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From the Editor

The Editors and Editorial Board of the Statistics in Transition new series (SiTns) have great pleasure in presenting this special issue on statistical data integration to our readers. We are very grateful for the efforts taken by all those who contributed to the production of this special issue that made its publication possible. We believe that this volume represents not only the state-of-the-art in the relevant topic areas, but that it will also help to identify new research avenues for study in the years to come.

Behind such an ambitious and demanding endeavor, there is always a key role to be played by an intellectual and organizational leader. Practically, we owe this product personally to Professor Partha Lahiri, who kindly accepted an invitation by SiTns Editorial Board member Graham Kalton and me to act as Editor-in-Chief of this special issue. We are very grateful to Malay Ghosh, another long-term member of the SiTns' Editorial Board, for initially putting forward the idea of a special issue on statistical data integration under Partha Lahiri's leadership. This special issue would not have been possible without Partha Lahiri's guidance and intellectual leadership, supported by a team of leading international experts who generously accepted his invitation to serve as Guest co-Editors.

This special issue is the third in the series of SiTns special issues. The two previous special issues were: (1) a two-volume special issue on small area estimation that was published jointly with Survey Methodology, and that arose out of a conference held in Poznan, with Ray Chambers, Malay Ghosh, Graham Kalton, and Risto Lehtonen serving as Guest co-Editors; and (2) a special issue on subjective well-being in survey research, co-edited by Graham Kalton and Christopher MacKie.

The focus of this special issue is broader than those of the previous ones because the subject-matter of statistical data integration encompasses a wide range of analytic objectives and of statistical techniques. It can be well argued that data integration is the dominant innovation in national statistical offices. If so, the efforts of everyone involved in the preparation of this volume would be duly appreciated. Let us believe that most of our readers share this view.

Last but not least, I would like to express my appreciation to the work of our Editorial Office members for their work done in parallel with the preparation of the regular SiTns release.

Wlodzimierz Okrasa,

Editor