



International Year of Statistics News

August 12, 2013

We're Back!

Welcome back to the *Statistics2013 Newsletter!* This is the first issue following the recently completed and highly successful Joint Statistical Meetings. With this issue, we return to publishing the newsletter on alternating Mondays. This schedule means the next issue will be distributed August 26. There's lots of news from Statistics2013 participants to share, so let's get to it!

Participation Zeros In On 2,100

We are tantalizingly close to 2,100 participants in the International Year of Statistics. As of today, there are 2,084 participants in Statistics2013 and more are joining the celebration. Meanwhile, the country count stands steady at 124. To check out the current participant and country lists, go to the [Statistics2013 website](#).

You can help us recruit new participants by encouraging other organizations, secondary schools, universities and businesses in your area to join this worldwide celebration. It's easy for them to join. Simply tell representatives of these groups to go to www.statistics2013.org and click on the "Join Statistics2013" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official International Year of Statistics participating organization.

Nominate a Statistician of the Week

Do you know an outstanding statistician deserving of recognition for his or her work? If so, nominate the person for the Statistics2013 Statistician Job of the Week. To do so, simply send us a 250-to-300-word article about your colleague along with a photograph of the person. In the article, explain the person's job as well as his or her contributions to the overall mission of your organization. We'll feature the profile on the Statistics2013 website homepage for a week. Send your nominating submission to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Participating Organization: News & Events

Following is the latest news about upcoming and recently concluded events hosted by Statistics2013 participating organizations:

Hungary—Our friends at the Hungarian Statistical Association (HSA) are celebrating Statistics2013 with a series of major activities and events that testify to the organization’s commitment to the goals of the International Year of Statistics. Some of the highlights include:

- In April, HSA and the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) jointly launched a series of statistical quizzes that can be played every two weeks on the homepage of both organizations as well as the homepage of the HCSO Library
- HSA conducted a two-stage competition “Who Knows What About the World of Statistics” from April through June for secondary school, secondary technical school and post-final exam technical school student teams
- HSA staged a one-day statistical programme—titled “Szám-vetés in the Skanzen Museum”— June 15 in the Open Air Museum of Szentendre

[Click here to read a complete report from HSA’s Eva Laczka.](#)

Turkey—The Third Istanbul Quantitative Lectures was held on the Istanbul University Central Campus July 1 through 12 as part of the International Year of Statistics. The Lectures is an international summer program that provides courses on data analysis methods used in social sciences. The program is organized annually by Istanbul University’s School of Business Administration. Courses were taught by social science experts well-known for their contributions to scientific literature. For example, “Social and Political Survey Research” was delivered by Professor Allan McCutcheon, PhD, who is the founding director of the Gallup Research Centre and the senior scientist of Gallup International Research and Education Centre and Gallup-Europe. Also, “Structural Equation Modelling” was delivered by Professor Rex B. Kline, PhD, who is well known for his books on structural equation modeling that have been translated and published in numerous languages.



Two participants in the Third Istanbul Quantitative Lectures confer during a class break.

South Africa—The University of South Africa (Unisa) recently held an event to celebrate the International Year of Statistics and is planning a second event for late next month. The first event was

National Science Week, which was held July 29 through August 2 at the university's Florida, S.A. campus. This was a major national event focused on science and was sponsored by the National Department of Science and Technology. The target audience was mainly school-age children and university students but interested university employees and the public also attended. The event coincided with the official opening of the Florida Science Hub, which now houses the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences as well as the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. The first day of this event was dedicated to Statistics2013 while the second day focused on the official opening of the new science laboratories. The program for the first day included a presentation on Statistics2013 followed by a session about statistics as a career and two practical applications of statistics. During the week, there were exhibitions by industry and universities including two academic departments at Unisa involved with statistics, the Bureau for Market Research, and Statistics South Africa. Unisa's second planned event is a Strategic Discussion Forum organised by the Department of Institutional Statistics and Analysis that will be held September 25. This event also will be a high-level session with presentations on the role of statistics in society, industry and the university.

United States—In celebration of the International Year of Statistics, Bowling Green State University (BGSU) in Ohio is [hosting a special event October 4](#) featuring Alan Schwarz, a best-selling author and *New York Times* Pulitzer Prize-nominated reporter and the 2013 recipient of the Excellence in Statistical Reporting Award from the American Statistical Association. As the author of [The Numbers Game](#), a best-selling history of baseball statistics, Schwarz speaks to groups across the U.S. about the power of mathematics in storytelling. Schwarz is best known for his four-year series that exposed the seriousness of concussions among athletes of all ages. His investigative pieces revolutionized the respect and protocol for head injuries in almost every major youth and professional sport. Additional event speakers are BGSU Professor of Statistics Jim Albert, PhD; BGSU Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders Miriam Krause, PhD, CCC-SLP; and BGSU Director of American Culture Studies and Associate Professor of History and American Culture Studies Andrew Schocket, PhD. The event is free, but registration is required. RSVP to cmathis@bgsu.edu.

Italy—The city of Milan and the Department of Statistics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Milan are hosting a competition called "Statistics, Open Data and Society". Held in collaboration with Synergia, Nunatac and Linkiesta on the occasion of the International Year of Statistics, the competition will promote the use of open data and their statistical processing in order to improve the knowledge of the city and increase the collective well-being of its citizens. The competition will help encourage the use of open data and make citizens more aware of the importance of correct and effective use of data by statistics. The competition is open to individuals, associations and microenterprises of any nationality. Excluded are employees within the first degree of the city and their relatives, the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, and the sponsoring companies—Synergia and Nunatac. It is open until November 4.

Paraguay—The National University of Asunción's Faculty of Natural Sciences (FACEN) was very busy promoting the International Year of Statistics during the last three months. Here is a brief rundown of its activities:

- On May 24 FACEN sponsored lectures by two of its professors: “Estimation Method for Bootstrap” by Professor Fernandez and Mr. Carlos Molinas and “Applications and Teaching of Statistics” by Professor Mr. Francisco Cabañas.
- During the week of June 24 an R Statistical Software Course was conducted. The course was developed by Professor MSc. Carlos Fernando Giménez Sena, assistant professor of the Department of Statistics and university extension coordinator. Approximately 90% of attendees are graduates of statistics or officials of the Department of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses.
- On June 28, a Master Thesis Defense in Statistics was held by FACEN in the city of San Lorenzo. The Statistics Department has six new Masters in Statistics candidates; two were approved.
- On June 29 and July 6 at the headquarters of the Polytechnic Faculty of the town of Villarrica, FACEN developed the Advanced R-Project Course, taught by Professor MSc. Jose Antonio Barrera Gomez, a statistics professor in the Department of Mathematics at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in Spain.
- On July 12, a conference titled “Examples of Applications of Statistics in Health Sciences”, was held. It was led by the Professor Barrera Gomez, statistician for the Centre for Research in Environmental Epidemiology (Creal) and professor of statistics and operations research in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Barcelona (UAB), Spain.
- On July 26, FACEN staged a technical visit to Itaipu Binational Entity for students in their final years of studies in statistical mathematics. While there the students observed the technique used to implement satellite monitoring of agriculture in Paraguay by image capture for subsequent statistical analysis.

Peru—The National Council of Statisticians Peru, in recognition of the International Year of Statistics, is creating a “Statistical Expert in Biostatistics” certification in order to form a staff who have the academic and professional skills to audit and advise research in the life sciences. The certification is critical given the unquestionable priority to ensure the quality of research on living beings. The “Statistical Expert in Biostatistics” certification is awarded only to professional statisticians who successfully complete three courses of 30 hours each. The first course, “Forensic Statistics”, will be conducted September 14, 15, 21 and 22 in Lima. The two additional required courses are:

- Science Research Designs of Life; will be conducted in October
- Sampling in Research of Life Sciences; will be conducted in November

Spain—The “Nursery of Polls and Experiments” is a competition held annually and organized by the mathematics and statistics departments of the universities of Catalonia. The competition is open to secondary-school students in the three levels of the educational system. There is also prize awarded by the Statistical Institute of Catalonia (IDESCAT) to the best work based on publicly available data from official statistics institutions. To commemorate Statistics2013, the Catalan Society of Statistics presented a special prize to the best work based on the contents of the blog e2013.wordpress.com that the Society and IDESCAT are dedicating to the International Year of Statistics. The range of topics addressed by the students was wide, but a number are worth mentioning: the Spain-Catalonia relationship, the use of mobile phones and social networks by young people, and the effects of the present crisis or the

ubiquitous Murphy's Law. In this edition of the competition, 166 works were submitted by 598 students in groups of up to five under the supervision of 46 teachers from 38 different schools. The award ceremony was held June 7 at the auditorium of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya–Barcelona Tech. [For more information click here.](#)

Italy—Last month, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) released its Yearbook 2013 within the framework of the International Year of Statistics. Edited by Sabrina Ugolini, chief of the Bureau of Statistics, the Yearbook presents an exhaustive compendium of all the activities of the Ministry—including international relations, the granting of visas, the promotion of Italian culture, acts of civil status and Ministry interventions for the protection of and assistance to Italians abroad. This numerical representation of the ministry's work effectively conveys the commitment that has been a distinguishing feature of the MFA's activity throughout the world to protect and support Italy's global interests abroad. As an added bonus, the 2013 edition also featured the International Year of Statistics logo. [Click here to view the Yearbook 2013.](#)



Michele Valensise (center), MFA secretary general, presents Yearbook 2013 with Sabrina Ugolini, Head of MFA's Statistics Office to his right. Photo: ANSA

United States—The 49th Summer Research Conference in Statistics and Biostatistics (SRC) was held recently as a recognized activity of the International Year of Statistics. It was hosted by the University of Louisville's Department of Bioinformatics and Biostatistics under K.B. Kulasakera. Ninety-five scholars participated. The research program was anchored by two internationally renowned plenary speakers—Grace Wahba (University of Wisconsin) and Brad Carlin (University of Minnesota)—with discussants Yufeng Liu (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) and Frank Harrell (Vanderbilt University), respectively. Six other invited oral presentation sessions featured senior faculty speakers and outstanding junior faculty invited speakers. Kathy Ensor (Rice University) gave a thought-provoking banquet speech. Forty-four students representing 22 graduate programs across the U.S. south received National Science Foundation (NSF) funds to support their travel to the meeting and participation in the NSF/RL Anderson Student Poster Session. The M. Clinton Miller Award for best student poster was

presented to Mohammed Chowdhury of George Washington University. RL Anderson runner-up student poster awards were presented to Joshua Patrick of Baylor University and Sheng Wenhui of the University of Georgia. The 2013 SRC also featured the inaugural American Statistical Association (ASA)/Mike Kutner Faculty Poster Session. Funds from the ASA, SRCoS, and the National Institute of Statistical Sciences (NISS) helped defray the cost of attendance for these faculty participants. NISS funds were also used by other participants from NISS member programs. The excellent program was sculpted by Jane Harvill (Baylor University) and Ciprian Crainiceanu (Johns Hopkins University). Ed Boone of Virginia Commonwealth University organized the student poster session. [Click here to review program details and manuscripts or pdfs of presentations.](#)

Spain—Early last month, EUSTAT organised a course to celebrate the International Year of Statistics, with the title “New Uses of Statistics in the World of Knowledge and the Internet” as part of the Summer Courses organised by the University of the Basque Country. EUSTAT is a public body of the Basque Country. It collects analyses and publishes statistical information about every aspect of Basque Country. The objective of the course was to use statistics in three different areas that are very relevant today such as online marketing and SEO, electoral processes, and statistics in the educational arena. Specialists from Google Spain, private companies specialising in SEO strategy (OVERALIA), Basque Government entities (Cictourgune), EUSTAT, private companies using online marketing (Danobat, Finessdigital), the University of the Basque Country, and statistical technicians from Basque government departments participated in the course. In all, more than 50 professionals from the public administration, statistical and university spheres participated. [The course contents are available by clicking here.](#)



Participants in EUSTAT's Summer Course pose in front of a Statistics2013 poster.

National Statistical Organization: News & Events

Following is the latest news about upcoming and recently concluded events hosted by national statistical organizations (NSOs) participating in Statistics2013:

United Arab Emirates—Statistics Centre-Abu Dhabi, as part of its activities to mark the International Year of Statistics, held its inaugural Second-Line Leadership Forum. Ms. Badria Obaid, executive director of the data sector and forum chairperson, underscored the role of management in creating a motivating work environment to ensure high productivity and raise the standard of staff performance to achieve the goals set out in the centre’s strategy. During the forum attendees reviewed SCAD’s strategic plan, defined its priorities and gave a detailed description of its objectives and the work process followed by teams to standardize terminology and strengthen partnerships and sharing of resources. The forum was divided into three main workshops addressing the following core themes:

- The performance contract and ways to put it into effect
- Smart objectives and performance evaluation
- The organizational climate

Finally, the conferees stressed the need to focus on effective communication and provide a conducive, achievement-oriented working environment to support SCAD’s goal of becoming the leading authority in charge of the statistical system in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and putting SCAD on a par with world-class statistical agencies. This forum will be held semiannually.



Attendees participate in a roundtable discussion at SCAD’s inaugural Second-Line Leadership Forum.

Russia—The international conference titled “20 Years of Russian Statistics’ Modernization: Experience and Perspectives” was staged in Moscow in late May by the Federal State Statistics Service (ROSSTAT) of the Russian Federation. The event marked the International Year of Statistics as well as the 150th Anniversary of the Central Statistical Committee of the Russian Federation. ROSSTAT invited producers and users of statistics; representatives of government authorities and scientific and business communities; and colleagues from international organizations and national statistical institutions to join the conference. Among the keynote speakers and moderators were prominent experts in statistics: Ms. Martine Durand, OECD chief statistician; Ms. Marie Bohata, deputy director general, Eurostat; Ms. Lidia Bratanova, director, UNECE Statistical Division; Ms. Heli Jeskanen-Sundstrom, independent expert; Mr.

Pali Lehohla, statistician-general , Statistics South Africa; Mr. Jozef Olenski, professor at Lazarski University, Warsaw; and Mr. Shyam Upadhyaya, UNIDO chief statistician. During the conference attendees discussed:

- Results of modernization of the Russian statistical system during the period of 1992 to 2012
- Outcomes of long-term programs on development of Russian statistics
- Compliance of Russian statistics with international standards
- Development of information technology in statistics
- Increasing statistical literacy of Russian society
- Challenges and results of reforms in statistical systems of transition economies
- Emerging issues of statistical science and practice:
 - integrated economic statistics
 - statistics of globalization
 - sustainable development
 - “Big Data”



Statistical experts at the “20 Years of Russian Statistics’ Modernization” conference in Moscow.

Poland—The Central Statistical Office of Poland (CSO) is organizing a scientific conference to commemorate the International Year of Statistics. The event will be called “Statistics-Knowledge-Development” and the CSO is being joined by its Regional Statistical Office in Łódź, the Polish Statistical Association and the Institute of Statistics and Demography to plan and execute the event. The conference will be held October 17 and 18 in Łódź at the Hotel Ambassador Centrum. [You can learn more about this special event by clicking here.](#)

Italy—The [Italian National Institute of Statistics](#) (Istat) recently released its Industry and Services Census: First Results. The initial report, issued as part of Istat’s celebration of Statistics2013, shows the country is changing as the nonprofit sector grows and diversifies, public administration becomes more agile, and the corporate sector undergoes transformation due to the economic crisis and globalization. These are

the first key results of Istat's 9th Census on Industry and Services and Census on Nonprofit Institutions, released July 11. The survey was completed by more than 300,000 nonprofit organizations, 13,000 public institutions, a sample of 260,000 enterprises (those with 20 or more employees) and by about 190,000 productive units of small and very small dimensions. As of December 31, 2011, Italy had 301,191 active nonprofit organizations, 28% more compared to 2001; and a total of 4,425,950 companies, 8.4% more compared to 2001. On the other hand, public administration is getting smaller, recording 12,183 public institutions, 21.8% less than in 2001. [Click here for more detail.](#)



A crowd attends Istat's event to release its Industry and Services Census: First Results.

2013 Will Come to an End (Eventually), But Statistics Rides On!

Now that we are into the second half of the International Year of Statistics, most of you likely already are planning activities for 2014. If so, please send us information about the events so we can post these to the [Statistics2013 Activities Calendar](#). Scroll to page 10 to learn how to submit event info.

Calling All National Statistical Organizations

Statistics2013 is seeking informative, educational and insightful statistics about your country to feature in the "Statistic of the Day" area of the [Statistics2013 website homepage](#). These can be a series of four or five brief statistical facts about your country's population, economy and education systems; the health of its citizens; and similar social, economic, government and other relevant topics. Send your submissions along with a link to your organization's website to Jeff Myers at Jeffrey@amstat.org.

Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop Info on Website

Organizers are hard at work on preparations for the Future of the Statistical Sciences Workshop, the capstone event of the International Year of Statistics, that will be held November 11 and 12 in London, United Kingdom. The workshop will bring together statisticians from around the world, scientists who collaborate with statisticians, science writers and representatives from funding agencies.

[We have created several new pages about the workshop on the Statistics2013 website.](#) You also can access these pages in the “Statistics2013 Global Supporters” area of the website.

The event will showcase the breadth and importance of statistics and highlight the extraordinary opportunities for statistical research in the coming decade. More specifically, the workshop will tell an important story to a number of audiences:

- To scientists in data rich fields: statisticians are ready, willing and able to engage in deep, long-term collaborations;
- To funding agencies: statistics is *the* data science and can (and does) provide tools to enable progress across a huge range of human endeavors;
- To statisticians: don't let the opportunities for high-impact research pass you by; and
- To future statisticians: engage with a discipline with a huge future.

Participation is by invitation only and will involve approximately 100 people. In addition to statisticians, the workshop will involve representatives from other areas of science and practice that involve problems of a statistical nature. The workshop will be organized around presentations and panels.

However, all will be able to view the workshop live as well as recordings of the proceedings via the web thanks to [Wiley Publishers](#).

After the workshop, with input from participants, the organizing committee will publish a summary document that will be widely distributed to the larger scientific community.

Event Submission Forms on Website

Two web-based forms make it easy for you to submit your organization's Statistics2013 events as well as a summary and photos after the event is over.

The first form—called the “Event Submission Form for the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar”—provides you a quick and simple way to submit information about your organization's planned Statistics2013 events. All you have to do is input into the form the requested information and press the “Submit” button. We'll then take your information and post it to the Statistics2013 Activities Calendar. [You can access this form here.](#)

The second form—titled “Statistics2013 Post-Event Information & Photo Submission Form”—enables you to let us know about the success of your completed event and to submit up to two photos. On this form, you are prompted for information about your event and you also can input a brief summary (up to 1,750 characters). After you submit information about your organization's event, we'll run your photos and stories in this newsletter so others can see the creative and fun ways that your organization is promoting the International Year of Statistics. [Click here to access this form.](#)

Check out Website for Activities & Ideas

On an almost daily basis, we are adding new items to the [Activities Calendar](#) on the [Statistics2013](#) website. This list is an excellent place for finding activities in which you and your organization can participate to celebrate Statistics2013. It also is a great place to see what other organizations around the world are doing to mark the celebration and use those ideas as the starting point for your group to brainstorm ideas of its own. Check out the Activities Calendar today and start planning your organization's event!

The [Statistics2013 website](#) is filled with information and resources—particularly the [posters](#) and the [downloadable flyer](#)—to educate the public about how statistics improves their lives, the work of statisticians as well as careers in the statistical sciences. We invite and encourage all International Year of Statistics participating organizations to make use of these resources, including these helpful resource areas:

- *What is Statistics?*—An explanation in layman's language
- *Statistics2013 Video*—The informative two-and-a-half-minute video: [Why Statistics is Important to You](#)
- *Statistics as a Career*—Information about the work of statisticians and careers in statistics
- *Teacher Resources*—Primary and secondary school resources, a downloadable flyer and posters

There also is a section dedicated to participating organizations, titled "Statistics2013 Global Supporters", where you can access the roster of participating organizations, a comprehensive list of Statistics2013 activities, and the official Statistics2013 logos in various languages.

Use the Statistics2013 Video

We encourage your organization and its members to use and share the International Year of Statistics video. Created by [SAS Institute](#), the video relates the many and varied ways that statistics impacts our lives. The video is accessible at www.statistics2013.org.

You can:

- view the video
- post the video to your organization's website
- e-mail the link to your members/employees
- share it with your organization's stakeholders
- promote it to the public, media and other external audiences in your area or country
- show it at your meetings and other events

The video narration is in English. However, thanks to SAS and many Statistics2013 participants who are providing translations, subtitles are being added in other languages. Currently available languages are:

- Catalan
- Czech
- Dutch
- Euskara (Basque)
- English
- French
- German
- Indonesian
- Italian
- Portuguese (Portugal)
- Russian
- Spanish (Mexico)
- Swedish
- Turkish

To access these subtitles, follow these easy instructions:

- Press “Play” on the video
- Click the “CC” button to see the list of subtitle options
- Click on the desired language (the subtitles will appear onscreen)

We will be adding other subtitled languages soon, so check the video frequently to see if your language is available.

If you want the video subtitled in your country’s language, please e-mail Jeffrey@amstat.org to request a copy of the script that you can translate.

Get the Official Statistics2013 Logo

With the move to the new public website, the link to the Statistics2013 logo and the various language-specific versions has changed. That new direct link is:

<http://www.statistics2013.org/iyos/logos.cfm>

Be sure to save the link in your web favorites.

You also can access the logos page by going to the “[Statistics2013 Global Supporters](#)” area of www.statistics2013.org and then clicking on “[Resources](#)” in the pull-down menu. The link to the logos is listed first on the page.

Language-Specific Logos Available

The Statistics2013 logo is available in [37 languages](#) and we are ready create new ones for you. To have a version of the logo created in your language, please e-mail the following to Jeffrey@amstat.org:

- The interpretation of the phrase “International Year of Statistics” in the appropriate font in this format: International Year of Statistics=“The interpreted phrase”
- The interpretation of the phrase “Participating Organization” in the appropriate font in this format: Participating Organization=“The interpreted phrase”
- A high-resolution PDF document or a tif file of the interpretations of the phrases “International Year of Statistics” and “Participating Organization”. (This file will be used to compare against the font to

ensure it was transmitted properly. If it doesn't compare accurately, we will use the image of the interpretations from the PDF or tif in the logo instead. This step will ensure accuracy of your logo.)

Once your language-specific logo is created, it will be posted to the Statistics2013 website [here](#) and we will send you an email to let you know the logo is available for download.

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Get the latest International Year of Statistics news and updates by following us on Twitter at @Statistics2013. Also, when you use Twitter to spread the word about Statistics2013, be sure to use the hashtag “#STATS2013”. You also can become a “friend” of Statistics2013 on our [Facebook](#) page.