

EDITOR'S NOTE ON THE STATISTICAL CONGRESS SECTION

The main objective of every statistical congress can perhaps be said as excelling at professional language for equivalence and comparisons. In doing so, statisticians act in the vein of Adolph Quetele's tradition, who (as the president of the Central Committee of Statistics in Belgium) organized the first such a congress, held in Brussels in 1853 (though, as an international event), and who stressed the need to stabilize the language of statistics "specifically to promote the unification of official statistics that the governments published, providing comparable results".

Similar idea has guided the efforts of the Polish Statistical Association that at the outset of resumption of its activity in the late 1930s established two scientific committees: one for statistical vocabulary, other for preparing guidelines for exploring statistical resources.

And this type of idea – contributing to stabilization of the broadly conceived language of statistics, not only cross-nationally but also across sectors and across disciplines – continues to also guide the mission of our Journal, the international scope of which is emphasized in its sub-title "an international journal".

The upcoming congress to celebrate 100th Anniversary of the Polish Statistical Association deserves highlighting for both reasons: (i) as the scientific meeting of representatives of the community of statisticians, and of users of statistics; and (ii) to underlie the importance of one of the most active country's scientific association, which continues to promote and encourage awareness of the statistical profession and shaping several areas of application of statistics, including research, education and dissemination of statistical information.

Therefore, I have asked leading representatives of this community, both researchers and practitioners, who act as members of the Journal's Editorial Board, to comment on the occasion of this anniversary. Especially, to address some issues they consider of particular interest to them, and to the discipline as a field of dynamic development.

This section contains an array of such 'occasional statements', from historical remarks on the Polish Statistical Association (C. Domański and W. Łagodziński), through some challenges of public statistics (M. Szreder), to origin and development of the Journal (J. Kordos and W. Okrasa).

This part is, however, preceded by two biographical notes, devoted to two key figures in modern statistics in general – Jan Czekanowski and Jerzy Neyman. They both, for somewhat different reasons (e.g., J. Czekanowski was also one of the leaders of the Polish Statistical Association before World War II), are to some

extent – although not being formally declared as such – considered spiritual (scientific) patrons of the congress.

This section is completed by the congress' organizational materials: the Announcement of the Congress and the Congress Agenda.

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