



**International Association for Official Statistics Annual Report 2023-2024**

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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 2023-2024 year.

This report reviews the activities of the IAOS since the 2023 General Assembly, held in July 2023. At that General Assembly, it was noted that the overall strategic direction outlined in the IAOS Strategy 2021-2023 would remain unchanged.

The 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.

In addition, the IAOS has a key role in contributing to efforts at establishing and maintaining a new global consensus on data.

The IAOS objectives are linked with its strategic activities which are comprised of:

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 defence of FPOS
7. Expose facts of misuse of statistics
8. Enhance the work of subcommittees
9. Institutionalize IAOS functions

Through these various initiatives, IAOS works with stakeholders to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics. In this way, IAOS brings together producers and users of official statistics, for example through organising IAOS conferences as well as participation in forums such as the UN World Data Forum, side events at the UNSC and the WSC.

IAOS and its sub-committees – SCORUS and the Krakow Working Group organised several webinars, discussion debates and side events to relevant international meetings. These events have continued to have a strong focus on the role of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, enhancing trust in Statistics. Events have included:

- UN Statistical Commission 2024: Side event *“THE FPOS AND BEYOND. How today’s megatrends will reshape official statistics. Integrating foresight into official statistics”*

The session integrated the concept of far-sighted foresight with the fundamental principles of official statistics to effectively implement the postulates and ideals enshrined therein. The session allowed attendees to witness the power of this unique combination and gain valuable insights that will help to stay ahead in today's ever-changing world. It linked perfectly with the key theme

of the StatComm, the FPOS anniversary, focusing on a long-term view towards the future. The session took the form of a moderated discussion panel with deep audience involvement.

- In 2023, the Krakow Working Group organized a set of debates on themes on which the IAOS could bring value-added in regard of discussions held in other fora. These debates took place ahead of the 2023 WSC on the following topics:
  - 1) *Sharing experiences among official statistics producers on their interactions with the diversity of non-official data providers;*
  - 2) *Increasing official statistics' engagement with users, addressing misuse and misinformation;*
  - 3) *Fostering strong ethical principles underpinning data and statistics for the common good.*
- SCORUS held a series of webinars on Regional Statistics in 2023. More details are in chapter 8.

The Krakow Working Group continues to contribute to the burning challenges Official Statistics face in today's "datafied" societies, including issues of misuse of statistics, with debates with key stakeholders on a range of topics, as it works to formalise a work programme that will contribute to quality information for the common good, and so benefit all the actors in the data ecosystem. More details can be found in chapter 7.

In partnership with UNSD, we have also established a Friends of Official Statistics (FOS) group. The group is expected to comprise of retired chief statisticians and senior statisticians. The role of the FOS is to provide an opportunity for those who have the experience and knowledge to focus on the major issues affecting official statistics, including the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The FOS is a platform to discuss new developments and cutting-edge issues such as those discussed at the UN Statistical Commission. The FOS would stimulate debate and attention on violations of the FPOS and other critical issues through the voices of ex Chief Statisticians, Directors and others who have had leading positions in either national or international statistical organizations. FOS will inform about its activities at various IAOS fora and would work together with IAOS to take public positions if that were warranted.

The Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) is key to spreading knowledge and innovation in official statistics to the statistical community. The SJIAOS is showing great results as the number of readers and the number of citations of articles published in the journal is increasing. 2023 saw the change of Editor-in-Chief, with Pietro Gennari taking on the role on the retirement of Peter Everaers. Dr Gennari is committed to maintaining the high-quality standards, as well as working with the Official Statistics community to expand the authorship and audience for the SJIAOS.

In late 2023, IOS Press, the publishers of the journal since 2007, were taken over by Sage Publications<sup>1</sup>. In the immediate future, the change in ownership is not expected to alter the good collaboration that the SJIAOS experienced with the IOS Press.

The Young Statisticians Prize (YSP) is now in its 14th year and continues to be a centrepiece of the IAOS' offerings. The quality of submissions in 2023 was very high and first time in the history of

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<sup>1</sup> SAGE is a global academic publisher founded in 1965 that is renowned for its extensive collection of books, journals, and library resources, comprising over 1200 journals across various fields of social and behavioral science.

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 welcome Mr. Gary Dunnet, Deputy Chief Methodologist from Statistics New Zealand, as the new focal point for running the YSP.

IAOS continuously works on developing and enhancing its processes. A key part of that has been the reviewing of the IAOS Statutes and the establishment of a Code of Conduct for IAOS Executive Committee (ExCo) members. The Code of Conduct was endorsed by the IAOS ExCo at its March meeting. The draft updated Statutes will be presented to the May 2024 General Assembly, when a period of member consultation will commence. My special thanks to Nancy McBeth and colleagues for their work on both these key foundations for how the association works.

The latest General Assembly meeting was held in the hybrid format in July 2023 in Ottawa, and it is again being held in the hybrid format in May 2024. Since the 2023 General Assembly, the ExCo held 3 virtual meetings (September and December in 2023 and March 2024). There will also be a hybrid ExCo meeting during the May conference in Mexico.

The IAOS has continued to recruit and retain members, By mid-March 2024, there were 662 individual members compared with 635 at the end of 2023 with noticeable increases in the number of individual members from organisations which also have organisational membership. Membership from developing countries has also increased. However, like many other organisations, there were significant cost pressures in 2023, as many of the operational activities (conferences and travel associated with YSP winners) began to catch up after the pandemic.

During the period from January 2023 – March 2024, IAOS Standing Committee for Regional and Urban Statistics (SCORUS) organised five webinars on relevant topics of interest jointly with Eurostat, providing platform to overall 20 speakers and attracting in average 80 participants per webinar. SCORUS Conference is planned for June 2024.

We are all now waiting for the next IAOS-ISI Conference to be held in Mexico in 15-17 May 2024.

The conference will bring together official statisticians and others with the theme of *“Improving Decision-Making for All”*. It is expected to bring together over 300 international and regional delegates to debate key issues to enhance the role of official statistics in Improving Decision Making. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in Mexico.

I take this opportunity to thank the 2023-2025 ExCo for their service and commitment to achieving IAOS objectives.

I wish the IAOS to continue to grow a strong and active membership community and deliver excellent results.

Many thanks and best regards,

Dominik Rozkrut  
IAOS President

May 15, 2024

## 1. 2023- 2025 Strategic Approach

### Background

The IAOS strategic approach for the 2023 -2025 period builds on the 2021-2023 IAOS Strategy. This recognizes that the fundamental issues underpinning the 2021-2023 Strategy remain unchanged. These include:

- the need for official statistics, and official statistics providers to be more responsive and provide more real-time information,
- The need for official statistics providers to respond rapidly to the changes brought about by the digital and data revolutions and rapid changes in national and global data and statistical ecosystems,
- The critical importance of ensuring independence of official statistics and trust in official statistics,
- The uncertainty of the role of NSOs and National Statistical Systems, as they respond to the emergence of new data producers.

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

The IAOS is one of the seven Associations of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)<sup>2</sup> and aligns itself with the ISI mid-term vision. The current political, economic and social developments present the IAOS with an opportunity to rise in prominence as the IAOS is an organization not only for statisticians working for national governments and international organizations, but for many other stakeholders, including policy makers, private sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academia.

### Context

The IAOS objectives are:

- to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and related subjects, and fundamental principles of official statistics,
- 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.<sup>3</sup>

In addition, the IAOS has a key role in contributing to efforts at establishing and maintaining a new global consensus on data.

The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS) underpins achieving these objectives. Earlier this year, the UN Statistical Commission celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FPOS. IAOS continues

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<sup>2</sup> ISI's mission is to lead, support and promote the understanding, development and good practice of statistics worldwide, by providing the core global network for statistics. The ISI vision is to increase its influence as the leading professional organization and core network for statistics worldwide linking government, academia, business and society. This vision is reflected in the ISI's motto: "Statistical science for a better world"

<sup>3</sup> <https://iaos-isi.org/objectives/>

to be part of the global activities to strengthen their implementation. However, political pressures remain a challenge.

These have included pressures to manipulate and suppress data relating to the pandemic and other global challenges, including climate changes, etc.

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

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

The 2023-2025 ExCo has co-opted three further members of the IAOS, and several special invitees who will serve until the next election (Annex A lists the 2023-2025 ExCo members). In general, the ExCo meets four times a year and organizes a general assembly once a year as per the IAOS statutes. To address issues of importance the ExCo may also appoint standing and ad hoc committees.

## 2. Key planned Activities over the 2023-2024 period

### Activity 1. Organization of IAOS International Conferences

Traditionally, the IAOS conducts a conference every two years. The next conference, a joint IAOS- ISI regional conference has been organized by the next IAOS President and will be held in Mexico City on 15-17 May 2024. The conference will be dedicated to the theme of *“Improving Decision-Making for All”*. It is expected to bring together over 300 international and regional delegates to debate key issues to enhance the role of official statistics in Improving Decision Making.

The IAOS will also have a key role in the 2025 WSC. Preparations for the WSC have started earlier this cycle, and the IAOS has encouraged members to contribute IPS proposals.

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

The Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) is a fundamental tool for the IAOS and provides the world with innovative research on official statistics. The SJIAOS publishes four times a year, as well as operating an on-line discussion forum – [officialstatistics.com](http://officialstatistics.com).

The SJIAOS will continue its work through its editorial team and reviewers who contribute their expertise without charge. The main aim of the SJIAOS will continue to support the IAOS mission by publishing articles to promote the understanding and advancement of official statistics and to foster the development of effective official statistical services on a global basis. In doing so, the SJIAOS aims to:

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

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

### **Activity 3. Young Statisticians Prize**

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

Attracting submissions to the Prize is an annual challenge. The IAOS has widely promoted the conference through the IAOS website, social media channels and letters addressed to the heads of the NSOs and International Statistical Organizations (ISOs) as well as the Chief Methodologist Network.

### **Activity 4. Increase the Membership and Improve IAOS Financial Picture**

The IAOS will continue to undertake activities aimed at increasing the visibility of the IAOS and highlight and promote the benefits of membership in the IAOS among statistical organizations, private sector (data producers and users) and other communities involved in data activities.

Activities will include a communications campaign using multiple channels and platforms as well as collaboration activities, including reinvigorating the IAOS website and exploring opportunities for cross-linking, email and social media marketing, advertising the 2024 IAOS conference, and hosting webinars, etc. These activities are expected to increase and diversify institutional membership, encourage individual membership and improve collaboration with statistical institutions, academia, international organizations, private sector and donor communities.

Membership fees remained unchanged in the 2024 year but will be reviewed in the future.

### **Activity 5. Strengthen Communication with Stakeholders**

The IAOS website will be a key tool to maintain constant communication with NSOs around the world.

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



The website of the SJIAOS ([www.officialstatistics.com](http://www.officialstatistics.com)) offers a discussion platform for the community to discuss and comment on common relevant themes and provides relevant information for the official statistics community on topics such as international conferences and events.

### **Activity 6. Contribute to the Promotion and Defence of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

The IAOS supports members to in turn contribute to and support relevant organizations such as the UN Statistical Commission, regional economic commissions and member countries, in adhering to and advancing the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (FPOS), recognizing that these are essential for the production and use of official statistics.

In this regard, the IAOS promotes the FPOS, and works with the ISI to promote and defend the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. In particular, the ExCo will continue to work with the ISI Ethics Committee and ExCo members will be asked to collect the trends in official statistics in their own regions and forward it to the ExCo. Also, to report successful cases as well as cases of violation of the fundamental principles.

### **Activity 7. Expose facts of Misuse of Statistics**

IAOS will give a high priority to following and monitoring the use and misuse of statistics and exert efforts to expose facts of misuse of statistics, when needed and feasible. Following well received webinars and side events organized by the IAOS on the issues of use and misuse of statistics, the IAOS will continue to discuss these issues in webinars and by other means of communications. These topics will be discussed at the IAOS conferences in 2024 and 2026 as well in ISI and other conferences where appropriate. IAOS ExCo will constitute a reference group to work on these issues. In this work the ExCo will collaborate closely with IAOS members and other stakeholders to create a permanent system to expose and monitor misuse of official statistics.

### **Activity 8. Enhance the Work of Subcommittees**

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

- Organizing conferences, seminars and webinars on regional and urban statistics,
- Providing an internet platform for the continuous exchange of knowledge and of ideas,
- Trying to enlarge the participation of users (researchers, policy makers, consultants) and producers (at municipal, regional, national and international level) of regional and urban statistics in this worldwide exchange of experience and ideas,
- Promoting the exchange and co-operation on topics of common interest.

Efforts will be made to further develop subcommittees and task forces, enabled by proposed changes to the IAOS statutes.

### **Activity 9. Institutionalize IAOS Functions**

Ensuring 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.

A key focus over the 2023-2025 period has been to update the IAOS statutes, consistent with the new Dutch legislation and changes in IAOS practices. This also includes creating a set of governance guidelines (Code of Conduct) for the ExCo members in their management of the association.

### 3. Progress during 2023 – mid-2024

This section summarises the key progress achieved against these objectives in the August 23 – May 2024 period. More details are available elsewhere in the report.

#### **Activity 1: Organization of IAOS International Conferences**

##### **IAOS/ISI Mexico 2024**

The IAOS/ISI Regional conference has been organized by President-Elect Graciela Marquez and the team at INEGI, with the support of Dr. Jurate Petrauskienė (Chair of the Scientific Committee) and the ISI Permanent Office. The conference will be dedicated to the theme of “Improving Decision-Making for All” and will be held in Mexico City on 15-17 May 2024. More information about the conference is in Chapter 4.

Starting from 2024 the conferences will be organized every two years, as it was before the pandemic.<sup>4</sup> The next one is being planned for 2026.

##### **IAOS participation in 2025 WSC**

IAOS members take an active role in the WSC, which presents a great opportunity to discuss and showcase official statistical issues of interest to the wider statistical community. More information on the IAOS participation in the WSC is in Chapter 4.

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

The IAOS aims to spread knowledge and promote innovation in official statistics worldwide. The Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS) is a core vehicle as it serves as a knowledge disseminator, publishing quality and relevant research to the official statistical community. The SJIAOS is predominantly an online journal (with only a limited number printed), supported by the SJIAOS website with pages on news, events, and a discussion platform, which features a new discussion every quarter on issues of general interest for Official Statistics. The SJIAOS also has a X account

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<sup>4</sup> Due to the pandemic, the conference 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. In 2022, the 18th IAOS conference was organized jointly with the Statistics Poland and was held in Krakow, Poland, in April 2022.

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 as well as young statisticians to submit their manuscripts. Through links between the websites relevant to official statistics (IAOS, SJIAOS, Sage, 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 39 (2023)**

In 2023 the Journal received 127 articles of which only 74 were accepted for publication. Volume 39 (2023) published 80 manuscripts in four regular issues, (co-)authored by 225 colleagues from over 40 countries. This figure includes the editorials and the introductions to the discussion forums. From the four issues, one issue, Vol 39/2 was published open/free access based on the ISI-IOS Press agreement. In addition, free access was granted to the five winning manuscripts of the 2023 IAOS Young Statisticians Prize, the manuscripts in each issue on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Official Statistics, and one article per issue chosen by the Editor in Chief, and generally linked to the discussion forum.

### **2.2.2. Targets**

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

In 2023, the SJIAOS attracted via the SJIAOS website and the IOS Press website over 70,000 views for the SJIAOS content library (compared to around 90,000 in 2022, 51,000 in 2021, 33,000 in 2020, and 12000 in 2019). Compared to 2022 there was a reduction on the number of accesses to the content library partly explained by the reduced number of articles published, but especially by the fact that only 50% of them were free access in 2023 while the rate for 2022 was about 90% thanks to the support of international donors<sup>5</sup>. Via the website officialstatistics.com, there were over 15000 page and article views in 2023, compared to over 21000 in 2022 and about 17000 in 2021.

The quality and relevance of the articles can be measured via the number of citations and the rate of cited documents. In 2023 the number of citations in the initial year of publication (529) was substantially higher than the numbers for 2022 (443) and the years before. From 2015 (less than 100 citations) till 2023 these numbers have progressively and constantly increased.

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 is recently activated for Clarivate.

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

During 2023 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.

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<sup>5</sup> FAO and the World Bank funded the accessibility of 8 manuscripts of the March 2022 issue, while CCSA members funded the entire September 2022 issue.

About 127 anonymous reviews of the manuscripts from this period were performed by over 100 expert reviewers. In 2023 only one special issue was published, therefore most of the articles were non-solicited which is a signal of the attractiveness of publishing via the Journal. The rejection rate was almost 28% (against 25% in 2022 and 19% in 2021), meaning that concretely around 35 non-solicited manuscripts have been rejected or withdrawn.

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

The 225 authors of the 80 manuscripts in Volume 39 are geographically spread over 40 countries. The objective of the Journal is to achieve a progressively more balanced geographical 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 about 25% in 2023 as in 2022, while this share was 13% in the period 2017-2019 and 21% in 2021. This shows the steady growth of the global authorship and audience for the Journal over the period 2017-2023.

On 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) progressively 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. As in earlier years, also in volume 39, the number and rate of first-time authors is estimated to be around 20%.

### **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 14th year and continues to be a centrepiece of the IAOS' offerings. Details of the YSP developments in 2024 are provided in the chapter 6 of this report.

### **Activity 4: Increase the Membership and Improve IAOS Financial Picture**

As part of the lead-up to the Mexico conference, the IAOS has undertaken a number of activities to increase the awareness of the Association. This has included IAOS-organized side events at the UN Statistical Commission Session, IAOS regional chapters, UN World Data Forum. IAOS will also organise a session at the 2024 World Data Forum.

The IAOS has secured the support of donors, including supporting attendees from developing countries to participate in IAOS events. For example, thanks to partnerships with Eurostat, UNSD, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 44 people, including eight directors of national statistical offices from Latin America, are being sponsored to attend the Mexico conference.

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

### **Activity 5: Strengthen Communication with Stakeholders**

The IAOS website has continued to be the main way of communicating with the IAOS community and wider stakeholders, with regular updates on matters of interest to the community.

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

The website of the SJIAOS ([www.officialstatistics.com](http://www.officialstatistics.com)), beyond the published and most recent issues and manuscripts, also provided information on relevant international conferences and events and also offered a discussion platform for the community to discuss and comment on common relevant themes.

Regular communication about the YSP and other IAOS activities, are provided to NSOs, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

### **Activity 6. Contribute to the Promotion and Defence of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**

IAOS organized a Side Event to the UN Statistical Commission 2024: *“The FPOS and beyond: How today’s megatrends will reshape official statistics. Integrating foresight into official statistics”* in February 2024. The session integrated the concept of far-sighted foresight with the fundamental principles of official statistics to effectively implement the postulates and ideals enshrined therein. The session took the form of a moderated discussion panel with deep audience involvement, and enabled attendees to witness the power of this unique combination and gain valuable insights that will help to stay ahead in today’s ever-changing world. It linked perfectly with the key theme of the StatComm, the FPOS anniversary, focusing on a long-term view towards the future.

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: Trust, misuse and ethics for Official statistics in “datafied” societies**

Krakov 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.

The outcomes of first three debates were presented in preliminary form at the World Statistics Congress in Ottawa in July 2023 in the form of preliminary recommendations. 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.

More information on the work of the Krakow Group is in Section 7.

### **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 8 of this report.

Efforts were made to further develop subcommittees and task forces, including the establishment of the Krakow Working Group (discussed above) and the Friends of Official Statistics (FOS) Group. The latter was established by the IAOS in partnership with the UNSD.

Invitations to join FOS network were sent to more than 60 former high-level statisticians from national and international agencies. The FOS network is under the IAOS umbrella and is supported by the UNSD therefore guidance is sought from the UNSD Director and IAOS President. It has a space on Yammer – run by UN Statistics Division. The network now is run by the Core Group consisting of Misha Belkindas (USA) – chair, Grace Bediako (Ghana), Hermann Habermann (USA), Mario Palma (Mexico), Walter Radermacher (Germany), Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary).

The Core Group has developed a TOR which has been circulated to the prospective FOS network members. It will be modified to more reflect work on implementation of Fundamental Principle of Official Statistics as discussed by the UN Statistical Commission.

The updated statutes will also create clearer frameworks for the establishment and reporting of IAOS subcommittees and task forces.

### **Activity 9: Institutionalize IAOS Functions**

There have been two key foci in the 2023-24 year. Firstly, to update the IAOS statutes, consistent with the new Dutch legislation (the Act on Management and Supervision of Legal Entities (MSLE) and changes in IAOS practices. Consistent with the MSLE Act, the review of the statutes has also sought to clarify the formal relationship between the ISI and its associations, including the IAOS.

While the original statutes and the revisions adopted in 2013 have given the IAOS a good base to work on, there have been a number of changes in how the IAOS operates. These have included the establishment of new interest groups such as the Krakow Group. Accordingly, the proposed revised statutes aim to set out clearer mechanisms for the establishment and reporting of these groups.

A draft set of updated statutes will be presented to the 2024 General Assembly, to launch a period of member feedback. These will then be finalised, before being presented to members for formal voting prior to the 2025 General Assembly to be held as part of the 2025 WSC.

A Code of Conduct for the IAOS ExCo members has also been prepared consistent with the new Dutch legislation. The Code of Conduct was endorsed by the ExCo at the March 2024 meeting. A copy of the Code of Conduct is also available on the IAOS website.

Secondly, with the change in President, there has been a handover of the support functions, including key documentation. 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.

#### 4. IAOS 2023-2024 Conferences

##### IAOS/ISI Mexico 2024

The IAOS/ISI Mexico conference has been organized by the IAOS President-Elect Graciela Marquez and the INEGI statistical office, and is being held in Mexico City on 15-17 May 2024. The conference will be dedicated to the theme of “Improving Decision-Making for All”. It will feature:

- Three keynote addresses by Jack Dangermond, President of Esri; Mariana Kotzeva, Director-General of Eurostat and Luis Felipe Lopez-Calva, Global Director for the World Bank Group's Poverty and Equity Global Practice,
- A poster showcase displaying 20 posters accepted for presentation by the Scientific Programme Committee,
- An exhibition area featuring booths by Esri, the Statistical Journal of the IAOS, and IPUMS.

The Conference’s Scientific Programme Committee (SPC) received 67 IPS and 209 CPS (38 posters and 171 abstracts) proposals and accepted 33 IPS, 80 CPS abstracts and 20 posters. These have been organised into 49 sessions (33 IPS and 16 CPS). The most popular strands for proposals submission were “Challenges and innovations in data production”, “Leaving no one behind” and “Foundational work in statistics and data science”.

Additionally, two training courses will be offered as a part of the Conference. One will be on AI and Machine Learning, delivered by Statistics Poland instructors, while the other will be on Nowcasting in Official Statistics, led by INEGI instructors. The course by Statistics Poland is funded by the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) of the European Commission, thanks to the combined efforts of Eurostat, Statistics Poland, and INEGI.

Three side events will be held on the Conference's sidelines. ECLAC and INEGI will jointly organize a seminar on the integration of data sources and official statistics. Esri will organize a special session on Geographical Information Systems and Official Statistics, and the ISI Advisory Board on Ethics will host a special session on Indigenous Data Rights and the Ethical Obligations of Statistics Practitioners. Concept notes for the three events can be found on the Conference website.

Furthermore, IAOS will hold three meetings during the conference: one of the SJIAOS Editorial Board meetings, one of the General Assembly, and one of the Executive Committee.

More information about the event is available at <https://www.isi-next.org/conferences/iaos-isi-2024/>

## Future IAOS Conferences

Starting from 2024 the conferences will be organized every two years, as it was before the pandemic.<sup>6</sup> The next one is being planned for 2026.

### IAOS participation in 2025 WSC

IAOS members take an active role in the WSC, which presents a great opportunity to discuss and showcase official statistical issues of interest to the wider statistical community.

For the WSC 2025, 35 proposals have been submitted from a diverse range of stakeholders, including National Statistical Offices, academia, international organizations, private companies, government entities, and civil society. These proposals highlight the evolving global challenges that official statistics face in our data-driven world. They emphasize new innovations and the role of technology in enhancing the accuracy and timeliness of statistics, thereby aiding informed decision-making and fostering trust in official statistics.

These panels will discuss and share valuable experiences and innovative approaches to further the development of official statistics in this new era of digitalization. Representing various regions globally, they share diverse experiences and lessons learned from best practices within the statistical community.

Themes to be shared and discussed among statisticians, academia, and other stakeholders include the measurement of new challenges, the role of data science in shaping culture, the digitalization of statistical systems, international standardization of production processes, the use and reuse of administrative sources, issues related to statistical literacy, the treatment of gender issues and vulnerable groups in official statistics. The SDG objectives are also in focus, with new methodology and data sources being used to increase the number of SDG indicators. Moreover, the discussions will encompass lessons learned from significant events such as financial crises and the Covid-19 pandemic, highlighting how challenges have been turned into opportunities for the further development of statistics.

\*Please note that this is not the final IPS number for the WSC as the review process is ongoing, and the final deadline is at the end of May. Meanwhile, the CPS has just opened with a deadline on June 17, 2024”.

## 5. *Statistical Journal of the IAOS (SJIAOS)*

### 5.1. The content of the issues published in 2023 (Vol. 39) and 2024 (Vol. 40, Issue 1)

In 2023 the SJIAOS published 80 manuscripts (including 4 editorials and 4 discussion introductions) in four issues. The March issue of Volume 40 (2024) contains 17 manuscripts. The manuscripts in Vol. 39 and in the first issue of Vol. 40 covered varied subjects, varying from articles on data governance, the impact of COVID-19 on Official Statistics, hidden and hard-to-measure population groups, register-based population statistics, the use of new data sources, as well as 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. ([www.officialstatistics.com](http://www.officialstatistics.com))

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<sup>6</sup> Due to the pandemic, the conference 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. In 2022, the 18th IAOS conference was organized jointly with the Statistics Poland and was held in Krakow, Poland, in April 2022.



### 5.1.1. 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, focused on trust in statistics. Hernan Munoz and Julien Dupont described in detail the rebuilding 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](http://www.officialstatistics.com), and a brief look into the next two issues of the Journal.

### 5.1.2. 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](http://www.officialstatistics.com) and a brief look into the next issues of the Journal.

### 5.1.3. Volume 39, Issue 3, September 2023

This issue of the Journal opens with two interesting **Interviews**. The first one, carried out by Pieter Everaers, is with Dominik Rozkrut, the new President of the IAOS for the biennium 2023-2025. In this interview, we learn more about Dominik's professional background, his experience as an official statistician and the initiatives undertaken as President of Statistics Poland during the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. We also get to know in more detail his plans as President of the IAOS, supporting the mission of building and maintaining trust in official statistics. The second interview, conducted by Ivo Havinga, is with Reimund Mink, a former employee of the European Central Bank, who has recently published the book "*Official Statistics - A Plaything of Politics?: On the interaction of Politics, Official Statistics, and Ethical Principles*". The book provides a detailed account of the cases of unacceptable and unethical political interference in the production of official statistics he experienced in his professional career as a government finance statistician, not only in the European context but also in some non-European countries. The book is also a rich source for dedicated reflections and lessons on the implementation of the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics from a human rights perspective.

The second section of the Journal, dedicated to **The Impact of COVID-19 on Official Statistics**, a topic present in every issue since 2020, features an article that shows how central banks are fundamentally rethinking the way data should be produced and used in the "new normal" state after the pandemic, by relying more heavily on data science, making a better use of the large amount of the available micro-level information, adapting statistical frameworks to meet evolving policy objectives and user needs, and cooperating closely with other relevant stakeholders.

The third section collects six articles on different **Specific Statistical Domains**: from population projections using categories that go beyond the woman/man distinction, to register-based information system for mortality statistics; from the concept of social cohesion and its measurement issue, to the impact of inflation on households' consumption patterns of different income groups at various geographical level in Iran; from the increasing economic integration of U.S. industries during

the period 1939–1958, to the level of trade integration between Ukraine and the EU countries in recent years. The fourth section of the Journal addresses topics related to **Data Sources, Statistical Methodologies and Techniques** covering various challenges faced by official statisticians in the various stages of the statistical production process: from the opportunity of using prefilled forms in business surveys, to the presence of systematic errors in self-reported industry classification codes on business tax forms; from the adoption of a new test to detect bubbles in financial time series, to the Methodological challenges in Compiling an inclusive growth index; from the use of Small area estimation models to better estimate at district level household participation rates in insurance programmes against the risk of losses from natural disasters, to the testing of a new search engine system based on neural networks for increasing the accessibility of official statistics.

This issue of the Journal ends with an update on the latest , we also launch the 17th discussion forum on “*Artificial intelligence: an opportunity, a challenge or a threat for official statistics?*”. You are all invited to provide your opinion on the impact of AI on the production and, especially, on the use of official statistics.

#### 5.1.4. Volume 39, Issue 4, September 2023

The editorial in the December issue of the Journal discusses the “**Present and Future of the European Master in Official Statistics (EMOS)**”, a label awarded by the European Statistical System Committee to 34 accredited Master programmes offered by universities in 18 European countries that, in line with the EMOS learning outcomes, train students on the system of official statistics, production models, statistical methods, and dissemination. The crucial importance of this programme to meet the recruitment needs of national and international statistical institutions cannot be stressed enough. The editorial reports on the first outcomes of the 9th EMOS workshop, organized last October by Eurostat, the Prague University of Economics and Business, and the Czech Statistical Office to discuss the achievements and challenges of EMOS to date and explore ideas for its future development. The need to adapt the learning outcomes of the EMOS curriculum to the new data ecosystem and the new roles of statistical offices by incorporating, for example, data science and computing skills, is essential to enhance the appeal to potential students and ensure them stronger employability prospects. At the same time, the suggestion to forge stronger ties not only with European national statistical institutes but also with entities such as national central banks, international organizations, research institutes, and private companies was put forward by various stakeholders in order to enhance the employment opportunities of EMOS graduates and position EMOS in a supporting role of international capacity development programmes.

A rich section of the journal is dedicated to the winning papers of the **Young Statistician Prize (YSP)** of the IAOS for the year 2023 as of February of that year. With this prize, established in 2011, the IAOS seeks to actively encourage the involvement of young official statisticians in the association and in the implementation of its activities. Today’s young statisticians are tomorrow’s leaders, and they inspire us, “older” statisticians, to think about the current and new frontiers in official statistics, promoting dynamic and innovative professional cooperation.

Another section of the Journal comprises five papers on **Innovative Statistical Methods** that complement the articles on new methods and techniques that were awarded the Young Statistician Prize 2023: from the use of network structures to explain the relationship between household financial distress and socio-related problems of both youth and adult population groups, to the production of detailed and more timely official statistics on spatial and demographic distributions of personal insolvency obtained by combining web scraping and text-mining techniques on an untapped large administrative database; from the use of web scraping data to produce more timely official

statistics of the Philippines' consumer price index to the utilization of a random forest algorithm to correct for overcounts in administrative register data and obtain reliable estimate of the resident population; and, finally, to the use of machine learning techniques to combine a variety of data sources for estimating the 2020 per capita household expenditure in three districts of Indonesia with the objective of addressing the problem of poverty targeting.

The Journal also features articles that cover a number of specific themes in official statistics, such as the ***Impact of COVID-19***, a topic present in every issue since 2020; ***Hidden and Hard-to-Measure Population Groups***, a topic extremely important to enable NSOs to produce reliable disaggregated data for many SDG indicators; ***Register-based Population Statistics*** and ***Open-Source Software Tools***.

With the release of this issue of the Journal, we are also launching the 18th discussion forum, "Are Data Scientists Going to Replace Statisticians?" You are all invited to provide your opinion on the future 'job' profile and required skills of the professionals contributing to the production and dissemination of official statistics at the following link (SJIAOS website): [www.officialstatistics.com](http://www.officialstatistics.com)

### 5.1.5. Volume 40, Issue 1, March 2023

This issue of the journal opens with an editorial that outlines a comprehensive vision for the SJIAOS's adoption of Open Access and FAIR publishing principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), emphasising its vital role in disseminating methodological research and best practices in official statistics. The key challenges and complexities of implementing FAIR principles are discussed, stressing the importance of adopting stringent citation and metadata documentation practices while ensuring open access not only to papers but also to referenced data sets, graphs, and tables through hyperlinks.

The editorial explores, at the same time, the benefits and challenges of transitioning to full open access, like financial sustainability and inclusivity, and proposes a few distinct mechanisms for resource recovery that would not burden authors, especially those from developing countries and those not institutionally supported. Achieving open access requires a multifaceted strategy and the collective effort of the entire community of official statisticians with a view to ensuring a more equitable and interconnected landscape of statistical research.

The section '**Register-based Population Statistics**' focuses on the evolution of Population and Housing Censuses to reduce costs, improve data quality, and shorten processing times. In this regard, the increasing use of geographical information systems, electronic means of data collection, and administrative sources is highlighted. The absence of an established population register means that several administrative sources must be integrated and cross-checked. This raises issues of record linkage, record matching, and decision-making in the event of discrepancies between data sources. The three articles included in this section illustrate the experiences of New Zealand, Iran, and the US in using advanced data science techniques to address these issues.

The section '**New Developments in Science Publishing in Official Statistics**' summarises the main conclusions of the Invited Paper Session on this topic held at the ISI World Statistics Congress in Ottawa. **Pieter Everaers**, then Editor-in-Chief of SJIAOS, introduces the four papers presented at that session. The first paper, by Gaby Umbach, discusses the four academic openness paradigms, their meanings and interrelations, as well as the potential benefits and challenges arising from their application in data-driven academic research. In the second paper, Francesca Perucci and Eric Swanson, from Open Data Watch, identify key factors that promote the expansion of open data adoption. In this regard, they highlight the modernization of data governance, the increased importance of citizens' contributions to data production, and the role of watchdog organizations in

monitoring progress. In the third paper, Christine Laaboudi, Martin Karlberg, and Maja Islam describe the new Eurostat approach to open data dissemination, the challenges faced, and the initiatives taken to adopt a Linked-Open-Data approach. Lastly, Gregory Arofan from CODATA advocates for increased involvement of the official statistics community in the FAIR movement. He lists various projects and activities as a starting point for statistical organizations wishing to increase their contributions in science publishing.

The **Miscellaneous section** covers a wide range of methodological research in statistical and academic institutions. Topics include testing the multivariate distributional accuracy of state-of-the-art imputation methods; introducing an open-source tool for efficient computation of Kantorovich-Wasserstein Distance between spatial distributions; assessing data quality in blended data on three health-related case studies; proposing a new methodology for measuring inflation in Kazakhstan; analysing grape farm efficiency in Armenia; and highlighting the mutual benefits of establishing partnerships between national statistical offices and academia.

These diverse papers, either proposing new tools and methods, or applying them to a variety of use-cases or domains, offer valuable insights that significantly contribute to the field of official statistics.

The release of this issue marks the launch of the 19th discussion, inviting readers to share their opinions on the qualities needed by statisticians to attain top leadership positions. This discussion is inspired by the article "Reflections on Statistical Leadership: Summary of a Panel Discussion at the WSC." Readers are encouraged to engage with statements and opinions from Stephen Penneck, John Bailer, Ed Humpherson, Mariana Kotzeva, and Denise Silva in this insightful exchange of ideas.

## 5.2. The SJIAOS Website

The SJIAOS website was launched in August 2019. The website covers the discussion platform, news, a calendar, and a link to the online version of the Journal. The SJIAOS discussion platform has had so far 19 discussions until the date of this Annual Report.

The update of the website has been rather slow over the last 18 months as the marketing department of the IOS Press is severely understaffed and only one person in the department knows how to work with the relevant software. This may be one of the reasons why the number of visitors of the website has partially declined with respect to the previous year and why the discussion platform did not raise any feedback from readers.

In 2023 there were three new discussions launched on the SJIAOS discussion platform that are still open to readers' contributions. The 15th discussion is on 'Success, failures, challenges and opportunities for official statistics in the development and implementation of the global indicator framework for the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'; while the 16th and the 17th discussion jointly address the issues related to the 'The impact of Artificial Intelligence on Official Statistics'. In 2024 two new discussions have been launched with the release, respectively, of December 2023 and March 2024 issues of the Journal. The 18th discussion focusses on 'Are Data Scientists Going to Replace Statisticians?' while the 19th discussion asks readers to reflect on 'What qualities are needed by statisticians to achieve top leadership positions?'

Unfortunately, due to factors beyond the control of the IAOS or the SJIAOS Editor in Chief, the SJIAOS website has not been updated to include the latest discussion forums, preventing readers from the possibility to contribute.

## 5.3 Management and Governance of the SJAOS

### 5.3.1. New Editor-in-Chief

In July 2023, after over 4 years of exceptional service in which he has managed to promote the visibility and relevance of the Journal, Pieter Everaers handed over the role of Editor-in-Chief to Pietro Gennari. The formal handover took place at the IAOS General Assembly during the ISI World Statistics Conference in Ottawa. In this occasion, Pietro Gennari acknowledged the great contribution of Pieter Everaers over the preceding 4 years, expressed his commitment to maintaining the high-quality standards of the SJAOS as well as to further expanding its authorship and audience, and presented his strategy for the biennium 2023-25.

The September 2023 issue of the SJAOS was the first one entirely curated by the new Editor-in-Chief. Since July 2023, however, Pieter Everaers has continued to coordinate the discussion platform and to serve as interview editor.

### 5.3.2. Change of Publisher

Since 2007 the publisher of the SJAOS has been the IOS Press, an independent company established in Amsterdam in 1987, specialising in health, life, and computer sciences and boasting over 90 journals in its portfolio. Effective 1 November 2023, the IOS Press has been acquired by SAGE Publications Incorporated. SAGE is a global academic publisher founded in 1965 that is renowned for its extensive collection of books, journals, and library resources, comprising over 1200 journals across various fields of social and behavioural science.

Notably, “Statistical Methods in Medical Research” is the sole journal published by SAGE in the field of statistics, ensuring that there will be no internal competition. Potentially, some competition could instead emerge with “Stat”, the journal of the International Statistical Institute published by Wiley.

In the immediate future, this change in ownership is not expected to alter the good collaboration that the SJAOS experienced with the IOS Press. On the contrary, with the new publisher, it is possible that the Journal could benefit from improvements in service offerings and a more effective effort to attain a scientific rating.

Looking ahead to the medium and long term, however, a new publishing agreement will need to be negotiated with SAGE, also because the current one with the IOS Press is going to expire in 2024.

### 5.3.3. Editorial Board

During 2023, 11 editors left the editorial board of the SJAOS for various reasons (resignation after many years of service or termination because they were unresponsive). At the same time, 17 new editors were appointed in 2023 (5 in June and 12 in December). The updated list of general and emphasis editors is published at the following link: <https://officialstatistics.com/editorial-board>. Currently, over 33% of the editors are women, and almost 30% of them are from developing regions.

The new editors were selected to cover statistical domains left vacant and new domains relevant to official statistics (such as Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence, Network analysis, privacy and confidentiality, use of new data sources and Big data), as well as to strengthen domains where an increased number of submissions is expected.

On 11 December 2023, the new Editor-in-Chief organized the 1st meeting of the Editorial Board to get the chance to know the long-standing members and introduce the new members, as well as to

discuss the future of the Journal and the critical role that Emphasis editors have in maintaining high quality standards of the publication. In fact, one important editor's responsibility is the commitment to promote the visibility of the Journal at relevant conferences and events and, at the same time, to solicit new articles or propose Special Issues. The meeting agenda included a presentation on the use of Editorial Manager, a discussion of the problems recently experienced in organizing the review process and the plans for the 2024 issues of the Journal. Online meetings will be organized twice a year for regular information sharing and to continuously update of the publishing strategy of the Journal. The practice of nominating temporary guest editors to manage Special Issues of the Journal will be continued.

#### **5.3.4. New Cover and Layout of the Journal**

With the release of Volume 40, issue 1 (March 2024), the Journal has changed its cover to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication. The objective is to make the publication look and feel more modern and its layout more readable, interactive, and user-friendly.

There are also several proposals for reshaping the layout that could not be implemented immediately (see next section). One of the most important forthcoming new features is the introduction of the web version of interactive icons and links to electronic support materials, including tables, graphs, video, software, and code. Other proposals include the addition of coloured inserts for better identifying different articles and separate sections of the Journal and the creation of a service column for captions.

#### **5.3.5 Transitioning to an open access Journal**

The editorial contained in the March issue outlines a comprehensive vision for the SJIAOS's adoption of Open Access and FAIR publishing principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable). The key challenges and complexities of implementing FAIR principles are discussed, stressing the importance of adopting stringent citation and metadata documentation practices while ensuring open access not only to papers but also to referenced data sets, graphs, and tables through hyperlinks.

The editorial explores, at the same time, the benefits and challenges of transitioning to full open access, like financial sustainability and inclusivity, and proposes a few distinct mechanisms for resource recovery that would not burden authors, especially those from developing countries and those not institutionally supported. Achieving open access requires a multifaceted strategy and the collective effort of the entire community of official statisticians with a view to ensuring a more equitable and interconnected landscape of statistical research.

### **6. 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.

## 2023 Competition

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. The second place went to the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Statistics New Zealand won third place. Special commendation for submissions from developing nations was awarded to Hong Kong, China. This is the first time Hong Kong, China has won a prize.

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 was awarded to **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.*

## 2024 Competition

The 2024 competition closed in early February 2024. A total of 23 entries were received, with a good spread of entries from across the world, and a good mix of entries from 'developed' and 'developing' countries. The entries are currently being reviewed by the judging panel and the results of the 2024 competition are expected to be announced in early May.

### Administration of the YSP competition

After 10 years, Ms. Gemma Van Halderen stepped away as the focal point for the Young Statisticians Prize, and was replaced by Mr. Gary Dunnet, Deputy Chief Methodologist from Statistics New Zealand.

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.

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.

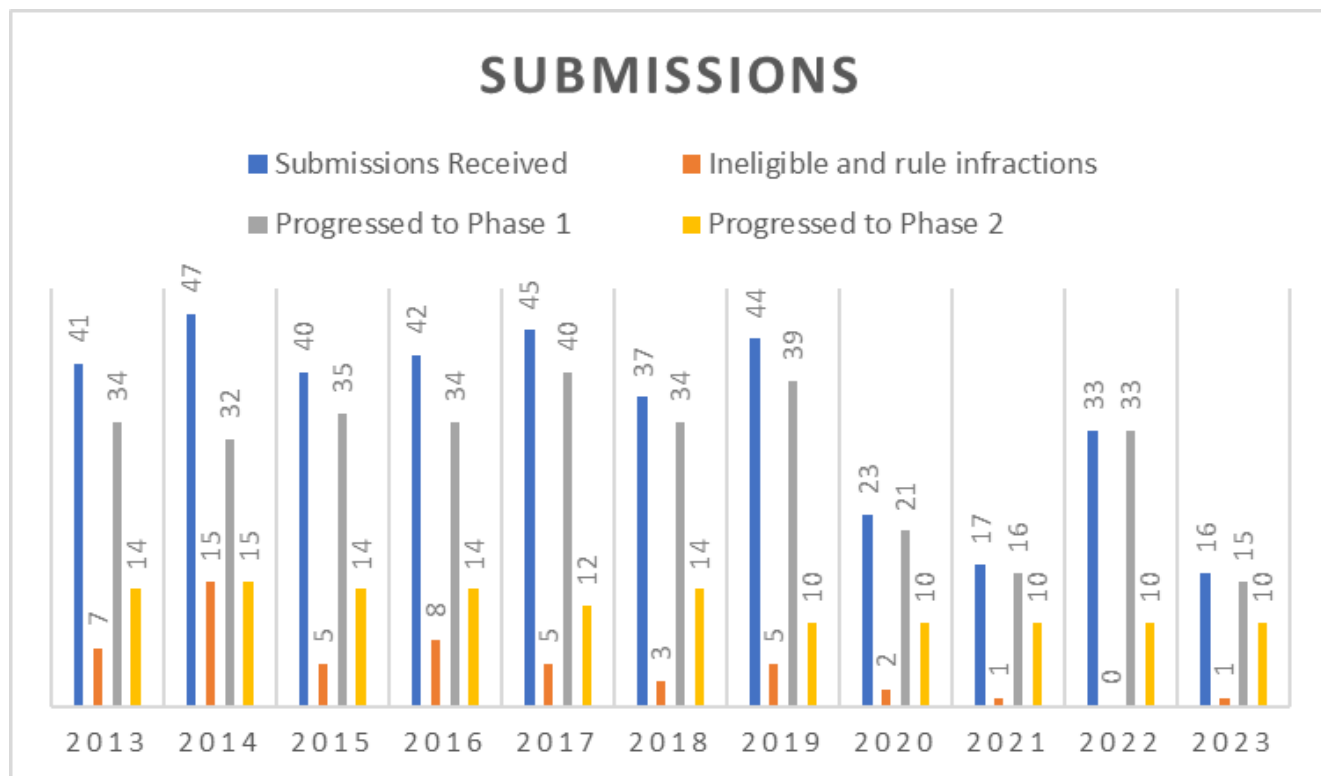


Figure 1: YSP Submissions Received, 2014-2023

Note the figure excludes the 2024 competition, as the judging is still under way.

## 7. Krakow Group activities

A new IAOS-Working Group was launched at the IAOS Krakow 2022 Conference. Martine Durand and Jan Robert Suesser were asked to co-chair the Working Group, propose a work plan, and develop initial activities. This WG is to contribute to addressing the challenges official statistics that result from the diversification in data availability and actors producing and disseminating statistics aimed at informing public debates and public decision making. An initial phase of the work developed in 2023 consisted in defining topics and organizing a set of debates on themes on which the IAOS could bring value-added in regard of discussions held in other fora. Eric Anvar (OECD), Misha Belkindas (IAOS President), Martine Durand (co-Chair), Olivier Lefebvre (INSEE), Denise Lievesley (RSS, Oxford University), Graciela Marquez (President INEGI), Walter Radermacher (President FENSTAT, ISI Advisory Board for Ethics chair), Rajesh Srinivasan (Gallup World Poll), Jan Robert Suesser (co-Chair), Gemma Van Halderen (ABS) held brainstorming meetings to identify relevant issues around which the debates could be organized.

Thus three debates took place ahead of the WSC (Ottawa) on the following topics to help prepare an IAOS-lead contribution to the global discussion:

***(1) Sharing experiences among official statistics producers on their interactions with the diversity of non-official data providers***

The aim of the first debate was to share experiences among official statistics providers on the various interactions and collaborations with data providers from outside official statistics based on specific case studies, and to discuss the question of how to approach the issues of private data quality, validation, protocols, and more generally sound statistical principles in a systematic way. Is it realistic to ask non-official data providers (and the data scientists they employ) to structure their data so that they contribute to the public good? Should we aim at a one-size fit all approach? Or should we develop a more pragmatic approach that recognizes the diversity of actors, contexts, and issues, while taking into account the fact that official statistics have to satisfy sound statistical principles that ensure quality, guard against misuse and guarantee continued trust in official statistics.

Martine Durand introduced the discussion, with Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD, Ola Awad, President of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, Emanuele Baldacci, Director of Resources and CIO, Eurostat, Romain Lesur, Head of the Data Science Lab, INSEE-France and Dominik Rozkrut, President of Statistics Poland, IAOS President-elect as panelists and Jan Robert Suesser as rapporteur.

***(2) Increasing official statistics' engagement with users, addressing misuse and misinformation***

The aim of the second debate was to exchange views on how Official statistics are currently engaging with users, how they address the issue of data and statistics misuse and whether they should take up new tasks to bring more value to users in the context of increased diversification of providers of data and statistics.

Professor Denise Lievesley, Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Science, former President of the European Statistical Advisory Committee chaired the discussion with Misha Belkindas, IAOS President, Graciela Marquez, President of INEGI, Lynn Barr-Telford, Canada's Assistant Chief Statistician, Strategic Engagement, Communication and Dissemination Field, Rafael Diez de Medina, ILO Chief Statistician, Andrew Dudfield, Head of AI, Full Fact, David Rios-Insua, Member of Spain's High-Level Council on Statistics as panelists, and Martine Durand and Jan Robert Suesser as rapporteurs.

***(3) Fostering strong ethical principles underpinning data and statistics for the common good***

The aim of the third debate was to exchange views on the ethical challenges arising from the evolving data environment under which Official statistics operate. It covered two sets of issues: (i) how the increasing use of privately-held data by official statistics is leading to new developments to reinforce the professional values and ethical principles underpinning official statistics; and (ii) how official statistics could engage with providers of data from outside Official statistics that contribute to public decision-making and public debates and other stakeholders to foster strong ethical principles.

Walter Radermacher, Chair of the ISI Advisory Board for Ethics chaired the meeting, Jan Robert Suesser, IAOS Krakow Working Group co-Chair, member of the ISI Advisory Board on Ethics introduced it. Éric Rancourt, Assistant Chief Statistician and Chief Data Officer, Statistics Canada, Rajesh Srinivasan, Director of Research at Gallup World Poll, Léa Rogliano, author of "Training in digital ethics in higher education", Free University in Brussels, Ed Humpherson. Director of the Office

for Statistics Regulation in the UK Statistics Authority, and Shaida Badiee, Managing Director and co-Founder, Open Data Watch acted as the panelists, and Martine Durand as rapporteur.

During the WSC, at the IAOS General Assembly, the approach of the Group was endorsed and the development of activities to further explore the topics covered in the three initial debates encouraged.

Due to unfortunate events the co-chairs could not pursue their work during the last months of the year, leading to the postponement of the launching of the second phase of the Krakow WG activities.

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

During the period from January 2023 – March 2024, 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:

<b>June 2023 - Focus on urban transport</b>
Developing methodology for multimodal proximity statistics
Innovation in European Traffic and Mobility statistics
Sustainable urban mobility indicators
How fast are rail trips between EU cities and is rail faster than air?
<b>June 2023 - Focus on measuring Sustainable Development Goals in cities</b>
Inequalities within cities – income and access to services
Air quality at the city level
Focus on goal 11 - Access to open and public space and Access to public transport
<b>June 2023 - Disseminating territorial indicators</b>
Visualization that makes regional statistical data easily accessible
Time series of European population grids
“How fast are rail trips between EU cities and is rail faster than air”, a recently published working paper
Urban Europe- an interactive wiki-style publication
<b>November 2023 - Innovation in subnational statistics – new data sources, new methods, new geographies</b>
Degree of urbanisation level 2
ShowVoc – new platform to disseminate and visualise classifications
Regions 2030 project
Earth Observation data for statistical purposes
New Municipal Atlas
<b>November 2023 - Editor’s dilemma” – Lessons learned in communicating data at regional and local level</b>
Panel discussion

On 5-6 June 2024 SCORUS is planning to organize a hybrid conference taking place in Brussels, hosted by the European Commission and co-organized by Eurostat. The conference is titled: “Regional and local statistics for more informed policy making”, the proposed themes are the following:

- Regional competitiveness, sustainability and resilience
- Comparative urban analysis
- Territorial classifications for statistical purposes
- Innovative methods and data sources
- Communication of regional and local level statistics
- Cross border statistics

The **SCORUS website** 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.

## 9. Membership Report

As reported in the 2023 Annual Report\*, membership grew in 2022 and in the first half of 2023, attributed in great part to the two IAOS conferences held in Krakow, Poland in 2022 and Livingstone, Zambia in 2023.

Early indications are that growth has continued into 2024. By mid-March 2024, the total number of individual members had increased to 662, compared with 635 individual members at the end of 2023. The growth in individual membership between 2021 and 2023 was mainly due to higher numbers in personal members from organizations, which have an IAOS institutional membership. This group increased from 99 members in 2021 to 226 in 2023, and now makes up around 34 % of IAOS members.

Growth in membership from Developing countries, especially among non-retired members continues to also increase, with an increase of nearly 7 % between the end of 2021 and the end of 2023. These are mainly people who have only joined the IAOS, and reflects the increased international contact and professional cooperation, especially with those from developing countries. In comparison, membership from non-retired members from Developed countries has declined, down about 7 % between 2021 and 2023. However, there has been an increase among retired members from Developed countries, suggesting that these members retain interest in the Association, even after retirement.

The number of institutional members also increased at a steady level, from 47 at the end of 2021, compared with 52 at the end of 2023.

\*Membership numbers for 2023 may differ to that recorded in the 2023 Annual Report. This report uses the data at the end of December 2023, while the 2023 report referred to data from mid-August 2023.

### IAOS Membership Interim Report

		Paid at	Active	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
		13-03-2024	13-03-2024	31.12.2023	31.12.2022	31.12.2021	31-12-2020	31-12-2019	07-12-2018	31.12.2017	29-12-2016	31-12-2015	30-10-2014	19-12-2013	31-12-2012	05-12-2011	31-12-2010
IAOS50	Developed Countries	24	69	61	60	67	68	61	81	81	80	100	80	78	74	75	76
IAOS51	Developing Countries	13	43	38	38	31	29	42	50	39	51	48	46	34	23	23	21
IAOS52	ISI E + IAOS Developed Countries	59	118	112	116	119	112	115	119	111	121	121	125	121	126	126	112
IAOS53	ISI E + IAOS Developed Countries - Retired	36	77	83	78	77	78	70	58	43	40	36	29	24	21	19	21
IAOS54	ISI E + IAOS Developing Countries	16	40	37	39	40	33	40	42	43	42	38	38	30	39	40	32
IAOS55	ISI E + IAOS Developing Countries - Retired	5	17	17	17	18	16	16	9	6	6	5	4	4	4	3	3
IAOS56	Free: Honorary Members, ISI Life, Exempt ***	14	14	13	11	11	10	9	11	12	12	12	17	18	18	16	14
IAOS561	Free: Prize Winners ***	5	5	11	11	3	5	21	18	7	8	4	3				
IAOS562	Free: SIAIOS Authors ***	18	49	35	43	99	1	7	0	0	2	1	1				
IAOS563	Organisation with Inst. Membership	9	227	226	248	99	55	51	93	9	30						
IAOS564D	IAOS students - Developed	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	20	9						
IAOS564L	IAOS students - Developing	2	2	1	1	0	0	3	4								
<b>Total Personal</b>		<b>201</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>635</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>279</b>

\*\*\* included in paid figures  
31x SIAIOS members in 2023 still have to renew for 2024

IAOS58	Institutional	10	54	52	53	47	47	47	45	43	43	38	40	40	38	34	41
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>211</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>320</b>
IAOS			13.03. 2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
New members *			35	116	209	191	50	61	142	106	87	53	46	38	55	32	30
Cancelled members			7	136	107	49	58	117	57	136	50	42	22	39	32	21	46
Reinstated			2	1	5	11	3	5	35	2	6	4	8	7	3	7	5
<b>Net</b>			<b>30</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>-11</b>

## 10. Financial Report

In reviewing the financial performance in 2023, it is important to recognise the extraordinary circumstances that the IAOS was operating in. Like many other NGOs, businesses and households, the IAOS has faced significantly higher costs. In particular, 2023 saw the IAOS involved in two major international conferences (the delayed 2020 conference in Zambia, as well as the 2023 WSC). In addition, the winners of Young Statistician Prize competitions from 2019 -2021, whose attendance at conferences had been delayed due to the pandemic, were again able to travel. Additional cost pressures have also arisen from increases in ISI cost recovery, necessary for the operations of the IAOS. At the same time, while sponsorship for the Zambia conference offset some of the additional travel costs, membership income has not increased in the same way as in previous years. (This is partly due to changes in the mix of members, with more members from developing countries and declines in membership from non-retired members in developed countries. ). This meant that operating income for the 2023 year was EUR 36,562; while expenses totalled EUR 55,344. Fortunately, the contribution from the ISI investment portfolio contributed a further EUR 12, 492, meaning that the IAOS balance of funds was EUR 150,080, which is a decrease of 4.0 % compared to 2021.

International Statistical Institute The Hague									
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IAOS									
INCOME	Budget		Budget						
	2024	2023	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Membership / contributions									
Individual members	10 000	9 967	11 000	10 125	8 162	7 440	5 619	6 539	5 630
Institutional members	17 500	17 555	20 000	19 921	17 664	16 402	11 840	15 485	8 233
Other income (ESRI-Zambia)		9 039	8 000	7 500	-	-	120	28 845	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>27 500</b>	<b>36 562</b>	<b>39 000</b>	<b>37 546</b>	<b>25 826</b>	<b>23 842</b>	<b>17 579</b>	<b>50 869</b>	<b>13 863</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>									
<b>Organisation</b>									
Travel and meetings		29 602	10 000	11 867	4 707	-	8 540	20 679	-1 445
Postage/ freight				41	20	21	132	116	49
Conference expenses									
Other SJIAOS		1 188			204	-215	6 497	9 052	19 996
ICT Costs	A	3 463	3 000	2 850	2 557	2 689	2 152	2 080	2 130
Stationery and others		55		8	4	60	43	84	18
Telephone								15	22
Insurance (incl. extra liability insurance)		173	200	285	255	243	261	320	266
Office equipment					2			8	8
Bank charges		2 346	50	2 024	1 094	1 034	1 030	1 631	598
Staff costs (25€ per member)		10 950	9 000	11 625	8 925	5 400	5 150	6 900	2 171
Consultants				56			95		
Website		1 212	20	188	225	329			
Webshop maintenance shop		708		856	981	1 446	1 879	2 571	
Auditors		593	600	518	508	448	466	606	538
IAOS YSP Prize money		5 053	4 500	3 000	4 665	3 000	17 616	3 000	
<b>Total organisation</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55 344</b>	<b>27 370</b>	<b>33 318</b>	<b>24 147</b>	<b>14 455</b>	<b>43 861</b>	<b>47 062</b>	<b>24 351</b>
Depreciation debtors	-	-	-	10	-	-5	514	739	473
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>55 344</b>	<b>27 370</b>	<b>33 328</b>	<b>24 147</b>	<b>14 450</b>	<b>44 375</b>	<b>47 801</b>	<b>24 824</b>
<b>RESULT BEFORE FINANCIAL INCOME</b>	<b>27 500</b>	<b>-18 782</b>	<b>11 630</b>	<b>4 218</b>	<b>1 679</b>	<b>9 392</b>	<b>-26 796</b>	<b>3 068</b>	<b>-10 961</b>
Equity Interest		12 492		-17 175	13 616	1 342	16 603	-5 761	3 343
<b>RESULT OF THE YEAR</b>	<b>27 500</b>	<b>-6 291</b>	<b>11 630</b>	<b>-12 957</b>	<b>15 295</b>	<b>10 734</b>	<b>-10 193</b>	<b>-2 693</b>	<b>-7 618</b>
<b>Equity Fund january 1</b>		156 371		169 328	154 033	143 299	153 492	156 185	163 803
<b>Result</b>		-6 291		-12 957	15 295	10 734	-10 193	-2 693	-7 618
<b>Equity Fund december 31</b>		<b>150 080</b>		<b>156 371</b>	<b>169 328</b>	<b>154 033</b>	<b>143 299</b>	<b>153 492</b>	<b>156 185</b>

A. Overhead Costs Allocation Total (will be divided among different costs)

## Annexes

### Annex A: Executive Committee 2023 – 2025

<b>Executive Committee</b>	
President	Mr. Dominik Rozkrut ( <i>Poland</i> )
President-Elect	Ms. Graciela Marquez ( <i>Mexico</i> )
Member – Second term	Ms. Lisa Bersales ( <i>Philippines</i> )
Member – First term	Mr. Nurain Olawale Adebayo ( <i>Nigeria</i> )
Member – Second term	Mr. Qasem Said Alzoubi ( <i>Jordan</i> )
Member – Second term Young Statisticians Prize	Mr. Gary Dunnet ( <i>New Zealand</i> )
Member – ISI Director	Ms. Conchita Kleijweg ( <i>Netherlands</i> )
<b>ExCo Co-opted Members</b>	
Krakow Action Group	Mr. Jan Robert Suesser ( <i>France</i> )
Programme Chair of the IAOS 2024 Conference Mexico	Ms. Jurate Petrauskienė ( <i>Lithuania</i> )
IAOS Representative to the ISI	Ms. Elsa Dhuli ( <i>Albania</i> )
<b>ExCo Special Invitees</b>	
SJIAOS Editor in Chief	Mr. Pietro Gennari ( <i>Italy</i> )
SCORUS Chair	Ms. Teodora Brandmueller ( <i>Luxembourg</i> )
Special Advisor to the President	Ms. Nancy McBeth ( <i>New Zealand</i> )
Young Statisticians Prize (former editions)	Ms. Gemma Van Halderen ( <i>Australia</i> )
UNSD	Mr. Ronald Jansen ( <i>USA</i> )