

STATISTICS IN TRANSITION-new series, December 2012
Vol. 13, No. 3, pp. 601—606

**The Congress of Polish Statistics to mark the 100th
anniversary of The Polish Statistical
Association, Poznań, 18–20 April 2012**



The Congress of Polish Statistics to mark the 100th anniversary of the Polish Statistical Association was held in Poznań between 18 and 20 April 2012. The year-long celebration featured exhibitions, seminars and conferences organized by regional sections of the Polish Statistical Association, including those in Wrocław, Lublin, Toruń and Bydgoszcz.

The Congress of Polish Statistics was a unique event with international participation, under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski. In a letter of congratulations, the President recognized the significance of the event and referred to the main goal that had inspired the founders of the Association. Stressing the role of the publication of *Statystyka Polska* in 1915, he noted its contribution as a valuable source of knowledge about the fatherland divided between the three partitioning states, the knowledge that was later used to determine the borders of the Second Polish Republic. The President noted that the following history of the PSA is marked by the dramas of Polish history, adding that ‘... *Members of the Association got involved in the struggle for the independence and defense of their country, doing their best to retain their national identity and create and develop civil society.*’

This great moment of Polish statistics was highlighted by the participation of eminent representatives of statistical institutions and organizations from Austria, Australia, Estonia, France, Holland, Germany, Norway, the USA and Italy. The

Congress was attended by numerous members of the statistical community from universities, institutes, Polish and international research organizations, the Central Statistical Office, regional offices and other national statistical institutes. Among special guests present during the anniversary session were representatives of state authorities and local and regional government, the business sector, administration and the student community. In total, about 600 participants attended the Congress.

The anniversary celebration was marked by the presence of representatives of international statistical organizations: Dr M. Bohata – Deputy Director General of Eurostat, Prof. I. Ritschelova – President of the Czech Statistical Office, Dr E. Laczka – Vice-President of the Hungarian Statistical Office and representatives of international statistical associations: Prof. R. Chambers – President of International Association of Survey Statisticians at the International Statistical Institute, Prof. R. Wasserstein – the Executive Director of the American Statistical Association, Prof. I. Traat – the President of the Estonian Statistical Association, Prof. W. Schmid – board member of the German Statistical Society. The Congress was also attended by numerous representatives of the Polish statistical community from universities, institutes, associations, the Central Statistical Office, regional offices and other institutions of public statistics, the business sector, administration and the student community.

The significance of the conference is reflected by the contents of the papers delivered during the three plenary sessions, one discussion panel, 35 parallel thematic sessions (including 12 in English) and 20 posters in the poster session. Altogether 155 papers co-authored by nearly 200 scientists were delivered. The conference program comprised a number of thematic sessions, including those devoted to survey methodology, regional statistics, population statistics, social and economic statistics, the problems of statistical data and statistics of health, sport and tourism.

The topic of the sessions on the first day of the Congress was *History and Development of Polish Statistics*. The first one featured presentations on major achievements of Polish statistics by eminent representatives of various fields. A historical perspective of the development of Polish statistics was presented by W. Ostasiewicz. J. Mielniczuk talked about Polish contribution to mathematical and applied statistics. T. Caliński's paper was an overview of Polish achievements in biometrics. The development of statistics in economic sciences was presented by K. Jajuga. J. Witkowski provided an overview of the historical development and current challenges facing public statistics. The second session was devoted to presenting the biographies and legacy of two most renowned Polish statisticians. T. Ledwina's talk focused on the life and achievements of Jerzy Neyman, while M. Krzyśko introduced the biography and legacy of Jan Czekanowski. The doyenne of Polish statistics, S. Bartosiewicz presented (together with E. Stańczyk) the socio-economic history of Poland between 1918 and 2008, while J. Kordos discussed the relationship between the development of theory and practice in survey methodology in Poland.

Another important event held on the first day of the Congress was the discussion panel on the future of statistics presided over by T. Caliński. The panel featured contributions from J. Józwiak in the area of demography, J. Witkowski and T. Panek in the area of social statistics, J. Wilkin in the area of economic statistics, J. Paradysz in the area of regional statistics, J. A. Moczko who addressed the problems of health statistics, M. Szreder on the quality of statistical data, and J. Koronacki who spoke about prospects for the methodology of statistical research.

The sessions on the second and third day of the Congress were very intensive. The program comprised a number of parallel thematic sessions chaired by respected and prominent statisticians of national and international renown. Keynote speakers included Polish and foreign representatives of various disciplines of statistical research. The present issue of *Statistics in Transition – new series*, just like the previous one, presents many of the papers delivered during the Congress. The Congress content can also be found in special issues of *Przegląd Statystyczny / Statistical Review* (two volumes) and *Studia Demograficzne / Demographic Studies* (No. 1/2012). In the *Wiadomości Statystyczne/ Statistical News*, starting from issue No. 7/2012, there is a section devoted to the Congress of Polish Statistics presenting a detailed overview of individual sessions and selected papers. Many eminent Polish and foreign statisticians took part in the Congress, making contributions that will provide enough valuable material for future analysis and reference. Listed below are topics of the Congress sessions, including invited papers. A detailed Congress program is available at http://www.stat.gov.pl/pts/kongres2012/dok/ProgramPolski_18-04-2012.pdf.

Thematic sessions of the Congress of Polish Statistics, organizers and topics of invited papers:

1. **Mathematical statistics** – organized by Prof. Mirosław Krzyśko, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań
 - Tadeusz Bednarski (Wrocław University), *A statistical analysis of causes of bias in labour market surveys*
 - Jacek Koronacki (Institute of Computer Science of the Polish Academy of Sciences), *Analysing multivariate data given a small sample size*
 - Jana Jureckova (Charles University in Prague), *Regression quantiles and their two-step modifications*
 - Zbigniew Szkutnik (AGH University of Science and Technology in Cracow), *The EM algorithm and its modifications*
2. **Survey sampling and small area statistics** – organized by Prof. Janusz Wywił, University of Economics in Katowice
 - Malay Ghosh (University of Florida), *Finite population sampling: a model-design synthesis*
 - Ray Chambers, Gunky Kim (Wollongong University), *Regression analysis using data obtained by probability linking of multiple data sources*
 - Li-Chun Zhang (Statistics Norway), *Micro calibration for data integration*
 - Lorenzo Fattorini (University of Siena), *Design-Based Inference on Ecological Diversity*

- Jean-Claude Deville, Daniel Bonn  ry, Guillaume Chauvet (ENSAE), *Neyman type optimality for marginal quota sampling*
- 3. **Population statistics** – organized by Prof. Janina J  zwiak, Warsaw School of Economics
 - Nico Keilman (University of Oslo), *Challenges for statistics on households and families*
 - Irena E. Kotowska (Warsaw School of Economics), *Evolving population structures and their relevance for demographic and social change*
 - Francesco Billari (Bocconi University, Milan), *Challenges for new methods in demographic analysis*
- 4. **Social statistics** – organized by Prof. Tomasz Panek, Warsaw School of Economics
 - Achille Lemmi (Siena University, Dipartimento di Economia Politica) *Dimensions of Poverty. Theory, Models and New Perspectives*
 - Walenty Ostasiewicz (University of Economics in Wroc  w), *Life quality as a subject of statistical research*
 - Anne Valia Goujon, Ramon Bauer, Samir K.C., Michaela Potan  kov   (Vienna Institute of Demography (VID) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences), *The Human Capital Puzzle: Why It Is so Hard to Find Good Data on Educational Attainment?*
 - Urszula Sztanderska (University of Warsaw), *Polish public statistics as a source of inspiration for and an obstacle to the development of labour market research*
- 5. **Economic statistics** – organized by Prof. Jerzy Wilkin, University of Warsaw
 - W  dzimierz Siwi  ski (University of Warsaw, L. Ko  mi  ski Academy), *A statistical overview of the 2008 crisis*
 - Barbara Liberda (University of Warsaw), *Generational accounting by means of measuring the wealth of consecutive generations*
 - El  bieta M  czy  ska (Institute of Economic Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Polish Economic Society), *Statistics as a source of data in research. Dilemmas and incompatibilities*
 - Andrzej P. Wiatrak (University of Warsaw), *Contemporary problems of agricultural statistics*
- 6. **Regional statistics** – organized by Prof. Tadeusz Borys, University of Economics in Wroc  w
 - Jan Paradysz (Regional Statistics Center, Pozna   University of Economics), *Regional statistics: the current state, problems and directions*
 - Tadeusz Borys (University of Economics in Wroc  w), Tomasz Potka  ski (The Polish Towns Union), *Monitoring regional and local development*
- 7. **Data analysis and classification** – organized by Prof. Krzysztof Jajuga, Prof. Marek Walesiak, University of Economics in Wroc  w
 - Reinhold Decker (Universit  t Bielefeld), *Model-based analysis of online consumer reviews – methods and applications*

- Wojtek Krzanowski (University of Exeter), *Classification: some old principles applied to new problems*
- Patrick Groenen (Erasmus University Rotterdam), *The support vector machine as a powerful tool for binary classification*
- 8. **Statistical data** – organized by Prof. Mirosław Szreder, University of Gdańsk
- 9. **Health statistics** – organized by Prof. Jerzy Andrzej Moczko, Poznań University of Medical Sciences
- 10. **Statistics of sport and tourism** – organized by Prof Bogdan Sojkin, Poznań University of Economics

The Congress was accompanied by a series of anniversary publications, exhibitions and events. The open anniversary session of the Main Council of the PSA was an excellent opportunity to honour its most distinguished members and present the activities undertaken by regional sections. The medal of Jerzy Sława-Neyman was presented by Prof. C. Domański – the President of PSA – to five distinguished Professors: Sir A. Atkinson (London School of Economics), T. Caliński (University of Life Sciences in Poznań), M. Ghosh (University of Florida), J. Jurečková (Charles University in Prague), W. Krzanowski (University of Exeter). Honorary membership of the Polish Statistical Association was awarded by the Main Council of PSA to Dr K. Kruszką. The honorary badge of merit “For services to the statistics of Poland” was presented by Prof. J. Witkowski – the President of Central Statistical Office – to M. Krzyśko, J. Pocięcha, B. Podolec, A.S. Barczak, A. Młodak and T. Klimanek.

Two anniversary publications were issued by ZWS GUS to mark the Congress. The book entitled „Statystycy polscy” (Polish statisticians) contains biographical notes about 85 Polish statisticians who played a major role in the history of Polish statistics. The book was compiled by a team consisting of W. Adamczewski, J. Berger, K. Kruszką, M. Krzyśko (editor-in-chief) and B. Łazowska. The second book, entitled „Polskie Towarzystwo Statystyczne 1912–2012” (Polish Statistical Association 1912–2012) contains detailed information about the development of PSA and a description of its activities. The book was co-authored by J. Berger, J. Kordos, K. Kruszką (editor-in-chief), W.W. Łagodziński and W. Ostasiewicz. The Congress was accompanied by two anniversary exhibitions: „Polish Statistical Association 1912–2012” and „Statistics in Wielkopolska”. They presented the statistical legacy of the past centuries, featuring archival results and publications that had contributed to the development of statistical thought and practice in Poland and Wielkopolska. The exhibitions also highlighted the people who had created this legacy. Both exhibitions are available in electronic form. The exhibition „Polish Statistical Association 1912–2012” prepared by J. Berger is available at the Congress website:

http://www.stat.gov.pl/pts/kongres2012/dok/Polskie_Towarzystwo_Statystyczne.pdf.

The exhibition „Statistics in Wielkopolska” prepared by the Statistical Office in Poznań was also presented at the Poznań Town Hall and at the Province Office of Wielkopolska as well as at the Poznań branch office of the National Bank of Poland. Its electronic version is available at:

http://www.stat.gov.pl/pts/kongres2012/dok/statystyka_w_wielkopolsce.pdf .

Along with the Congress, two accompanying workshops were held between 16 and 17 April 2012, which were attended by about 60 participants. The workshops focused on two major areas of methodology: one was devoted to the integration of statistical data and small area estimation (conducted by Marcello D'Orazio and Fabrizio Solari, specialists from the Italian Statistical Office ISTAT) and the other one to data mining methods (prepared by the Statsoft company). The Congress also provided a fitting context for the closing ceremony of the provincial knowledge competition “Statistics concerns me” to mark the Day of Polish Statistics in 2012. The competition addressed to secondary school students is organized annually by the Statistical Office in Poznań and the Polish Statistical Association. The Congress cultural program featured a walk round the Old Town, including an organ concert in the parish church, a visit to the Old Brewery Commerce Art and Business Centre, the Welcome Party in the historic pub, the Jubilee Concert performed by students and graduates of the Academy of Music in Poznań and the chamber choir *Musica Viva* of the Poznań University of Economics conducted by Prof. M. Gandecki. The concert was prepared and hosted by Prof. H. Lorkowska, Rector of the Academy of Music in Poznań.

The celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Polish Statistical Association was organized as a joint enterprise of the whole statistical community represented by four institutions: the Polish Statistical Association, the Central Statistical Office, the Statistical Office in Poznań, and the Poznań University of Economics. In this way, the Congress was given a unique scope in the history of Polish statistics, as an event uniting communities representing both the practical and the theoretical dimension of statistical research and providing an opportunity for the exchange of ideas and experiences for representatives of public statistics, academic centres, administration authorities, entrepreneurs and other partners involved in the business of investigating economic, social and demographic processes. The Congress helped to direct methodological research conducted by the statistical community in the years to come. The priority research areas were formally recognised in the final resolution. It is already evident that the Congress was one of the most important and influential scientific events in the history of Polish statistical thought and practice.

Prepared by:
Elżbieta Gołata