

ORBEL

General Assembly meeting held at Hasselt University

on Thursday 7 February 2019

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES IN 2018

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

This document reports on the following activities: the ORBEL 32 conference held at HEC Liège, the ORBEL award 2018, the involvement of the society into scientific publications, and news from other activities of the society in 2018.

The 32nd national conference on Operations Research, called **ORBEL 32**, has been organised by our administrators Yasemin Arda, Yves Crama and Michael Schyns and their team members at the HEC Liège - Management School of the University of Liège on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 February 2018. The organising team has managed to host 137 participants, with 80 scheduled presentations and three invited talks. The following distinguished plenary speakers took the floor: (1) Michel Bierlaire (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland) with a talk entitled 'Modeling advanced disaggregate demand as MILP'; (2) Dominique Feillet (Ecole des Mines de Saint-Etienne and LIMOS, France) with a talk entitled 'Vehicle routing problems with road network information'; and (3) Martin Savelsbergh (H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, GeorgiaTech, USA) with a talk 'Recent advances in criterion space search algorithms for multi-objective mixed integer programming'. The conference dinner took place in a beautiful historic setting on the first floor of the Théâtre de Liège. 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 thesis on Operations Research. The award amounts to 1000 Euro and is sponsored by OM Partners, a provider of supply chain planning software located in Wommelgem. Selected candidates present their work at the ORBEL conference and the award is handed over to the winner during the conference. For the ORBEL 2018 award, the jury, presided by Frits Spieksma, selected Fränk Plein (Research group GOM, ULB) with his thesis entitled 'Analysis of a problem in product pricing' with promoter Martine Labbé. We would like to thank Frits Spieksma for organising the selection of the winner for several years and to Jeroen Beliën for taking over this duty.

With respect to the publications, the society is actively involved in the journal **4OR (A quarterly journal of operations research)** through the duty of main editor of Yves Crama (together with Michel Grabisch and Silvano Martello). The details on the recent volume of the journal will be presented by Yves Crama.

Other activities, organised by members of the society, with or without support of the society include the OR2018 conference and a workshop on fairness in sports.

- (1) The annual international conference of the German Operations Research Society (GOR) has been co-organised in 2018 with the society ORBEL took place on 11-14 September 2018 at the MCE Conference Center in Brussels. Administration member Bernard Fortz did hold the chair of the conference, while other administration members Martine Labbé and Yves Crama also did make part of the organising committee. The conference attracted 574 participants of which 63 from Belgium. No financial contribution has been asked from ORBEL. Further details can be found on www.or2018.be.
- (2) The 'Fairness in Sports' workshop has been organised by administration member Dries Goossens as a 1-day event on 12 April 2018, hosted by Ghent University. The workshop aims to bring together researchers and practitioners with an interest in sports research, and fairness in particular. The workshop was sponsored by the society (next to a sponsoring by the EURO working group in Sports). For details see www.sportscheduling.ugent.be/workshop/
- (3) In 2018, Bernard Fortz was the liaison officer of ORBEL with the federations EURO and IFORS.

I would like to thank all members for bringing out research in their publications and presentations at the numerous conference abroad to let the world know that there exist 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, Michael Schyns 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 also the new president, Kenneth Sörensen, to continue with a great spirit the work of his predecessors. Thanks to Dries Goossens of taking over the responsibility as treasurer for a long time. Thanks also to the ORBEL 32 organisers and hoping they can repeat this effort in a not too long time. Thanks to Frits Spijksma for finalising the work on the ORBEL award 2018 at last ORBEL conference and to Jeroen Beliën of initiating this work during the year 2018. Thanks to Yves Crama for being the link 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. And finally, thanks to Pierre Kunsch for holding the task of delegate administrator for a large number of years, which I humbly take over by now.

Gerrit Janssens, Delegate Administrator on February 7, 2019