Terms of Reference

Community OR is about the development and application of methods and techniques from traditions of operational research and related fields, e.g. systems thinking, for empowering people and communities seeking to be involved in, or influence, activities, including decision-making, for improvement on issues that affect their lives locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Purpose

The purpose of the Community OR special interest group is to promote the practice and development of COR worldwide.

The Community OR SIG seeks to contribute to:

1. Demonstrating that people and communities can address the problems and issues facing them.
2. Enhancing methods, techniques and approaches to the study of communities in the present through academic and public media.
3. Enhancing collaborative research among people engaged in COR as being a key feature upon which COR is based.
4. A thriving COR research community that advances empirically strong ideas about community intervention and makes a difference through those ideas to the practice of its members.
5. Growing COR beyond the traditional base of OR, bringing in members from the wider social sciences, to broaden OR itself.

The Community OR SIG WILL:

1. Identify and improve tools to acquire that help realise the purpose of the SIG.
2. The SIG will promote dialogue between research oriented members and practitioners to create a platform which assists one in informing and enriching the other.
3. Hold seminars and conferences, publish books, journal special issues, develop a presence on the worldwide web, disseminate case studies, and develop outreach to other professional bodies.
4. Develop and maintain the SIG with an international focus.
5. Not broker COR researchers and potential clients.

Governance arrangements

The COR SIG operates within the rules and guidance set by the Operational Research Society.

Officers of the SIG must be members of the Operational Research Society.

The SIG Committee will hold an Annual General Meeting.

Other meetings will be held regularly and no less frequently than quarterly.

Meetings will enable international involvement, beyond the United Kingdom, and can be in person, online or a combination.

With the agreement of committee members, decisions can be made via email where appropriate.

A written record, at least, of every committee meeting will be kept and published on the ORS website.

The committee has a minimum membership of one and an upper limit of 20.

Committee members and officers are proposed and elected at each AGM.

Eligible committee members will be Co-Chairs.

Quorum is four committee members – at least one of which is a member of the Operational Research Society.

All members of the SIG have voting rights at the AGM.