Kenneth Sörensen (Antwerp, Belgium, 1974) graduated as a commercial engineer in information systems from the University of Antwerp in 1997. He obtained his PhD entitled "A framework for robust and flexible optimisation using metaheuristics" from the University of Antwerp in 2003 and continued as a post-doctoral researcher at the UAntwerp. During 2006 and 2009, he worked as a postdoc researcher of the Flemish Fund for Scientific Research (FWO) at the Faculty of Engineering of the KULeuven. In 2009, Kenneth Sörensen was appointed as a Research Professor of the Faculty of Applied Economics of the University of Antwerp, a position he holds to date. Within this Faculty, he founded the ANT/OR research group, that focuses on applications of operations research. This research group has already delivered six finished PhDs, all under the supervision of Kenneth Sörensen, and currently consists of three professors and about ten PhD students.

Kenneth Sörensen has published a large number of articles in international refereed journals, and has presented his work at numerous scientific conferences. He is considered one of the world's leading experts in the field of metaheuristics. His main research interest lies in the application of advanced (metaheuristic) optimization methods and in the development and study of optimization methods.

Kenneth Sörensen is the founder and current coordinator of the EURO working group EU/ME – the metaheuristics community, the largest online platform for researchers in metaheuristics worldwide. He currently holds the position of Vice President 2 of EURO - The Association of European Operational Research Societies. He is also associate editor of the Journal of Heuristics, the International Transactions in Operational Research, and 4OR - the Quarterly Journal of the French, Italian, and Belgian Operational Research Societies.

Five selected publications

K. Sörensen. Metaheuristics – the metaphor exposed. *International Transactions in Operations Research*, 22(1):3–18, 2015

D. Palhazi Cuervo, P. Goos, and K. Sörensen. Optimal design of large-scale screening experiments: A critical look at the coordinate-exchange algorithm. *Statistics and Computing*, 26(1):15–28, 2014

D. Palhazi Cuervo, P. Goos, K. Sörensen, and E. Arraiz. An iterated local search algorithm for the vehicle routing problem with backhauls. *European Journal of Operational Research*, 237(2):454–464, 2014

K. Sörensen and P. Schittekat. Statistical analysis of distance-based path relinking for the capacitated vehicle routing problem. *Computers & Operations Research*, 40(12), 2013

P. Schittekat and K. Sörensen. Supporting 3PL decisions in the automotive industry by generating diverse solutions to a large-scale location–routing problem. *Operations Research*, 57(5):1058–1067, 2009