

President's Annual Report 2004-2005

Dr. Diego Kuonen, President of the SSS-BI

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the section "Business and Industry" (SSS-BI) of the Swiss Statistical Society (SSS) for the past year.

Let me briefly retrace its birth. The official birth was on October 30, 2003, during the general assembly of the SSS at the "Swiss Statistics Meeting 2003" in Montreux. The first official general assembly of the SSS-BI was held on November 18, 2004, in the context of the "Swiss Statistics Meeting 2004" in Aarau. And this year's general assembly will be held on November 10, 2005, in the context of the "Swiss Statistics Meeting 2005" in Zurich; please find further information at www.statoo.ch/sst05/. You are all kindly invited to celebrate our second anniversary with us in Zurich.

Let me remind you the goals of the SSS-BI, which according to the bylaws, are:

- Representing the interests of statisticians working in business and industry.
- Providing a platform for the coordination and the development of statistical training programs with applications in business and industry.
- Organising conferences in coordination with the other activities of the SSS and its other Sections, e.g. the organisation of specific sessions within the annual "Swiss Statistics Meeting".
- Promoting the contact among statisticians working in business and industry on the national as well as on the international level.
- Promoting the contact with other organizations with similar objectives.

You will find the complete bylaws in French and German on the section's homepage at www.stat.ch/sssbj/. Note that promotion material for the SSS-BI is available in English, French and German on the SSS-BI homepage. 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.

The committee of the SSS-BI has had a very productive year and is pleased to count already about 86 SSS-BI members. During the past year the committee met several times, exchanged a huge amount of emails, and tried to do his best to fulfil the section's ambitious goals.

With regards to the above goals additional efforts can be summarised as follows:

- The SSS-BI was and is heavily involved in the construction of the scientific programme and the organisation of the "Swiss Statistics Meeting".
- The SSS-BI is actively promoting the contact with the "Basel Biometric Society" (BBS) and with other organizations with similar objectives. For example, with the new "International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics" (ISBIS), which was founded in April 2005 during the 55th session of the "International Statistical Institute" (ISI) held

in Sydney, Australia. As such, Dr. Yves-Laurent Grize, committee member of the SSS-BI, is currently ISBIS council member. More information about ISBIS is available at www.stats.wits.ac.za/isbis/. Furthermore, the SSS-BI also co-organises the annual meeting of the "International Society for Clinical Biostatistics" (ISCB), which will be held on August 27-31, 2006, in Geneva. As such, Dr. Diego Kuonen, president of the SSS-BI, represents the SSS-BI as a member of its scientific programme committee; please find further information at www.iscb2006.info.

Our main activity, however, was and is the recruitment of new members for 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. If you are not a SSS member you can fill in the SSS application form at www.stat.ch by indicating that you would like to join our section.

For the next year we will continue to try to do our best to continue fulfilling the SSS-BI's ambitious goals. In addition, we continue our engagement in setting up a working group entitled "Public awareness". Its objective is to discuss ways on how to make efforts to increase public awareness of statistics through promoting better knowledge on statistical methodologies, proper use of statistical data as well as better understanding of the scope, definition and uses of statistics among the general public. As a first initiative a meeting with people interested was held during this year. Unfortunately, despite the importance of increasing the public awareness of statistics, there were not so many people present as we expected. If you are interested, I encourage you to participate actively in this working group. If so, please contact Dr. François-Xavier de Rossi (francois-xavier.derossi@bpv.admin.ch), committee member of the SSS-BI.

Looking back it was and is a great pleasure for me to preside and to work together with a motivated Committee of volunteers. Many thanks to all of my colleagues from the committee for the nice moments, the fruitful and interesting discussions and for sharing the same vision about the SSS-BI. Lastly I want to thank all the members of the SSS for their interest and support especially those members who contribute actively to encouraging interest for the SSS-BI.

In case you have any remarks and/or questions concerning the SSS-BI, or if you would like to participate actively within the SSS-BI, please do not hesitate contacting one of the committee members. You will find further information at www.stat.ch/sssbj/. Thanks in advance for helping to pass the word about the SSS-BI to your friends and colleagues.

Lausanne, September 2005

