



STATISTICS IN TRANSITION

new series

An International Journal of the Polish Statistical Association and Statistics Poland

In Memoriam

Professor Janusz Witkowski

It is with great sadness that we inform you – also on behalf of the editorial bodies and collaborators of SiTns – about the sudden passing of Professor Janusz Witkowski, which has caused an inconsolable grief among the statistical community.

Professor Janusz Witkowski was an outstanding specialist in demography, social policy and official statistics. He served as Vice President of Statistics Poland from 1996 to 2011 and its President from 2011 to 2016. He was also Co-Chairman and Chairman of the Editorial Board of SiTns. His term of office coincided with a period of profound methodological and operational transformations taking place in official statistics, involving the development of modern IT systems, an increased application of administrative data in statistical research and the modernization and digitalization of data collection and sharing processes. Professor Witkowski greatly contributed to these achievements, while playing a key role in overcoming the challenges encountered during these processes.

He was a renowned and respected scientist and author of 350 scientific papers. He worked at the Institute of Statistics and Demography of the SGH Warsaw School of Economics and at the Faculty of Economics of the Professor Edward Lipinski School of Economics, Law and Medical Sciences in Kielce.

Professor Witkowski actively participated in the work of many international organizations, also in the role of an expert of the European Commission, OECD, Council of Europe and the International Labour Organization. He was very active within the international scientific community, attending conferences and congresses organized by the International Statistical Institute and other organizations.

He also held important positions in multiple scientific and advisory bodies, including the Committee of Statistics and Econometrics of the Polish Academy of Sciences and served as the Vice-Chairman of the Government Population Council.

For many years, Professor Witkowski was the Vice President of the Polish Demographic Society, actively participating in its work. He was awarded the Bronze and Gold Cross of Merit, the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and the Waclaw Szubert Medal for his outstanding performance.

His contribution to official statistics and construction of a modern national statistical system will remain an invaluable achievement and last for years to come.

We would like to convey my deepest condolences to the family and relatives of Professor Janusz Witkowski.

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