

An Invitation to ENBIS-6 in Wrocław

Join statistical practitioners, academical statisticians, consultants, and others who are involved in business and industrial statistics.

After a sequence of successful meetings, the last one in Newcastle in 2005, the annual conferences of ENBIS are firmly established as an appreciated tradition.

This year's conference in Wrocław (Poland) will take place from Monday, September 18th, to Wednesday, September 20th.



City of Wrocław

The conference aims to bring together statistical practitioners, academical statisticians, consultants, Six Sigma black belts, and other professionals who are involved in business and industrial statistics.

It offers participants opportunities for networking and sharing of ideas, best practices and scientific advances. It provides numerous sources of inspiration by keynote speakers, seminar and workshop leaders, as well as paper and poster presenters.

Keynote speakers in Wrocław will be **Roger Hoerl** (manager of the *Applied Statistics Lab* at the *Corporate Leadership and Development Center of General Electric*; author of widely appreciated books on Six Sigma; and past chair of the Statistics Division of the ASQ), and **Age K. Smilde** (professor of biosystems data analysis at the University of Amsterdam; and programme manager of analytical information sciences at the *TNO Quality of Life Institute*).



Roger Hoerl



Age K. Smilde

Participants will also be addressed by **Gerry Hahn**, recipient of the 2006 Box Medal, **Gerhard Rappitsch**, winner of the 2006 Best Manager Award, and **Peter Goos**, winner of the 2006 Young Statistician Award.

Before, during and after the conference a number of seminars and workshops offered by the ENBIS Academy will take place:

- A workshop on **Statistical consulting** by Soren and Sue Ellen Bisgaard.
- A workshop on **Statistics for Innovation and the Design Process** by Shirley Coleman and Tony Fouweather.
- A workshop on **Graphical presentation of data and models** by Christian Ritter.
- A workshop on **Data mining** by Andrea Ahlemeyer-Stubbe.
- A workshop on **Advanced DOE: optimal design** by Peter Goos.
- A seminar on **Quality improvement** by Shirley Coleman.
- A seminar entitled **Write for a wider readership: think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people** by Tony Greenfield.

If you haven't registered yet, please do so at www.enbis.org. We're looking forward to seeing you in Wrocław!

Letter from the Editor

The third issue of the quarterly *ENBIS News* is a joint venture of the members of various ENBIS bodies (EXEC, ENBIS Nominations Committee, ENBIS-6 organizers, to name some of the more prominent ones) and dedicated individuals such as (in alphabetical order) Shirley Coleman, Paolo Giudici, Ron Kenett, Jeroen de Mast, Fabrizio Ruggeri, Ingemar Sjöström, and Winfried Theis. I would like to thank them for their support and contributions.

I would also like to use this opportunity to openly broadcast the main points of our President's electronic wake-up call to the leaders of ENBIS Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and to the National Representatives. Why? Because I think this wake-up call should be targeted at all ENBIS members.

So please let the EXEC know what are your plans for the future of (your SIG and/or your national branch of) ENBIS! Do you have any problems ENBIS could help you solve? Would you like representatives of ENBIS to visit your organisation, deliver a talk at any of your events? Would you like ENBIS to help you organize your local events? Would you like ENBIS to endorse your courses, workshops, seminars, undergraduate and graduate programmes? Would you like to host the annual ENBIS conference?

Use the ENBIS Assembly at the forthcoming conference in Wrocław to make your voice heard. Comment on the planned ENBIS reorganisation and the revised version of the ENBIS statutes. Remember: **you** are the present and the future of ENBIS!

Yours sincerely,

Irena Ograjenšek
ENBIS News Editor

Upcoming Event

B-ENBIS Session, the session of the very active Belgian branch of ENBIS, will take place on October 12th, during the Annual Meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society in Houffalize (Belgium). For details visit www.stat.ucl.ac.be/BSS2006/.

2006 ENBIS Elections

Do not forget to cast your e-vote by the deadline of September 11th!

The 2006 ENBIS elections started on August 11th and will be finished on September 11th, 2006.

ENBIS members can cast their votes for the following posts: President Elect, 3 Vice Presidents, and 3 Council Members serving for 2 years.

The ENBIS Nominations Committee and ENBIS members made the following nominations:

- **President Elect:** Andrea Ahlemeyer-Stubbe.
- **Vice Presidents:** Stefano Barone, Ivan Langhans, Birger Madsen, Irena Ograjenšek, Marco Reis, Grazia Vicario.
- **Council Members serving for 2 years:** Oystein Evandt, Rainer Goeb, Nadine Henkenjohann, Ennio Isaia, Adam Jednorog, Murat Kulahci, John Logsdon, Erik Monness.

Votes are due electronically by midnight on September 11th, 2006. The ballot can be accessed in the **Members Only** section of the ENBIS webpage. If you forgot your password, click on the **Lost Password** link on the ENBIS webpage. If you forgot your username, please contact the ENBIS webmaster at webmaster@enbis.org.

EXEC Reports

Executive Committee of ENBIS reports on its efforts to establish ENBIS as the leading European society in the field of business and industrial statistics.

- **Continuous networking within and beyond Europe.** Jeroen de Mast organized an invited session on European Business and Industrial Statistics at the Joint Research Conference on Statistics in Quality, Industry and Technology which took place in Knoxville (USA) from June 7th to 9th (2006jointresearch.bus.utk.edu). It was attended by a strong ENBIS delegation. The President of ENBIS Fabrizio Ruggeri gave a short introduction of ENBIS. The session

also featured paper presentations delivered by Jeroen, Fabrizio, and Peter Goos. Furthermore, ENBIS endorsed the ICOTS-7 conference on statistical education (www.maths.otago.ac.nz/icots7/icots7.php) which took place at the beginning of July in Salvador (Brazil). At the moment, Fabrizio is trying to strengthen the ties with the US and Latin American statisticians (the latter are studying ENBIS practices in order to create a similar web-based organisation in their part of the world).

- **Activities of the ENBIS Funding Committee.** The committee recently submitted a proposal to organise an exploratory workshop on nano-technology and statistics, which, if approved by the European Science Foundation, will give ENBIS the opportunity to organise a member meeting dedicated to project proposal submissions within the EU funding programmes.
- **ENBIS Academy.** ENBIS Academy should become an umbrella covering all ENBIS educational activities, from the Six Sigma Practitioners' Circle, to the courses, workshops and seminars offered (often for no or very reduced fee) by ENBIS members. The present and future of ENBIS Academy will be discussed in detail in Wrocław – please contribute to the discussion.
- **Meetings in 2007 and beyond.** ENBIS-endorsed Conference on Applied Statistics for Development in Africa (lma.univ-pau.fr/meet/sada2007/) will take place from February 26th to March 2nd, 2007 in Cotonou (Benin). The second ENBIS Spring Meeting dedicated to computer experiments will take place in Torino (Italy) in April 2007 after the ENBIS-endorsed DEINDE conference. A workshop on reliability will be organized on July 1st, 2007, before MMR 2007 (conference on Mathematical Methods in Reliability – see www.managementscience.org/mmr/index.html for more details) in Glasgow (UK). In August 2007, ENBIS will organize an ENBIS session at the 2007 ISBIS meeting in the Azores (Portugal). In September 2007, ENBIS-7 will take place in Dortmund (Germany). ENBIS-8 venue will be announced in Wrocław.

2006 George Box Medal

Gerry Hahn, recipient of this year's George Box Medal, on responsibility for success of Six Sigma within *General Electric*.

To the editor, *Amstat News*

Thank you for your article in the May issue of *Amstat News* concerning my being awarded the George Box Medal by the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics. I am greatly honored to receive this high recognition, especially since George Box has been my idol for many years.

I am not unduly modest about my achievements, and that of the group I led at GE (now headed by Roger Hoerl). But I do want to set the record straight about the statement that I have been responsible for the success of Six Sigma within *General Electric*. The GE Six Sigma initiative was put in motion by Jack Welch (without any input from me). It was implemented by the individual GE businesses which developed their own Six Sigma network. My former group and I enthusiastically supported the initiative and provided (and continue to provide) important technical support throughout GE. This, however, was only a tiny part of a much larger company effort. Very many people within GE are, in fact, responsible for the success of Six Sigma.

Respectfully yours,
Gerry Hahn

(Published in the July issue of *Amstat News*)



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Gerry Hahn's request that the credit for the successful implementation of Six Sigma goes to Jack Welch and the many GE employees, and not to a statistician, is indeed a lesson to us all. Yet again, he sets a model for the ultimate "embedded statistician". As Chair of the ENBIS 2006 Box Medal committee and President Elect of ENBIS I would like to apologize for any inconvenience the wording of the ENBIS announcement might have caused him.

Ron S. Kenett

Member News

- In the spring 2006 ENBIS members **Jeroen de Mast** and **Albert Trip** received the 2005 ASQ Brumbaugh Award for their paper *Gauge R and R Studies for Destructive Measurements*. The paper was published in *Journal of Quality Technology* 37(1), 40-49.
- **Poul Thyregod**, President of ENBIS in the academic year 2003/2004, is recently retired. On the occasion of his retirement, the Institute of Informatics and Mathematical Modelling, the Technical University of Denmark, and the Danish Society for Applied Statistics organized a farewell reception at the Institute of Informatics and Mathematical Modelling in Copenhagen on June 19th.

Six Sigma Practitioners' Circle

The Quality Improvement Special Interest Group of ENBIS has set up the Six Sigma Practitioners' Circle as part of the ENBIS Academy. The Six Sigma Practitioners' Circle is particularly interested in the mechanism for giving ENBIS approval to Six Sigma training courses and in the future award of "Six Sigma Green/Black Belt certification". Membership is open to all ENBIS members who are welcome to join the circle. To do so please contact Shirley Coleman (Shirley.Coleman@ncl.ac.uk).

For regular updates on ENBIS activities visit the ENBIS webpage:

www.enbis.org

Quick links at the top of the page will lead you to the currently hottest topics.

Course on Reliability in Lyngby (Denmark)

A successful joint effort of the Swedish branch of ENBIS and the Technical University of Denmark.

The interactive course on reliability (with the full title *Life length and reliability – needed for better designs*) took place in Lyngby, from May 31st to June 2nd.

Participants focused on exploration of individual items' ability to perform a required function under given environmental and operational conditions and for a stated period of time. They were also encouraged to present their own practical problems and examine possible solutions.

DOE Workshop in Antwerp (Belgium)

B-ENBIS continues to successfully promote the ENBIS vision of knowledge exchange and cooperation.

The B-ENBIS workshop on Design and Analysis of Experiments in Industry took place on June 2nd at the City Campus of the University of Antwerp.

The following topics were discussed during the workshop:

- cost-efficient design of screening experiments,
- design of experiments with a large numbers of factors,
- use of restricted randomization to save time and money when performing fractional factorial experiments,
- analysis of cost-efficient experiments with restricted randomization,
- model uncertainty in multicriteria optimization.

Young Statisticians' Corner

Obtain an MSc degree at the University of Pavia in Italy.

ENBIS-endorsed International Master of Science Programme in Methods for Management of Complex Systems is run at the University of Pavia in Italy.

Areas of specialisation include economics and science, data analysis and statistical modelling, nano-technologies and nano-devices, as well as information and communication technology.

The programme is interdisciplinary and practice-oriented. All lectures are held in English. Several scholarships are available.

Deadline for submission of applications for the academic year 2006/2007 is October 15th, 2006.

For more information visit the University of Pavia's website at www.unipv.it/complexity or send an e-mail to complexity@unipv.it.

ENBIS News Publishing Info

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Editor: Irena Ograjenšek, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics, Slovenia (irena.ograjensek@ef.uni-lj.si).

Ideas for news items should be sent to the editor per e-mail, preferably as an MS Word document.