

NEWS OF THE SECTION BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (SSS-BI)

Dear colleagues,

Hope you all had a great summer and that you are all looking forward to the «Swiss Statistics Meeting» in Montreux on October 29-31, 2003. There will be several interesting sessions dedicated to statistics in business and industry. And last but not least, there will be the official creation of the SSS-BI during the general assembly of the SSS on October 30, 2003. Please find further information at www.stat.ch/jss03/.

It is a great pleasure for me to announce you in the name of the Committee of the SSS-BI that promotion material for the SSS-BI is available in English, French and German on the SSS-BI homepage at www.stat.ch/sssbil/. Feel free to use the SSS-BI presentation and/or the SSS-BI flyer to pass the word about the SSS-BI to your friends and colleagues. Thanks in advance for your help.

Moreover, on the Section's homepage at www.stat.ch/sssbil/ you will also find the bylaws in French and German, and further information about the SSS-BI.

Note that at current, if you are a SSS member the membership is free of charge. So, if you are a SSS member and if you want to join us, please send an email to the treasurer (Dr. Bernhard Brabec, bernhard.brabec@insightful.com). If you are not a SSS member you can fill in the SSS application form at the end of this bulletin by indicating that you would like to join the Section «Business and Industry» or you can follow the instructions at www.stat.ch/sssbil/.

Finally, I think that what follows may be of interest to all of you. If you go to the web site of the «Statistical Society of Australia» at www.statsoc.org.au/ you will see their «Public Awareness Campaign» highlighted on the front page. Following that link will take you to some materials, including a (downloadable) booklet entitled «Statistics is a job for professionals». This is a very interesting and amusing reading, illustrating through some serious and not-so-serious success and disaster stories, the necessity of seeking appropriate professional statistical assistance. The «Statistical Society of Australia» operates the only professional accreditation program in Australia. When will Switzerland have one? Statistics is becoming more and more important (also in Switzerland), and as we all know it is a job for professionals. So, when will Switzerland have such a professional accreditation program? It would be beneficial not only to us statisticians but also to the people that need statistical assistance. The well-known business fact that «if you do not keep doing it better your competition will» seems to be too extreme in this context but nevertheless may give an indication of what could happen if no serious discussion about such a program starts within the SSS in the near future. Thanks in advance for helping to pass the word about the SSS-BI to your friends and colleagues.

If you have any suggestions or inquiries concerning the Section SSS-BI, please contact one of the Committee members. You will find further information at www.stat.ch/sssbil/.

Sincerely,
Dr. Diego Kuonen, President of the SSS-BI