



International Association for Official Statistics

Annual Report 2021-2022

contactiaos@gmail.com

<http://www.iaos-isi-org>

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Message from the President

It is my pleasure and privilege to forward to the IAOS membership the annual report for the year 2021-2022.

IAOS objectives are:

- to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and related subjects, and fundamental principles of official statistics (FPOS).
- to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services, particularly in developing countries, through international contacts among individuals and organizations, including users of official statistics as well as research institutions.
- to contribute to efforts at establishing and maintaining a new global consensus on data.

The two-year strategy presented as part of this report is linked to these objectives. It is comprised of the following activities:

1. Organization of IAOS international conferences
2. Publication (printed and online) of the Statistical Journal of IAOS (SJIAOS)
3. Young statisticians prize
4. Increase the membership and improve IAOS financial picture
5. Strengthen communication with stakeholders
6. Contribute to the promotion and defense of FPOS
7. Expose facts of misuse of statistics
8. Enhance the work of subcommittees
9. Institutionalize IAOS functions

During the 2021 the IAOS continued to focus on data users by organizing webinars on ethics, trust, governance and other use of data; the IAOS is considering to organize a reference group to address issues on these important topics.

We worked very hard to prepare for the IAOS conference in Krakow, Poland, which is being held at the same time as we hold our General Assembly, as well as preparing to organize the conference in Livingstone, Zambia, which was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SJIAOS is going very strong with many more articles being submitted for review and publications. The journal published articles on SDG indicators, statistical developments during the COVID-19 pandemic and other topics of high relevance.

The young statisticians prize in its 12th year is becoming a much more prominent activity for statisticians. The submissions for the 2022 prize reached a high number of 33, coming from all the continents, developing and developed countries.

IAOS is further developing and improving its processes. The virtual General Assembly meeting was held in July 2021 and it is being held in the hybrid format in April 2022. The Executive Committee (ExCo) held 4 virtual meetings in July and September 2021, and January and March of 2022.

The IAOS ExCo did an excellent job in recruiting new members. In 2021 and early 2022 we recruited 187 new members, with a few new institutional members. It is important to note that the membership includes statisticians from international organizations, private sector as well as a data user community.

In 2021, the IAOS collaborated within the ISI family organizing webinars, as well as strengthened partnerships with academic institutions to facilitate capacity building activities for a diverse group of producers and users of data. IAOS organized a webinar together with ASA Washington Statistical Society and sponsored preparations for a Small Area Estimation Conference 2022 to be held on May 23-27, 2022 in the USA.

IAOS Standing Committee for Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS) organized 3 webinars on the relevant topics attracting around 80 participants per webinar. SCORUS has revised its statutes which were approved by the IAOS ExCo in early 2022.

The IAOS strategy was distributed to the membership in late 2021 and it is ready for approval at this meeting.

ExCo will work hard to make sure that the main activities of the strategy are fulfilled and the IAOS is ready for preparation of the strategy 2023-2025.

As our organization is a volunteer group, I would expect that many more of the members will actively take part in our activities.

Many thanks and warm regards,

Misha Belkindas
IAOS President

April 22, 2022

1. 2021 – 2023 Strategy

The early draft 2021-2023 IAOS Strategy was briefly introduced to the General Assembly held on July 8th 2021. The IAOS Executive also reviewed it. Furthermore, the Strategy was shared with a wider IAOS community for views and suggestions. The Strategy will be presented for final endorsement at the General Assembly which will take place on April 28, 2022.

Background

The world is undergoing major changes due the COVID-19 pandemic. These have big implications for official statistics as new demands are placed on National Statistical Offices(NSOs) world-wide for more responsive and more real-time information. Statistical systems are also going through a period of change brought by the digital and data revolutions and rapid changes in national and global data and statistical ecosystems. At the same time, independence of official statistics and trust in official statistics continues to be at the forefront of minds. Many NSOs and National Statistical Systems (NSSs) are under stress as they are no longer seen as the only or key data producer in their country. Despite the emergence of new data producers, NSOs are to continue to prove that relevant, timely and reliable official statistics they produce remain fundamental to society. NSOs provide governments, businesses and civil society with the information they need to make decisions. They give people and their elected representatives the tools to have informed debates and make informed decisions. Statistics also provide opportunities to hold decision makers to account.

Data science and developments in technology mean that it is possible to use statistical science to gain more insights from data that were unimaginable only a few years ago. The global response to the recent COVID-19 pandemic and need to properly measure achievement or lack of it of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are highlighting the importance of robust statistics, resulting in high profile debates on statistics among statisticians, politicians, academia, civil society and the public.

The IAOS is one of the seven Associations of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)¹ and aligns itself with the ISI mid-term vision. The current political, economic and social developments present the IAOS with an opportunity to rise in prominence as the IAOS is an organization not only for statisticians working for national governments and international organizations, but for many other stakeholders, including policy makers, private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academia.

Context

IAOS objectives are:

- to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and related subjects, and fundamental principles of official statistics.

¹ ISI's mission is to lead, support and promote the understanding, development and good practice of statistics worldwide, by providing the core global network for statistics. The ISI vision is to increase its influence as the leading professional organization and core network for statistics worldwide linking government, academia, business and society. This vision is reflected in the ISI's motto: "Statistical science for a better world".

- to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services, particularly in developing countries, through international contacts among individuals and organizations, including users of official statistics as well as research institutions.²
- To contribute to efforts at establishing and maintaining a new global consensus on data.

Many of the trends highlighted in previous strategies continue. The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics have been around for more than 25 years and have been recognized by virtually all countries. However, the political pressures remain a challenge.

The trend of populists criticizing experts had begun years before the COVID-19 pandemic and it was highlighted as an issue of concern in the 2019-2021 IAOS Strategy but that trend was only accelerated by the pandemic. The demand for data collected by health officials around the world was at historic highs as policymakers sought to make informed decisions about where to impose lockdowns and where to direct resources. However, political pressure to manipulate data and efforts from elected officials to suppress data on the pandemic and other global challenges, including climate changes, etc., were reported in several instances.

The pandemic also created significant challenges to the normal operations of official statistics. The 2020 Population and Housing Census Round kicked off as many countries were under lockdown, faced concerns about face-to-face follow-up or where promotion for participation in censuses was interrupted. Many household survey programs were paused or moved to new technologies to allow for virtual data collection. Administrative data collection was disrupted as many ministries moved to remote working. For economic statistics, the disruption in global supply chains and shifts in demand further reflected challenges in statistical offices. Assessments of the quality of official statistics produced during the disruptions of the pandemic and understanding the lessons learned due to adaptations to the pandemic will likely be of significant interest in the short and medium term. The World Bank and the United Nations Statistical Division, in coordination with the five UN Regional Commissions, has monitored the impact of the pandemic on the activities of NSOs through several surveys. While posing challenges to the operations of official statistics, the pandemic has also created opportunities for NSSs in terms of new data sources, new modes of operation, etc., which will too have a big impact on the production process for official statistics in a longer term. Furthermore, with the accelerated access for data, there is a growing demand for NSOs to play a greater leading role in the NSSs.

All of this has happened within the context of what appears to be continued progress in the capacity of the NSSs. As noted in the previous IAOS Strategy, many countries struggle to monitor even half of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators. The demand for official statistics continues to expand beyond the need to track the SDGs to provide data from a growing group of stakeholders interested in using data for commercial, research or advocacy purposes. At that, new data sources and techniques are also seen as opportunities for NSOs to build on their capacity.

In its work, the IAOS operates under the management and guidance of the Executive Committee (ExCo). The ExCo is composed of the Officers who are a President, a President-Elect, four ExCo Members, and the Director of the Permanent Office of the ISI (ex-officio) acting as the Executive Director and Treasurer. The ExCo 2021- 2023 has co-opted three further members of the IAOS,

² <https://www.iaos-isi.org/index.php/about-us/foundation-and-objectives>

and several special invitees who will serve until the next election. In general, the ExCo meets four times a year and organizes a general assembly once a year as per the IAOS statute. To address issues of importance the ExCo may, according to article 6.2, appoint standing and ad hoc committees.

Activities

Activity 1. Organization of IAOS International Conferences

Traditionally, the IAOS conducts a conference every two years. Due to the impact of the pandemic, the most recent IAOS conference was the 16th IAOS conference which was held in September 2018 in Paris in collaboration with the OECD. The 2021-2023 period will be unique for the IAOS, as we plan to organize two IAOS conferences.

The next conference will be organized jointly with the Statistics Poland and will be held in Krakow, Poland, on April 26-28, 2022. The theme of the 2022 conference will be “Worthy Information for Challenging Times”. That means the 2019, 2020 and 2021 there were no IAOS conferences. The IAOS conference in Zambia, which was originally planned for May 2020 as the 17th IAOS conference and a regional ISI event, has been postponed. It is now hoped that it may be held in early 2023 in Livingstone, Zambia. The theme of the conference is “Better Lives 2030: Mobilizing the Power of Data for Africa and the World.” More details on timing will be provided as decisions are taken. If this is the case the 2019-2021 conference gap will be followed by conferences in three consecutive years: Poland (2022), Zambia (2023) and 2024 organized by the next IAOS President.

Activity 2. Publication (printed and on-line) of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS)

Scientific journals serve as knowledge disseminators. In this sense, the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) is a fundamental tool for the IAOS. The IAOS will continue to provide the world with innovative research on official statistics through this medium.

The SJIAOS will continue its work through its editorial team and reviewers who contribute their expertise without charge.

The main aim of the SJIAOS will continue to be to support the IAOS mission by publishing articles to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and to foster the development of effective official statistical services on a global basis. In doing so, the IAOS 2021/2023 strategic plan aims concretely to:

- Maintain its role in advancing official statistics by publishing on relevant and/or innovative topics that concern domains or the governance in general of official statistics.
- Maintain its role as the main global platform for publishing on issues of relevance for official statistics.
- Expand the audience, the group of contributors and its exposure.
- Attract innovative research and encourage new talent to publish in the SJIAOS.
- Encourage discussion of SDG indicators and other emerging issues important to official statistics.

The website of the Statistical Journal (www.officialstatistics.com) will maintain its important role as access to the on-line version so the Journal as well as the platform for relevant discussions and announcement of events and conferences.

Activity 3. Young Statisticians Prize

To encourage more young statisticians under 35 years old to take an active interest in official statistics, the IAOS will continue the Young Statisticians Prize (YSP), an annual competition for the best paper in the field of official statistics written by a young statistician. In addition to a monetary prize, the first place receives travel funds to present their paper at a mutually agreed international conference with a strong IAOS presence. Winning papers are also eligible to be published in a future issue of the SJIAOS.

Attracting submissions to the Prize is an annual challenge. While 2021 YSP winners have been selected, IAOS will ensure the competition is widely promoted through the IAOS website, social media channels and letters addressed to the heads of the NSOs and International Statistical Organizations (ISOs) as well as the Chief Methodologist Network to attract submissions for 2022 and 2023.

Activity 4. Increase the Membership and Improve IAOS Financial Picture

The IAOS will undertake activities aimed at increasing the visibility of the IAOS and highlight and promote the benefits of membership in the IAOS among statistical organizations, private sector (data producers and users) and other communities involved in data activities. IAOS will approach NSOs, statistical units of international and regional institutions (CCSA members) and companies in the area of statistics, and others. IAOS will work in collaboration with other ISI associations and the ISI statistical capacity building committee to organize technical assistance activities, training sessions and webinars.

The IAOS has enjoyed the support of donors in the past, especially in supporting attendees from developing countries to participate in events. We will actively approach donor communities – multilateral and bilateral organizations and private donors to raise funds to expand IAOS operations – providing technical assistance, organizing conferences and webinars and supporting statisticians from developing countries to participate in events.

Activities will include a communications campaign using multiple channels and platforms as well as collaboration activities, including reinvigorating the IAOS website and exploring opportunities for cross-linking, email and social media marketing, advertising the 2022 and 2023 IAOS conferences, and hosting webinars, etc. These activities are expected to increase and diversify institutional membership, encourage individual membership and improve collaboration with statistical institutions, academia, international organizations, private sector and donor communities.

Activity 5. Strengthen Communication with Stakeholders

To maintain constant communication with NSOs around the world, a digital newsletter signed by the IAOS President will be sent approximately every three months to the heads of NSOs, ISOs and institutional and individual members. The newsletters will contain information about the IAOS and its projects (the SJIAOS, 2022 and 2023 conferences, the Young Statisticians Prize, training sessions and webinars) and will invite the general staff of NSOs to join the IAOS.

Additionally, the IAOS will keep promoting its work and activities through the ISI website, their monthly newsletter and via social media platforms, such as, Facebook and Twitter.

The website of the SJAOS (www.officialstatistics.com) will, beyond the published and most recent issues and manuscripts, provide also information on for the official statistics community relevant international conferences and events and also offer a discussion platform for the community dot discuss and comment on common relevant themes.

To promote the IAOS among NSOs and universities, a dedicated communication will be sent out to concerned NSO and university representatives worldwide.

Activity 6. Contribute to the Promotion and Defense of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The IAOS is a natural organization to contribute with and support the relevant organizations such as the UN Statistical Commission, regional economic commissions and some member countries, in adhering to and advancing the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The IAOS should particularly focus on the ISI to promote and defend the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. These principles are essential for the production of statistics. The IAOS should participate in their promotion and--together with the ISI-- defend statistical integrity and ethical standards, monitor the applicability of the fundamental principles, stating a position in case of an evident violation of the fundamental principles.

Raising awareness of the effects of violation of the main principles of official statistics by politics especially in developing countries.

The ExCo will continue to work with the ISI Ethics Committee and ExCo members will be asked to collect the trends in official statistics in their own regions and forward it to the ExCo. Also, to report successful cases as well as cases of violation of the fundamental principles.

Activity 7. Expose facts of Misuse of Statistics

IAOS will give a high priority to following and monitoring the use and misuse of statistics and exert efforts to expose facts of misuse of statistics, when needed and feasible. Following well received webinars and side events organized by the IAOS on the issues of use and misuse of statistics, the IAOS will continue to discuss these issues in webinars and by other means of communications. These topics will be discussed at the IAOS conferences in 2022 and 2023 as well in ISI and other conferences where appropriate. IAOS ExCo will constitute a reference group to work on these issues. In this work the ExCo will collaborate closely with IAOS members and other stakeholders to create a permanent system to expose and monitor misuse of official statistics.

Activity 8. Enhance the Work of Subcommittees

Existing subcommittees, such as SCORUS (Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics), will be strengthened to allow for further development of their activities:

- Organizing conferences, seminars and webinars on regional and urban statistics
- Providing an internet platform for the continuous exchange of knowledge and of ideas

- Trying to enlarge the participation of users (researchers, policy makers, consultants) and producers (at municipal, regional, national and international level) of regional and urban statistics in this worldwide exchange of experience and ideas
- Promoting the exchange and co-operation on topics of common interest

Efforts will be made to further develop subcommittees and task forces.

Activity 9. Institutionalize IAOS Functions

Insuring organizational readiness through close working relationship with organizations through exchange of ideas, substantive content, working practices and administrative procedures that is response to the stakeholder's need of official statistics.

Efforts to document, archive and disseminate (where necessary) all IAOS working procedures and protocols are of the utmost importance. This is more challenging as the work of the IAOS is mostly conducted by volunteers. Standard methodologies and systems to document and archive IAOS outputs are crucial to ensure continuity and facilitate further developments.

2. 2019 -2021 Strategy Outcomes

Progress during 2021

Theme 1: focus on users

The IAOS has continued to be active in highlighting the role and value of official statistics and key factors impacting integrity and efficiency of official statistics in meeting needs of users. Activities supporting these efforts include:

- IAOS-organized United Nations Statistical Commission Side Event on “Ethics, trust, governance and use of data: Enhancing Official Statistics Capacity to address these issues”
- IAOS webinars: “More on Misuse of Statistics: Time to Speak Out” and “The role of National Statistical Offices in society and why professional independence is its foundation”
- SJIAOS special themes on “Misuse of statistics” and “New Developments in Training in Official Statistics”

Theme 2: build on existing activities

This section of the report gives a brief overview of progress against the strategy. More details on each item can be found in subsequent chapters of this report.

2.1. IAOS conferences

The centerpiece of the 2019-21 strategy was the IAOS/ISI conference in Zambia. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic the conference was postponed but is expected to take place in early 2023. In the meantime, it was decided to organize the 18th IAOS conference on April 26-28, 2022, in Krakow, Poland. Details and progress on the two IAOS conferences to be held in Poland and Zambia are provided in chapters 2-3 of this report.

2.2. Statistical Journal of the IAOS

IAOS aims to be the worldwide known vehicle to spread knowledge and innovation in official statistics. To this aim, the Statistical Journal of IAOS (SJIAOS) is a core element of our Association as it serves as a knowledge disseminator, exposing quality and relevant research to the statistical community. This role is fulfilled by the SJIAOS by the printed version of the journal and the pre-press and online version, as well as the SJIAOS website with pages on news, events, and a discussion platform with every quarter a new discussion on an issue of general interest for Official Statistics, and a Twitter account especially used for quick updates during conferences and important events. The Journal tries to cover official statistics by being as inclusive as possible concerning the domains of statistics and the regions represented by the authors and the audience, as well as stimulating both experienced and matured as well as young statisticians to submit their manuscripts. Via the links between the websites relevant for official statistics (IAOS, SJIAOS, IOS Press, and ISI) the community of official statisticians have accurate, timely, and coordinated access to all relevant information.

2.2.1. General profile of SJIAOS Volume 37 (2021)

Volume 37 (2021) of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS has 105 manuscripts in four regular issues), authored by more than 270 colleagues from over 50 countries. In total it features around 1400 pages. From the four issues, the special issue, Vol37/3 on the New Developments in Training in Official Statistics could, thanks to IOS Press be published free access. In the other three issues the Special sections were dedicated to 'Misuse of Statistics: Time to speak out' (vol37/1), 'Assessing Compliance with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics' (Vol37/2), and 'Statistics on difficult to Measure population groups' (Vol37/4). The manuscripts in the regular section in each issue on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic were also open access.

On the SJIAOS discussion platform in 2021, four new discussions were launched. The seventh discussion on The Misuse of Statistics, the eight on the UN Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics: a suitable and current self-regulatory instrument or an outdated 'paper tiger, the ninth on New Developments in Training in Official Statistics, and the tenth discussion on: 'Statistics on difficult to measure population groups: challenges to leave no-one not-included'.

2.2.2. Targets

2.2.2.1. Increase the number of citations to articles published in SJIAOS.

In 2021 SJIAOS attracted via the SJIAOS and IOS Press website over 50000 page views for SJIAOS content (compared to around 32000 in 2020 and 12000 in 2019. This is in 2021 an increase of 70%). Via the officialstatistics.com site, there were over 18000 page views on the content. This number was over 16000 in 2020. The majority of page views came via Google Scholar (63%). The quality and relevance of the articles are measured via the number of citations and the rate of cited documents. In 2021 the number of citations (396) increased by 38% compared to 2020 (287). Since 2015 these numbers have been steeply rising. A process for receiving an official impact rating for the Journal (beyond the informal ratings) was started in 2019 and is still ongoing. A point of concern is the relatively high level of self-citation. However, as the Journal is rather unique in its category this is understandable. In 2021, the number of downloads of articles published in the period 2016-2020 from SJIAOS approaches 51000, of which around 7000 were from 2021 content.

Even so, the SJIAOS discussion platform was often visited. In total there were in 2021 over 17000 visits to the discussion platform. In 2020 this was just over 10000. On the discussion platform, there were over 4500 clicks. Especially the 'Misuse of statistics: Time to speak out' discussion (7th discussion) was with over 1100 visits, intensively followed. The number of discussion contributions in the September and December 2021 issues is still limited but expected to further increase. On the social media @Officialstat1 the journal enjoys almost 500 followers.

2.2.2.2. Positioned SJIAOS in at least the third quartile for statistics, probability and uncertainty.

During 2021 SJIAOS has continued increasing its number of readers and the diversity of the manuscripts it publishes, moving even more at the vanguard of the discussion of emerging issues in official statistics. Compared to similar oriented Journals on 'Official Statistics' SJIAOS has an overwhelmingly larger number of manuscripts.

Circa 200 anonymous reviews of the manuscripts from this period were performed by over 63 reviewers. Around 30% of manuscripts for the 4 issues for this period were actively solicited.

The rest of the manuscripts were submitted without explicit soliciting. The attractiveness for publishing via the Journal is clearly reflected in this number of non-solicited offered manuscripts. The rejection rate specifically for the non-solicited manuscripts was around 19%, meaning that concretely around 15 non-solicited manuscripts have been rejected or withdrawn. Ca 100 manuscripts were invited for revision and ca 10 were accepted without comments.

The turnaround time for the reviews was for Volume 37 on average 18 days. Compared to 2020 (Vol36, 25 days) and 2019 (Vol35, 28 days) this is a substantial reduction.

2.2.2.3. Attract innovative researchers and new talent to publish in the SJIAOS.

The 270 authors of the 105 manuscripts in Volume 37 represent a wide range of over 50 nations. The objective for the Journal is to achieve a globally more balanced distribution of authors and readership. The share of authors coming from regions outside the traditional core areas of the journal (Western Europe, North America, Australia/New Zealand) was 13% in the period 2017- 2019. In 2021 this was 21%. The high percentage in 2020 of 38% is partly caused by the special section in the December 2020 issue (Vol36/4) and the supplement to Volume 36 with contributions from respective statisticians from the Asia-Pacific and the African region. When the contributors to the special section and issue are excluded the ratio of contributors from outside the core areas was in 2020 20%. This means that the level of over 20% contributions from non-core areas has been maintained also in 2021.

On the readership, as shown by the substantial increase in the number of visits to the Journal (from ca 12000 in 2019, to 48000 in 2020 and 70000 In 2021) more use has been made of the Journal.

For a substantial group of colleagues working in official statistics, the SJIAOS is a regular venue for publishing. In volume 37, the number and rate of first-time authors is around 20 %. Due to the Special section on Asia-Pacific statistics and the supplemental issue on Official Statistics in Africa, the number and rate of first-time authors in 2020 was exceptionally high with 40%.

2.2.2.4. Encourage the discussion of SDGs indicators and emerging issues in the SJIAOS.

The Journal combines a focus on emerging issues via individual or smaller sections of manuscripts with a more in-depth treatment of specific issues via specials and larger and recurring sections. Since the June 2020 issue (Vol36/2) each issue started with manuscripts on COVID-19. Beyond these articles on the COVID-19 impact, in 2021 the Journal centered via specials in September (Vol37/3) on New Developments in Training in Official Statistics. The March, June, and December issues covered a wide variety of other topics and domains, ranging from manuscripts awarded the Young Statisticians Prize 2021, misuse in statistics, to Governing by the numbers (D4P) and many articles based on papers from the 2019 ISI WSC in Kuala Lumpur. A remarkable development in 2021 was the emergence focusing on new techniques such as Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, and Neural networks. Via direct soliciting main reports on important emerging issues (open data, fundamental principles, data stewardship, citizen data) from the UNSC or other meetings are published.

2.3. Young Statisticians Prize

The IAOS places great importance on fostering the development of effective and efficient official statistical services and pays particular attention to nurturing young official statisticians to speak up. In this regard, the Young Statistician Prize is now in its 12th year and continues to be a centerpiece of the IAOS' offerings.

Details of the YSP developments in 2021 are provided in the chapter 7 of this report.

Theme 3: develop IAOS processes

The intention was to focus the key processes of the IAOS on outcomes.

The most important IAOS process is the General Assembly. The IAOS General Assembly was held in a virtual format on July 8, 2021.

The IAOS Executive Committee (ExCo) is the central mechanism for the operation of the IAOS. ExCo has met on:

- 8 July 2021 (virtual)
- 3 September 2021 (virtual)
- 11 January 2022 (virtual)
- 17 March 2022 (virtual)

The emphasis on virtual meetings has helped to continue maintain a more frequent pattern of discussions set since 2020. This in turn has allowed better knowledge sharing, brainstorming of ideas and focus on delivery of the objectives of the Association.

Theme 4: recruit more members

A central theme of the strategy for 2019-21 was to recruit more members, since our voice is stronger if we are seen to have a high and growing membership. In the past, membership has tended to grow in the years when our conference is held and then falls back without the recruitment opportunities that the conference provides. Even though there were no conferences conducted in three consequent years (2019-2021), we have attracted an impressive number of members.

In 2021 and early 2022, we have recruited 187 new members, including 12 former members reinstated. Membership recruitment efforts included a reach out to potential members and a follow up on members who did not renew their membership. Remarkably, the number of personal memberships has grown from 408 members in 2020 to 592 - in early 2022. The number of institutional members has been maintained at a steady level too.

The category of free membership for SJIAOS authors has continued to bring fruitful results, with 101 members in this category as of early 2022 compared with very small single figure numbers in most previous years.

Hopefully we will be able to retain these new members when their period of free membership ends.

Theme 5: partnerships

In 2021, the IAOS collaborated within the ISI family, as well as strengthened partnerships with academic institutions to facilitate capacity building activities for a diverse group of producers and users of data. These activities included preparations for a Small Area Estimation

Conference 2022 to be held on May 23-27, 2022 in the USA. The conference is organized by the University of Maryland and co-sponsored by IAOS, International Association of Survey Statisticians (IASS) and Survey Research Methods Section (SRMS).

3. IAOS 2022 Conference

During the 2021-2022 reporting period, the IAOS jointly with Statistics Poland worked on the preparations for the 18th IAOS Conference “Worthy Information for Challenging Times” to be held in Krakow, Poland, on April 26-28, 2022.

The responses of societies and economies to the short and long term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are taking place within the challenges of climate change and the international commitments to leave no one behind. Data, and in particular Official Statistics, are key to these responses.

Yet with multiple sources and providers, it is often difficult to differentiate the good from the bad, the trustworthy from the unreliable, the relevant from the noise.

In these times, achieving relevance and enhancing trust in information is a fundamental challenge facing Official Statistics. It requires a multi-strand approach.

The seven strands for the conference reflect this approach, recognizing that Official Statistics needs to respond to:

- the need to build shared data governance in a time of the data deluge
- ethical challenges that go with the booming role played by data in societies and economies
- producing valuable information for policy-making and for public debate, in ways that bring value to users
- new and emerging statistical methodologies and technologies able to provide good statistics

The strands are:

1 - Integrating Available Data Sources for Official Statistics: Challenges and Opportunities

This strand includes challenges in dealing with “not-statistically oriented” data sources, and integrating these across the different domains (economic, social and environment).

2 - Backbone of Official Statistics: Critical Sources, Infrastructure, Resources

The strand examines challenges and responses in ensuring that the unique assets of Official Statistics can take advantage of the data deluge.

3 - Official Statistics Addressing Global Objectives (SDGs, Climate change...)

This strand focuses on interactions between Official Statistics outputs and global agendas.

4 - Official Statistics and COVID-19: key takeaways

This strand will review how the responses to the major disruptions experienced by Official Statistics due to the pandemic have been relevant and how they might have positive long-lasting benefits.

5 - Abundance of Data for Official Statistics’ Uses: Meeting the Ethical Challenges

Availability and possible use of new data sources is raising ethical challenges for Official Statistics. The pandemic has highlighted some of them. This strand focuses on understanding these challenges and responses.

6 - Statistics in a Time of Distrust and Misuse: The Communication Challenge

This strand examines challenges in communicating Official Statistics at a time of data desire but also data rejection. It will review the respective contributions played by reputation, independence, reliability and relevance.

7 - Official Statistics Contribution for a Global Data Governance

In an ever-expanding data ecosystem, Official Statistics aims at taking a pivotal role in Data Governance. This strand will examine the implications for Official Statistics from local, national and international perspectives.

Furthermore, on April 25, 2022, the day before the conference, the IAOS in collaboration with Statistics Poland will organize a special IAOS event on Fundamental Principles, Population Censuses and Misuse of Statistics.

The setting up of a reference group to explore issues of use-misuse and trust-mistrust in statistics was discussed by the IAOS Executive Committee in January 2022. It will be announced during April 25th event.

On April 27, 2022, an IPS on “Misuse, Trust, Governance, Ethics: Enhance Official Statistics capacities” will give an opportunity to the IAOS community to exchange on the issues at stake.

Organization and logistics for the conference

Scientific Programme Committee reviewed invited paper session proposals received by the extended deadline of August 30, 2021 and identified 40+ invited paper sessions (IPs), including two presidential IPs, which cover all the strands for the conference, for inclusion in the conference program. More than 100 contributed papers were registered. By the deadline of March 27, 2022, 40+ authors of contributed papers confirmed participation at the conference allowing papers to be presented.

Arrangements for a venue and other administrative and logistical arrangements were put in place by the Local Organizing Committee. The conference is supported by several partners, including Eurostat, Esri and World Bank. Funding provided by Eurostat and World Bank enabled selected delegates from developing countries to attend the conference and a training session on Small Area Estimation (SAE) organized the day before the conference.

200+ participants are attending the conference despite the travel limitations maintained by some governments in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and fear expressed because of the proximity of the war in Ukraine.

4. IAOS 2020 Conference

The 17th IAOS Conference “*Better Lives 2030: mobilising the power of data for Africa and the world*”, which was planned to be held in Livingstone, Zambia, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. It was previously planned to be held in May 2020 and now the government has indicated that it will be held on April 4-6, 2023 in Livingstone, Zambia. The venue is still the same, Avani Hotel, and management has agreed to block the dates April 1-9, 2023. The host, the Zambia statistics agency, is revamping all the committees in preparation for the conference. Similarly, arrangements will be made by the Chair of the scientific programme committee (SPC) to reconstitute and plan the sessions of the conference.

5. Webinars

As an alternative to the conference the IAOS has been conducting webinars.

5.1. More on Misuse of Statistics: Time to Speak Out

The webinar, organized as a United Nations Statistical Commission 2021 Side Event, took place on 22 February 2021.

The event was chaired by John Pullinger, President of the International Association for Official Statistics, 2019-2021.

Contributors included Jennifer Saul, Waterloo Chair in Social and Political Philosophy of Language; Dr. Pronab Sen, Country Director, International Growth Centre's India Programme, and Editor, Indian Journal of National Income & Wealth; Kate Wilkinson, Deputy Chief Editor at Africa Check; Regina Ammicht Quinn, Professor of Ethics with the International Center of Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities at the University of Tuebingen and the Executive Director of the Centre, with interventions from Hernán Muñoz, Andreas V Georgiou, Pali Lehohla, Vincent F. Hendricks, Ed Humpherson, Martine Durand.

This event was a call to action at the national, regional and global level: where there is misuse of statistics it is time to speak out. The event built on the webinar hosted by the IAOS on 6 October 2020. The webinar was well attended by over 280 participants from 63 countries.

The papers presented at the event can be accessed by clicking the links below:

- [Andreas Georgiou](#)
- [Regina Ammicht Quinn](#)
- [Jennifer Saul](#)
- [Martine Durand](#)

5.2. The role of National Statistical Offices in society and why professional independence is its foundation

The webinar, conducted on 29 June 2021, was hosted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), International Statistical Institute (ISI) and IAOS.

Angela Me, Chief of Research and Trend Analysis Branch, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, moderated the webinar.

Speakers included:

- Julio Santaella Castell, President of INEGI
- Mario Palma Rojo, former IAOS President and former Governing Board of INEGI
- Hermann Habermann, former US Chief Statistician and UNSD Director
- John Pullinger, IAOS President and former UK National Statistician
- Misha Belkindas, founder of Open Data Watch and IAOS President-Elect

Mario Palma also presented his new book 'Why INEGI? The saga of a Mexican institution in search of the truth'. A copy of Mario's e-book can be downloaded [via this link](#).

5.3. Statistical linkage of multiple disparate data sources with an application to estimate COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy rates for small areas

The webinar took place on 15 November 2021. It was co-sponsored by the IAOS and ASA Washington Statistical Society. Speakers were Partha Lahiri, Professor and Director, Joint Program in Survey Methodology Professor, Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland, College Park. The webinar was well attended by over 150 participants from 50 countries.

Abstract of the webinar:

The greater accessibility of administrative and Big Data and advances in technology are now providing new opportunities for researchers to solve a wide range of problems that would not be possible using a single data source. However, these databases are often unstructured and are available in disparate forms, making data linkages quite challenging. There is, therefore, a growing need to develop innovative statistical data linkage tools to link such complex multiple data sets. In this talk, we will focus on one important application of statistical data linkage to estimate small area proportions. We first present our general small area estimation (SAE) methodology. We then apply the proposed methodology to estimate vaccine hesitancy rates for the US states and the District of Columbia (small areas). We use data from two different surveys -- one probability survey representing the entire adult US population and the other a non-probability survey representing only active adult Facebook users -- and Census Bureau estimates of adult population counts at granular levels along with data from an independent COVID-19 data reporting website. The proposed SAE methodology could potentially help public policymakers target geographical areas for vaccination, public health campaigns and vaccine distribution. This talk is based on collaborative research with Professor's Lahiri doctoral student Soumojit Das.

5.4. Workshop 'Writing manuscripts for Official Statistics journals: Guidelines for practitioners and researchers'

Under the auspices of the ISI, and on the initiative of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS, five international journals on statistics and their publishers organized a workshop on 'Writing manuscripts for Official Statistics journals: Guidelines for practitioners and researchers'. The organizers for this workshop were representing the following journals and publishers: the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (IAOS and IOS Press), the Survey Statistician (IASS and IBGE Brazil), the Journal of Official Statistics (JOS, Statistics Sweden), Survey Methodology (SMJ, Statistics Canada) and the International Statistical Review (ISR, and Wiley). The workshop was held on 8, 10, and 15 February 2022 via the GoToMeeting facility from ISI in three two-hour sessions.

It was intended for official statisticians and academics (from all over the world) with an interest in preparing the submission of a manuscript to a refereed international journal in the field of Official Statistics. The objective was to prepare the participants to draft and submit manuscripts to Official Statistics journals. The workshop focused on manuscript drafting and structuring skills as well as on anticipating the knowledge level and expectations of the audiences and on organizing and preparing a manuscript for submission to a journal in the field of Official Statistics. 446 people registered for the workshop. Of those registered, 236 have been connected to GoToWebinar and are labeled as participants, of all those registered, 135 persons participated for more than 70% (was 252 minutes or more) of the duration of the total planned duration of

360 minutes of the workshop. Of all the persons registered this is slightly more than 30%. It is justified to conclude that this was a successful workshop. Registrations and participation were relatively high, and surely very satisfying the number and distribution of successful participants. The target group seems to be reached as well as from the feedback received, the objectives achieved.

5.5. Ethics, trust, governance and use of data: Enhancing Official Statistics Capacity to address these issues

IAOS hosted a side event at the UNSC 53rd Session on February 8, 2022. The event provided an opportunity to explore issues of ethics, trust, governance and use of data and reflect on the Association's proposal to create a small reflection group to give more prominence and focus to these issues. The event was attended by 130 participants from 45 countries.

Speakers included:

- Misha Belkindas, IAOS President
- Martine Durand, Retired OECD Chief Statistician, Member of the French Statistical Authority
- Jan Robert Suesser, Member of IAOS Executive Committee and Member of ISI Advisory Board on Ethics
- Walter Radermacher, Retired Director-General, Eurostat, President of Federation of European National Statistical Societies, Chair of ISI Advisory Board on Ethics
- Gemma Van Halderen, Member of IAOS Executive Committee and Focal Point for IAOS Young Statisticians Prize

Presentations from the side event can be accessed by clicking the links below:

- [Martine Durand and Jan Robert Suesser](#)
- [Walter Radermacher](#)
- [Gemma Van Halderen](#)

Watch the video recording: [UNSC 2022 Side Event "Ethics, trust, governance and use of data: Enhancing Official Statistics Capacity to address these issues"](#)

6. Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS)

6.1. The content of the issues during 2021-2022

In 2021 the SJIAOS published 110 manuscripts (articles, editorials, and guest editorials) in four issues, covering around 1400 pages. The March and June issue of Volume 38 (2022) will contain together some 60 manuscripts. The manuscripts in Vol37 and the two issues in Vol38 (including articles and editorials), covered varied subjects, varying from articles on governance aspects of official statistics, the use and need for official statistics in policymaking, pre-release, ethics and access to confidential data, the use of all sorts of new data sources, creating trusted smart statistics, on the Sustainable development Goal indicators, the 2020 round of population and housing censuses, and a variety of specific themes. Each issue was given a special theme, connected to the discussion item on the SJIAOS website discussion platform.

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6.2. Volume 37, Issue 1, March 2021

Special theme: Misuse of statistics

The March 2021 issue (Vol37/1) issue contains 6 manuscripts on the impact of COVID-19 on our societies, specific population groups, and the production of statistics. The main theme of the issue is 'Misuse in statistics' with articles based on the United Nations Statistical Commission Side Event on Misuse of Statistics. Three articles, one commentary, and one interview deal with this topic and are also featured as sources for the statements for the seventh discussion on the discussion platform. Two remaining manuscripts from the YSP 2020 were followed by three manuscripts on governance aspects, two of these respectively on 'Open Data' and 'Big data sources mapped to the fundamental principles have a documentary role. Four sections follow, Governance by the numbers (5 articles), Nowcasting (4 articles), Agricultural statistics (2 articles), and Quality (3 articles). The issue closed with 4 articles on other themes.

6.3. Volume 37, Issue 2, June 2021

Special theme: The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Official Statistics – Assessing Compliance with the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The June issue (Vol37/2) is a regular number with a great variety in themes covered. It contains five manuscripts on COVID-19, one article on Governance in Official Statistics, and one contribution on Governing by the numbers (D4P). The article on Governance in Official Statistics focuses on assessing compliance with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics via a Maturity Model for Continuous Improvement, is also the background for the 8th discussion on the SJIAOS discussion platform. Further, this issue contains two articles on Agricultural statistics, two on Quality in statistics, and 8 articles on a variety of topics.

6.4. Volume 37, Issue 3, September 2021

Special issue: New Developments in Training in Official Statistics

This special issue focusses on New Developments in Training in Official Statistics. Divided into six sections the articles describe the recent trends in the training in official statistics of those producing and those using results of official statistics, with the aim to develop respectively their

specific knowledge, skills, and competencies and to increase the 'statistical thinking'. The first section contains three articles on the foundations and background for the need for training. The second section addresses with one manuscript the extended training demand from the perspective of emerging data science. The manuscript in the third section describes the Tool for Assessing Statistical Capacity (TASC). In section four, six articles give examples of training initiatives in official statistics, and in section 5 four articles are presented that illustrate a variety of learning and teaching methods for training in official statistics. Finally, in the sixth section, six manuscripts illustrate how training in a specific statistical domain or theme is organized.

6.5. Volume 37, Issue 4, December 2021

Special theme: Statistics on difficult to Measure population groups

This issue contains 25 high-quality contributions divided over seven sections. In the first section, a first manuscript from the ISI WSC on Challenges for Central Bank Statistics is published. In the following section, two articles describe topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The third section in this issue deals with the Statistics on difficult to measure population groups. The fourth section with four articles on Population and housing statistics, social statistics. The fifth section deals with the four winning manuscripts from the Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) 2021. The next section on Quality in statistics reports in three manuscripts from the 10th European Conference on Quality in Statistics. The final section deals with 10 manuscripts on a variety of methodology and data topics.

6.6. Volume 38, Issue 1, March 2022

Special theme: The 50x2030 Initiative

The first section with 2 manuscripts is dealing with the governance of statistics and is centered around the 2021 book *'Why INEGI? The Saga of a Mexican Institution in Search of the Truth'*, by Mario Palma. In the second section, the 50x2030 Initiative is presented in seven individual articles, preceded by a guest editorial. Each of the contributions focuses on a specific aspect ranging from the backgrounds to concrete outputs in specific countries. The initiative aims to fulfill the ambitions set by the General Assembly for monitoring of the agricultural, environmental and food-related SDGs.

Next to these topics, this issue covers a lot of other themes. An interview with Misha Belkindas, the current president of the Executive Committee of the IAOS opens, followed by a COVID-19 related article. The issue also contains the first set of manuscripts stemming from the recent ISI World Statistics Conference, on combining information from statistical registers and surveys in a population census context, two more articles on land cover and the agricultural census, and six manuscripts covering a diversity of methodological developments.

6.7. The SJIAOS Website

The SJIAOS website was launched in August 2019. The site covers the discussion platform and news, a calendar, and a link to the online version of the Journal. The SJIAOS discussion platform has had 12 discussions (two in 2019, six in 2020, four in 2021). In 2022 there has until now been launched one new discussion. The discussions in 2021 did not generate as many comments as in

2019 and 2020. Nevertheless, for sure, they did impact the attention for the journal and the special topic in each of the issues.

6.8. New tracking system and update of the reviewer list

The change-over from MS Tracker to the new manuscript tracking system Editorial Manager was made on the 1st of March 2022. For a short period, the two systems will run in parallel.

7. Young Statisticians Prize (YSP)

In 2021, strategic issues chosen by young statisticians included COVID-19, machine learning, model-based estimation and forecasting methodologies. The 2021 Prize delivered several firsts: the first winning submissions from authors from the Netherlands, Brazil and Indonesia.

The three winning papers and their authors were:

1. **Ms. Elham Sirag** and **Mr. Gautier Gissler** (Statistics Canada): *Estimating excess mortality in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic: Statistical methods adapted for rapid response in an evolving crisis*
2. **Mr. Kevin Kloos** (Statistics Netherlands (CBS)): *A new generic method to improve machine learning applications in official statistics*
3. **Mr. Caio Gonçalves** (João Pinheiro Foundation) and **Luna Hidalgo** (Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE)): *Model-based single-month unemployment rate estimates for the Brazilian Labour Force Survey*

The special commendation for a paper from a developing nation was awarded to **Mr. Muhammad Fajar** and **Mr. Zelani Nurfalih** (Badan Pusat Statistik – Statistics Indonesia): *Hybrid Fourier Regression-Multilayer Perceptron Neural Network for Forecasting*

To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Young Statisticians Prize and in conjunction with the ISI Women in Statistics initiative, an Invited Paper Session at the 2021 World Statistics Congress featured female prize winners sharing their thoughts on what the Prize means to them and what they are doing now in their careers. We were pleased to also have Ms. Mariana Kotzeva, Director-General of Eurostat, join the session as a distinguished female leader in official statistics.



Figure: ISI Women in Statistics Young Statisticians Prize session at the 50th World Statistics Congress featuring (L-R) Ms. Gemma Van Halderen (IAOS Young Statistician Prize focal point), Ms. Afsaneh Yazdani (Statistician, UN ESCAP), Ms. Mariana Kotzeva (Director-General of Eurostat), Ms. Peta Darby (2019 2nd Prize co-author, Australian Bureau of Statistics), Mr. Pieter Everaers (Editor, Statistical Journal of the IAOS), Ms. Helle Visk (2018 1st Prize author, Statistics Estonia), Ms. Kenza Sallier (2020 1st Prize author, Statistics Canada), Ms. Nancy Wang (2019 3rd Prize author, Statistics New Zealand), Ms. Maja Ilam (Luxemborg), Ms. Nadia di Veroli (Italy National Statistics Office), Ms. Maria Lazaro (Eurostat) and Mr. Angel Panzo (Italy National Statistics Office).

COVID-19 continues to disrupt the ability of first place prize winners to take up the component of their award to attend an international conference, present their paper and network with the official statistics community. At the time of writing, the 2020 and 2021 first prize winners have yet to attend an international conference. The IAOS is in regular contact with the winners and discussing opportunities as travel restrictions allow. In the meantime, opportunities for virtual engagement, such as the ISI session discussed earlier, are pursued.

The 2022 Prize was launched in late 2021 and winners are expected to be announced in the middle of 2022. A concerted effort was made to publicise the 2022 Prize and boost submissions after only 18 submissions were received in 2021. With thanks to the Chief Methodologist Network, the United Nations and the ISI, submission numbers rebounded to a more usual number of 33 for 2022. Submissions were geographically spread across Asia (8), Americas (5), Europe (11), Africa (8) and Oceania (1), and across developing (20) and developed (13) countries. The Young Statisticians Prize featured at the Workshop on *Writing manuscripts for Official Statistics journals: Guidelines for practitioners and researchers*, giving tips on how to write manuscripts for the Young Statisticians Prize. The session was recorded and is available for future viewing.

We congratulate all winners, past and present, and thank all authors for participating in the IAOS Young Statisticians Prize. The Prize would not be such a success without the commitment of supervisors and institutions to nurturing young official statisticians. The Prize is also extremely grateful to the international judging panel who freely give their time and commitment. Together, the IAOS and the global statistical community are fostering talent, especially in developing nations, for our future success.

8. Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS)

In 2021, SCORUS organised three webinars jointly with Eurostat, providing platform to overall 15 speakers and attracting in average 80 participants per webinar. The webinars addressed the following topics:

- City statistics – challenges and opportunities
 - Improving register based subnational statistics
 - Use of open data to provide local transport statistic
 - Use of Small Area Estimates for city statistics
 - Quality of Life in cities – survey based city statistics
- Measuring sustainable development goals (SDG) at regional and local level
 - Using geospatial information to measure SDG indicators
 - Measuring SDGs by Degree of urbanisation
 - Measuring SDGs at municipality level
- Communication of data at regional and local level
 - Regional Recovery
 - Storytelling with regional data
 - Creating statistical maps

On 13 July 2021, during the ISI World Statistics Congress, SCORUS organised its General Assembly and initiated a revision of its statute, which has been concluded by January 2022.

The **SCORUS website** has been redesigned and it is currently hosted by Statistics Poland at the following address: <http://www.scorus.org>. The website has a very modern look and feel and is very user friendly.

SCORUS also maintains a **LinkedIn group** to gather people interested in SCORUS matters.

SCORUS management

Chair: Teodora Brandmueller, e-mail: teodora.brandmueller@ec.europa.eu
Vice chair: Jagdev Singh Virdee, email: jsvirdee@hotmail.com
Secretary: Wendy Thomas, e-mail: wlt@umn.edu
Members: Dominika Rogalinska, e-mail: D.Rogalinska@stat.gov.pl
Livia Fay Lucianetti, e-mail: liviafay.lucianetti@istat.it
Stephen KC Leung, e-mail: kceliza@netvigator.com
Marta Nagy-Rothengass, e-mail: Marta.Nagy-Rothengass@ec.europa.eu

9. Membership Report

A central theme of the strategy for 2019-21 was to recruit more members, since our voice is stronger if we are seen to have a high and growing membership. In the past, membership has tended to grow in the years when our conference is held and then falls back without the recruitment opportunities that the conference provides. Even though there were no conferences conducted in three consequent years (2019-2021), we have attracted an impressive number of members.

In 2021 and earlier 2022, we have recruited 187 new members, including 12 former members reinstated. Membership recruitment efforts included a reach out to potential members and a follow up on members who did not renew their membership. Remarkably, the number of personal memberships has grown from 408 members in 2020 to 592 - in early 2022. The number of institutional members has been maintained at a steady level too.

The category of free membership for SJIAOS authors has continued to bring fruitful results, with 99 members in 2021 and 45 members in this category as of early 2022, compared with very small single figure numbers in most previous years (see the IAOS Membership Interim Report below).

Hopefully we will be able to retain these new members when their period of free membership ends.

IAOS Membership Interim Report		2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
		21.03.2022	31.12.2021	31-12-2020	31-12-2019	07-12-2018	31.12.2017	29-12-2016	31-12-2015	30-10-2014	19-12-2013	31-12-2012	05-12-2011	31-12-2010
IAOS50	Developed Countries	105	67	68	61	81	81	80	100	80	78	74	75	75
IAOS51	Developing Countries	75	31	29	42	50	39	51	48	46	34	23	23	21
IAOS52	ISI + IAOS Developed Countries	119	119	112	115	119	111	121	121	125	121	126	126	112
IAOS53	ISI + IAOS Developed Countries - Retired	76	77	78	70	58	43	40	38	29	24	21	19	21
IAOS54	ISI + IAOS Developing Countries	43	40	33	40	42	43	42	38	38	30	39	40	32
IAOS55	ISI + IAOS Developing Countries - Retired	18	18	16	16	9	6	6	5	4	4	4	3	3
IAOS56	Free: Honorary Members, ISI Life, Exemp	10	11	10	9	11	12	12	12	17	18	18	16	14
IAOS561	Free: Prize Winners ***	0	3	5	21	18	7	8	4	3				
IAOS562	Free: SJIAOS Authors ***	45	99	1	7	0	0	2	1	1				
IAOS563	IAOS Inst./Corporate - Developed/Develo	101	99	55	51	93	9	30						
IAOS564D	IAOS students - Developed	0	0	1	0	2	20	9						
IAOS564L	IAOS students - Developing	0	0	0	3	4								
Total Personal		592	564	408	435	487	371	401	365	343	309	305	302	279
*** included in paid figure														
IAOS58	Institutional	50	47	47	47	45	43	43	38	40	40	38	34	41
TOTAL		642	611	455	482	532	414	444	403	383	349	343	336	320
IAOS		21.03.2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
New members (IAOS562 - 20x)		38	191	50	61	142	106	87	53	46	38	55	32	30
Cancelled members		5	49	58	117	57	136	50	42	22	39	32	21	46
Reinstated		1	11	3	5	35	2	6	4	8	7	3	7	5
Net		34	153	-5	-51	120	-28	43	15	32	6	26	18	-11

Annexes

Annex A: Executive Committee 2021 – 2023

Executive Committee	
President	Mr. Misha Belkindas (<i>USA</i>)
President-Elect	Mr. Dominik Rozkrut (<i>Poland</i>)
Member – First term	Ms. Lisa Bersales (<i>Philippines</i>)
Member – Second term	Mr. Peter Popoola (<i>Nigeria</i>)
Member – First term	Mr. Qasem Said Alzoubi (<i>Jordan</i>)
Member – First term	Mr. Gary Dunnet (<i>New Zealand</i>)
Member – ISI Director	Ms. Ada Van Krimpen (<i>Netherlands</i>)
ExCo Co-opted Members	
Latin American and the Caribbean Representative	Mr. Rolando Ocampo Alcantar (<i>Mexico</i>)
Programme Chair of the IAOS 2022 Conference Poland	Mr. Jan Robert Suesser (<i>France</i>)
IAOS Representative to the ISI	Mr. Steve Macfeely (<i>Switzerland</i>)
ExCo Special Invitees	
SJIAOS Editor in Chief	Mr. Pieter Everaers (<i>Netherlands</i>)
SCORUS Chair	Ms. Teodora Brandmueller (<i>Luxembourg</i>)
Special Advisor to the President	Ms. Nancy McBeth (<i>New Zealand</i>)
Young Statisticians Prize	Ms. Gemma Van Halderen (<i>Australia</i>)
UNSD	Mr. Ronald Jansen (<i>USA</i>)
Programme Chair of the IAOS 2023 Conference in Zambia	Mr. Oliver Chinganya (<i>Zambia</i>)

Annex B: President's Messages

1. December 2021

Dear IAOS members:

Several months have passed since I became President of IAOS in July of this year. The year was busy for the world statistical community who needed to modify data collection due to COVID-19, conduct the 2020 round of population census and continue to produce relevant and reliable statistics for decision makers and the public. It was busy for the IAOS, which is aiming to expand its membership bringing, in addition to official statisticians, data scientists, statisticians from private sector and most importantly data users, policy makers, academia and civil society at large.

The IAOS Executive Committee (ExCo) are finalizing the draft IAOS strategy which we will send in January to the entire IAOS community for comments, followed by final endorsement by the IAOS General Assembly in late April of 2022 during the IAOS Krakow conference.

In our campaign to increase IAOS membership we have contacted all the NSOs, international organizations with statistical functions, private sector companies, data providers and those active in providing technical assistance, numerous universities inviting organizations and staff to join the IAOS. I do not have statistics as of now but replies we received are very positive.

Conferences and webinars

In September I visited Krakow and Warsaw where I worked with the Krakow conference Local Organizing Committee. We visited the prospective conference site and we hope that this site will be selected for the conference venue. With leadership of Statistics Poland, we discussed and agreed on the conference budget and agreed on the conference fees. The fees were endorsed by the IAOS ExCo, and will be made public soon. A training session on small area estimates will be held a day before the conference. We will announce the training program in the next few weeks. The conference site can be reached at [iaos2022 – Worthy Information for Challenging Times](#).

Eurostat has provided a grant to support developing country statisticians to attend the Krakow conference. A small group chaired by me with participation by Eurostat, UNSD and Statistics Poland has been established and will oversee the process and select applicants. We are monitoring the situation of COVID-19 particularly in Africa to make a decision on the Zambia conference. As of now we are planning the conference for late 2022 or very early in 2023. For updates on the conference, please visit the [Zambia conference website](#). We hope that Eurostat and other donors will generously support the Zambia conference.

IAOS is co-sponsoring the conference on Small Area Estimations to be held in the University of Maryland in May 2022 ([sae2022.org](#)).

In November the IAOS organized together with ASA Washington Statistical Society a webinar "Statistical linkage of multiple disparate data sources with an application to estimate COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy rates for small areas". University of Maryland professor Partha Lahiri made

the presentation which was followed by a lively discussion. The webinar was attended by more than 150 people from 50 countries. All attendees received a certificate.

A few webinars are in the process of preparation and we will announce them in due course. If IAOS members have suggestions for IAOS sponsored webinars, please contact me at ContactIAOS@gmail.com.

Young Statisticians Prize

The IAOS Young Statisticians Prize 2022 is now open. The Prize is open to all young statisticians on topics of strategic interest to the official statistical community. Information (including information in all UN languages) and details on how to make a submission are available at [YSP - IAOS \(iaos-isi.org\)](https://www.iaos-isi.org). Submissions close on **11 February 2022** but we encourage everyone to make an early start. Mentoring younger colleagues can be a great way to help contribute to the success of our profession.

SCORUS news

SCORUS adopted a new statute which has been put for discussion and endorsement by the IAOS ExCo. In November, SCORUS organized two webinars on “Measuring sustainable development at regional and local level” and “Communication of data at regional and local level”.

Sadly, SCORUS also has to announce the recent death of Derek Bond, who made many contributions to the work of SCORUS over many decades. Derek organized a number of SCORUS events, including the special SCORUS conference in Belfast in 1998, and the SCORUS satellite conference at Limavady to the Dublin World Statistics Conference in 2011, as well as chaired SCORUS sessions at numerous international conferences and, contributed to the programme of most of the international SCORUS conferences at the beginning of this century. A former SCORUS Chairman and committee member, Derek also contributed substantially to the reform of the SCORUS statute in 2005.

We owe him a lot and will always remember his friendship and his essential contributions to the international SCORUS network. Our condolences to family and friends at this time.

Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) news

Upcoming issues

The [December 2021, Volume 37, Issue 4](#) has the Special Theme of “Statistics on difficult to measure population groups”. The issue also contains the four winning manuscripts from the IAOS Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) 2021, as well as a range of articles on COVID-19 and some manuscripts from the ISI World Statistics Conference in The Hague (July 2021). Many more from this conference and the UN World Data Forum (held in Bern in October 2021) are expected in the three first issues in 2022.

Two earlier issues - Open Access issues - that call for your special attention: The December 2021 issue (Volume 37, Issue 4) is a full open access issue that contains 22 high quality contributions focusing on ‘New Developments in Training in Official Statistics’. It

describes the recent trends in the training in official statistics of those producing and those using results of official statistics, with the aim to develop respectively their specific knowledge, skills and competencies and to increase the ‘statistical thinking’.

Full open access is now also granted on The Supplement to Volume 36: Extra issue in 2020 “Official statistics in Africa”. While the 2020 Zambia conference has been delayed, it was decided to go ahead with this extra issue to not lose the momentum of the extra attention on statistics in Africa. This extra issue that now has become full open access due to sponsoring by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, contains around 15 manuscripts from the African region.

Call for Papers for a special issue on the “History of Official Statistics”

The SJIAOS is currently organizing a special issue on “History of Official Statistics” – planned for December 2022. The editorial team welcome articles. Contact the SJIAOS Editor Pieter Everaers (pevssjiaos@gmail.com) for more information.

Papers for other issues are also welcome. Contact Peter Everaers, if you have a possible paper, or an idea for a paper.

Upcoming webinars on writing for Statistical journals

Save the dates: 8, 10 and 15 February 2022

The SJIAOS, together with Journal of Official Statistics, Survey Methodology, Survey Statistician, and the publishers IOS Press and Wiley is organizing a series of webinars to help prospective authors interested in publishing in international statistical journals.

If you, or a colleague, want to publish your work in international statistical manuscripts – but don’t know how, or want to improve your chances of a manuscript being accepted, then these webinars will be for you. The webinars will be held on 8, 10 and 15 February 2022, from 03.00 PM (CET) – 05:00 PM (CET). More information will be available on www.officialstatistics.com.

We invite IAOS members to encourage younger colleagues to join the webinars.

SJIAOS Website Discussion Platform - www.officialstatistics.com

Remember that the Discussion platform is the ideal venue to discuss and debate many of the current issues in official statistics. Discussions are based on statements from key papers in the SJIAOS. In September two new discussions came on-line:

- The UN Fundamental Principles for Official Statistics: a suitable and current self-regulatory instrument or an outdated ‘paper tiger’? and
- The demand and format of Training in Official Statistics.

The December issue of the SJIAOS will also launch a discussion on “Measuring and official statistics on difficult to measure groups: a challenge to leave no-one not-included.”

The base for this discussion is based on the important work of the Expert Group on Refugee and IDP Statistics (EGRIS) working group on drafting International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics (IROSS).

The UN World Data Forum

The World Data Forum was held in Bern, Switzerland from 3-6 October 2021. For many attending, this was the first physical meeting since early 2020, so the feeling of joy and excitement was almost tangible.

According to the Whova App used to support the hybrid event, 7,123 participants joined the event, of which 1,239 joined in person (looking around I would have guessed closer to 400). There were 378 speakers. Run by the Swiss Federal Statistics Office (FSO), the event was run with typical Swiss efficiency. The FSO had taken the sustainability theme to heart, so all of the meals were plant based, to minimize the carbon footprint of the event.

The agenda was rich and packed – with as many as nine parallel sessions running for each time slot. The ‘A world with data we trust’ theme, governance was evident in many sessions. Different aspects of governance, including discussions on a human rights governance framework, the need for a global data convention, developing a digital ecosystem for Earth data, the integration of geospatial and statistical data, modernizing statistical legal frameworks, data protection, balancing trust, quality and privacy, adherence to the UN Fundamental Principles were dealt with. But perhaps the real litmus test, was the coffee break and lunchtime chatter dedicated to governance issues – covering all of the above and the dismissals of several chief statisticians around the world.

The Forum concluded with the adoption of the Bern Data Compact for the Decade of Action on the Sustainable Development Goals (https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/hlg/Bern_Data_Compact_October_6_2021.pdf) and the announcement that the next forum will be hosted by China in spring 2023.

A number of papers from the UN World Data Forum will be in future issues of the SJIAOS. If you attended (physically or virtually) and thought that a presentation could be the subject of a paper in a future issue of the SJIAOS, contact the SJIAOS Editor, Pieter Everaers with your suggestion.

Finally, on behalf of the IAOS Executive Committee, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the IAOS. I wish you and your families all the best for 2022, and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the IAOS conference in Krakow.

Regards,

Misha Belkindas
IAOS President