Preface

The Marble (Maastricht Researched Based Learning for Excellence) programme at SBE facilitates the development of research projects for highly motivated and excellent undergraduate students. Students attending the bachelor programme of Econometrics and Operations Research join the Marble programme in the third year of their study. At the end of their bachelor they perform a short study which covers different applications of econometrical, mathematical and operations research techniques. The findings are presented at a mini symposium in June and documented in a research paper.

This series is the second publication in the field of Econometrics and Operations Research and contains the best research papers in the academic year 2012/13. Lise Adriaanse analysed elections using a mathematical approach, thereby focusing on the question if it is possible to manipulate the outcome. The excellence of research and reporting is not only shown by her contribution in this series, but she was also was nominated for the GSBE best poster award. Frank Bosserhoff, researched the volatility of the stock price using a mathematical approach. This is a recurrent topic in the series. Alexander Heinemann studied different stochastic mortality models with respect to its underlying assumptions. In an empirical analysis it is illustrated how mortality rates can be forecasted. Florentijn Hogerwerf developed an algorithm to section MBA students in tutorial groups. This is a complex problems, as several factors have to be taken into account.

The publication in the Marble series could be the first step in a research career for students and is an ideal way to disseminate the research findings to a broader audience. Maastricht University is honored to educate these excellent students who deliver this quality of research.

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