

Danish Operations Research Society (DORS) General assembly April 22, 2022

President report, year 2021-2022

First, let me say how nice it is to have again a physical general assembly of the Danish OR Society. Last year's general assembly was not what could be called a success. Thought we were so lucky that Hildur attended the meeting, more-or-less as the only participant beside the board, and that she decided to join the board.

DORS is a non-political organization. Nevertheless, the board felt that the Russian invasion of Ukraine was not something that could be ignored. DORS is, in collaboration with other national societies, discussing what could be done. Discussions now fall under the temporary expulsion of the Russian federation from IFORS (the International Federation of OR Societies) and giving support to create a Ukrainian OR society once the war is over. In the meantime, DORS has issued an official statement condemning the war. You have all received a copy. The statement is also available in the DORS website. A similar statement was also issued by IFORS.

Due to the war, most of us have almost forgotten COVID-19. Nevertheless, the pandemic has had an impact also on this year's events.

Events/meeting

Our annual conference, Applications of Optimization (AOO), could not be run as usual due to the Omicron variant and the consequent spikes in the infections. We were not ready to give-up on AOO, and we did not want to have a virtual conference. It was then decided to reschedule AOO until the 4th of October. The event featured mainly local speakers: Michael Lindahl from PORTCHAIN, Ida Græsted Jensen from the Energy Modelling Lab, Katherine Dykes from DTU Wind Energy, Henrik Caroe Bylling from IKEA, and Niels-Christian Fink Bagger from Novo Nordisk. The event was a great success, and I would like to thank David Franz Koza and Joao Fonseca for organizing it.

Aarhus University organized the OR Day on October 7th. The event was well attended and featured speakers from Aalborg CSP, Salling Group and Unifeeder.

In September, to celebrate the reopening on society after various lockdowns, we held a DORS Get-together. Each of the institutional members of DORS were given funds to organize a local networking event. CBS, DTU and SDU took on the offer. The event featured 2 presentations that were streamed online, followed a local networking event.

The DORS Company visit was planned, but it was cancelled due to the uncertainty brought by COVID, and the overlap with other events. The host is, however, still interested and we will announce the new visit in due time.

Members and membership

DORS has currently 381 active members of which 222 are private members, 135 are student members, 15 are company members, 7 are institute members and 2 are honors members.

ORbit

Julia Pahl, the editor of ORbit, stepped down this year. I want to thank Julia for her hard work on Orbit, and I would like to thank Joao Fonseca for stepping in as the new editor. For many years we have had problems typesetting articles into Orbit. Especially articles with mathematical formulas. This year we launched a new Latex template which have now made the editing process much simpler.

The past two Orbits have been delivered rather late, and this is mainly due to a lack of contributions; hence I would like to take this chance to encourage all our members to send us your OR stories. The aim of ORbit is to publish popular science articles about OR in an easy to understand language. The content of the articles can be broad and span from the latest research contribution to a general description of how OR is used in the industry. Small articles (up to one page) are rewarded with 500 DKK, while longer contributions will receive 1000 DKK. The reward price is fixed and it is independent of the number of authors. This practice was introduced in ORbit 20 in an attempt to increase the number of submitted articles. It is hard to say if this has worked, but so long as the economy of DORS allows it, it has been decided to proceed with this practice.

DORS prize

The DORS Prize 2021 committee consisted of Harilaos Psaraftis, Oli B. Madsen, and Beizhen Jia. The committee has unanimously decided to give the DORS Prize to Marine Manon Carla Gautier, supervised by David Pisinger (DTU). Marine has, in her MSc thesis, worked with "Sequence building with narrow time windows in transport planning", where she has developed two meta-heuristics based on GRASP and ALNS. The algorithms were tested on real-life problems provided by a transportation company.

Website and member database

The board has been working on finding a suitable member management system which we hope will simplify the management of payment and member's information. Within next year, the board expects to move to the WinCAS system, which will feature a portal where each member will be able to edit personal information such as mailing addresses.

EURO'24

The DORS board, in collaboration with DTU and Wonderful Copenhagen, sent a bid for hosting EURO 2024. EURO is the largest European conference on operations research, featuring 3 days with several parallel session and invited talks. DORS won the bid and is now the official organizer of EURO'24. The conference will be held in the DTU campus, and the organizing committee includes representatives from all our institute members.

In conclusion, I believe that DORS has done well this year and I hope to be able to see you many of you physically at AOO 2022!

Yours sincerely

Dario Pacino
The president of DORS