Institutional Operations Research in Germany can look back at a remarkably long history, which started with the Arbeitskreis Operations Research (AKOR, founded in 1956) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Unternehmensforschung (DGU, 1961). In 1972 AKOR and DGU were merged to form the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Operations Research (DGOR). From 1979 onwards, when the Gesellschaft für Mathematik, Ökonometrie und Operations Research (GMÖOR) was established, two societies for the promotion of Operations Research in Germany existed in parallel, of which DGOR was considered to be more practically/management-oriented, while GMÖOR represented the more theoretically/mathematically oriented branch of Operations Research. In 1998, GMÖOR and DGOR decided to join forces in order to establish a more powerful and influential, unified society, the Gesellschaft für Operations Research (GOR).

Today, GOR has a total membership of about 1,200, individuals and institutions, originating from academia, industry and administration. The current membership fee is 80 Euros for personal members and 300 Euros (minimum) for institutional members, providing a total budget of some 100,000 Euros per year. Contact among members is maintained and information is distributed between them by means of a webpage (http://www.gor-online.de/), a membership magazine (OR News, contents and presentation similar to OR/MS Today, published three times a year), and an electronic newsletter (distributed when required). These services are included in the membership fee and provided free of additional charges.

GOR publishes two scientific journals, OR Spectrum (ORS) and Mathematical Methods of Operations Research (MMOR). Both journals are published in English, and are ranked among the top OR journals internationally. Members of GOR receive one of these journals for free, a second one can be subscribed at a significantly reduced rate (55 Euros at present). Furthermore, GOR has recently launched a book series (GOR Publications, published by Springer Verlag) which is meant to demonstrate the high standards of contributions from its members to Operations Research / Management Science and to make them more easily available, in particular to researchers and practitioners from outside the German-speaking countries.

Among the meetings which are organized regularly by GOR, the annual conference series OR20xx without doubt represents the most important one. OR20xx is an international scientific conference (conference languages are German and English, but the large majority of papers is presented in English) which constantly attracts between 400 and 600 participants, not only from Germany but from all over the world. It is usually held during the first week of September and provides a forum for the presentation of the latest developments in the field, both from a scientific and a practical point of view. The conference program is complemented by a significant number of tutorials, plenary and semi-plenary talks in which internationally renowned experts give an overview of specific areas of current interest. A selection of papers from each conference is published in the book series “Operations Research Proceedings 20xx” (also by Springer Verlag). Conference fees are currently about 175 Euros for GOR members, and 250 Euros for non-members. Students only pay a symbolic fee. The conference forthcoming in 2006 will be held at Karlsruhe, September 6 – 8; “Basel II” has been chosen as
At least once a year, usually one day ahead of its annual conference, GOR offers a one-day **tutorial** on a topic, which is considered as vital for the future development of Operations Research in Germany. The tutorial aims at introducing interested individuals to a particular topic of OR, but is also meant to establish closer contacts between practitioners and researchers in the respective area. It is usually presented by an internationally renowned expert in the field. Recently successful topics include Revenue Management (Presenter: Kalyan Talluri, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona), System Dynamics (John Sterman, MIT, Cambridge, Mass.), and Business Intelligence (David Hand, Imperial College, London).

Working groups represent another important asset of GOR. They particularly serve the purpose of establishing and strengthening the contacts between industry, administration, and academia. GOR currently runs 13 of such groups, among which are those in Revenue Management and Dynamic Pricing, Supply Chain Management, Health Care Management, Environmental Management, Project Management and Scheduling, just to mention a few. Allocated to each of the working groups is a small financial budget, from which meetings and specialised conferences are organised. Each working group is required to meet at least once a year, ideally at an industrial enterprise active in the specific area. The schedule of the forthcoming working group meetings can be obtained from the GOR webpage (http://www.gor-online.de/).

GOR also presents several **awards**, of which the “Wissenschaftspreis” (Scientific Award, currently sponsored by INFORM GmbH, Aachen) is the most prestigious one. Every second year it is given to a person “with a German background” for outstanding scientific lifetime achievements. The laureates so far include Martin Grötschel, Thomas Liebling, Bernhard Fleischmann, and Rolf Möhring. Very well established is GOR’s Dissertation Award (sponsored by SAP, Walldorf) which is given every year to up to five PhD students for excellent doctoral dissertations. Likewise, up to three graduate students get awarded a “Diplomarbeitspreis” for their diploma or master theses. In 2006, for the first time also a “Unternehmenspreis” will be presented to a company for outstanding contributions to the promotion of OR in practice. It is planned that in future the award is handed out every second year, alternating with the Wissenschaftspreis.

GOR also maintains close **international relations** with other scientific and professional organizations, not only within EURO and IFORS, but also on a bilateral level. Partnership contracts, which, e.g., have been signed in the past with the Operations Research Societies of Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, the Netherlands, and Hungary, give members of these societies access to GOR’s services under conditions identical to those granted by GOR to its own members (in particular at the same fees) and vice versa. Traditionally, the annual conferences of the Austrian, Swiss, and German OR Societies are organized as a joint meeting every fourth year (Zürich 1998, Klagenfurt 2002, Karlsruhe 2006). On a less regular basis, this is also done in cooperation with NGB, the OR Society of the Netherlands (Tilburg 2004).

Despite its wide range of activities, GOR is characterised by an extremely “lean”, decentralized organisation. GOR only maintains a small office which is run by a secretary on a part-time basis. All the above-mentioned and other services could not be provided without the outstanding engagement of its members.

Bochum, January 2006