

Number 6: October 2003

Thanks from the President

At the General Assembly of ENBIS at the Barcelona conference, new members of the ENBIS Council and new officers began service.

I am glad to welcome the new members of the board, and would like to express my sincere thanks to the outgoing board, president and vice-presidents for their enthusiastic work to make our society valuable to its members. Also, I would like to extend my thanks to the teams at ISRU and IBIS for their strong administrative support.

The past year has shown a steady growth in membership, and in membership benefits. The Newsletter together with the ENBIS website provides an effective virtual marketplace for exchange of information and membership interaction thanks to the input from members. Also local networks and interest groups (working groups) have been active in arranging a number of workshops for membership interaction.

The challenge for the foreseeable future is to keep this momentum, further stimulating interactions and professional development of statistical practitioners to the benefit of European business and Industry. Thanks to all the efforts made by the volunteers in ENBIS, I am confident that we are prepared to meet this challenge.

Poul Thyregod
President of ENBIS

Industrial statistics website

ENBIS members will know, particularly if they were at the Barcelona conference, that the www.industrial-statistics.com site is now available. The site is free and all folk are welcome - statisticians, Six Sigma-ists, those from allied fields, industrialists, trainers, agencies and so on. Users may register, log in and create a skills and experience profile or search for skills. Forums are included so that work may be posted and ideas exchanged. We also plan to include a number of business tools to facilitate freelance working. A separate statistics server will be linked to the site. This Unix-based hardened system will provide access to open source and commercial statistical software on a pay-as-you-go basis over the internet via a browser or more conventional systems. A Windows service is planned on the same architecture. We have an advisory group of statisticians, industrialists and policy experts to ensure that the system meets its objectives. The aim is to promote statistics in industry globally; information is not the major purpose. Interested parties can look at the site and read in particular the Frequently Asked Questions. Potential software partners should contact us directly at j.logsdon@industrial-statistics.com.

Executive committee of ENBIS

President	Poul Thyregod	<i>IMM Technical University, Denmark</i>
President elect	Shirley Coleman	<i>ISRU, Newcastle University, UK</i>
Vice president	Antje Christensen	<i>Novo Nordisk A?S, Denmark</i>
Vice president	Xavier Tort-Martorell	<i>UPC (Technical University of Catalunya), Spain</i>
Vice president	Andrea Ahlemeyer-Stubbe	<i>Ahlemeyer-Stubbe, Germany</i>

ENBIS Members' Forum – an appeal

Two of the agreed mission statements of ENBIS at its inception were:

- to provide a forum for the dynamic exchange of ideas and facilitate networking among statistical practitioners, and
- to nurture interactions and professional development of statistical practitioners regionally and internationally.

One of the best means available for facilitating these objectives is the Members' Forum on the ENBIS web site. Recently, Dave Stewardson conducted an experiment to see how many members would read his entry, and could be bothered to reply just to show that they had read it. He received only 17 replies!

Poul Thyregod made a great deal of how important the forum could be to the members during his inaugural speech at the Barcelona conference. Unfortunately, his encouragement seems to have fallen on deaf ears. There have been very few new entries since the conference.

The forum not only allows us to share our thoughts with other members, it provides a medium for the interest groups to garner support for their initiatives. Recently, the statistical consultancy group made two entries. These have received no interest whatsoever, which is a pity. One of these is an attempt to bring more speakers and case studies from business and industry to future conferences. Although there were many very interesting speakers in Barcelona, the bias is still, inarguably, academic. Those of us who work with companies across Europe should be continually looking for opportunities to bring people from those companies to speak at our meetings. Thus, the whole membership stands to benefit from the experiences of these companies in their use of statistical methods.

- ❖ Look at the forum: *today*.
- ❖ Reply to any item to which you can add value.
- ❖ Question anything that needs further explanation.
- ❖ Challenge the contributors if you disagree with their points of view.
- ❖ If you are a member of an Interest Group seeking help from the membership, post your own items.

Most of all, use the forum to gain something from your membership.

Lance Mitchell