



2017-2018

Annual Report

International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)

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Message from the President

Dear colleagues,

In presenting this annual report (from August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2018), I am pleased to inform you that the IAOS has experienced a year of growth and progress. The incoming Executive created and started the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2017-2019; actively promoted our mission, objectives and activities; and successfully built partnerships that will have a lasting and positive impact for IAOS.

In this first year of our Strategic Plan 2017-2019, the Executive has focused our efforts in advancing the three core activities of our Association:

- the IAOS Biennial Conference,
- the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS), and
- the Young Statisticians Prize (YSP).

In addition, the Executive has progressed a number of other objectives such as the Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award (YSBS), the promotion of NSOs' professional independence, and provided support to the legal and public defence of cases where the professional independence of NSOs and/or the integrity of official statisticians have been under threat.

All through 2017 and the first semester of 2018 we continued to make great progress in the preparation of the 16th IAOS Conference, jointly organised with the Organisation for the Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The call for papers for the Conference resulted in more than 200 proposals, which led the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) to open substantially more slots for sessions and panels than originally planned. In total, more than 130 speakers were allocated to present their research on official statistics in 32 parallel sessions, 5 plenary sessions and 1 poster session. I want to recognize and thank our partners at the OECD and all the members of the SPC for their great support in the organization of the

Conference. I would also like to thank the World Bank and the ISI for their support for a number of delegates from developing countries to attend the Conference.

For the 2018 YSP competition we received 37 submissions from 23 countries. We are continuing to use social media in order to increase the awareness of this prize among the statistical community and motivate more young statisticians to participate in it. Promotion using social media will be even more important for the 2019 competition. I would like to express my gratitude to the YSP Selection Committee and the EXCO members involved in carrying out this competition for their considerable contributions.

The SJIAOS has continued growing in readers, subjects and publications. During 2017-2018, it published more than 60 manuscripts under the themes of "Urban, Regional and Small Area Statistics", the "Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics", "Sustainable Development Goals", etc. In the past years our journal has also improved its ranking among other academic and professional publications, as well as increased their number of citations per manuscript published. I would like to thank Editor in Chief, Dr Kirsten West and the Editorial Board for their invaluable and dedicated work in the management of the Journal, as well as in the selection, edition and publication of papers.

During this first year of our Strategic Plan 2017-2019, we also undertook new activity to attract young talent to join IAOS: the Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award (YSBS). The YSBS, jointly launched with the OECD, aimed to recognise academic work from graduate students and their academic advisors, and to encourage them to take an active interest in official statistics. Invitations about the prize were sent to more than 760 leading academic departments at universities around the world, increasing the presence and knowledge of our association among students and the academia. The quality of the papers submitted was of a very high standard, which is reflected in the work of the 3 selected winners.

Throughout 2017 and 2018, IAOS has also taken an active role in the promotion of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and, in particular, NSOs' professional independence. Our communication channels (e.g. website, mailing list, twitter, etc.) have been used to spread the word and support the legal and public defence of cases where the professional independence of NSOs and the integrity of official statisticians have been under threat. Two examples of this is our Association's condemnation of Andreas Georgiou prosecution and the promotion of his legal defence, as well as the joint statement against the dismantling of Puerto Rico's Institute of Statistics (PRIS).

Moreover, prior to the 16th IAOS Conference, we have organized a one day Special Meeting on "NSOs professional independence: Threats and Responses", where these and other cases of attempts to undermine the independence of NSOs would be analysed, institutional governance mechanisms examined, and the role of the international community discussed.

Due to the promotion of IAOS and its activities the past year resulted in some substantial increase in numbers. During the year covered by this report IAOS increased its total membership by 29%, rising from 415 members in December 2017 to 537 in July 2018. Of these, individual members represented the great majority (92%), while 8% were institutional members. IAOS is continuously working on expanding the reach of its mission and presence. This annual report outlines some of the many promotion activities undertaken by IAOS EXCO members. It also provides a more complete update of our membership figures and articles detailing each of the subjects discussed briefly in this message.

I would also like to acknowledge the death of Ian McLean, UK, a longstanding member of the IAOS, and frequent attendee at the IAOS (and ISI) conferences. Ian made a sterling contribution to the work of the IAOS and official statistics in general over many years. He will be greatly missed.

As we continue into the second year of our Strategic Plan 2017-2019, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and dedication of our Executive Committee (EXCO) members. The progress achieved over the past year could not have been completed without their voluntary support. The ISI team has also been an invaluable source of help and advice in all matters pertaining to the IAOS. To the EXCO members and ISI team: thank you for your continuing contributions and for devoting part of your valuable time to help IAOS fulfil its mission.

Our gratitude is also extended to the statistical agencies that sustain the individual work of our EXCO members. In particular, I would like to thank the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) and its President, Dr. Julio Santaella, for supporting us with staff, time and many other resources.

IAOS' progress would always be the official statistical community's progress. With the ongoing support of the EXCO, the ISI, and our individual and institutional members, IAOS is ready for the challenges ahead. I look forward to continuing our work in promoting the understanding and advancement of official statistics. I humbly request your support and cooperation as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mario Palma". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mario Palma
IAOS President 2017-2019

IAOS Strategy Progress 2017-2018

Background

During the 2017 IAOS General Assembly, held within the framework of the 61st ISI World Statistics Congress in Marrakech (17 July 2017), the IAOS Strategic Plan 2017-2019 was presented. This plan set out a medium-term vision and 8 strategic objectives to help guide the priorities and activities of IAOS, based on a SWOT Analysis of the Association, previous IAOS plans and the ISI Strategy for 2017-2021.

The Strategic Plan is aligned to IAOS' mission. Its objectives for 2017-2019 seek to make headway in the promotion of the understanding and advancement of official statistics, as well as in the development of effective and efficient official statistical services, through international contacts among individuals and organizations, including users of official statistical information as well as research institutions.

The following section presents the activities and progress achieved towards these goals during the first year of this strategic plan. For further reference to the objectives, targets and activities included in the Strategic Plan 2017-2019, please visit: <http://www.iaos-isi.org/index.php/strategy>.

I would like to thank Nancy McBeth (IAOS Special Advisor) who has been on board with my staff (Victoria Bonilla and Carlos Alarcon, and previously Omar Berrospe and Rodrigo Reyes) and myself on practically day-to-day management of IAOS. She has been instrumental in the implementation of many of the activities described below, besides providing always her wise and professional advice.

Strategic Objective 1

Provide its membership, producers and users of statistical information in general, with a forum for the analysis and discussion of the most relevant issues of official statistics.

The most well-known activity of IAOS is the organisation of its biennial international conference, whose aim is to provide a forum in which users and producers of official

statistics from both developed and developing countries can meet; discuss relevant and innovative subjects related to the field of official statistics; and share their experiences in the production and use of statistical information from their different spheres: government, private institutions, NGOs, the academia, etc.

In September 2018 IAOS will celebrate the 16th Edition of its biennial Conference in partnership, for the second time, with an international organisation: the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). With the aim of promoting official statistics, the theme of this conference “Better Statistics for Better Lives” will serve as an umbrella to discuss the most pressing problems regarding the production, dissemination and use of official statistics within the framework of issues related to:

- Sustainability;
- Well-being and Quality of life;
- The Future of Official Statistics;
- Communication and Statistical Literacy;
- Measurement and Impact of Digitalization and Globalization.

More than 130 speakers will present their research on official statistics in 32 parallel sessions, 5 plenary sessions and 1 poster session at the Conference. In addition, the event will have the presence of three important keynote speakers:

- **Walter Radermacher** (Director General of Eurostat and Chief Statistician of the European Union 2008-2016) – “Official Statistics in the Risk Society”;
- **Eduardo Sojo** (General Director, National Laboratory of Public Policy (LNPP), Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE), Mexico) - “SDGs, an inspiring framework to change the way we use and produce statistics. A user opinion”;
- **Selma Mahfouz** (Director of Research Studies and Statistics, French ministry of Labour) - “Measurement and Policy Implications of Changes in the Labour Market”.

The conference is expected to be an important driver of the agenda towards better understanding official statistics, increasing their usefulness, addressing challenges and finding potential options to improve their production and use in these particular fields.

Moreover, preparations for the 17th IAOS Conference have already started. President-Elect 2017-19, John Pullinger (National Statistician for the United Kingdom, Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority) is pleased to announce that the Central Statistics Office in Zambia, under the leadership of Mr. Goodson Sinyenga, Director General, has agreed to host the 17th IAOS International Conference in Lusaka in 2020. This will be the second time that the IAOS Conference will take place in Africa, which reflects IAOS' commitment to be present worldwide and to foster the participation of different regions in our shared goal of advancing official statistics. Further details will be announced as plans progress. Our congratulations and thanks to John, his team, and Oliver J.M. Chinganya (Director of the African Centre for Statistics at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – UNECA) for their efforts in procuring the venue for the 2020 conference.

The Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS), an important sub-group of the IAOS also held its annual conference in 2018. The work of SCORUS, including the conference has been very important in highlighting this aspect of official statistics (see Section IX).

Strategic objective 2

Be a recognised vehicle for spreading knowledge in official statistics.

IAOS aims to become a world-wide 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. Along with the organisation of the biennial international conference, the Journal allows IAOS to advance in this mission, as it serves as a knowledge disseminator, exposing quality and relevant research to the statistical community.

During 2017-2018 the SJIAOS has shown progress towards the achievement of the targets outlined in the Strategic Plan. It has continued increasing its number of readers and the diversity of the manuscripts it publishes, keeping itself at the vanguard of the discussion of emerging issues in official statistics. As described in section VI, the SJIAOS is currently ranked in Quartiles 2 and 3 of the Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR) and has kept an increasing trend in the number of total citations received by its articles (reaching 0.6 citations per document published). All this reflects that the SJIAOS is positioning itself as a trusted source of knowledge and dissemination of quality research among peer-reviewed journals, attracting the interest of more people within the statistical community and new talent.

Strategic Objective 3

Increase and diversify IAOS membership.

As of July 2018, IAOS has a total of 537 members which represents an increase of 29%, compared with the number of members (415) with which our Association ended the previous year (December 2017).

In terms of individual and institutional members, there was an increase of 33% in individual IAOS memberships, rising from 371 members in December 2017 to 492 in July 2018. Institutional members remained almost the same, increasing from 44 to 45 (institutional members) during the same period.

The growth in the number of individual members was mainly driven by an increase of those from developed countries -who grew by 39% during this period (from 244 to 338). Although in a smaller proportion, the number of member from developing countries also increased. They rose from 108 at the end of 2018 to 135 by July 2018 (an increment of 25%). More detailed information on IAOS membership figures can be found in section VII.

It appears that the promotion of the 2018 IAOS-OECD Conference (attractive content and its joint organisation with the OECD) as well as other IAOS activities, such as the YSP and the new YSBS award have resulted in a positive impact in the

number of members. In the upcoming years we will continue working on promoting IAOS globally. Promotion activities in the Arab, African and South Mediterranean Regions (described in Section VII) represent part of our actions. The 2020 Conference in Zambia represents an opportunity to attract even more members from African countries, expanding the presence and mission of IAOS in the region.

Strategic Objective 4

Invest in creating mutual beneficial partnerships.

IAOS continues its efforts to become an increasingly active and relevant actor in the International Statistical Community through the building of partnerships with international, regional and national organizations and the involvement of these in the undergoing work of the Association; the promotion of its mission and activities in new countries and regions; and its active participation in international fore devoted to official statistics.

As it has been mentioned above, for the 16th Edition of its biennial Conference IAOS has partnered with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This partnership has proved successful for the organisation of the comprehensive programme and an attractive conference for the international official statistical community (see section III).

Strategic Objective 5

Strengthen communications with relevant actors related to official statistics.

The IAOS has been active in communicating with its members by different means. In coordination with the ISI we have sent various newsletters, reminders, invitations to events, calls for proposals and other related topics relevant for the Official Statistical Community. For instance, in 2017 the Caribbean region suffered a series of hurricanes, which caused significant damage to infrastructure across the region. IAOS worked with ISI Head Office, the Statisticians without Borders NGO and Caricom Statistics Director to raise awareness and coordinate support for Caribbean NSOs affected by these disasters.

Moreover, IAOS continues to be a member of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD). This network brings together a network of governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, academic institutions, foundations, statistics agencies, and other data communities with the aim of fully harnessing the data revolution for sustainable development.

During this year we have also strived to increase our presence in social media with the objective of attracting and reaching young members. To this purpose, a Twitter Account [@IAOS_Stats](#) was created for our Association. This account has allowed us to be in contact with members, NSO's and other relevant actors in the statistical world, sharing with them information of our association and other important subjects related to official statistics. We plan to continue with these efforts as they allow us to gradually extend our presence in social media reaching a broader audience.

For the promotion of the Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award (YSBS) we created a database of Universities and Faculties around the world focused on subjects that could relate to official statistics. This database includes more than 760 leading academic departments of statistics, political science, data science, mathematics, economics, etc. The efforts invest in creating this database could prove useful in the future to continue the communication with the academia.

Strategic Objective 6

Contribute to the promotion and defense of the fundamental principles of official statistics.

Throughout 2017 and 2018 IAOS has been particularly active in the promotion of the fundamental principles of official statistics and, in particular, has added its voice to the ISI and other organisations and individuals for the statistical community support to the legal and public defense of cases where the professional independence of NSOs and/or the integrity of official statisticians has been under threat.

The case of Andreas Georgiou, former president of the Greek Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), started in September 2011 and continues seven years later with allegations

against him that threaten his professional and personal freedom, but also the capacity of current and future statisticians in Greece to produce official statistics with independence and impartiality. Along with recognised experts, academics, organisations IAOS has been one of the associations supporting the defense of Andreas Georgiou and calling the Greek authorities to stop the actions against him.

The Puerto Rico Institute of Statistics (PRIS) was in a difficult position when it was threatened to be dismantled by a government reorganization bill. On June 30, 2018 this reorganisation proposal was removed, ensuring the continuity of the Institute. IAOS was one of the 49 scientific organisations urging the governor of Puerto Rico not to dismantle the statistical agency.

For situations like the one of Andreas Georgiou, the PRIS and others in which the professional independence of NSOs and the integrity of official statisticians has been under threat, the IAOS decided to dedicate a full day special meeting with high level sessions to analyse and discuss the role of the international statistical community in cases of challenges and threats to the professional independence of official statistics (see section IV). Furthermore, IAOS has used its communication channels to spread the support offered to each of these cases.

Strategic Objective 7

Institutionalize IAOS functions.

IAOS has been successful in incorporating and elaborating well documented procedures that support the smooth functioning of the association through the years. Some examples of this include the role within the Association of the President and the Executive Committee, the general process of our YSP competition and, since this edition of the IAOS biennial conference, of the YSBS award. By documenting and adopting institutionalized procedures, IAOS comply and contribute with the ISI general functioning and allows also to strengthen the relations with the ISI and with other relevant actors of the international statistical community.

Furthermore, it has been fundamental to adopt and comply with external guidelines and regulations. During the first half of 2018, the IAOS adapted some of its processes to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a regulation that was implemented in the European Union and the European Economic Area to protect individual's personal data. In the case of IAOS, for instance, the data of all our members is subject to protection based on this regulation.

Strategic Objective 8

Strengthen links with the ISI family.

IAOS, as part of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) has been active in supporting the Strategic Plan formulated by the ISI for the period 2017-2021. Following ISI's lead, we have identified which of our actions need to be prioritised to both accomplish our short-term goals and contribute to the medium-term objectives of the ISI. The ISI Strategic Plan has served as a framework for our own strategy and as a result we have endorsed the ISI strategic objectives (e.g. development of statistical capacity, financial sustainability and the expansion and engagement of our membership base), aiming to contribute towards a successful integration of our organizations.

IAOS is sustained mostly by the voluntary work of its EXCO members and some staff who are in turn backed with their salaries and many other resources by their NSOs, as well as by our partner hosts through their support in the organisation of our biennial conferences. At IAOS we have strived to work efficiently, optimising the usage of our limited (financial, time, and human) resources and building a global network of people and institutions supporting IAOS that help us ensure progress for our Association's and, consequently, ISI's strategic plans.

The ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC) is a core element of the ISI Strategic Plan as it is the flagship event of the Institute. In this regard, IAOS has been involved in many different forms to contribute to the successful development of the WSC. This includes the provision of spaces of promotion at IAOS' events, participating actively

in the organization of IAOS sponsored Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) and Lunch Time Roundtable Sessions (LTRS) with the aim of enriching the programme of the event (see section VIII), etc.

Our collaboration with the ISI is mutual. The Institute is an invaluable source of help for our Association with all administrative needs, but also with their kindly and opportune advice in all matters IAOS. My gratitude to Ada Van Krimpen (ISI Director) and her team at The Hague.

IAOS 2018 Conference



better
statistics
for better
lives



The 16th edition of the IAOS' biennial conference will be held on 19-21 September 2018 and is organised jointly with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The venue is the OECD Conference Centre in Paris, France. The theme of the Conference is "Better Statistics for Better Lives" and it has five major topics:

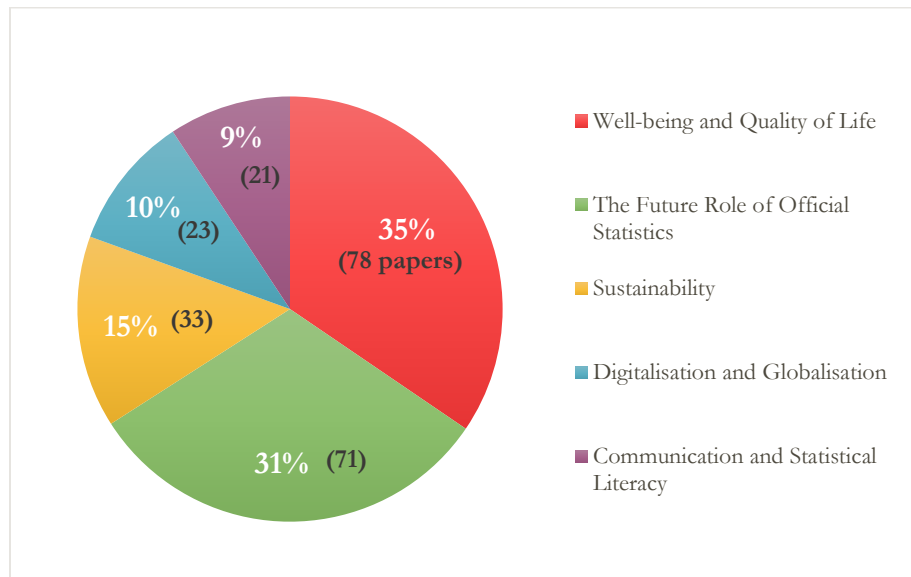
1. Sustainability;
2. Well-being and quality of life;
3. The future of official statistics;
4. Communication and Statistical Literacy;
5. Measurement and Impact of Digitalization and Globalization.

Three keynote speakers have been confirmed with the following subjects:

- **Walter Radermacher** (Director General of [Eurostat](#) and Chief Statistician of the European Union 2008-2016) – "Official Statistics in the Risk Society"
- **Eduardo Sojo** (General Director, National Laboratory of Public Policy (LNPP), Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE), Mexico) – "SDGs, an inspiring framework to change the way we use and produce statistics. A user opinion";
- **Selma Mahfouz** (Director of Research Studies and Statistics, French Ministry of Labour) – "Measurement & Policy Implications of Changes in the Labor Market"

The call for papers for the 16th IAOS Conference received a very positive response with a total of **227 proposals** (see Figure 1). The Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) of the 2018 Conference selected and allocated the successful papers that would be presented in the conference according to the five themes that the event will cover.

Figure 1.- Number of papers submitted by theme, 16th IAOS International Conference



Source: Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) of the 16th IAOS International Conference.

Due to the high volume of submissions, the Committee decided to increase the number of sessions originally planned to accommodate as many relevant papers as possible. In total, more than 130 speakers were allocated slots to present their research on official statistics in 32 parallel sessions, 5 plenary sessions and 1 poster session.

A joint prize session was also organised for the Young Statistician Prize (YSP) and the Young Scholars for Better Statistics award (YSBS), to recognise the best papers using official statistics written by graduate students and young statisticians. In addition to monetary prizes, the first-place winners from both competitions will receive travel funds to present their papers at the Conference.

As in previous (although not in the last) IAOS conferences, a special session will be organized by SCORUS with the topic “Developing a Global Definition of Cities and Settlements for Statistical Purposes”. Other special topic sessions include “Indigenous Statistics: Time for an International Response”, “From R&D Statistics to Innovation – China”, “International Statistics: Beyond the simple collation of National Official

Statistics", "Are Drug Statistics part of Official Statistics?". The conference promises to be very enriching.

The Conference was announced on the OECD, IAOS and ISI websites, and promoted through OECD Statistics', IAOS' and ISI newsletters, as well as via various social media channels and mailing lists. For instance,

- Notifications about the event, the YSBS and the call for papers were posted under "what's new" on the OECD Statistics Directorate homepages.
- Several communications to the Heads of NSOs were sent through ISI and directly from INEGI's international office in relation to the Conference and the YSP.
- Flyers were distributed at every relevant conference and meeting (e.g. CSSP meeting in June 2017, the 61st ISI WSC in Marrakesh in July 2017, the "Providing facts where opinions are formed" conference in October 2017).
- The Conference, the YSBS and the call for papers was advertised on OECD's twitter channel @OECD_Stat (almost 89K followers).
- The Conference was included in the list of forthcoming meetings in the November edition of the OECD Statistics Newsletter.
- The event was posted on the World of Statistics website (www.worldofstatistics.org)
- The call for papers was included in the latest "Stats Flash" (sent to close to 52K people) and in the latest "news on well-being" (sent to over 37K people).
- Invitations to participate in the YSBS (and two waves of reminders) were sent to more than 760 academic departments from Universities around the world.

I want to recognize and thank our partners at the OECD Martine Durand (Chief Statistician and Director of the OECD Statistics and Data Directorate), Peter van de Ven (Head of National Accounts) and his team, as well as Kees Zeelenberg (Chair of the SPC) and all the members of the SPC (see Annex A) for their great support in the organisation of the Conference. We, at IAOS, are proud to be working with such an important international organization and with so many committed and dedicated members of IAOS in the organisation of our biennial Conference.

Special Meeting on NSO's Professional Independence

Prior to its 16th International Conference, on 18 September 2018 IAOS will hold a Special Meeting on the subject of “NSOs Professional Independence: Threats and Responses”. This meeting will discuss at a high level the challenges to the independence of official statistics by analysing concrete cases, governance arrangements and the role of the international statistical community.

Professional independence of NSOs is a subject of utmost importance for Official Statistics and IAOS decided to dedicate a full day to highlight it. The meeting consists of three main sessions and a book presentation by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The country cases covered by this event include: Argentina, Canada, Greece, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Norway and the UK.

Among the panellists confirmed to this Special Meeting are Andreas Georgiou (Greece), Eric Rancourt (Canada), Jorge Todesca (Argentina), Petteri Baer (presenting the case of Kazakhstan), John Pullinger (UK), Mario Palma (Mexico) and Olav Ljones (Norway). Sessions will be chaired by Jean Louis Bodin (France), Stefan Schweinfest (Director of the United Nations Statistical Division) and Hermann Habermann (USA) with Hallgrimur Snorrason acting as rapporteur.

For more information about this meeting see Annex B.

Prizes

2018 Young Statisticians Prize (YSP)

The Young Statistician Prize has reached its eighth annual edition. For the 2018 competition the Selection Committee had representatives from Europe, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific.

Similar to 2017, the closing date of December was extended until February due to the low number of submissions received up till November and leading up to the December deadline. This extension allowed for a substantial increase in the number of applications.

A suggestion has come from an ISI member to consider a more contemporary definition of "young' statistician". 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. This was agreed to be considered for the 2019 edition of the award.

The YSP in numbers:

- By 15 February 2018, a total of 37 submissions were received, 34 of them were eligible for the contest.
- 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).
- 24 (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).

2018 YSP Winners.

The selection committee was favourably impressed by the general quality of the papers submitted and judging them was a demanding process. The results of the 2018 IAOS Prize for Young Statisticians were:

First Place: Ms. Helle Visk, “An index-based approach to determine partnership in register-based census”. (Estonia)

Second Place: Mr. Christopher Fairbanks, “Reproducible analytical pipelines in offender management statistics”. (England)

Third Place: Mr. Hochang Choi “Adjusting for linkage errors to analyse coverage of the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) and the administrative population (IDI-ERP)”. (New Zealand)

I would like to express my gratitude to the Selection Committee members and, in particular, to Gemma Van Halderen who is the liaison EXCO member with the YSP Selection Committee for their invaluable contribution in carrying out this competition.

Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award (YSBS)

For the first time, the IAOS, in partnership with the OECD, launched a competition aimed to recognise the contribution of young graduate students and their academic supervisors to official statistics.

Young Scholars for Better Statistics Award (YSBS) is a core element of the 2017-2019 IAOS Strategic Plan. Its objective is to provide students with a forum to share their work, increase their network inside the official statistics world, and expand their access to innovative studies related to their field of research.

As mentioned before, invitations were sent to more than 760 leading academic

departments at universities around the world, focused on subjects such as mathematics, data science, statistics, economics, political science, etc. The papers received covered a wide variety of innovative topics, which are being studied in academia and are relevant to the world of official statistics. The YSBS offered an opportunity to graduate students to explore new techniques and methods to official statistics.

The creation of indexes for statistical purposes, prediction modelling, optimisation techniques, conversion factors, work-life balance, quality of life and unemployment were some of the topics covered by the submissions.

2018 YSBS Winners

The results of the 2018 IAOS-OECD Young Scholars for Better Statistics (YSBS) were:

First Place: Milica Maricic, *“Assessing the quality of life in the European Union: The European Index of Life Satisfaction (EILS)”*, University of Belgrade.

Second Place: Hong Anh Luu, *“The technical conversion factor and its relation with the price ratio of processing livestock”*, Vrije Universiteit Brussels.

Third Place: Fritz Schiltz, *“The added value of more accurate predictions for school rankings”*, KU Leuven (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven).

Statistical Journal of IAOS (SJIAOS)

The Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) is a fundamental tool for our Association. It serves as a knowledge disseminator, providing the world with innovative research on official statistics. The main aim of the SJIAOS is to support IAOS' mission by publishing articles which help to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and to foster the development of effective official statistical services on a global basis.

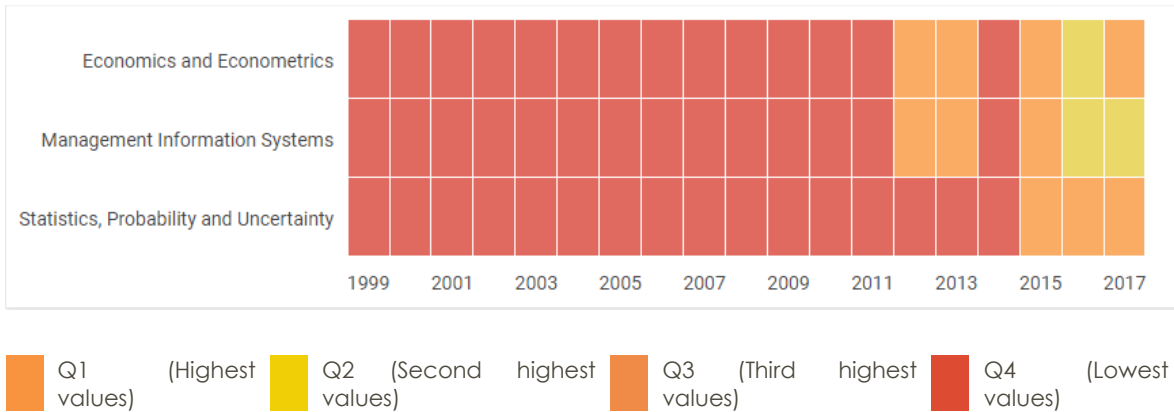
The actions undertaken by Editor in Chief Dr Kirsten West and the Editorial Board during 2017-2018 have contributed to improve in all our metrics: number of readers, quality and diversity of the manuscripts published, ranking of the SJIAOS among peer-reviewed journals, attraction of innovative research and new talent, and promotion of the discussion of emerging issues in official statistics. These are the targets outlined in the IAOS Strategy Plan and the SJIAOS has been successful in working and progressing based on these targets.

According to Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR),¹ which compares the impact of journals grouped by subject category, in 2017 the SJIAOS was ranked in Quartile 2 (Q2)² for the category of Management Information Systems, and in Quartile 3 (Q3) when considering the categories of Economics and Econometrics and Statistics Probability and Uncertainty. As Figure 3 shows, these results keep the trend upwards of the SJIAOS, initiated after 2011 when in all three categories the journal was ranked in Q4, the lowest quartile.

¹The Scimago Journal & Country Rank measures the impact of Journals based on their number of documents published, references and cites. It is a publicly available portal (<https://www.scimagojr.com/>) that includes journals and country scientific indicators developed from the information contained in the [Scopus®](https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus) database, the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed scientific journals, books and conference proceedings (<https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/scopus>).

² The set of journals are ranked according to their SJR and divided into four equal groups, four quartiles. Q1 (green) comprises the quarter of the journals with the highest values, Q2 (yellow) the second highest values, Q3 (orange) the third highest values and Q4 (red the lowest values).

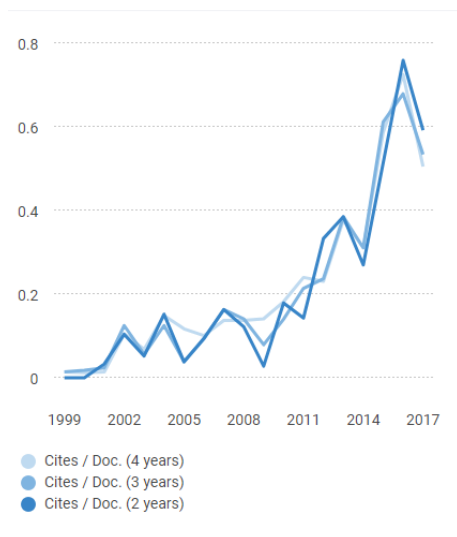
Figure 3.- SJIAOS according to Scimago Journal & Country Rank (SJR), by subject category



Source: Scimago (<https://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=14500154708&tip=sid&clean=0>)

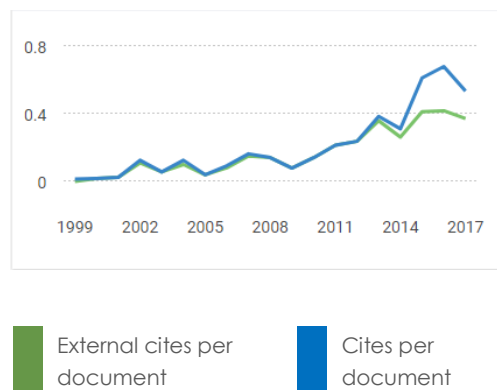
During the past years, the number of cites per manuscript published in the journal has kept an increasing trend (see Fig. 4). In this continued growth the proportion of external cites has played a key role. As shown in Fig. 5, more than half of the total citations received by the journal's articles are external citations (i.e. cites in other scientific journals' publications). Both figures, along with the increased number of manuscripts published, reflects that the SJIAOS has kept positioning itself as a source of knowledge and dissemination of research on relevant issues related to official statistics.

Fig 4.- SJIAOS – Citations per document



Note: This indicator counts the number of citations received by documents from a

Fig 5.- SJIAOS – External cites per document



Note: Evolution of the number of total citation per document and external

journal and divides them by the total number of documents published in that journal. The chart shows the evolution of the average number of times documents published in a journal in the past two, three and four years have been cited in the current year.

Source: Scimago.

citation per document (i.e. journal self-citations removed) received by a journal's published documents during the three previous years. External citations are calculated by subtracting the number of self-citations from the total number of citations received by the journal's documents.

Source: Scimago.

2017-2018 Issues

During 2017-2018 the SJIAOS published various manuscripts on the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), implementation of surveys and censuses, use of administrative records for statistical purposes, professional independence of statistical agencies, regional and urban statistics, etc.

The **September 2017** issue had as its theme '*Urban, Regional and Small Area Statistics*'. It was compiled by Asta Manninen (Associate editor) in collaboration with Teodora Brandmuller and Klaus Trutzel on behalf of the Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics SCORUS. The issue covers additional themes, including a continuation from the June issue "Counting the Youngest Among Us" on Leaving No One Behind.

The **December 2017** issue focuses on the *Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Statistics in Developing Countries*. It also includes papers on the role of official statistics in fragile countries, regions and sectors of the economy; a special report on Haiti prepared by a Statistics Without Borders volunteer, and the winning paper of the 2016 IAOS Young Statisticians Prize (YSP).

The **March 2018** issue was dedicated to the Statistics of Income Division (SOI) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the United States. The manuscripts focused on the ways SOI is leveraging administrative records for official statistics, and topics such as sample design, techniques for improving production of cross-sectional estimates and weighting techniques to improve small area estimates. Nancy McBeth (Special Advisor to the IAOS President) was the featured interviewee.

The **June 2018** issue has as its theme 'IAOS - Past, Present, and Future.' Stephen Penneck gave the history of IAOS, Ola Awad focused on the period 2015-2017 and reflections on the future directions were offered by Mario Palma. Among other topics, Timothy Trainor, former Chief Geospatial Scientist for the US Census Bureau talked about the role of geography as the framework for survey design, sample selection, data collection and dissemination of official statistics. The need for independence of statistical agencies was addressed in manuscripts by Hallgrimur Snorrason, Gerry O'Hanlon, Andreas Georgiou, Jean-Luc Tavernier, Dennis Frewin and Pali Lehohla.

Other activities

The Journal started to receive manuscripts for potential publication from two conferences in June: the 2018 GUS-SCORUS Conference and the European Conference on Quality in Official Statistics (Q2018). The conference organizers gave permission to the SJIAOS Editorial Board to promote the Journal at these events.

Mr. Shigeru Kawasaki, former IAOS president (2013-15) extended an invitation to Kirsten West (Editor-in-Chief) to attend the IASE Conference on Teaching Statistics which was held by IASE in July. It was an excellent opportunity to explore new topics for the Journal and to make connections for SJIAOS. Sometime in the future, the Journal might be able to focus on statistical literacy as a special theme.

In July, Kirsten West (Editor-in-Chief) also made a presentation about publishing opportunities in the SJIAOS to the Network for International Collaborators (NIC) at the US Census Bureau. The NIC is an employee support and advocacy organization promoting collaboration between the Census Bureau and National Statistical Offices and international organizations.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Kirsten West (Editor-in-chief) and the members of the Editorial Board (see Annex C) for their invaluable and dedicated

work. The results and activities described here are just a small part of the demanding work in the management of our Journal.

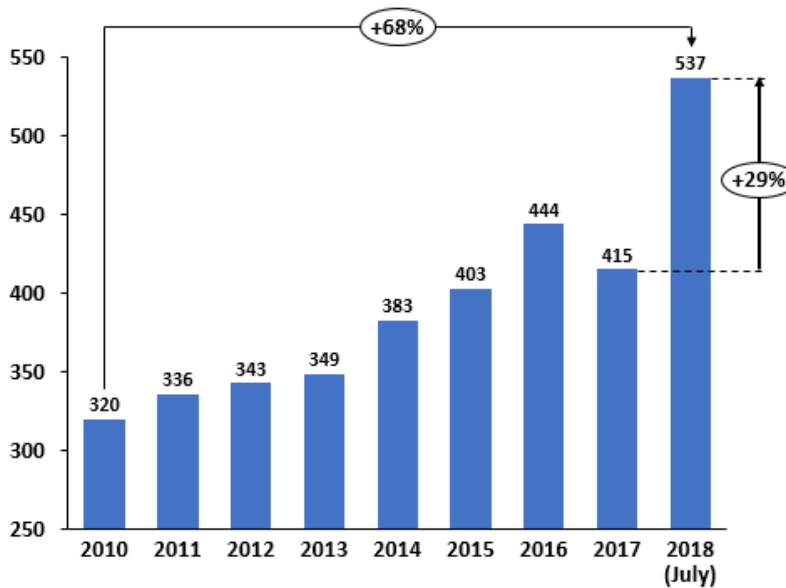
Dr West will be standing down from the position of Editor-In-Chief in mid-2019. On behalf of the IAOS, the Executive would like to thank Dr West for all of her efforts as shown above. President Elect John Pullinger and President Mario Palma have commenced the process of recruiting a new Editor in Chief. It is hoped to have the new Editor in Chief appointed by the end of 2018, to allow an effective transition period.

Developing and Supporting IAOS Membership

IAOS membership in numbers

Table 1 and Figure 6 below provide information on the total number of IAOS members in recent years. As it can be seen in these, since 2010 IAOS has kept in general a steady growth of its membership, increasing its members on average by 5.7% annually during 2010-2017. Compared to this steady trend, it is worth noting that in the first year of our Strategic Plan 2017-2019 IAOS members increased by 29%, rising from 415 members on December 2017 to a total of 537 on July 2018.

Figure 6.- IAOS Members 2010-2018

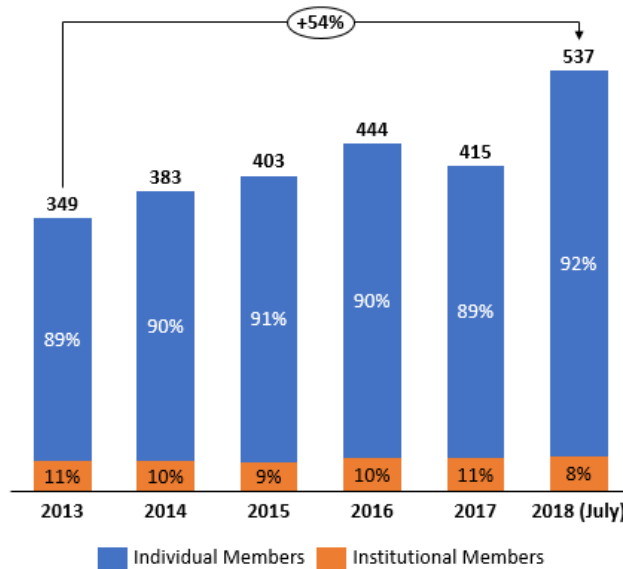


Note: Excepting 2018, membership figures are as of December for each year.
Source: ISI Memberships Office

Individual members represent the great majority (92%) of IAOS memberships, while 8% are institutional memberships (See figure 7). As of July 2018, these percentages represented 492 individual members and 45 institutions (See Table 1). Regarding the country of residence of IAOS members, as figure 8 shows there has been an increase in the participation of people from both developed and developing countries. The number of IAOS members from developed countries increased by 39% during the

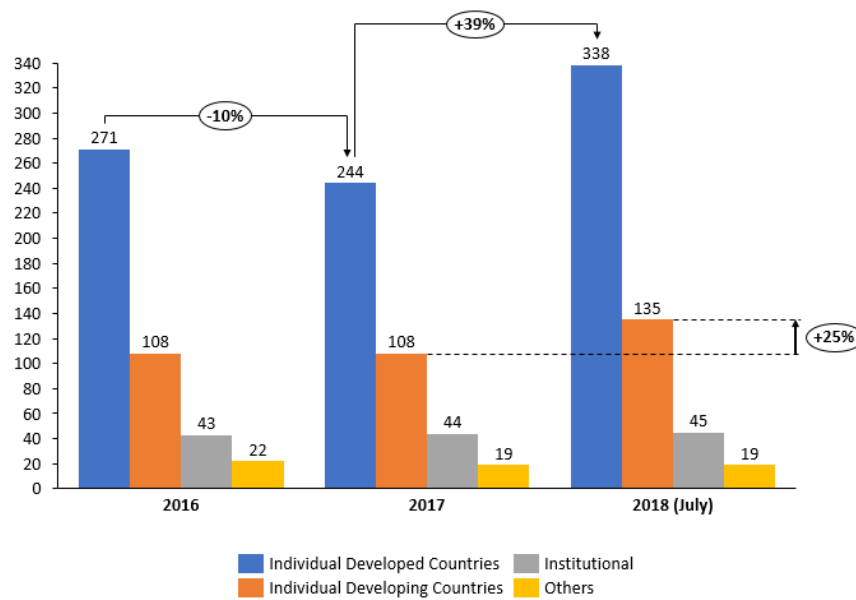
period of this report (rising from 244 in December 2017 to 338 in July 2018), while those from developing countries grew by 25% (increasing from 108 to 135).

Figure 7.- IAOS Members by type of membership, 2013-2018



Note: Excepting 2018, membership figures are as of December for each year.
Source: ISI Memberships Office

Figure 8.- IAOS Members by type of membership, 2013-2018



Note: Excepting 2018, membership figures are as of December for each year.
Source: ISI Memberships Office

Table 1.- IAOS Membership Interim Report (2007-2018)

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007
	(5 July)	(31 Dec)	(29 Dec)	(31 Dec)	(30 Dec)	(19 Dec)	(31 Dec)	(5 Dec)	(31 Dec)	(31 Dec)	(18 Dec)	(19 Dec)
Developed Countries	86	81	80	100	80	78	74	75	76	98	105	110
Developing Countries	61	39	51	48	46	34	23	23	21	7	8	11
ISI + IAOS Developed Countries	113	111	121	121	125	121	126	126	112	120	126	132
ISI + IAOS Developed Countries - Retired	59	43	40	36	29	24	21	19	21	20	21	18
ISI + IAOS Developing Countries	46	43	42	38	38	30	39	40	32	17	18	18
ISI + IAOS Developing Countries - Retired	9	6	6	5	4	4	4	3	3	1	2	2
Free: Honorary Members, ISI Life, Exempt ***	12	12	12	12	17	18	18	16	14	14	17	16
Free: Prize Winners ***	7	7	8	4	3							
Free: SJIAOS Authors ***	0	0	2	1	1							
IAOS Inst./Corporate - Developed	80	9	30									
IAOS Inst./Corporate - Developing	19	20	9									
Total Personal	492	371	401	365	343	309	305	302	279	277	297	307
Institutional	45	44	43	38	40	40	38	34	41	36	37	35
TOTAL IAOS	537	415	444	403	383	349	343	336	320	313	334	342
New members:	97	106	87	53	46	38	55	32	30	17	17	10
Cancelled members:	13	136	50	42	22	39	32	21	46	32	26	34
Reinstated	34	2	6	4	8	7	3	7	5	3	8	15
Net	118	-28	43	15	32	6	26	18	-11	-12	-1	-9

Promotion of IAOS activities in the Arab, African and South Mediterranean Regions

This section presents a report by Ms. Hasnae Fdhil (IAOS Executive Member) regarding the main activities related to the promotion of the IAOS Biennial Conference, the YSP and YBSA in the Arab, African and South Mediterranean regions. A communication action plan was prepared to this end, which included the following activities:

1.- Promotion of the IAOS-OECD 2018, the YSP and YBSA at Moroccan level to:

- Statisticians from the High Commission for Planning: Dissemination of the call for proposals, reminders, personalized contacts, meetings.
- Statisticians from national partners (National statistical system): by email and face to face contacts.
- All members of the Association of Laureates of the Moroccan Statistical school (INSEA)- Sigma 21 (2200 members) with reminders.

Meetings with the President of Sigma 21 were organized on December 2017 to discuss how to ensure a sustained contribution of the Sigma 21 to the IAOS activities (Membership, participation to the IAOS Conferences, publication of papers in the IAOS Journal). Sigma 21 is a member of ISI. A presentation on IAOS and its main Conference as well as its prizes was made.

The main difficulties expressed by the Moroccan statisticians interested to contribute to the IAOS Conference were related to how to finance their participation. In this regard, Ms. Hasnae Fdhil (EXCO member) advised them to submit the proposal and when accepted, look for alternatives of funding support from IAOS, ISI and other partners. Various applicants from the Arab region received support from the 2018 ISI-World Bank Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (ISI WB TFSCB)

2.- Promotion of the IAOS-OECD 2018, the YSP and the YBSA in the Arab Region:

- Letter of invitation on behalf of the IAOS President was addressed to the DG of National Statistical Offices – Arab countries.
- Letter of invitation on behalf of the IAOS President addressed to the DG of the main Arab Statistical institutions:

- Permanent technical Committee of statistics – Arab League
- AITRS: Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics
- Union of Arab statisticians
- Dissemination of the call of papers to the members of the Union of Arab Statisticians.
- Announcement and brief presentation on the conference during the AITRS Council meeting (the presentation was made by the DG of the AITRS).

3.-Special Promotion of the IAOS-OECD 2018, YSP and YBSA in the south Mediterranean countries:

- Invitation for contribution with dissemination of the call for papers and the flyers addressed to the:
 - network of principal coordinators of the EU-MED statisticians Forum;
 - network of thematic working groups (Energy, trade and Balance of Payments, Transport, Migration, Employment, Visibility, Quality);
- Discussion with the Head of the MEDSTAT VI project to organize at least one session on "Communication for statistics". The project had to finance the participation of the presenters and the discussant. The proposal was submitted to the European Commission for approval.

4.- Promotion of the IAOS-OECD 2018, the YBSA and the YSP in the African Region:

- Letter of invitation on behalf of the IAOS President addressed to the DG of National Statistical Offices – African countries;
- Promotion of the IAOS Conference during the meeting of the DG of NSOs – Africa held in Nouakchott from 4 -11 December 2017.
During this event, Ms. Hasnae Fdhil (EXCO member) contacted the heads of African NSOs, reminding them the importance of having African papers in this international Conference. Posters on the conference and the prizes were printed and displayed in different areas, including the exhibition area. Mr. Oliver Chinganaya was instrumental to get the consent of the organizers.

My gratitude to Hasnae Fdhil for her intensive efforts in promoting IAOS in the Arab, African and South Mediterranean regions.

Other Conferences and Workshops

IAOS at the 61st ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC)

Marrakech, Morocco (16-21 July 2017)

The 61st ISI-WSC provided an excellent venue for the organization of IAOS sponsored paper sessions (IPS) and lunch time roundtable sessions (LTRS). There were 44 IPS proposals registered directly at the ISI WSC 2017 webpage, under the sponsorship of the IAOS and as joint sessions of IAOS and other ISI associations. Of these, a total of 30 IPS were approved for the 61th ISI World Statistics Congress 2017 at Marrakech, Morocco. The submission and internal assessment of the IAOS sponsored session proposals was coordinated by Mr. Rolando Ocampo who we thank for his involvement as IAOS representative to the ISI WSC in its last three editions.

Some of the IAOS sessions at the 61st ISI WSC were:

- **The Transformation of IAOS 1985-2015: The Past, the Current and the Future.** - IPS that gathered Stephen Penneck (President 2011-2013) who talked about the recent history of IAOS, Ola Awad (President 2015-2017) who referred to the current state of the association, and Mario Palma (President 2017-2019) who reflected on the challenges faced in the field of official statistics and invited the audience to envisage (and join) the future of IAOS.
- **LTRS – The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and the importance of Integration** (Organised by Rolando Ocampo)
- **LTRS – Official Statistics: How do we ensure their future?** (Organised by Nancy McBeth)
- **LTRS – Leave no one behind? How to make the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators relevant for people living in urban and rural areas?** (Organised by Teodora Brandmueller)
- **LTRS – Do we need to revise the ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics?** (Organised by Stephen Penneck)

The IAOS General Assembly took place in 17 July 2017 in the framework of the activities of the 61th ISI WSC. Ms. Ola Awad (President of IAOS 2015-2017) made a presentation of IAOS's progress during her tenure, which was accompanied by an

update on the SJIAOS achievements for 2015-2017 and its goals for the future by Kirsten West (Editor in Chief of the SJIAOS).

As one of the first activities of his tenure, Mario Palma (IAOS President 2017-2019) presented to the General Assembly the IAOS Strategic Plan for 2017-2019, as well as an update of the organization of the IAOS 2018 Conference, which is jointly organized with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and will be held on 19-21 September in Paris, France.

IAOS at the 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC)

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (18-23 August 2019)

The 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress (ISI WSC 2019) will be held on August 2019 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The host organisation for this edition of the ISI Congress will be the Department of Statistics of Malaysia (DOSM), directed by EXCO member and colleague Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin. He and Ada Van Krimpen (ISI Director) have been working very closely to make of the ISI WSC 2019 a very successful event.

The registration system for Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) to ISI WSC 2019 opened on January 1st, 2018 and closed on March 31st. All the IPS proposals were made through the ISI WSC 2019 webpage where session organizers uploaded personally all the information requested about their proposal.

There was a total of 46 (out of 212) IPS proposals registered under the sponsorship of the IAOS or under the sponsorship of the IAOS and other associations. Evaluations of the 212 IPS proposals from all Association's Representatives to the SPC were sent before the end of May, and 152 were accepted. 35 out of these 152 proposals were IAOS IPS proposals, and all these 35 were accepted and included in the ISI WSC 2019 Programme.

A notification of acceptance was sent to all the organizers of regular IPS. From this point, all IPS approved proposals are called ISI IPS, regardless of the Association who sponsored them when registered. The submission and internal assessment of the IAOS sponsored session proposals was coordinated by Mr. Rolando Ocampo (IAOS representative to the ISI WSC).

SCORUS Activities

We thank Ms. Teodora Brandmueller (Chair of the IAOS Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics) for the report presented in this section regarding the main activities of SCORUS from July 2017 to June 2018, and for her efforts promoting SCORUS activities in coordination with IAOS.

Delivering Conferences

ISI 2017 World Statistics Congress – July, 2017

On behalf of SCORUS Jagdev Virdee organised a session titled: “UN Sustainable Development Goals: The Implications for Statistics at a Sub-National Level”. SCORUS also organised a Lunch time roundtable session: “Leave no one behind – How to make the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators relevant for people living in urban and rural areas?”

Key messages from these sessions:

- Local data are absolutely essential to identify local areas that suffer persistent deprivation – national averages, even city averages, hide large disparities at small area levels.
- Geographical units of analysis such as cities, human settlements, urban and rural classifications should be routinely integrated into data collection mechanisms.
- Consistent international definitions of cities and settlements are essential to enable valid benchmarking and comparisons. These can complement existing national definitions and need not replace them.

SCORUS 2018 Conference: “New Scale - New Needs - New Statistics” (6-8 June 2018)

The SCORUS conference co-organised by Statistics Poland took place in Warsaw, Poland. The theme of this conference was “New Scale – New Needs – New Statistics”. The 2018 conference attracted more than 90 participants from over 15 countries. The Programme Committee led by Eurostat and the local organising team of Statistics Poland put together a great mix of scientific and social events. The programme consisted of six thematic sessions, two keynote speeches and a closing panel discussion. In his opening speech President of Statistics Poland, Mr Dominik Rozkrut

emphasised the need for strategic partnerships: partnerships with regional and local public administration, research and higher education, private non-profit organisations and the business sector. The second keynote speaker, Jagdev Singh Virdee, gave some insights into the cooperation between the Royal Statistical Society and the Official Statistics in the UK. This was then followed by two days of interesting presentations and lively discussions whereby delegates focused on a wide range of topics. Topics included city statistics, urban-rural linkages, functional geographies, the potential of open data and big data for territorial indicators, etc. In the closing panel discussion several institutes were represented: OECD, Statistics Poland and Eurostat. The aim of the panel was to summarise the key take-away messages of the conference and conclude pathways for the future.

Key messages from these session:

- People in general and policy makers in particular focus on their community and official statistics shall be able to provide the information needed at the local, regional, functional area level, in a timely manner in order to remain useful.
- This could be achieved with the use of new partnerships, new methods and data sources, like open data, big data, geospatial data.

Following the conference, all participants have been invited to give their feedback on the different aspects of the conference using an online survey. Overall, the conference was evaluated very positively. Based on the results participants in particular appreciated:

- the international dimension of the conference
- friendly, direct, atmosphere and networking opportunities
- hospitality and strong engagement of Statistics Poland, OECD and Eurostat.

The scientific content of the event is accessible on the [website of the conference \(https://scorus2018.stat.gov.pl/programme-and-documents/agenda\)](https://scorus2018.stat.gov.pl/programme-and-documents/agenda) and on the SCORUS website as well.

Communication

SCORUS has been collaborating with the Kirsten West, Editor-in-chief of the SJIAOS to feature some SCORUS related papers in the Journal. As a result, the September 2017 issue had the theme: 'Urban, Regional and Small Area Statistics'. Asta Manninen was

the guest editor working with the editorial board of the journal and with Klaus Trutzel and Teodora Brandmuller. SCORUS is very thankful for this opportunity and the support received from Kirsten West. Authors of the SCORUS 2018 conference have been invited to submit proposals to the journal.

The SCORUS website is available under <http://www.scorus.org>. The content of the website is being updated continuously by the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia. SCORUS is grateful for the work done and support received in the past years. SCORUS also maintains a LinkedIn group to gather people interested in SCORUS matters.

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DESA/Statistics Division
United Nations - Statistics Division (SD)

Mr. Peter VAN DE VEN

Head of Division
SDD/NAD
OECD

Annex B.- IAOS Special Meeting Programme (18 September 2018)



Special Meeting
"NSOs Professional Independence: Threats and Responses"
Tuesday 18, September 2018
OECD Conference Centre, 2 rue André Pascal, Paris 75016.

Programme.

9:30-11:00 hrs. "The Challenges to the Independence of Official Statistics: Some concrete cases".
Chair: Jean-Louis Bodin (France).
Speakers: Andreas Georgiou (Greece), Eric Rancourt (Canada), Jorge Todesca (Argentina), Petteri Boer (Presenting the case of Anar Meshimbayeva from Kazakhstan).

11:00-11:30 hrs. Coffee break.

11:30-13:00 hrs. "Institutional Governance and Support to Statistical Independence".
Chair: Stefan Schweinfest (UNSD).
Speakers: John Pullinger (JHO), Mario Palma (Mexico), Olav Ljones (Norway).

13:00-14:30 hrs. Lunch Break.

14:30-15:00 hrs. Book Presentation. "Who cares to know? The Political Economy of Statistical Capacity".
José Antonio Mejía, Inter-American Development Bank.

15:00-16:30 hrs. Discussion: The Role of the International Statistical Community.
Moderator: Hermann Habermann
Rapporteur: Hallgrímur Snorrason

The Special Meeting will discuss at a high level the challenges to the independence of Official Statistics by analysing concrete cases, governance arrangements and the role of the statistical community.
Closed event, by invitation and previous registration only.



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IMPROVING OFFICIAL STATISTICS

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Annex C.- SIAOS Editorial Board

STATISTICAL JOURNAL OF THE IAOS

Journal of the International Association for Official Statistics

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