:

SOGESCI B.V.W.B Activity report 2013 by Pierre Kunsch, Delegate Administrator, January 2014

The Wolsey award rewards each year the author of the best and most significant OR implementation contributing to Open-Source during the year. The nominee for 2013 was Tias Guns (KU Leuven). Congratulations !

Our society gave a financial support to three activities in 2013:

- ✓ Marc Pirlot and Yves De Smet organised the 3rd International Conference on Algorithmic Decision Theory (ADT 2013) on 13-15 November 2013 at ULB;
- ✓ Greet Vanden Berghe organised the 6th Multidisciplinary International Scheduling Conference: Theory and Applications (MISTA) on 27-30 August 2013 at KUL Gent;
- ✓ Mathieu Van Vyve organised the fourth edition of the International Workshop on Lot-Sizing at the "University Foundation" in Brussels on 26-28 August 2013.

Additional news from EURO in 2013:

- The EthOR Award, organised by the EURO Working Group on "Ethics and OR" created by Jean-Pierre Brans, was attributed for the first time at the EURO/INFORMS 2013 conference in Rome. Its purpose is to distinguish an outstanding Master's Thesis or PhD Dissertation promoting ethical dimensions in OR-based studies. I have contributed in establishing the rules of the award under the inspiration of our yearly ORBEL award.

To conclude this 2013 report I would like to thank you all for your contributions to our society, in particular our president Patrick De Causmaecker for his active presidency in the past years; Bernard Fortz, our treasurer and liaison officer with EURO and IFORS; Pieter Vansteenwegen for his active work as ORBEL secretary; Filip Van Utterbeek, hosting our meetings at the Royal Military Academy.

On behalf of our society I wish you all a very happy and successful year 2014!

Pierre Kunsch, Delegate Administrator