

## Letter from the President – The Survey Statistician January 2024 Issue

Dear IASS Members,

My first letter as President of the IASS appeared in the August 2023 newsletter here: [\[July-August Newsletter\]](#) where I introduced the new 2023-2025 Executive Committee members and thanked the outgoing 2021-2023 Executive Committee members, particularly the outgoing President Monica Pratesi, for their dedication in promoting IASS and expanding its activities. I also thanked the ISI Permanent Office for their continuing support in maintaining IASS operations and administration.

The 2023-2025 Executive Committee will be continuing with the successful and impactful current activities: the monthly webinar series, the monthly newsletters (with a reading of the month) and the twice-yearly The Survey Statistician, the Hukum Chandra prize in 2024 and the Cochran-Hansen prize in 2025, financial support for survey statistics-related conferences and finally maintaining our website and increasing social media presence. We will also continue to promote the IASS and expand our membership, as well as enlist more institutional membership, through the help of our over 65 IASS country representatives.

There are also exciting new initiatives to watch out for:

- There will be a new section in The Survey Statistician dedicated to the Early Career Survey Statistician under the leadership of the Editor-in-Chief, Danute Krapavickaite and the new Section Editor: Veronica Ballerini. We are also exploring the idea of dedicating a section of The Survey Statistician to one specific topic in survey statistics with contributions from the country representatives.
- We are increasing our presence at more regional workshops, for example we delivered a presentation at the online Asia-Pacific Stats Café held on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and sponsored a session titled: Machine Learning Methods in Survey Statistics, at the Second Workshop on Methodologies for Official Statistics held at ISTAT in Rome December 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- We aim to host a bespoke IASS satellite conference prior to the 2025 65<sup>th</sup> WSC taking place in The Hague, July 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The satellite conference will be held in Manchester July 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025 so please save these dates. The conference will include all areas of research and development related to survey statistics and survey methodology.

A new Strategy Document 2023-2025 will be out soon for consultation to be ratified at the July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024 IASS General Assembly (GA) at 2 pm ECT to be held virtually. More details will follow. Please put this date in your calendar to attend the GA.

In this January 2024 issue of The Survey Statistician, we are continuing to celebrate our 50 year jubilee of the IASS with more articles and input from past IASS Presidents. This is a momentous occasion. It shows the ever increasing importance of survey statistics, particularly as it evolves to include new forms of data and administrative data into our statistical systems. Research in the areas of data integration, compensating for measurement and coverage errors, introducing new tools offered by machine learning and AI, all demonstrate more than ever the need for high- quality unbiased survey data collections to be used as reference samples. These samples can assess the quality and



compensate for errors in new sources of data, as well as continue to collect data that are not available in administrative data or other sources of data.

We are now at the crucial point of the calendar year where we ask all IASS members to renew their IASS membership. We will also carry out a recruitment drive through the help of our country representatives, focusing on inviting institutional members as well. Please spread the news of IASS to all your networks so that we can increase our membership and allow funding for all the important activities that we do to benefit survey statisticians around the world. The website for membership of the IASS is here: [\[Join IASS\]](#). The membership fees are 50 euros/25 euros a year depending on your country of residence. Please download our brochure here: [\[Brochure\]](#) to help recruit new members from your networks.

Please get in touch with me at [Natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Natalie.shlomo@manchester.ac.uk) if you have ideas, suggestions, comments, improvements, or criticisms, regarding IASS activities and strategic priorities.

With best wishes,  
Natalie Shlomo  
President IASS, 2023-2025