




# IAOS Newsletter

December 2018

International Association for Official Statistics

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## Welcome from IAOS President – Mario Palma

It was a great pleasure to see so many members in Paris at the 2018 conference. Thanks to your efforts, and the active support of our partners - the OECD -, the conference was a huge success. I once again want to thank Kees Zeelenberg, Statistics Netherlands and his programme committee. They together with Peter Van de Ven, chair of the OECD Local Organising Committee, put together a hugely successful scientific programme, supplemented by the innovative social programme which included a poster session attended by 21 exhibitors.

The conference also saw a number of new initiatives.

A one-day Special Meeting was held on “NSOs professional independence: Threats and Responses”. This special event included a range of case studies which enabled attendees to reflect on many of the underlying factors that threaten the key principle of professional independence. The event also included a special award to Andreas Georgiou, former and inaugural President of ELSTAT (the Greek Statistical Authority). (There is more about the Meeting and the Award below.)

With the active support of the OECD, we also introduced a special competition – 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. The quality of the papers submitted was of a very high standard, which is reflected in the work of the 3 selected winners.

2018 also saw another successful Young Statistician Prize competition. I was very pleased during the conference to be able to recognise the winners of the 2018 YSP together with the winners of the inaugural YSBS.

During the conference, the IAOS held its annual General Assembly. A special highlight of the General Assembly was the update from SJIAOS Editor Dr Kirsten West. At the General Assembly, I announced that Dr West would be retiring from the role in 2019. Kirsten has made a strong contribution to the SJIAOS and the wider work of the IAOS Executive and will be greatly missed.

I am however pleased to announce that Dr. Pieter Everaers, a former Director at Eurostat, has been appointed as the new Editor in Chief. Pieter will officially take up the role at the 2019 General Assembly. (There is more about our new Editor below.)

The new IAOS Executive, under the leadership of John Pullinger will take up its responsibilities at the 2019 General Assembly. I want to again encourage IAOS members to nominate suitable candidates. Nominations should be sent to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Dr Ola Awad ([ola@pcbs.gov.ps](mailto:ola@pcbs.gov.ps)) by Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018. More details are below.

President Elect John Pullinger, with the support of Executive member Oliver Chinganya, has been working hard in the initial planning of the 2020 conference. It was therefore with great pleasure, that John and Oliver have announced that the 2020 Conference will be hosted by Statistics Zambia in Livingstone, Zambia in mid-2020. Members will be informed as more information comes to hand.

The 2017-2019 Executive has been very busy in these activities, and I would once again like to thank them for their efforts. I also want to thank the management and staff of INEGI, who have actively supported the work of the IAOS this year.

Finally, I would like to thank all members for their support of the IAOS, and I would like to wish you all the best for 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mario Palma'.

Mario Palma

IAOS President 2017-2019

## Dear IAOS Member,

**The December 2018 newsletter provides you with an update on activities undertaken by the IAOS in the last year, as well as updating you on key events to be undertaken in 2019.**

### IAOS Executive 2019-2021 Nominating Committee

As part of the process of election of officers undertaken every two years, the Executive Committee (EXCO) has set up a Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Ola Awad (former IAOS President 2015-2017), to make nominations for the posts of President-elect and four Executive Committee members for the term 2019-2021. The 2019-2021 Executive will serve under the Presidency of Mr John Pullinger, UK.

If you would like to nominate a suitable candidate, or you are interested in participating as an EXCO member, please submit your candidacy or the names of possible candidates to Dr. Awad, chair of the Nominating Committee. Please send your submissions, along with a CV of the candidate, to [ola@pcbs.gov.ps](mailto:ola@pcbs.gov.ps), cc copying [contactiaos@gmail.com](mailto:contactiaos@gmail.com).

The deadline is Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

### 2019 Young Statistician Prize – closes 15 February 2019

The competition for the 2019 Young Statistician Prize was formally launched during the 2018 IAOS Conference. Entries close on 15 February 2019. The IAOS YSP competition is a great opportunity for young official statisticians, as well as for statistical offices to showcase their work in official statistics. The award ceremony will take place during the 2019 World Statistics Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (August 2019). Prizes will be awarded to first, second and third-place participants.

Please bring the competition to the attention of all young official statisticians, by including information in your newsletters, bulletin boards, social media etc. Information including flyers in all UN languages can also be found at <http://www.iaos-isi.org/index.php/statistics-prize>

### KEY DEADLINES

- IAOS 2019-2021 Executive proposals close on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019.
- ISI WSC Contributed Papers close on 31 January 2019
- IAOS Young Statisticians Prize Competition – closes 15 February 2019



2018 First Prize winner, Helle Visk (from Statistics Estonia), receiving her award at the 16th IAOS Conference, jointly organised with the OECD in Paris, France (19-21 September 2018).

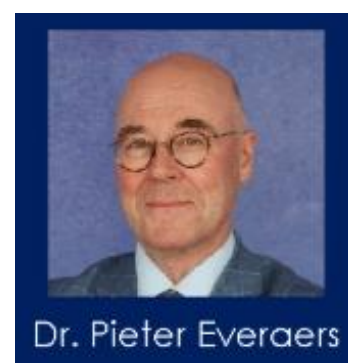
## SJIAOS

The theme of the [December 2018 issue](#) is administrative data, and resulted from a Call for Papers to the wider IAOS family and SJIAOS readers. Edited by guest editor, Nancy Torrieri of the US, papers in this issue offer a glimpse into the status of the use of administrative data and records in the public and private sector. Individually, the papers represent a variety of case studies that reflect how statisticians and other professionals are exploiting opportunities to explore and evaluate administrative data and administrative records for their research. The Issue also features an interview with Olav Ljones, IAOS president (2007-09), responsible for the first full administrative census in Norway.

Under the leadership of Chief Editor, Dr Kirsten West, the SJIAOS has gone from strength to strength. Kirsten took over as Chief Editor in 2016 and has provided strong leadership through this time. Under Kirsten's leadership, the journal has improved its ranking among other academic and professional publications, as well as increased the number of citations per published manuscript. The IAOS Executive and Members 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, editing and publication of papers. Kirsten will retire from the role at the 2019 General Assembly.

The Executive extends a very warm welcome to the new Editor in Chief, Dr Pieter Everaers. Dr Everaers has over 30 years experience in official statistics. Most recently Pieter retired from his position in Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union, as Director responsible for Cooperation in the European Statistical System, International Cooperation and Resources. Pieter has also worked in Statistics Netherlands.

On behalf of all IAOS members, the Executive welcomes Pieter to the role. Pieter will begin the transition in early 2019 and will completely take up the role with the September 2019 issue.



## Conferences.

### 16th Conference of IAOS - “Better Statistics for Better Lives” jointly organised with OECD

The highly successful IAOS-OECD conference “Better Statistics for Better Lives” was held from 19-21 September 2018 at the OECD headquarters. It attracted a total of 325 attendees from around 70 countries worldwide. The IAOS would again like to thank their partners the OECD, and all attendees for their contributions. Special thanks to the Scientific Programmed Committee, led by Kees Zeelenberg, Statistics Netherlands and the OECD Local Organising Committee led by Peter Van de Ven.

The IAOS would also like to thank the various sponsors, and also acknowledge the support of the World Bank and the ISI, for their support for a number of delegates from developing countries to attend the conference. The IAOS-OECD conference website has been updated with all papers and presentations – see <http://www.oecd.org/IAOS2018/>.

Photos taken during the event can be found in: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/159606912@N07/albums>



*Attendants at the 16th IAOS Conference, jointly organised with OECD*

## Special Meeting on “NSOs professional independence: Threats and Responses”

This Special Meeting, held the day before the IAOS-OECD conference, included a range of case studies which enabled attendees to reflect on many of the underlying factors that threaten the key principles of independence.

The session also included discussions on the role of institutional support and governance, and the role of international and national institutions. Colleagues from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) also discussed some of the key findings from their publication “Who wants to know? The Political Economy of Statistical Capacity in Latin America” ([www.iadb.org/capacidadestadistica](http://www.iadb.org/capacidadestadistica)).

The event also included a special award to Andreas Georgiou, former and inaugural President of ELSTAT (the Greek Statistical Authority). This Commendation was given to acknowledge Andreas Georgiou's upholding of the highest professional standards in his public service in the pursuit of integrity of statistical systems, and it was presented to him by the following major statistical organisations:

- The International Statistical Institute (ISI)
- The Royal Statistical Society (RSS)
- The American Statistical Association (ASA)
- The International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS)
- The Federation of European National Statistical Societies (FENStatS)
- The Société Française de Statistique (SFdS)

More about the award at: <https://isi-web.org/images/2018/Press%20release%20Commendation%20for%20Andreas%20Georgiou%20Aug%202018.pdf>

Papers and Presentations from the special meeting are available at:

<http://www.iaos-isi.org/index.php/latestnews/233-special-meeting-on-nsos> .

Photos from the meeting are at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskFiEULT> .



*IAOS Special Meeting on Professional Independence*



*Andreas Georgiou receiving a commendation for upholding of the highest professional standards in his public service in the pursuit of integrity of statistical systems.*



## ISI World Statistical Congress – Reminder that Contributed Papers close on 31 January 2019.



The 2019 World Statistical Congress, will be held from 18-23 August in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

IAOS members are actively participating in the Scientific Programme. A reminder that Contributed Paper (CPS) close on 31 January 2019. See <http://www.isi2019.org/guidelines-for-paper-submission/> for more information on the CPS papers.

Registration is now open at <http://www.isi2019.org/registration/>

## IAOS 2016 - 15th IAOS Conference - *"The Spirit of Official Statistics: Partnership and Continuous Innovation"*



The Papers and presentations from the IAOS 2016 conference are now available on the IAOS website at <http://www.iaos-isi.org/index.php/latestnews/236-2016-iaos-conference-programme-papers-presentations>

## Closing Comments.

We encourage all members and supporters to participate in these activities and promote them in their institutions and with their colleagues.

We welcome short items of interest to members of the IAOS, official statisticians, providers and users of official statistics for publication in this newsletter and/or on the IAOS website. Please send your contributions to [contactIAOS@gmail.com](mailto:contactIAOS@gmail.com).

Finally, I really welcome any feedback and suggestions that you may have on matters relating to Official Statistics and the work of the IAOS in particular. Please feel free to contact me about any issues related to the IAOS, or official statistics in general.

Thank you again for your support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mario Palma". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mario Palma

IAOS President, 2017-19

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