



International Association for Official Statistics

## IAOS General Assembly

20 September 2018  
Paris, France

### IAOS Young Statistician Prize (YSP) - Update

*Prepared by Gemma Van Halderen with input from 2018 YSP chair and 2019 incoming YSP chair*

#### Summary

- The 2018 Young Statistician Prize was the eighth year of the Prize (2011 was first year)
- The three 2018 winning papers were:
  - **First Prize:** An index-based approach to determine partnership in register-based census, by: Ms Helle Visk, Statistics Estonia.
  - **Second Prize:** Reproducible Analytical Pipelines in Offender Management Statistics, by: Mr. Christopher Fairbanks, United Kingdom Government Statistical Service - Ministry of Justice.
  - **Third Prize:** Adjusting for linkage errors to analyse coverage of the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) and the administrative population (IDI-ERP), by: Mr. Hochang Choi, Statistics New Zealand.
- A suggestion from an ISI member to consider a more contemporary definition of 'young' statistician will be considered for next year (2019). Instead of young according to age, the suggestion is young according to career – to accommodate mature age students who may have only recently joined the statistical profession.
- The 2018 Selection Panel chair did an excellent job, has completed a final report and handed over materials to the incoming 2019 chair. Attachment A provides an account of activities.
- Preparations for the 2019 Young Statistician Prize have commenced. Attachment B provides an indicative timeframe.

#### 2018 Young Statistician Prize Basic Statistics

- A total of 37 submissions (from 50 entrants) were received in 2018, seven less than in 2017. Three papers did not meet the eligibility criteria, compared to five papers in 2017.
- The 34 eligible submissions represent 23 countries/territories (same as in 2017). The 34 eligible papers came from 23 countries. These papers were from Africa (6), Asia (10), Europe (9), North America (1), Oceania (6) and South America (2) (Attachment C).
- Entrants with eligible submissions came from Africa (6), Asia (22), Europe (11), North America (1), Oceania (7) and South America (3).

- Twenty-four (70.6%) of the papers were sole-authored. Of the 50 authors/co-authors, 28 (56%) were female. The average age of the entrants was 29.5 years (29.6 for females and 29.4 for males).
- Of the 34 eligible submissions, 14 progressed to the second stage of the selection process, and were assessed for their scientific/strategic merit, originality, applicability in statistical offices and quality of exposition.
- The winning paper scored an average of 76.75 (c.f. 80.75 points for the winning entry in 2017). The second place paper scored on average 76.50 (c.f. 75.50 points for second place in 2017) and the third place paper scored on average 74.75 (c.f. 75.50 points for third place in 2017). It is important to note that the scores for the winning entries (76.75, 76.50 and 74.75) are very close which implies that there was no particular standout entry. Indeed there were a number of very good papers among the submissions but in a competition such as this only three can be awarded prizes.
- The winning papers were proposed by Statistics Estonia (c.f. United Kingdom Office for National Statistics in 2017), the United Kingdom Government Statistical Service - Ministry of Justice (c.f. Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2017) and Statistics New Zealand (c.f. Australian Bureau of Statistics in 2017).
- In 2018, the winning authors comprised one female and two males (Similarly, there were one female and two male winning authors in 2017).
- The themes of the winning papers were an index-based approach to census registration (c.f. dissemination of official statistics in 2017), automating the production of official statistics from administrative data (c.f. telematics data in 2017) and adjusting for linkage errors (c.f. improving seasonal adjustment in 2017). Overall, the 34 eligible papers covered a broad range of themes. In order of importance, these included data analysis and estimation techniques; data collection, compilation, processing and production; reforming the statistical system, improving statistical literacy and data dissemination; and sampling.



**Attachment A: Summary of keys dates and activities for 2018 Young Statistician Prize**

| <b>Milestones</b>         | <b>Action taken</b>   |
|---------------------------|---|
| September 2017            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertising materials (posters, emails, etc) prepared</li> <li>• Selection panel organisation</li> </ul>   |
| October 2017              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IAOS President directly emails NSOs and IAOS members advising of Competition. Online flier and link to posters, in six languages, included in correspondence.</li> <li>• IAOS October Newsletter informs readers of the Young Statistician Competition</li> </ul>  |
| November 2017             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IAOS President directly emails NSOs advising closing date has been extended to 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018.</li> <li>• IAOS Nov Newsletter informs readers of extended deadline</li> </ul>   |
| January 2018              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As at 8<sup>th</sup> January, only one submission received. EXCO agree to undertake additional reminder action</li> <li>• IAOS President directly emails reminder of closing date to               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Heads of National and International Statistical Agencies (11<sup>th</sup> Jan)</li> <li>○ Chief Methodologist Network (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Mexico, European Commission, USDA, Norway, Italy, UK, Finland, US Census, Austria, Israel) (15<sup>th</sup> Jan)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• IAOS Jan Newsletter reminds readers of the Competition and extended deadline</li> <li>• ISI directly emails ISI members with reminder (30<sup>th</sup>)</li> <li>• Request from ISI member to consider a more contemporary definition of 'young statistician' (30<sup>th</sup>). Response sent 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.</li> </ul> |
| February 2018             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoted on ISI website home page <a href="https://isi-web.org/index.php">https://isi-web.org/index.php</a></li> <li>• Drawn to the attention of readers of ISI newsletter</li> </ul>  |
| February 15 <sup>th</sup> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing date for submissions</li> </ul>  |
| March - April 2018        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection panel receives papers, undertakes first round of assessment (17 papers per panel) in March, undertakes second round of assessment (10 papers per selection panel member) in April.</li> <li>• Incoming chair and IAOS Exco contact assist with adjudication</li> <li>• Final decision mid-May.</li> </ul>  |
| May 2018                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final decision transmitted to IAOS President</li> </ul>  |
| June 2018                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winners are notified by IAOS President</li> <li>• Entrants are notified by IAOS President</li> <li>• IAOS website updated with announcement of winners</li> </ul>  |
| July 2018                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2018 Chair hands over all materials to incoming chair</li> </ul>   |
| September 2018            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of prizes at IAOS-OECD Conference</li> </ul>  |

## Attachment B: Indicative timeline, 2019 Young Statistician Prize

| <b>Task</b>  | <b>Date</b>  |
|--|--|
| 1. Agree draft of competition launch document and guidelines   | July 2018  |
| 2. Launch 2019 competition with announcement on the IAOS website   | July 2018  |
| 3. Create email address for entries  | August 2018  |
| 4. Initial publicity   | August 2018  |
| 5. Recruit selection panel for 2019 and identify panel Chair for 2020  | July-Sept 2018                                     |
| 6. Write to Heads of NSOs  | August 2018  |
| 7. Publicity for the Competition – posters/photos/interviews   | August/ Sept 2018                                  |
| 8. Review of number of entries   | Oct 2018   |
| 9. Further reminder letter to NSO Heads/points of contact  | Oct 2018   |
| 10. Competition closes   | 31 Dec 2018  |
| 11. Assess all eligibility templates and resolve any issues  | Sept 2018 – 15 Feb 2019                            |
| 12. Selection Committee to be notified of the number of papers and number of review phases and timetable, etc. | January 2019                                       |
| 13. Hold individual phone conversations with selection panel   | February 4-17, 2019                                |
| 14. Send out phase 1 instructions and papers   | 18 Feb 2019  |
| 15. Phase 1 review (elimination)   | 18 February – 17 March , 2019                      |
| 16. Phase 1 results  | 18 March 2019                                      |
| 17. Send out phase 2 instructions and papers   | 20 March 2019                                      |
| 18. Phase 2 review   | 20 March – 19 April 2019                           |
| 19. Phase 2 first results  | 20 April 2019                                      |
| 20. Phase 2 first results review   | 20 April – 25 April 2019                           |
| 21. Final results  | 26 April 2019                                      |
| 22. Final results report including draft of announcement of results, draft letters to winning papers           | May/June 2019                                      |
| 23. Handover to new Chair of YSP Selection Committee   | July 2019  |
| 24. Logistic arrangements of awarding the prizes (e.g. transfer money award, prepare certificate)              | 18-23 Aug 2019 (ISI WSC in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) |



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### Attachment C: Countries submitting papers for the 2018 IAOS YSP

| No. | Country                   | Continent     | No. of eligible papers submitted |
|-----|---------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.  | Australia                 | Asia          | 3                                |
| 2.  | Bolivia                   | South America | 1                                |
| 3.  | Brazil                    | South America | 1                                |
| 4.  | Cameroon                  | Africa        | 2                                |
| 5.  | China                     | Asia          | 2                                |
| 6.  | Egypt                     | Africa        | 1                                |
| 7.  | Estonia (First Prize)     | Europe        | 1                                |
| 8.  | Finland                   | Europe        | 2                                |
| 9.  | Germany                   | Europe        | 1                                |
| 10. | Hungary                   | Europe        | 1                                |
| 11. | India                     | Asia          | 1                                |
| 12. | Indonesia                 | Asia          | 3                                |
| 13. | Iran                      | Asia          | 1                                |
| 14. | Italy                     | Europe        | 1                                |
| 15. | Japan                     | Asia          | 1                                |
| 16. | London (Second Prize)     | Europe        | 1                                |
| 17. | Mexico                    | North America | 1                                |
| 18. | New Zealand (Third Prize) | Oceania       | 3                                |
| 19. | Poland                    | Europe        | 1                                |
| 20. | Russia                    | Europe        | 1                                |
| 21. | Saudi Arabia              | Asia          | 2                                |
| 22. | South Sudan               | Africa        | 1                                |
| 23. | Tanzania                  | Africa        | 2                                |
|     |                           | <b>Total</b>  | <b>34</b>                        |