

Dear IASS members

In this letter I explain what the IASS strategy is and what it means for the members. The draft strategy was made available for comments of the IASS members with a deadline of 15 June 2022. Comments received have been incorporated and the revised version will be ratified by the IASS Assembly on July, 14th 2022 (link will be sent in due time).

The vision of the IASS is a world where good survey theory and practice provide governments, businesses and civil society with the information they need to make good decisions. The IASS motto "Promoting good survey theory and practice around the world" is a fundamental task to promote progress in our society.

In fact the data production process is at the hearth of understanding phenomena and of decision making. Survey methods, sample designs, register based statistics, integration of new data sources and the resulting design-based, model-assisted and model-based statistics play a strategic role in it.

Our strategy to move towards this vision consider the survey statistician:

- as a researcher in Universities or in other Research Institutions and companies, teaching the discipline of statistics and survey methods
- as a professional, involved in the data collection process and in the analysis of survey data and statistics
- as a scholar/ young researcher, seeking for mentoring and advising from senior experts

We consider also that all of us are promoting the use of statistics in the public interest; and are interested in improving statistical literacy and understanding of how data collection and survey methods are pivotal elements. Indeed they are of crucial importance in relation to the development or success of understanding phenomena and of decision making.

During our current strategic period of 2022-2023 we have two particular themes we are focused upon across all of our strategic objectives. The first is engaging our members to help us deliver these goals. We do this through several actions: increasing the contact and interaction with our renovated country representatives, supporting local conferences, as well as regular communication with members, also via Twitter and LinkedIn. The second cross-cutting theme we are working on is the rise of new survey methods and integration of data sources and what it means for our work and that of survey methodologist. For this we are promoting and organizing the IASS Webinar series. They are open to the wide public and treat the emerging issues in survey sampling and survey data analysis.

Obviously there are a wide range of views about what new survey methods and data integration is and its implications - the EC IASS took a clear view that we should be as inclusive as possible. In particular there are new challenges for survey statisticians in analysing large unstructured datasets via machine learning and data analytics, but equally

there are specific and analytical skills which survey statisticians bring to the discussion which not all those coming to 'data science' may be familiar with. Uncertainty in data collection and sources of errors, measuring errors and selection bias, profiling the quality of collected data, sampling designs applied to reduce datasets dimensionality ...just to cite some of them.

In spite of being a relatively small organisation, we hope to have a big impact. The only way we can achieve this is by having you, our members, involved. That's why we've decided to disseminate this letter and the report from the Scientific Secretary- to showcase all of the work we have done in the first months of 2022 and what we are doing together through the Association.

You can view and download our draft strategy to finalize during the July IASS Assembly here (<http://isi-ias.org/home/wp-content/uploads/Draft-IASS-Strategy-2022.pdf>)

With my best wishes,

Monica Pratesi  
IASS President  
monica.pratesi@istat.it