



Letter from the President

In my day job, three of the four projects that currently pay my salary are international collaborations between partners from many countries. These projects involve overseeing sampling and weighting for the European Social Survey, developing EuroCohort – a new longitudinal study of the wellbeing of children and young people – and investigating non-sampling errors in the European Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC). What these projects have in common – apart from survey methodology – is that very diverse groups of people with different backgrounds and working under different constraints work together, listen to each other, and achieve fantastic results that could not possibly be achieved any other way. While these particular projects only encompass a mere 35 or so countries, mainly within one continent, statistical surveys are a global undertaking. Researchers in all continents have similar objectives and face similar challenges. That is why the IASS exists, to provide the means to make connections and to share our successes, our challenges and our knowledge.

However, we are constantly questioning whether we are going about this the right way. If you have any thoughts about what you would like to see the IASS doing that it is not currently doing, or what it could do differently, please share them with us. Send an email to any of the Executive Committee listed elsewhere in this issue of the Survey Statistician, or tweet to us at @iass_isi.

Tempus fugit! This is my last letter as President. I feel that I have presided over a period of stability. The IASS has continued to do well the things that it does well. And both our finances and our membership are stable. Nothing disastrous has happened under my watch. That is a relief, but if I am honest I must say that I am a little disappointed that I have no exciting new initiatives to report. I'd like to help to put that right once I am divested of the responsibilities of presidency, which brings me back nicely to my request that you send in your ideas. A couple of modest recent achievements were that for the first time in several years one of the workshops that we sponsored was in Africa and that our Twitter account has seen a fair amount of traffic and has attracted followers from beyond the IASS membership.

Denise Silva will be our President for the next two years, and I know that she will do an excellent job. I first met Denise when we were both involved in running a residential training course in a beautiful location just outside Southampton, UK, more than twenty years ago. Since then we have mostly been on opposite sides of the globe, but as President-elect Denise has provided me with great support these last two years and she knows the IASS as well as anybody. I wish her a fruitful presidency.

I would also like to thank the other members of the Executive Committee, who have fulfilled their roles diligently and enthusiastically these last two years: Risto Lehtonen (scientific secretary), Jean Opsomer (vice-president, finances), Anders Holmberg (Chair of Cochran-Hansen prize committee), Cynthia Clark (IASS rep on the ISI programme committee). As always, the staff at the ISI permanent office have given us excellent support when needed and have unfailingly nagged us to do things that we might otherwise have overlooked.

With that it is time for me to sign off and to wish you (us) all successful survey endeavours in the coming months and years!

Peter Lynn