



International Association for Official Statistics Annual Report 2022-2023

contactiaos@gmail.com
<http://www.iaos-isi.org>

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Message from the President

It is my pleasure and privilege to present to the IAOS membership the IAOS annual report for the year 2022-2023.

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.

This report presents the results of implementation of the IAOS Strategy 2021-2023 endorsed at the General Assembly meeting on April 28, 2022. The two-year strategy is linked to the IAOS objectives and 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 2022 – mid-2023 the IAOS continued to focus on data users by organizing webinars on ethics, trust, governance and other use of data. Also, 2022 marked the 30th anniversary of adoption of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS). The IAOS organized a number of webinars to provide an overview of the FPOS, discuss their history, relevance today and missions for tomorrow. Webinar participants were given an opportunity to engage with the creators of the FPOS and learn more about the fundamental principles.

Furthermore, 2022 was a landmark year, when the IAOS established a reference group on the important topic of ethics, trust and misuse of data. The group titled Krakow Working Group was established in April 2022. Its mandate is to reflect on the burning challenges Official Statistics face in today's datafied societies.

We have also established a Friends of Official Statistics (FOS) group. This IAOS group was established by the IAOS in partnership with the UNSD and is expected to comprise of retired chief statisticians and senior statisticians. The detailed Terms of References for the FOS group is under preparation.

After the successful IAOS conference in Krakow, Poland, in April 2022, we prepared and delivered the long awaited IAOS conference in Livingstone, Zambia, in April 2023. The Zambia conference had been scheduled for 2020, but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SJIAOS is showing great results as the number of readers and the number of citations of articles published in the journal continues to increase. The journal boasts the diversity of manuscripts with 338 authors representing over 41 nations in 2022 issues. SJIAOS also maintains a discussion platform

with every quarter a new discussion being initiated on an issue of general interest for Official Statistics. Active participation of SJIAOS website visitors in future discussions is encouraged and welcome. We thank Dr. Pieter Everaers, who is completing his tenure as SJIAOS Editor in Chief, for his outstanding leadership of the journal over the past four years, and welcome Dr. Pietro Gennari as new SJIAOS Editor in Chief. Dr. Gennari will assume his duties later this month.

The Young Statisticians Prize is now in its 13th year and continues to be a centerpiece of the IAOS' offerings. The quality of submissions in 2023 was very high and for the first time in the history of the YSP, a joint first place was awarded. The IAOS will continue to explore efforts to publicize the prize more widely and boost the number of submissions. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, who will be stepping away as the focal point for the Young Statisticians Prize after 10 years of service for her dedication to the IAOS mission and the hard work put into running the Young Statisticians Prize over all these years. We welcome Mr. Gary Dunnet, Deputy Chief Methodologist from Statistics New Zealand, as the new focal point.

IAOS continuously works on developing and enhancing its processes. The latest General Assembly meeting was held in the hybrid format in April 2022 and it is again being held in the hybrid format in July this year. The Executive Committee (ExCo) held 4 virtual meetings in January, March, June and September of 2022 and two meetings have been held as of mid-2023 - in January and April of 2023.

The IAOS has achieved remarkable results in recruiting and retaining the membership. The membership has grown from 611 members in 2021 to 813 members in 2023 to-date. The financial performance of the Association has also improved and resulted in 45% gains in 2022 compared to 2021.

The IAOS has been strengthening its partnership with international organizations through joint webinars and other activities. In 2022, the IAOS organized webinars together with the ECLAC and the World Bank. A number of side events were held at the UN Statistical Commission Sessions in 2022-2023.

During the period from January 2022 – July 2023, IAOS Standing Committee for Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS) organised five webinars on relevant topics of interest jointly with Eurostat, providing a platform to overall 20 speakers and attracting in average 80 participants per webinar. Statutes of the SCORUS approved by the IAOS ExCo in early 2022 were published on the SCORUS website.

I take this opportunity to also thank the outgoing ExCo 2021-2023 for their service and commitment to achieving IAOS objectives through implementation of the IAOS strategy. I hope with the guidelines prepared for the incoming ExCo 2023-2025 the handover process will go smoothly and the IAOS will successfully develop the strategy 2023-2025 in the next few months.

As I hand over the IAOS presidency later this month, I wish the IAOS to continue to grow a strong and active membership community and deliver excellent results.

Many thanks and warm regards,

Misha Belkindas
IAOS President

July 12, 2023

1. 2021 – 2023 Strategy Outcomes

The 2021-2023 IAOS Strategy was endorsed at the General Assembly meeting held on April 28, 2022.

Strategy Implementation Progress during 2022 – mid-2023

Activity 1: Organization of IAOS International Conferences

Traditionally, the IAOS conducts a conference every two years. Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference, which was originally planned to be held in Livingstone, Zambia in May 2020 as the 17th IAOS conference and a regional ISI meeting, was postponed to 2023. As a result, there were no IAOS conferences held in 2019, 2020 and 2021. Given this, the 2021-2023 period was unique for the IAOS, as we organized two IAOS conferences in two consecutive years.

In 2022, the 18th IAOS conference was organized jointly with the Statistics Poland and was held in Krakow, Poland, on April 26-28, 2022. The theme of the 2022 conference was “Worthy Information for Challenging Times”.

In 2023, the 17th IAOS conference organized jointly with the Zambia Statistics was held in Livingstone, Zambia on April 4-6, 2023. The theme of the conference was “Better Lives 2030: Mobilizing the Power of Data for Africa and the World.”

Now, the 2019-2021 conference gap will be followed by conferences in three consecutive years: Poland (2022), Zambia (2023) and 2024 (Mexico).

More information about the Poland and Zambia conferences is in chapter 3.

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

IAOS aims to be the worldwide known vehicle to spread knowledge and innovation in official statistics. To this aim, the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) is a core element of the Association as it serves as a knowledge disseminator, exposing quality and relevant research to the statistical community. This role is fulfilled by the SJIAOS through the journal (mainly read online and currently only in a limited number printed) 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 to official statistics (IAOS, SJIAOS, IOS Press, and ISI) the community of official statisticians has accurate, timely, and coordinated access to all relevant information.

2.2.1. The general profile of SJIAOS Volume 38 (2022)

Volume 38 (2022) of the SJIAOS has 114 manuscripts in four regular issues, (co-)authored by 338 colleagues from over 40 countries. This figure (114) excludes the 8 contributions (editorials and discussion introductions) by the Editor in Chief. In total, Volume 38 features 1478 pages of content. From the four issues, three issues, Vol38/1, Vol38/2 and Vol38/3 were published open/free access: Vol38/1 on the 50x2030 Initiative on Agricultural statistics thanks to the sponsoring by FAO, IFAT and

the World Bank; Vol38/2 with as special themes manuscripts from the The Hague ISI WSC 2021 and the positive and negative aspects of 'standardization' in official statistics, was the yearly free access issue based on the ISI-IOS Press agreement; Vol38/3 on International Official Statistics, with contributions from Member Organizations of the Coordination Committee for Statistical Activities (CCSA), was free access thanks to the sponsoring by the CCSA Member organizations. In the remaining Vol38/4 a diversity of manuscripts was published together with the manuscripts by the 2022 IAOS Young Statisticians Prize winners. The manuscripts in the regular section in each issue on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Official Statistics were also open access.

In 2022 there were four new discussions launched on the SJIAOS discussion platform. The 11th discussion is on Large international projects on the development of official statistics, the 50x2030 Initiative as an example; the 12th is on The positive and negative aspects of 'standardization' in official statistics; the 13th on The role and position of International Statistical Organisations, and the 14th discussion on: How can Official Statistics find a way out of the fog?

2.2.2. Targets

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

In 2022, the SJIAOS attracted via the SJIAOS website and the IOS Press website over 95000 views for the SJIAOS content library (compared to around 50000 in 2021, 32000 in 2020, and 12000 in 2019). Compared to 2021 this is for 2022, a further increase of 90%. Via the officialstatistics.com website, there were over 1600 page and article views. This number was over 1500 in 2021. The majority of page views came via Google Scholar (70%).

The quality and relevance of the articles are measured via the number of citations and the rate of cited documents. In 2022 the number of citations in the initial year of publication (390) was similar to that in 2021 (395) and substantially higher than the numbers for 2020 (304) and the years before. From 2015 till 2021 these numbers have been steeply rising.

SJIAOS is abstracted/indexed in Academic Search, Business source complete, Cabell's guide or Directory, EBSCO Databases, EconLit, Inspect IET, MasterFILE, Scopus and Ulrich's Periodicals Directory. A process for receiving an official impact rating for the Journal (beyond the informal ratings) was started in 2019 and was recently activated for Clarivate. An ongoing 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 2022, the number of downloads of articles published in the period 2016-2021 from SJIAOS approached 70,000 (in 2021 - 51,000), of which around 10,000 were from the 2021 content.

Even so, the SJIAOS discussion platform was often visited. In total, there were in 2022 equal to in 2021 over 17,000 visits to the discussion platform. The interest in contributing to the discussions is - based on the low number of comments submitted - disappointingly low. With the Advisory Board of the Journal, a reflection on how to go ahead with the discussion platform is ongoing. 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 2022 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 140 anonymous reviews of the manuscripts from this period were performed by over 120 expert reviewers. Due to the two specials (compared to in earlier years only one) around 50% of manuscripts for the 4 issues for this period were actively solicited (was 30% in 2021).

The rest of the manuscripts were submitted without explicit soliciting. The attractiveness of publishing via the Journal is clearly reflected in the number of non-solicited offered manuscripts. The rejection rate specifically for the non-solicited manuscripts was around 25% (19% in 2021), meaning that around 30 non-solicited manuscripts have been rejected or withdrawn. Ca (100) manuscripts were invited for revision and ca (15) were accepted without comments.

The turnaround time for the reviews for Volume 38 was on average 20 days. Compared to 2021 (Vol37, 18 days), 2020 (Vol36, 25 days), and 2019 (Vol35, 28 days) this is a slight increase. Our thanks again to the authors and reviewers.

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

The 338 authors of the 114 manuscripts in Volume 38 represent a wide range of over 41 nations. The objective of 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 in 2022 25%. This was 13% in the period 2017-2019 and in 2021 this was 21%. This shows the steady growth of the global authorship and audience for the Journal over the period 2017-2023.

On the basis of the readership, as shown by the substantial increase in the number of visits to the Journal (from circa 12000 in the year 2019, to 48000 in the year 2020, 70000 in the year 2021 and over 120000 in the year 2022), 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 38, as in earlier years, the number and rate of first-time authors is estimated to be around 20%.

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 topics via Specials and larger and recurring sections. Since the June 2020 issue (Vol36/2) each issue has started with manuscripts on COVID-19. Beyond these articles on the COVID-19 impact, in 2022 the Journal centered via specials on the 50x2030 Initiative on Agricultural Statistics (Vol38/1) and on International Official Statistics, with contributions from Member Organizations of the Coordination Committee for Statistical Activities (Vol38/3). In Vol38/2 a special section was dedicated to the positive and negative aspects of 'standardization' in official statistics.

Beyond the publication of the for Young Statisticians Prize winning manuscripts and circa 14 manuscripts on the Impact of COVID-19 on Official Statistics, the Journal maintained its distribution of manuscripts for approximately 1/3 on governance issues, 1/3 on domain-specific manuscripts and 1/3 on new methodologies and techniques.

Specifically, SDGs are mentioned/dealt with explicitly in a limited number of the manuscripts, though in many manuscripts the SDGs (and the SDG indicators) play an important role in the selection of the topic, indicators, etc.

Activity 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 Statisticians Prize is now in its 13th year and continues to be a centerpiece of the IAOS' offerings. Details of the YSP developments in 2022 are provided in chapter 6 of this report.

Activity 4: Increase the Membership and Improve IAOS Financial Picture

The IAOS undertook activities aimed at increasing the visibility of the IAOS and highlighted and promoted the benefits of membership in the IAOS among statistical organizations, private sector (data producers and users) and other communities involved in data activities. IAOS approached NSOs, statistical units of international and regional institutions (CCSA members) and companies in the area of statistics, and others. IAOS worked with organizations and companies in the area of statistics to organize technical assistance activities, training sessions and webinars. These collaborations included IAOS-organized side events at the UN Statistical Commission Sessions, webinar collaborations with CEPAL, World Bank, IAOS regional chapters, UN World Data Forum (for details of the side events and webinars organized by the IAOS, see Chapter 4 of this report).

The IAOS has secured the support of donors, including supporting attendees from developing countries to participate in IAOS events. 39 participants of the IAOS 2022 Krakow conference from 32 countries were supported by the Eurostat grant. 45 young statisticians from developing countries were supported by the Eurostat grant and several chief statisticians from Africa, Europe and Latin America were supported by the World Bank to attend the IAOS 2023 Zambia conference. Furthermore, the IAOS also secured financial support for the Zambia conference from Esri.

Chapters 8 and 9 of this report cover the membership report and financial statements for the reported period.

Activity 5. Strengthen Communication with Stakeholders

To maintain constant communication with IAOS members around the world and those interested to learn about the IAOS work, a digital newsletter signed by the IAOS President was published on the IAOS website on a biannual basis. The newsletters contained information about the IAOS and its projects (the SJIAOS, 2022 and 2023 conferences, the Young Statisticians Prize, training sessions and webinars).

Furthermore, the [IAOS website](#) was reinvigorated to provide more friendly user experience on the website.

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

The website of the SJIAOS (www.officialstatistics.com), beyond the published and most recent issues and manuscripts, provided also information on for the official statistics community relevant

international conferences and events and also offered a discussion platform for the community to discuss and comment on common relevant themes.

To promote the IAOS among NSOs, international organizations, private sector companies, data providers and those active in providing technical assistance to NSOs and universities, a dedicated communication was sent out to concerned representatives worldwide.

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

The IAOS issued a statement calling for national governments to ensure FPOS adherence for NSOs in conflict-affected areas. The IAOS and ISI issued a joint statement on the transfer of a NSO function in one of the developing countries expressing their concern about risks involved in this decision. It was emphasized that this public statistical infrastructure can only fulfil its important role efficiently and effectively if the conditions for this are met, which are laid down in both the ISI “Declaration of Professional Ethics” and the UN FPOS.

On April 25, 2022, a day before the 18th IAOS Conference that took place on April 26-28, 2022 in Krakow, Poland, the IAOS organized a special meeting on Fundamental Principles, Population Censuses and Misuse of Statistics. The meeting was held in the Krakow office of the National Bank of Poland. Participation at the special meeting was by IAOS President’s invitation only and gathered a group of about 80 colleagues who actively participated in the discussions. The notes of the meeting is available on the [IAOS website](#).

Furthermore, the IAOS contributed to the promotion of the FPOS through a series of webinars organized in 2022-2023 (see Chapter 4 for webinar details).

The ExCo continued to work with the ISI Board on Ethics and to monitor the trends in official statistics in their own regions in order to report successful cases as well as cases of violation of the fundamental principles.

Activity 7. Expose facts of Misuse of Statistics

Krakow Working Group (KWG) was endorsed at the 2022 IAOS General Assembly, held in Krakow, Poland. In establishing this working group, the IAOS community aims to contribute to the burning challenges Official Statistics face in today’s “datafied” societies, including issues of misuse of statistics.

In 2023, the KWG organized a series of debates aimed to discuss (1) the interactions and collaborations between official statistics producers and non-official data owners, (2) *how to increase the engagement with and meet the needs of users, and address data and statistics misuse*; and (3) *whether there is a need to review/adapt ethical principles for official statistics and how best to foster data ethics*.

The outcomes of the three debates are expected to help prepare a set of recommendations that will be presented in preliminary form at the World Statistics Congress in Ottawa in July 2023. These recommendations should be for the benefit of all the actors in the data ecosystem that aim to contribute to quality information for the common good.

Colleagues interested in being involved in the KWG should contact the IAOS at contactIAOS@gmail.com

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

Details of the SCORUS achievements during the reporting period are provided in Chapter 7 of this report.

Efforts were made to further develop subcommittees and task forces, including the establishment of the Krakow Working Group and Friends of Official Statistics (FOS) Group. The latter was established by the IAOS in partnership with the UNSD and is expected to comprise of retired chief statisticians and senior statisticians. The ToRs for the FOS Group is under preparation.

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.

IAOS maintains archives of all key working documents for internal use to ensure continuity of the workflow and smooth handover processes on a biennial basis, as well as archives of IAOS activities, learning materials, and other outputs on the IAOS website. The reinvigoration of the website was completed in early 2023 to improve website user experience and ensure better navigation and easy access to the website content.

2. IAOS 2022-2023 Conferences

During the reporting period, the IAOS organized two international conferences.

First, the 18th IAOS conference titled **“Worthy Information for Challenging Times”**, which took place in Kraków, Poland, on 26-28 April 2022. The conference was organized in partnership with the Statistics Poland. It was one of the first in-person events organized after the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

The seven strands of the conference were:

1. *Integrating available Data Sources for Official Statistics: Challenges and Opportunities*

This strand included 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*

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

4. *Official Statistics and Covid-19: key takeaways*

This strand reviewed 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 focused on understanding these challenges and responses.

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

This strand examined challenges in communicating Official Statistics at a time of data desire but also data rejection. It reviewed 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 examined the implications for Official Statistics from local, national and international perspectives.

The conference programme consisted of:

- 3 Plenary Sessions (one on each conference day),
- 2 High-level Panels (organized by the President of Statistics Poland),
- 32 Invited Paper Sessions
- 9 Contributed Paper Sessions.

The conference programme was prepared to enable participants to attend presentations and discussions organized under a range of themes, as well as to include classification of sessions according to specified topics. The tentative programme of the conference was posted on the official conference website on 14 March 2022 and the detailed full programme was published on the conference website on 20 April 2022.

The registration of conference participants was conducted between 28 February 2022 and 15 April 2022 via the conference website.

Additional social events, including the welcome reception and official dinner, were organized to strengthen links and cooperation between conference participants.

All materials, photos, abstracts, presentations, etc. were published on the conference official website.

274 participants from 76 countries attended the conference.

The participation of 39 delegates from 32 countries out of 274 conference participants was funded by Eurostat (through a grant managed by UNSD) to support the participation of statisticians from developing countries (according to the World Bank Country Classifications).

Second, the 19th IAOS conference and 3rd ISI regional statistics conference was organized on 4-6 April 2023 in Livingstone, Zambia. The conference was jointly organised by the IAOS, ISI and ZamStats under **the theme: “Better Lives 2030: mobilising the power of data for Africa and the world.**

The hosting of this conference was a landmark event for Zambia and Africa as a whole, as it was the second conference to be held in Africa and ZamStats was the first National Statistical Office (NSO) in Africa to spearhead the organisation of the conference.

The objective of the IAOS-ISI event was to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and related subjects. The conference aimed to foster the development of effective and efficient official statistical services through networking among individuals and organizations involved in the production of official statistics, users of official statistics and research institutions.

The Conference served as a forum to discuss the most pertinent issues regarding the production, dissemination and use of official statistics. The conference events included Pre-conference activities, Plenary sessions and Parallel sessions organized in seven (7) strands.

The event was organised into two components namely: Pre-main conference events (i.e. training - involved training of sponsored young statisticians from within Africa and presentations on 3 April 2023) and the main conference (4-6 April 2023). This was held as an in-person event conference. The conference delegates were drawn from various players in the Zambian National Statistical System as well as international delegates, especially from African Statistical Offices.

The Conference attracted 392 delegates from all continents, including Director Generals/Statistician Generals from 11 National Statistical offices. The participants included Statisticians, Researchers, Economists, Data users, Data producers, Planners, Central Bankers, academicians and students. Further, the conference had representation from various international organisations such as, the World Bank, African Union, Eurostat, ESRI, IPUMS, United Nations Statistics Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Statistics Sweden, East African community among others.

Our thanks again to the sponsors, organising committee members and participants.

3. Webinars

The IAOS has been active in organizing events and webinars. The list below includes all the activities organized during the reporting period in the chronological order.

3.1. Building strong Integrated National Data Systems to transform people's lives

Data are becoming an integral part of the daily lives of most people around the world, with global data flows increasing one thousand times over the last 20 years. The transformations emerging from this data revolution could impact all aspects of societies and economies, including improving the lives of the more than 700 million people living in extreme poverty. From information gathered in household surveys to pixels captured by satellite images, data can inform policies and spur economic activity, serving as a powerful weapon in the fight against poverty and transforming the lives of poor people. However, we can only unlock the full value of data in both traditional and new data ecosystems if we ensure that data can be safely shared, used, and reused by all stakeholders.

To that end, the World Bank's [World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives](#) (WDR2021) offers an aspirational vision of an integrated national data system (INDS) as a way for countries to realize the potential of data for development, using the three principles of the social contract for data—value, trust and equity. Such a system relies on an approach to data governance that is intentional, whole-of-government, multistakeholder, and collaborative. It explicitly builds data production, protection, exchange, and use into planning and decision-making and integrates participants from civil society and the public and private sectors into the data life cycle and into the governance structures of the system. For countries to overcome the many barriers that stand in the way of implementing these data systems, the report advocates for investments in five foundational elements: human capital, trust, funding, incentives, and data demand.

To help operationalize this vision, on June 15, 2022, the [World Bank's Development Data Group](#) organized a virtual seminar in collaboration with the IAOS. Bringing together a diverse group of discussants, the session focused on building an INDS and the critical role NSOs can play in this process, which the WDR2021 extensively discusses.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Misha Belkindas** (chair): President, IAOS; Managing Director, ODW Consulting; co-founder and board member of Open Data Watch; former Manager, World Bank's Development Data Group
- **Prof. Paul Cheung** (discussant): Director of Asia Competitiveness Institute, National University of Singapore; former Professor of Social Policy and Analytics, National University of Singapore; former Director, UNSD; former Chief Statistician, Government of Singapore
- **Mr. Andrew Rzepa** (discussant): Partner and Executive Director of UN Partnerships, Gallup
- **Dr. Albina Chuwa** (discussant): Director General, National Bureau of Statistics, Tanzania
- **Mr. Craig Hammer** (discussant): Program Manager, World Bank's Development Data Group
- **Ms. Malarvizhi Veerappan** (WDR2021 presenter): Manager, World Development Report 2021 | Senior Data Scientist, World Bank's Development Data Group

Watch the video recording: [IAOS – World Bank Event “Building strong Integrated National Data Systems to transform people's lives”](#)

3.2. IAOS - Gallup Webinar to discuss "Blind Spot: The Global Rise of Unhappiness and How Leaders Missed It" Book by Gallup CEO Jon Clifton

On September 23, 2022, the IAOS organized a webinar to discuss the book “Blind Spot: The Global Rise of Unhappiness and How Leaders Missed It” by Gallup CEO Jon Clifton.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Misha Belkindas** (chair): President, IAOS; Managing Director, ODW Consulting; co-founder and board member of Open Data Watch; former Manager, World Bank’s Development Data Group
- **Mr. Jon Clifton** (speaker): CEO of Gallup
- **Dr. Hermann Haberman** (discussant): former Chief Statistician of USA; former Director, UNSD
- **Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales** (discussant): IAOS Executive Committee Member
- **Dr. Dominik Rozkrut** (discussant): President of Statistics Poland; President – Elect of IAOS

Watch the video recording: <https://vimeo.com/user114891518/isi-iaos-sept2022>

3.3. *Big Data and Official Statistics in Africa – Maximising the Opportunities*

“Big Data and Official Statistics in Africa – Maximising the Opportunities” webinar was organized by the IAOS and IAOS Nigeria Group, with the support of the ISI, on 6 October 2022. The webinar aimed to promote the practical use of big data in African official statistics, including in monitoring SDG indicators, and providing timely and granular insights to support decision makers. The target audience of the webinar included NSOs, official statisticians, official data users, data producers, research institutes and academics. Along with the presentations, the webinar provided an opportunity for discussion with the speakers from different regions of the world.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Misha Belkindas**, IAOS President/Chair
- **Dr. Osulale Peter Popoola**, IAOS African Representative
- **Dr. Carlo Vaccari**, ISTAT Italy
- **Oliver Chinganya**, Director, African Center for Statistics
- **Dr. Ronald Jansen**, Assistant Director, United Nations Statistics Division
- **Dr. Aliyu Usman**, IAOS Nigeria
- **Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales**, IAOS Executive Committee Member

Read the presentations from the webinar below:

- [Dr. Osulale Peter Popoola](#)
- [Dr. Carlo Vaccari](#)
- [Oliver Chinganya](#)
- [Dr. Ronald Jansen](#)
- [Dr. Aliyu Usman](#)
- [Dr. Lisa Grace S. Bersales](#)

Watch the video recording [here](#)

3.4. *“The Independence of Statistical Institutions with a Focus on Arab Region and North Africa”*

In 2014, the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (UN FPOS) were endorsed by the UN General Assembly. The Fundamental Principles set the framework for the fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work, and recognize that in order to be effective, the fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks and respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems.

However, globally issues of misuse and declining trust in official statistics have become more pronounced in recent years. In response to this the IAOS has recently established the [Krakow Group](#).

This group's mandate includes helping to identify the main issues to be tackled in relation to misuse, governance, trust and ethics.

Each region has specific challenges. In the case of the Arab region, including North Africa, the challenges of enhancing trust in official statistics and successfully implementing the UN FPOS, are exacerbated by the ongoing instability in different parts of the region.

The IAOS organised this webinar on November 2, 2022, to help official statisticians in the region discuss some of the regional specific challenges in implementing the UN FPOS, in particular how statistical institutions maintain their independency especially in the time of instability.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Misha Belkindas**, IAOS President/Chair
- **Dr. Qasem Alzoubi**, NICST Director, Member of IAOS Executive Committee
- **Dr. Ola Awad**, President of Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
- **Mr. Hedi Saidi**, Director of Arab Institute for Training and Research
- **Dr. Abdallah Alzoubi**, Population and Development Expert

Read the presentations from the webinar below:

- [Dr. Ola Awad](#)

Watch the video recording of the webinar [here](#)

3.5. *Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: 30 Years after Its Development*" IAOS - ECLAC Webinar

Official statistics are based on a set of principles that ensure that they are impartial, relevant, and accurate and can be relied upon as a public good by all users. The **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS)** are structured as 10 main issues that cover all the processes of the production and dissemination of statistics: Relevance, impartiality, and equal access; Professional standards and ethics; Accountability and transparency; Prevention of misuse; Sources of official statistics; Confidentiality; Legislation; National coordination, and Use of international standards.

The **Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics** were first developed and adopted at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 30 years ago and later endorsed by the General Assembly as a global standard. This 30th Anniversary provides an opportunity to discuss the past, present, and future of the Principles and their relevance in the context of a rapidly changing data landscape.

This webinar was organized by the **IAOS** and the **Statistics Division of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** on November 3, 2022, as an activity of the [Knowledge Transfer Network \(KTN\)](#) of the **Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA)**. The IAOS promotes the understanding and advancement of official statistics and related subjects and fosters the development of effective and efficient official statistical services through international contacts among individuals and organizations, including users of official statistics as well as research institutes. The IAOS has taken an active role in supporting the active implementation of the FPOS. ECLAC Statistics Division contributes to improving the production, dissemination and use of statistics for evidence-based decision-making in the region, through training courses, seminars and other capacity building activities, regional data harmonization and dissemination, and supporting the SCA as its technical secretariat. The KTN contributes to the dissemination of knowledge and cooperation in statistics offering access to documents, seminars and methodological materials prepared by the

working groups of the SCA and the regional statistical community. Since 2019, the National Statistical Institute (INE in Spanish) of Chile coordinates the organization of virtual seminars.

Webinar Programme

- **Moderator: Rolando Ocampo**, Director of ECLAC Statistics Division
- **Sandra Quijada**, Director, INE Chile – Welcome words
- **Misha Belkindas**, President, IAOS – Overview of the FPOS and their relevance for the users of statistics
- **Eduardo Sojo**, Former President, INEGI Mexico – Putting the FPOS into practice: the experience of INEGI
- **Lisa Bersales**, Professor of Statistics, University of the Philippines School of Statistics, and IAOS Executive Committee member – The FPOS 30 years after: challenges in a changing context

Read the presentations from the webinar below:

- [Dr. Misha Belkindas](#)
- [Dr. Lisa Bersales](#)

Watch the video recording of the webinar [here](#)

3.6. UN Statistical Commission 2023: Side Event "History of creation of FPOS, relevance today, missions for tomorrow - a message from the creators"

This side event hosted by the IAOS at the UNSC 54th Session on February 2, 2023 aimed (a) to explore practical conclusions derived from the history of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS), based on 30 years of experiences by different groups of stakeholders of official statistics, with special reference to statistical agencies and other producers of official statistics and to the governments and international organizations and (b) to discuss the mission of the FPOS in XXI century – legal, methodological and ethical basis of protecting “clean” information for societies in knowledge-based economies amid conditions of globalization.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Misha Belkindas** (chair): President, IAOS; Managing Director, ODW Consulting; co-founder and board member of Open Data Watch; former Manager, World Bank’s Development Data Group
- **Dr. Jean-Louis Bodin**: Former IAOS and ISI President
- **Dr. Jozef Olenski**: Center of Transborder Studies and Euroregional Statistics, Statistical Office in Rzeszów, Poland; former President Statistics Poland; former Professor, Lazarski University
- **Dr. Hermann Habermann**: Former Chief Statistician of USA; former Director UNSD

Read the presentations from the side event below:

- Dr. Jean-Louis Bodin: [History of the FPOS](#) and [Relevance today, Missions for tomorrow](#)
- Dr. Jozef Olenski: [History of the FPOS](#) and [Relevance today, Missions for tomorrow](#)

Watch the video recording: [UNSC 2023 Side Event “History of creation of FPOS, relevance today, missions for tomorrow – a message from the creators”](#)

3.7. UN Statistical Commission 2023: Side Event "Interference in Work of Official Statistics: How Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics are Helping"

The spurs for the creation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) adopted by the UNECE in 1992, and by the UNSC in 1994, were political and economic changes caused by the fall of socialist systems in Europe and in other regions of the world in 1989- 1992. In the 1990th the FPOS were used, in many countries, as the basis of the adoption of statistical laws and to restructure and provide acceptance for national statistical offices in transition countries into the global statistical community. It soon became clear that the Principles are of universal importance for all stakeholders of statistics, for all countries as well as international organizations involved in production, distribution and use of official statistical data. From the adoption of the Principles by the UNSC in 1994 to the adoption by the ECOSOC in 2014 twenty years went by. During those years the FPOS served well the statistical community, Governments, and the population at large.

However, there are numerous cases when national statistical offices (NSOs) and chief statisticians are attacked by policy makers and media for doing their job. ISI and IAOS are usually issuing statements to alert Governments and the larger community of the FPOS violations. The experience of the last couple years shows that the situation is not getting better. With many new data sources and a changing role of NSOs the situation may become worse.

The panel of the in-person side event on February 27, 2023, at the UNSC 54th Session, composed of four chief statisticians, discussed the usefulness of the FPOS.

A few quotes from the panelists:

“Interference in the work of any statistical office is an alarming situation because they are not simple information sources, but key elements for local, national, and global governance. This idea was explicitly acknowledged in the General Assembly Resolution 68/261 endorsing the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. Thus, it is crucial to keep in mind the systemic consequences that any interference have in the larger global community. At the same time, the FPOS are also a powerful instrument to promote citizen’s rights.”

“The well-known aim of fundamental principles is to guide NSOs to adhere to certain professional and scientific standards, while other use them as a shield to protect official statistics from “threats”. However, more and more official producers use FPOS as a “tool box” that is open and flexible as well as enabler rather than a constrainer. Whatever we do as chief statisticians’ maps to FPOS toolbox that ensures consistency, harmony, quality and standards. The FPOS toolbox enable us to advocate for a technical cooperation, explore data sources, reduce interference, choose right methods and most importantly communicate with each other in same language.”

The panel was chaired by **Dr. Misha Belkindas**, IAOS President, and included:

- **Dr. Graciela Marques** – President, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico
- **Dr. Ola Awad** – President, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)
- **Dr. Jūratė Petrauskienė** – Director General, Statistics Lithuania
- **Dr. Dominik Rozkrut** – President, Statistics Poland

3.8. UN World Data Forum 2023: Session "Challenges to Data Privacy and Misuse"

Background:

Data and statistics have long been used to inform decisions. But with the development of Internet and new IT technologies, the last two decades have seen a rapid multiplication and generalization of data uses. Data have now become an essential input in the daily lives and operations of governments, institutions, businesses and individuals. The speed at which this is occurring poses an unprecedented challenge to our societies as it disturbs and short-circuits the well-established processes for validating the quality and legitimacy of the knowledge used to produce evidence for decision-making, and for taking the necessary regulations that ensure its trustworthiness in full respect of human rights and democratic principles. Official Statistics are directly affected by this “data revolution”. To fulfill their fundamental mission of informing the general public about social, economic and environmental developments, and assist in the development and evaluation of public policies, Official Statistics must avail of multiple data sources while ensuring quality and preventing misuse. Doing so however requires innovation, engagement with other actors and compliance with strict ethical rules both as regards methodological processes and adherence to democratic principles. In addition to statistical information personal data protection and privacy constitute a real challenge. In Africa for example, not all the countries have data protection laws which put the personal privacy at risk of abuse. So, the lack of legal framework led to complete absence of the protection and safeguards. It is observed that breach of the right to privacy and data protection is occurring even in countries that adopted data protection laws. National security and public interest are “Legal exemptions” that suspend the application of data protection laws and consider as the legal tool used by authorities to breach the right to privacy even if access to that personal information is not necessary. To expose the issues of data misuse the IAOS has created the “Krakow Working Group” whose aim is to contribute to the collective reflection on the challenges that our “datafied” societies pose to Official Statistics and beyond.

The session was held on April 26, 2023, and includes the following **speakers**:

- **Misha Belkindas** (Moderator) – IAOS, President
- **Dominik Rozkrut** (Panelist) – Statistics Poland, President
- **Kate Wilkinson** (Panelist) – Full Fact, Senior Product Manager
- **Martine Durand** (Panelist) – France Statistical Authority, Member
- **Jan Robert Suesser** (Panelist) – IAOS, Co-Chair of the Krakow Working Group devoted to “Challenges our Datafied Societies Pose to Official Statistics”

Watch the video recording of the session: [UNWDF 2023 Session “Challenges to Data Privacy and Misuse”](#)

4. Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS)

4.1. The content of the issues during 2022 (Vol38) - 2023 (Vol39, Issue 1 and 2)

In 2022 the SJIAOS published 122 manuscripts (including 4 editorials and 4 discussion introductions) in four issues, covering almost 1500 pages. The March and June issue of Volume 39 (2023) contains together some 46 manuscripts. The manuscripts in Vol38 and the two issues in Vol39, covered varied subjects, varying from articles on governance aspects of official statistics, the impact of COVID-19 on Official Statistics, ethics and access to confidential data, the use of all sorts of new data sources, the positive and negative aspects from standardization, articles on the 50 by 2030 initiative in agricultural statistics and manuscripts on Governance, Peace and Security in the context of the Praia Group, on the Sustainable development Goal indicators, and a variety of specific themes. Each issue was given a special theme, often connected to the discussion item on the SJIAOS website discussion platform.

4.1.1. Volume 38, Issue 1, March 2022

Special theme: The 50x2030 Initiative

The first section in this issue 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 UN General Assembly for monitoring 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 this issue, followed by a COVID-19-related article. The issue also contains the first set of manuscripts stemming from the 2021 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.

4.1.2. Volume 38, Issue 2, June 2022

Special themes: Manuscripts from the The Hague ISI World Statistics Conference 2021 and 'The positive and negative aspects of standardization in Official Statistics'

This issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS contains 31 contributions covering seven themes. The background manuscript for the Krakow Working Group by Martine Durand and Jan Robert Suesser (*A fast-evolving landscape for Official Statistics: how to respond to the challenges*) is the first theme. The second theme contains five manuscripts on the impact of COVID-19 on Official Statistics. Then four themes follow based on contributions from the ISI WSC: 'The Governance of Official Statistics: The Funding' with three contributions; four contributions, and an introduction on 'Statistical and Data Literacy in Policy-Making'; seven contributions and an introduction on 'Standards, guidelines and recommendations' and three manuscripts on 'Nowcasting'. Finally under the theme 'Data sources and methodology', four rather varied manuscripts are positioned.

The issue ends with the closing article by Ivo Havinga on the fifth discussion on the Future of Economic Statistics', and announcing the 12th discussion 'The positive and negative sides of 'standardization in official statistics'. This discussion is triggered by the manuscripts on the theme of Standards, Guidelines and Recommendations. Finally, the issue is closed by reminding the audience of the still open other discussions on the SJIAOS discussion platform www.officialstatistics.com.

4.1.3. Volume 38, Issue 3, September 2022

Special theme: International Official Statistics. Special issue with contributions of Member Organizations of the Coordination Committee for Official Activities (CCSA)

In this special issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS, the focus is fully on the role and diversity of activities of the ISOs, as they are organized in the CCSA. The articles in this issue give an overview of the background and history of the CCSA, the role of the international organizations in the governance of the global statistical system, their role in capacity building in statistics and support to countries, and their involvement in the development of standards, coordination, producing and disseminating comparable statistics as well as methodological innovation.

The Guest editorial, '*A brief glimpse into the fascinating world of international statistics*' authored by Angela Me (UNODC, Vienna), Haishan Fu (World Bank, Washington DC) and Steve MacFeely (WHO, Geneva), gives an excellent introduction and detailed summary description of the manuscripts in this issue. Special thanks go to Steve MacFeely for the initiation and coordination of this effort.

This issue ends with the closing article by Gemma van Halderen and Matthew Shearing on the sixth discussion on the SJIAOS Discussion Platform (www.officialstatistics.com). In '*Regional Cooperation and Statistical Capacity Development: Successes, challenges and next steps*' they react to the comments on the discussion statements that were based on the publication in the December 2020 issue of the Journal of 13 manuscripts based on papers presented by South East Asian statisticians during the 2020 Asia-Pacific Statistics week. The role of UN-ESCAP, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, one of the regional UN ISOs, in capacity building in statistics is nicely illustrated by this article, by sharing an example of effective coordination from a UN Regional Commission, and the key features of current coordination efforts by the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and the UN. The article also describes the planned content of the ISI's Capability Building Committee's 2022–2025 strategic plan. This plan aims to provide an opportunity to review overall coordination efforts and promote inclusive capacity development efforts.

4.1.4. Volume 38, Issue 4, December 2022

Special Theme: 2022, IAOS Young Statisticians Prize Winners, and a diversity of manuscripts

This issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS contains 30 contributions and covers, including the opening interview, 8 specific themes. In the opening interview, Misha Belkindas interviews Javier Carranza on El Salvador's decision to dissolve DIGESTYC.

The second theme contains three manuscripts on *The impact of COVID-19 on Official Statistics*. In the third theme, one article discusses data ethics in the frame of the *Governance of Official Statistics*. The fourth theme with four contributions is the annual presentation of the manuscripts from the *Young Statisticians Prize competition (2022)*. The fifth section on *Social Statistics, Population and Housing Census* contains five manuscripts, followed by a more specific section with three articles on *Measuring Poverty*. The sixth theme on Business Statistics contains two and the final section on *Data sources and Methodology* with not less than ten rather varied manuscripts closes this issue.

The issue ends with the regular update on the open discussions on the SJIAOS discussion platform www.officialstatistics.com, and a brief look into the next two issues of the Journal.

4.1.5. Volume 39, Issue 1, March 2023

Special Theme: The Challenge of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data

This issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS contains 20 manuscripts under four specific themes. The first theme "COVID-19 Impact and Innovation during the COVID-19 Crisis" contains one manuscript focusing on adaptations in Short Term Statistics due to the economic downturn due to the lockdown. The second theme contains five manuscripts on Governance in Official statistics. The manuscripts by Hans Viggo Szabo and Merit Hoel, two manuscripts on trust in statistics. Hernan Munoz and Julien Dupont described in detail the receiver of the Argentinian statistical system. The final contribution in this section is a description of the French National Council for Statistical

Information Lessons from a Formal Dialogue between Producers and Users on Sustainable Development

The third theme has four domain-specific manuscripts, on respectively Environmental Statistics in Lao PDR, Imputation methods for sub-municipal data in the Italian Housing Census, time series of temporary employment in the Netherlands, and results for a new Tourism Sectoral Account for Greece. In the fourth theme, seven manuscripts focus more specifically on Data, Methodology and Techniques. It covers an overview of Big Data for Official Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean, combining data from multiple probability samples, web scraped data, the transition from telephone to online and mixed mode data collection for employee panel survey data, oversampling techniques for imbalanced data in poverty classifications and methodologies for variance estimation in labor force indicators

The issue ends with an update on the open discussions on the SJIAOS discussion platform www.officialstatistics.com, and a brief look into the next two issues of the Journal.

4.1.6. Volume 39, Issue 2, June 2023

Special Theme: Statistics on Governance, Peace and Security (Praia Group)

This issue of the SJIAOS starts with an interview with *George Sciadas*, retired from Statistics Canada, about his recently published book '*Number Savvy: From the Invention of Numbers to the Future of Data*'. George Sciadas is interviewed by *Walter Radermacher*.

Further, this issue contains 21 manuscripts covering four themes. The first and since June 2020 regular theme, is on the ***Impact and Innovation during the COVID-19 Crisis***. This time this section contains one manuscript with a focus on government measures during the COVID-19 crisis and their statistical implications in national accounts especially on tax deferrals.

The second and central theme in this issue covers 10 manuscripts on '***Statistics on Governance, Peace and Security***'. These manuscripts all stem from members of the so-called UN Praia city group. INSEE France together with the chair of the Praia Group Cabo Verde, has been very active and leading the work of this by the United Nations Statistics Committee (UNSC) in 2015 established group in "contributing to establish international standards and methods for the compilation of statistics on the major dimensions of governance.

The 10 manuscripts in this section are introduced via a guest editorial by the Director Generals of INSEE, *Jean-Luc Tavernier*, and INE Cabo Verde Director General *Joao Cardoso*. The first manuscript '*General Introduction to the Special issue Governance Statistics and the UN Praia City Group*' describes the objectives and achievements of the Praia group, but also summarizes the content of the 9 research manuscripts in this section. These manuscripts all cover experiences with collecting and analyzing data on governance (ranging from violence to civic participation and from public governance to discrimination). 24 authors from countries located on three continents: Africa (Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar and Mali), America (Brazil, Canada and Peru) and Europe (France and Norway) contribute to this section. A detailed description of the content of these manuscripts can be found also in this Introductory article. A special word of thanks goes to *Jean-Pierre Cling* (INSEE) for organizing this special section for the Journal.

The third section in this issue covers four manuscripts on the '**Governance of Official Statistics**'. Two manuscripts focus on the quality of official statistics in the context of the new data ecosystem and the combined use of survey, administrative and big data. One manuscript is on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools as a weapon to combat misuse in statistics and the final manuscript in this section reflects on the amounts of data needed to be able to create reliable global statistics.

The fourth theme, '**Data sources, methodologies, and techniques**' has five manuscripts. These cover a variety of methodological issues: Data reconciliation and estimation, integration of remote sensing in sampling designs, a small area approach for measuring the perception of insecurity, web data apps in R, and automatizing model selection for seasonal adjustments inspired by machine learning.

The issue ends with a regular update on the open discussions on the SJIAOS discussion platform www.officialstatistics.com and a brief look into the next issues of the Journal.

4.2. 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 16 discussions (two in 2019, six in 2020, four in 2021 and in 2022 and in 2023 two (until the date of this Annual Report)).

In 2022 there were four new discussions launched on the SJIAOS discussion platform. The 11th discussion is on 'Large international projects on the development of official statistics, the 50x2030 Initiative as an example'; the 12th is on 'The positive and negative aspects of 'standardization' in official statistics'. the 13th on 'The role and position of International Statistical Organisations', and the 14th discussion on: 'How can Official Statistics find a way out of the fog?' The discussions launched in 2023 are on 'Implementing the Sustainable Development Indicators' (15th discussion) and, the 16th discussion on 'The impact of AI and the availability of data in the so-called Data ecosystem on the development of official statistics'. The discussions in 2022 and 2023 did not (yet) generate as many comments as in 2019 and 2020. Nevertheless, for sure, they did impact the attention of the Journal and the special topic in each of the issues.

4.3 Governance of SJIAOS

4.3.1. New tracking system and update of the reviewer list

The change-over from MS Tracker to the new manuscript tracking system Editorial Manager was finalized on the 1st of January 2023. In 2022 the two systems, Editorial Manager and MS Tracker, were used in parallel, phasing out MS Tracker and starting with Editorial Manager. By January 2023 no more manuscripts are accepted that are submitted via the old System.

4.3.2 Emphasis and general editors

The field of official statistics is undergoing fast developments with emerging new techniques and new domains covered. To well organize the reviews of submitted manuscripts in the emerging fields a regular update of the list of domains covered by the general and emphasis experts is required.

In the period from January 2022 - June 2023, six colleagues indicated to stop as emphasis editors after a long and very fruitful engagement. To maintain a strong Editorial Board of general and emphasis editors, ten colleagues have in this period been invited as new emphasis editors. These new emphasis editors cover with their expertise and network new methodologies as Machine Learning and Artificial

Intelligence, Network analysis, privacy and confidentiality and new data sources and integration. Some names can already be mentioned: Daniel Hopp and Hossein Hassani.

With Pietro Gennari as the newly nominated incoming Editor in Chief, it is expected that soon some more colleagues will be invited to join the list to even have better coverage of the disciplines and also on establishing a better gender balance (Currently 13 female emphasis editors and 26 male).

4.3.3. Pietro Gennari, Incoming Editor in Chief 2023.

In 2022 an IAOS Executive Committee selection panel was installed to conduct selection interviews. Based on the unanimous proposal of the selection committee, the IAOS Executive Committee invited Pietro Gennari as the incoming Editor in Chief (EiC) for the Statistical Journal of the IAOS. His nomination has been published on the 15th of December 2022.

The formal handover between the incumbent Editor in Chief, and Pietro Gennari will take place during the ISI World Statistics Conference in Ottawa in July 2023. In the transition period until July 2023 Pietro will act as co-Editor in Chief to prepare for his new role. The September 2023 issue will be the first solo issue for the new Editor in Chief.

4.3.4. SJIAOS Advisory Board

The SJIAOS Advisory Board (AB) advises the President of the IAOS and the Editor in Chief on the bi-annual strategy for the Journal and Website, on the annual reports on the Journal as well as on ad hoc issues related to content and quality of the manuscripts, the Journal in general and the review and revision procedures.

The SJIAOS AB in 2022/2023 consists of Gemma van Halderen (Australia) and Gary Dunnet (New Zealand) representing the ExCo of the IAOS, Kirsten West (USA) and until June 2022 Jaume Garcia (Spain) and from July 2022 onwards Michael Yang (NORC) representing the Editorial Board of General and Emphasis Editors for the Journal, and Hugues Kouadio (Ivory Coast) and Steve MacFeely (Chair, Switzerland/Ireland) representing the group of (potential authors). Kim Willems (Netherlands) represents the IOS Press. Misha Belkindas (President of IAOS) and /Pieter Everaers (Editor in Chief) are ex-officio members of the Board.

The AB met on the 24th of November 2022 for its regular annual meeting, evaluating Volume 38 and discussing the plans for the upcoming Volumes. There was no need for a second and/or ad hoc AB meeting in 2022.

5. Young Statisticians Prize (YSP)

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.

In 2022 and 2023, strategic issues chosen by young statisticians included predicting quality and evaluating the use of administrative data, classifying respondents to the Census of Population and Housing, machine learning algorithms, statistical data integration, integrating big and survey data,

small area estimation methodologies, modelling self-identification, imputation and deep learning techniques.

Submissions from Statistics Canada again won first place in 2022 and 2023 (Statistics Canada also won first place in 2020 and 2021). The quality of submissions in 2023 was very high, and a joint-first place was also awarded to a submission from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Statistics Spain won second place in 2022 and Westat from the USA won third. In 2023, second place went to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand won third place. Special commendations for submissions from developing nations were awarded to Indonesia in 2022 and Hong Kong, China in 2023. This is the first time Hong Kong, China has won a prize.

The three winning papers and their authors in 2022 were:

1. **Dr. Erin Lundy** (Statistics Canada): *Predicting the quality and evaluating the use of administrative data for the 2021 Canadian Census of Population*
2. **Mr. Juan Carlos Galvez Sainz de Cueto, Mr. Jorge Fernandez Calatrava and Mr. Lasai Barrenada Taleb** (Statistics Spain): *Timeliness reduction on industrial turnover index based on machine learning algorithms*
3. **Dr. Andreea Luisa Erciulescu** (Westat, USA): *Statistical data integration models to reconcile health official statistics*

The four winning papers and their authors in 2023 were:

1. **Ms. Joanne Yoon** (Statistics Canada): *Classifying Respondent Comments from the 2021 Canadian Census of Population using Machine Learning Methods*

jointly with

Mr. Nelson Chua and Mr. Benjamin Long (Australian Bureau of Statistics): *It's time to build a small area estimation methodology for time-to-event data*
2. **Mr. Ryan Covey** (Australian Bureau of Statistics): *Integrating Big Data and Survey Data for Efficient Estimation of the Median*
3. **Dr. Alba Cervantes Loreto** (Statistics New Zealand): *Modelling self-identification of Māori businesses in Aotearoa New Zealand*

The special commendation for paper from a developing nation were awarded to

- **Ms Atika Nashirah Hasyati** (Badan Pusat Statistik –Statistics Indonesia): *Imputation for subsampling in Indonesian National Socioeconomic Survey (2022)*
- **Mr. Benjamin C.H. Chan, Mr. Ian Y.C. Ng and Ms. Natalie K.P. Chung** (Census and Statistics Department, Hong Kong): *Anomaly Detection in Trade Declarations using Deep Learning Techniques: A Risk-assessment Approach to Identify Misclassification and Incorrect Valuation (2023)*

After 10 years, Ms. Gemma Van Halderen will be stepping away as the focal point for the Young Statisticians Prize. Mr. Gary Dunnet, Deputy Chief Methodologist from Statistics New Zealand, has kindly agreed to be the new focal point. In 2023, Gary shadowed Gemma to learn the steps involved.

The Prize would not be possible without the support of judges. An international selection panel is established for each year’s prize, and they work to a very tight timeframe to review submissions, score against established criteria, and recommend winners. Their details are kept anonymous to protect the integrity of the Prize. Our sincere thanks to all judges for their time and commitment to supporting our young official statisticians.

Our 2020 and 2021 Prize winners have now been able to take up the component of their award to attend an international conference, present their paper and network with the official statistics community. They attended the IAOS Conference in Zambia, Africa in April 20.23. The 2022 Prize winner is currently on maternity leave and is expected to attend an international conference in 2024.

Concerted efforts to publicise the Prize and boost submissions are not being effective. The number of submissions in 2023 was 16 compared to a high of 47 in 2014 (figure 1). Submissions from Europe are particularly low compared with earlier years. IAOS members are encouraged to offer suggestions on how to boost submission numbers.

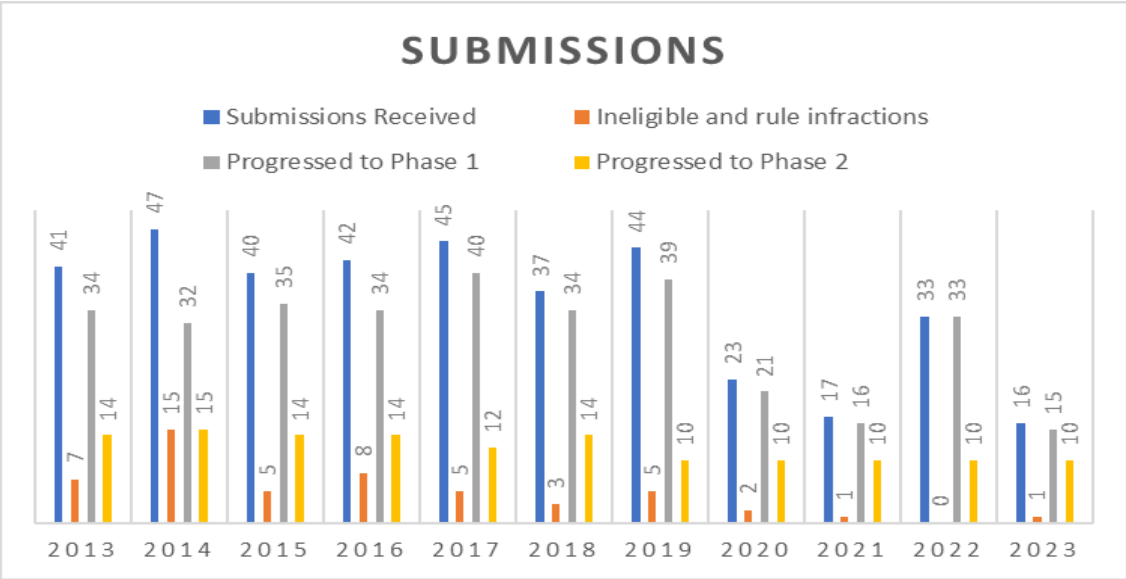


Figure 1: YSP Submissions Received, 2014-2023

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

During the period from January 2022 – July 2023, SCORUS organised five webinars jointly with Eurostat, providing platform to overall 20 speakers and attracting in average 80 participants per webinar. The webinars addressed the following topics:

- Innovation in subnational statistics – new data sources, new methods, new geographies**
- Household Income Distribution Atlas of Spain
- The use the satellite remote sensing for SDGs

<p>Access to green space</p> <p>Monitoring land use in cities using satellite imagery and deep learning</p>
<p>Focus on urban transport</p> <p>Developing methodology for multimodal proximity statistics</p> <p>Innovation in European Traffic and Mobility statistics</p> <p>Sustainable urban mobility indicators</p> <p>How fast are rail trips between EU cities and is rail faster than air?</p>
<p>Focus on measuring Sustainable Development Goals in cities</p> <p>Inequalities within cities – income and access to services</p> <p>Air quality at the city level</p> <p>Focus on goal 11 - Access to open and public space and Access to public transport</p>
<p>Disseminating territorial indicators</p> <p>Visualization that makes regional statistical data easily accessible</p> <p>Time series of European population grids</p> <p>Urban Europe- an interactive wiki-style publication</p>

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

8. Financial Report

The IAOS' financial performance continued to show steady gains during the reporting period, with a 45% improvement in 2022 compared to 2021. This improvement accounted for increased membership contributions, both individual and institutional, and sponsorship funds for the Krakow conference. With a continuously rising institutional membership, the result has been an increase in income from individual members from EUR 8,162 in 2021 to EUR 10,125 in 2022. An increase in income from institutional members has been from EUR 17,664 in 2021 to 19,921 in 2022. As for expenses, the 2022 financial performance saw an increase in travel-related expenditures due to the resumption of in-person activities, including organization and attendance of international conferences. Furthermore, the total balance of funds has been impacted by external factors that affected the ISI investment portfolio in 2022. As a result, by December 31, 2022, the IAOS balance of funds was EUR 156,571, which is a decrease of 7.65% compared to 2021.

International Statistical Institute The Hague							
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IAOS							
INCOME	Budget						
	2022	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Membership / contributions							
Individual members	10,125	9000	8,162	7,440	5,619	6,539	5,630
Institutional members	19,921	21000	17,664	16,402	11,840	15,485	8,233
Other income	7,500 ¹		-	-	120	28,845	
TOTAL INCOME	37,546	30000	25,826	23,842	17,579	50,869	13,863
EXPENSES							
Organisation							
Travel and meetings	11,867 ²	20000	4,707	-	8,540	20,679	-1,445
Postage/ freight	41	25	20	21	132	116	49
Conference expenses		10000					
Other (incl. Greta Cherry SJI/AOS)		3000	204	-215	6,497	9,052	19,996
Computer costs	2,850 ⁵	3000	2,557	2,689	2,152	2,080	2,130
Stationary and others	8 ⁸	50	4 ⁴	60 ⁶	43	84	18
Telephone						15	22
Insurance (incl. extra liability insurance)	285	190	255	243	261	320	266
Office equipment			2			8	8
Bank charges	2,024	50	1,094	1,034	1,030	1,631	598
Staff costs	11,625 ⁵		8,925	5,400	5,150	6,900	2,171
Consultants	56	3000			95		
Website	188	1000	225	329			
Webshop maintenance shop	856	1500	981	1,446	1,879	2,571	
Auditors	518		508	448	466	606	538
IAOS Prize money	3,000 ⁴	4500	4,665	3,000	17,616	3,000	
Total organisation	33,318	46315	24,147	14,455	43,861	47,062	24,351
Depreciation debtors	10		-	-5	514	739	473
TOTAL EXPENSES	33,328	46315	24,147	14,450	44,375	47,801	24,824
RESULT BEFORE FINANCIAL INCOME	4,218	-16315	1,679	9,392	-26,796	3,068	-10,961
Equity Interest	-17,175		13,616	1,342	16,603	-5,761	3,343
RESULT OF THE YEAR	-12,957		15,295	10,734	-10,193	-2,693	-7,618
Equity Fund January 1	169,328		154,033	143,299	153,492	156,185	163,803
Result	-12,957		15,295	10,734	-10,193	-2,693	-7,618
Equity Fund December 31	156,371		169,328	154,033	143,299	153,492	156,185
			1 ESRI Sponsoring				
			2 IAOS Travel Expenses 2022 (Krakow Conference & Conference of European Statistics Stakeholders)		11867.2		
			4 IAOS YSP 2022 - 1st prize		1500		
			IAOS YSP 2022 - 2nd prize (winner 1)		333.33		
			IAOS YSP 2022 - 2nd prize (winner 2)		333.33		
			IAOS YSP 2022 - 2nd prize (winner 3)		333.33		
			IAOS YSP 2022 - 3rd prize		500		
					2999.99		

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. Conchita Kleijweg (<i>Netherlands</i>) ¹ Ms. Ada Van Krimpen (<i>Netherlands</i>) ²
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>)

¹ Ms. Conchita Kleijweg was appointed as the ISI Director on July 1, 2022.

² Ms. Ada Van Krimpen retired from the position of the ISI Director on June 30, 2022.

Annex B: President's Messages

1. August 2022

Dear IAOS Members:

Since I last wrote to the community in December 2021 many things happened. A war broke out in the middle of Europe bringing many casualties and floods of refugees. Our conference was held in Krakow in April which is one of the major sites where refugees arrive after fleeing Ukraine. Many of us who participated in the conference visited the train station and supported the refugees as much as we could. IAOS together with the International Statistical Institute (ISI) issued a statement condemning the war and offering help and support to the statistical agency of Ukraine as well as to Russian statisticians.

In December I had a pleasure to sit down with SJIAOS Editor-in-chief for an interview which was published in March 2022 in SJAIOS volume 38, where among other things, I tried to articulate the main actions of importance for the IAOS. We are following these paths in our work.

I also have had the pleasure of informing our young statisticians and their supervisors of the outcomes of the 2022 Young Statistician Prize. Congratulations to Dr. Erin Lundy from Statistics Canada for winning first place, and for submitting a winning submission from Statistics Canada for the third successive year in a row.

IAOS is doing well by expanding its individual and institutional 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.

We have repeatedly contacted all the NSOs, international organizations, private sector companies, data providers and those active in providing technical assistance to NSO's, as well as learning institutions, inviting to join IAOS. The efforts have borne fruit.

A few weeks ago, the ISI Director Ada van Krimpen, and a member of IAOS ExCo retired. Ada has been an active and enthusiastic supporter of IAOS and we will miss her guidance and advise on institutional and organizational matter. We welcome the new ISI Director Conchita Kleijweg to the ExCo and are looking forward to fruitful cooperation.

Conferences

The 18th IAOS conference in Krakow, Poland

Back to an in-person attendance, the IAOS conference in Krakow was a very welcome moment for our community of official statisticians. While some countries were not able to attend, a rich programme of more than forty invited papers' sessions was held on 26-28 April, 2022, allowing the discussion of issues reflecting the title given to the conference: Worthy Information for Challenging Times. We can only reiterate our thanks to the Polish colleagues of the GUS (Central Statistics Office of Poland) who ensured the optimal conditions for hosting this event.

Our thanks too to the sponsors, especially Eurostat, who enabled a number of delegates to attend from developing countries. We also appreciate the support of UNSD.

On April 25th, the day before the Krakow conference started two events were held – a Special IAOS Meeting on Fundamental Principles, Population Censuses and Misuse of Statistics and IAOS Training Course on Small Area Estimation (SAE). The participation at the special session was by IAOS President's invitation only and gathered a group of about 80 colleagues who actively participated in the discussions. The training session was by registration only and brought together more than 50

participants from NSOs and research institutions from all the continents.

The 17th IAOS conference in Livingstone, Zambia

Zambia was due to host the 2020 IAOS-ISI Conference from 19 to 21 May 2020 in Livingstone. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was postponed.

The 17th IAOS world conference and the 3rd ISI Africa Regional Statistics Conference will now be held, 4-6 April 2023 at the same venue under the theme: *Better Lives 2030: mobilizing the power of data for Africa and the world*. The conference will cover the seven themes below:

1. Future of Statistics for Africa: statistics that leave no one behind
2. Skills for Africa in the era of data
3. Official statistics in society: they matter to all of us
4. Big data. Opportunities arising from the new data ecosystem.
5. Statistics making a difference: public health, prevent and cure
6. Statistics making a difference: environment and climate
7. Statistics making a difference: from data to progress

Preparatory ExCom meetings are being held every two weeks since May 2022. A new-looking website has been developed: <https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/iaos-conference> and a new call for papers is expected to be sent out by end of July 2022.

Key dates:

- Conference date: 4-6 April 2023
- Deadline for proposals submission: 30 September 2022 (link: <https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/call-for-papers/>)
- Announcement of the outcome: end of October 2022

IAOS General Assembly

The 2022 IAOS General Assembly was held on April 28, 2022, as part of the 18th IAOS conference in Krakow, Poland. This year the General Assembly was organized in a hybrid format, allowing colleagues unable to attend the conference to join virtually. The Assembly reviewed the 2021-2022 activities, confirmed the IAOS Strategic Plan for 2021-2023, and confirmed the minutes of the 2021 General Assembly meeting. The GA meeting notes are available on the [IAOS website](#).

Webinars and Workshops

IAOS conducted three events in February – June 2022, including:

1. ***“Writing manuscripts for Official Statistics journals: Guidelines for practitioners and researchers”*** workshop organized 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 on February 8-15, 2022. The objective of this workshop was to prepare Official Statisticians and researchers to draft and submit manuscripts to Official Statistics journals. The workshop was attended by 236 participants.
2. ***“Ethics, trust, governance and use of data: Enhancing Official Statistics Capacity to address these issues”*** side event at the UNSC 53rd Session on February 8, 2022. The event aimed to provide an opportunity to explore issues of ethics, trust, governance and use of data and reflect on the IAOS’s proposal to create a small reflection group (Krakow Group) to give more prominence and focus to these issues.

3. **“Building strong Integrated National Data Systems to transform people’s lives”** webinar organized in collaboration with the World Bank’s Development Data Group on June 15, 2022. Bringing together a diverse group of discussants, the session focused on building an integrated national data system (INDS) and the critical role NSOs can play in this process, which the World Development Report 2021: Data for Better Lives (WDR2021) extensively discusses. 104 participants attended the webinar.

Preparations are underway for other webinars in the second half of the year.

If IAOS members have suggestions for IAOS sponsored webinars, please contact me at ContactIAOS@gmail.com.

Young Statisticians Prize

Congratulations to the IAOS Young Statistician Prize winners for 2022 are from Canada, Spain, the USA and Indonesia. The winners are

1. **Dr. Erin Lundy** (Statistics Canada) for her paper *Predicting the quality and evaluating the use of administrative data for the 2021 Canadian Census of Population*
2. **Mr. Juan Carlos Galvez Sainz de Cueto, Mr. Jorge Fernandez Calatrava and Mr. Lasai Barrenada Taleb** (Statistics Spain) for their paper *Timeliness reduction on industrial turnover index based on machine learning algorithms*
3. **Dr. Andreea Luisa Erciulescu** (Westat, USA) for her paper *Statistical data integration models to reconcile health official statistics*

The special commendation for a paper from a developing nation is

- **Ms. Atika Nashirah Hasyati** (Badan Pusat Statistik –Statistics Indonesia) for her paper *Imputation for subsampling in Indonesian National Socioeconomic Survey*

The winning papers focused on administrative-based population censuses, machine learning and data integration.

Several notable achievements occurred in 2022

1. Statistics Canada received first place for the third year in a row
2. 2022 was the first year Statistics Spain and Westat, USA have received prizes
3. BPS-Indonesia received a special commendation for the second year in a row

Thank you to the 43 young statisticians who submitted 33 submissions and made the task of the international selection committee so challenging once again. My thanks also to the National Statistical Offices, departments of regional statistical offices, the statistics unit of a government department, central bank, African Legal Support Facility, high commission for planning, Statistical Centre for the Gulf Cooperation Council, and Westat for supporting young official statisticians and the IAOS.

SCORUS

SCORUS organized two webinars jointly with Eurostat in June 2022 under the theme “City statistics – Results, challenges and opportunities”. The webinars highlighted recent results and lessons learned in city statistics as well as challenges and opportunities in integrating traditional and new data sources for city statistics.

For more information on SCORUS please visit our website: <http://www.scorus.org>.

If you wish to get involved or follow our events join our [LinkedIn group](#).

Krakow Group

Official Statistics are directly affected by the on-going “data revolution”. To fulfill their fundamental

mission of informing the general public about social, economic and environmental developments, and assist in the development and evaluation of public policies, Official Statistics must avail of multiple data sources while ensuring quality and preventing misuse. Doing so however requires innovation, engagement with other actors and compliance with strict ethical rules both as regards methodological processes and adherence to democratic principles.

At its 2022 General Assembly, the IAOS has established the “Krakow Working Group” whose aim is to contribute to the collective reflection on the challenges that our “datafied” societies pose to Official Statistics. The Group is co-chaired by Jan Robert Suesser, member of the IAOS Executive Committee and of the ISI Advisory Board on Ethics and Martine Durand, member of the European Statistics Governance Advisory Body, of the French Statistics Authority and former OECD Chief Statistician. A work plan is under development, and it is expected that the Group will be able to present recommendations to be disseminated in the second half of 2023.

Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS)

The **June issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (Volume 38, issue 2)** contains 31 contributions covering seven themes. The background manuscript for the Krakow Reflection group by Martine Durand and Jan Robert Suesser (*A fast-evolving landscape for Official Statistics: how to respond to the challenges*) is the first theme. The second theme contains five manuscripts on the impact of Covid-19 on Official Statistics. Then four themes follow based on contributions from the ISI WSC: ‘*The Governance of Official Statistics: The Funding*’ with three contributions; four contributions, and an introduction on ‘*Statistical and Data Literacy in Policy-Making*’; seven contributions and an introduction on ‘*Standards, guidelines and recommendations*’ and three manuscripts on ‘*Nowcasting*’. Finally under the theme ‘*Data sources and methodology*’, four rather varied manuscripts are positioned.

The **September issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (Volume 38, issue 3)** will be a special issue, fully dedicated to contributions from the International Statistical Organisations (ISO’s), members of the Coordination Committee for Statistical Activities (CCSA). Some 32 manuscripts describe the role and position of the ISO’s and the manifold of topics these organizations are involved in, ranging from the collection of statistical data, setting of standards, developing methodologies and supporting countries and regions as well as in the governance of international and regional statistical systems. These manuscripts cover topics relevant to these organizations and are distributed over four themes: *The role of the international statistical organizations in the Governance of Official Statistics*; *The involvement of the international statistical organizations in measuring the impact of COVID-19*; *The involvement of the international statistical organizations in measuring the SDG’s*; *Methodological activities and projects at the international statistical organizations*.

SJIAOS Website and Discussion Platform

With the June issue of the SJIAOS also the **12th SJIAOS discussion** on the [Official Statistics discussion platform](#) on ‘The positive and negative aspects of ‘standardization’ in official statistics’ was launched. This 12th SJIAOS discussion is triggered by the section on ‘*Standards, guidelines and recommendations*’ in the June 2022 issue of the SJIAOS. The discussion aims to contribute to a reflection by the international community of statisticians on the principles behind and the role of standards and specifically on the validity of cross-national comparisons considering the deficiencies in implementation and use of the internationally harmonized standards.

With the September issue, the **13th SJIAOS discussion** will be launched. This discussion ‘*The roles and position of International Statistical Organizations*’ will build on the manuscripts in the September special issue with contributions from the International Statistical Organizations. The discussion will especially focus on the global governance of official statistics and the role and position of the

International Statistical Organisations. The statements will invite the readers to reflect on the role and value of (statistical) data, their role as a public good and to the role of the UN member states, the International Statistical Organizations and the UN Statistical Commission in the development and management of official statistics.

In parallel, a **Special SJIAOS discussion** will be launched on the challenges that our “datafied” societies pose to Official Statistics. This discussion follows the establishment in April 2022, during the IAOS bi-annual Conference, of the “Krakow Working Group”. The main points arising from this discussion will constitute useful inputs to the deliberations of the Group. The Krakow Working Group will report on the advancement of its work at the IAOS Conference in Zambia in April 2023 and the ISI Congress in Ottawa in July 2023.

Vacancy of SJIAOS Editor in Chief position

In January 2022 the vacancy for the Editor in Chief position of the Statistical Journal was announced. Several colleagues expressed their interest in this interesting role. It is planned that the selection procedure will result in autumn 2022 in the selection of an incoming Editor in Chief who will formally take over the role of the current Editor in Chief, Pieter Everaers, in July 2023, during the WSC in Ottawa.

Finally, on behalf of the IAOS Executive Committee, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the IAOS. I like to encourage all to contribute to IAOS work and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the IAOS conference in Livingstone and ISI congress in Ottawa.

Regards,

Misha Belkindas
IAOS President

2. December 2022

Dear IAOS Members:

As 2022 comes to an end I want to come back to you all with a short message describing some of the highlights of the IAOS over the recent months. As I reported in my previous communication, we had a very successful conference in April in Krakow where along with a comprehensive scientific programme, IAOS General Assembly, training session on small area estimates, we also had a full day meeting on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) and to talk about the Censuses with a focus on use and misuse of statistics.

One of the other highlights was the establishment of the Krakow Working Group (discussed below), as well as meeting with Ukrainian statisticians. As the world reopens after the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was an opportunity to see face-to-face many colleagues.

The IAOS Executive Committee has continued to have a busy 2022. As this newsletter shows, plans are well advanced for a successful conference in Zambia in April 2023. IAOS members are also actively participating in the ISI World Statistics Congress (WSC) 2023.

IAOS members, with support from partners, organised a series of webinars, including on the themes of independence and FPOS.

The Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) 2023 competition has been launched, and I strongly encourage all members to support this valuable contribution to official statistics.

As noted below, we are very pleased to welcome incoming SJIAOS Editor in Chief Mr. Pietro Gennari, who will take over from current Editor in Chief Dr. Pieter Everaers at the ISI WSC 2023.

The work of the IAOS is dependent on the voluntary contributions of many people. I am very grateful for their contributions.

As I already reported we are expanding our individual and institutional 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. My thanks to those NSOs, international organizations, private sector companies, data providers and those active in providing technical assistance to NSOs, as well as learning institutions who have accepted the invitation to join the IAOS.

Conferences and Webinars

The 17th IAOS Conference and 3rd ISI Regional Statistics Conference, 4 – 6 April 2023, Livingstone, Zambia

Preparations for the [17th International Association for Official Statistics Conference and 3rd International Statistical Institute Regional Statistics Conference](#), jointly organised by the IAOS, ISI and the Zambia Statistics Agency – ZamStats, are well underway.

The conference has the theme: *Better Lives 2030: mobilizing the power of data for Africa and the world*, and will cover the following seven sub-themes:

1. Future of Statistics for Africa: statistics that leave no one behind
2. Skills for Africa in the era of data
3. Official statistics in society: they matter to all of us
4. Big data. Opportunities arising from the new data ecosystem
5. Statistics making a difference: public health, prevent and cure
6. Statistics making a difference: environment and climate
7. Statistics making a difference: from data to progress

Following the successful call for papers and training proposals, the committee are now finalising the agenda, including the programme of training courses to be held immediately before the conference.

Thanks to our partners at ZamStats, registration is now open – at <https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/2023-iaos-isi-conference/registration/>. The conference website also contains information about accommodation and visa requirements.

On behalf of the Conference Executive Committee, I look forward to seeing you in Livingstone in April 2023.

64th ISI World Statistics Congress, Ottawa, Canada, July 16, 2023 – July 20, 2023

As in previous WSC meetings, the IAOS will have a significant contribution to the scientific programme. This WSC will be a full face to face event – the first in 4 years. ISI is very proud to announce that the President's Invited Speaker for WSC 2023 will be Professor Robert Groves, Provost of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C, and well known to all in the official statistical community.

We look forward to seeing you in Ottawa.

IAOS sponsored Webinars and Workshops

IAOS continued to conduct a series of webinars in the second half of 2022, including:

- “Blind Spot: The Global Rise of Unhappiness and How Leaders Missed It” Book Discussion Webinar, 23 September 2022

- “Big Data and Official Statistics in Africa – Maximising the Opportunities” Webinar, 6 October 2022
- “The Independence of Statistical Institutions with a Focus on Arab Region and North Africa” Webinar, 2 November 2022
- “Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics: 30 Years after Its Development” IAOS – ECLAC Webinar, 3 November 2022

As can be seen, these all had a strong focus on issues impacting on Official Statistics. Our thanks again to the organisers and partners for these successful events.

If IAOS members have suggestions for IAOS sponsored webinars, please contact me at ContactIAOS@gmail.com.

Young Statisticians Prize

A reminder that the IAOS Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) for 2023 **closes on 11 February 2023**. This international prize is awarded for the best paper in the field of official statistics written by a young statistician. In addition to the monetary prizes, the first-place winner will receive travel funds to present the paper at an international conference. Information about the competition in many of the UN languages is available at [[YSP](#)].

As in previous years, the Young Statisticians Prize is an ideal opportunity for young statisticians to showcase important methodological initiatives. It also provides opportunities for mentoring our statistical leaders of the future. I’d like to encourage all IAOS members to actively promote the competition and take the opportunity to mentor our up and coming leaders.

A reminder too that the winning articles of the YSP are published in the SJIAOS. As noted below, the December issue of the SJIAOS includes the winning entries from the 2022 competition.

SCORUS

In conjunction with Eurostat, SCORUS organised a webinar in November on Communication and Innovation in Regional Statistics. This webinar showcased recent developments in communicating data at the regional and local level, as well as highlighting a range of country specific innovations in sub-national statistics.

For more information on SCORUS please visit our website: <http://www.scorus.org>.

If you wish to get involved or follow our events join our [LinkedIn group](#).

Krakow Group

Official Statistics are directly affected by the on-going “data revolution”. To fulfill their fundamental mission of informing the general public about social, economic and environmental developments, and assist in the development and evaluation of public policies, Official Statistics must avail of multiple data sources while ensuring quality and preventing misuse. Doing so however requires innovation, engagement with other actors and compliance with strict ethical rules both as regards methodological processes and adherence to democratic principles.

At its 2022 General Assembly, the IAOS has established the “Krakow Working Group” whose aim is to contribute to the collective reflection on the challenges that our “datafied” societies pose to Official Statistics. The Group is co-chaired by Jan Robert Suesser, member of the IAOS Executive Committee and of the ISI Advisory Board on Ethics and Martine Durand, former OECD chief statistician, member of the European Statistics Governance Advisory Body and of the French Statistics Authority. Three initial meetings took place during summer in order to feed the Terms of Reference of the Working

Group. After adoption, an extended Working Group will implement its work plan. It is expected that the Group will be able to present early recommendations during the Ottawa WSC, in July 2023.

Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) news

Upcoming changes to SJIAOS Editor in Chief

The IAOS is pleased to welcome the incoming Editor in Chief, Mr. Pietro Gennari, who after a transition period will take up the role with the July 2023 issue (Vol 39, 2023, no 3). Currently, Pietro serves as Chief Statistician at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Pietro will take over the role from Dr. Pieter Everaers who has been at the helm of the Journal since 2019 (Volume 36, 2019). Under Pieter's leadership, the journal has experienced a large increase in authors and readership. In combination with the SJIAOS website, its discussion platform and news and event pages, SJIAOS has further settled its unique global role in Official Statistics.

Statistical Journal of the IAOS

The September issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (Volume 38, issue 3) is a special issue, fully dedicated to contributions from the International Statistical Organisations (ISOs), members of the Coordination Committee for Statistical Activities (CCSA). Some 32 manuscripts describe the role and position of the ISO's and the manifold of topics these organizations are involved in, ranging from the collection of statistical data, setting of standards, developing methodologies and supporting countries and regions as well as in the governance of international and regional statistical systems. These manuscripts cover topics relevant to these organizations and are distributed over four themes: *The role of the international statistical organizations in the Governance of Official Statistics; The involvement of the international statistical organizations in measuring the impact of COVID-19; The involvement of the international statistical organizations in measuring the SDGs; Methodological activities and projects at the international statistical organizations.*

Our thanks to the ISOs who have enabled this issue to be Free to Read

The December issue of the Statistical Journal of the IAOS (Volume 38, issue 4) covers a variety of manuscripts. The editorial, '**How can Official Statistics find a way out of the fog?**' argues that due to the recent multiplicity of crises and their resulting turbulence, official statistics are confused about the way forward with their programs and strategies. The way forward is not that obvious any more, and earlier work plan objectives now seem less easily achievable. This feeling of loss/ being in the fog, seems to be generating a widely felt need to more deeply reflect on the future role(s) and work of official statistics.

This issue contains further 8 sections and covers some 30 manuscripts. In the first section, Misha Belkindas invites Javier Caranza to give his view on the developments with official statistics in El Salvador. Following up on the joint statement by ISI/IAOS on El Salvador's decision to dissolve DIGESTYC (the NSO), ISI/IAOS expressed its grave concern about the risks involved. These particularly relate to the mission of El Salvador's official statistics as well as their professional independence, the qualification of staff and the confidentiality of statistical data.^[1] Javier Caranza, director of GeoCensos, an NGO that develops, studies, and implements technology trends to support National Statistical Offices, has worked with DIGESTYC, the NSO in El Salvador.

The second theme in this issue contains three manuscripts on *The impact of COVID-19 on Official Statistics*. In the third theme, one article discusses data ethics in the frame of the *Governance of Official Statistics*. The fourth theme with four contributions is the annual presentation of the manuscripts from the *Young Statisticians Prize competition (2022)*. The fifth section

on *Social Statistics, Population and Housing Census* contains five manuscripts, followed by a more specific section with three articles on *Measuring Poverty*. The sixth theme on Business Statistics contains two and the final section on *Data Sources and Methodology* with not less than ten rather varied manuscripts closes this issue.

The SJIAOS Website and Discussion Platform

With the September issue, the **13th SJIAOS discussion** was launched. This discussion ***‘The roles and position of International Statistical Organizations’*** builds on the manuscripts in the September special issue with contributions from ISOs. The discussion especially focuses on the global governance of official statistics and the role and position of ISOs. The statements invited the readers to reflect on the role and value of (statistical) data, their role as a public good and the role of the UN member states, the ISOs and the UN Statistical Commission in the development and management of official statistics.

In parallel, a **Special SJIAOS discussion** was launched on the challenges that our “datafied” societies pose to Official Statistics. This discussion follows the establishment in April 2022, during the IAOS bi-annual Conference, of the “Krakow Working Group”. The main points arising from this discussion will constitute useful inputs to the deliberations of the Group. The Krakow Working Group will report on the advancement of its work at the IAOS Conference in Zambia in April 2023 and the ISI WSC in Ottawa in July 2023.

With the December issue, the **14th SJIAOS discussion** will be opened. This discussion ***‘How can Official Statistics find a way out of the fog?’*** builds on the editorial in this December issue, which The readers are invited to react to the statement that the official statistics are currently in a situation of unclarity regarding the strategies and direction. Readers can either react with supporting or disagreeing arguments to this statement or contribute with suggestions on how to solve this situation.

Finally, on behalf of the IAOS Executive Committee, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the IAOS. I like to encourage all to contribute to IAOS work and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the IAOS conference in Livingstone and ISI congress in Ottawa.

As the 2022 comes to an end I wish you all a festive Holiday Season and a happy, healthy and peaceful 2023.

Regards,

Misha Belkindas
IAOS President

[1] ISI IAOS Joint statement by ISI and IAOS on El Salvador’s decision to dissolve DIGESTYC. !9 August 2022. See: <https://www.isi-web.org/news/node-2295>.