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FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is composed of three sections followed by two types of notes - one on the past conferences, the other on a future meeting of special importance due to its scale and character, as a part of the ongoing celebrations of the Year of Statistics. This is a kind of innovation worthwhile mentioning at the outset in order to let the persons responsible for organizing such a type of scientific meetings - and interested in popularization of it on our column - know about such a possibility, offered from now on. Another new thing to be implemented with the beginning of the next year is to increase the number of issues to four per year, instead of three so far. Much of the success of this planned innovation will depend on our key collaborators - potential authors and peer-reviewers, as this would imply the necessity to shorten an effective time of production of an issue.

This volume starts as usual with the section devoted to sampling methods and estimation. It is opened by **A. C. Onyeka's** paper *A Class of Product-Type Exponential Estimators of The Population Mean in Simple Random Sampling Scheme*. It presents a class of product-type exponential estimators for estimating the population mean using known values of some population parameters of an auxiliary character under the simple random sampling without replacement (SRSWOR) scheme. A modified exponential estimator is proposed based on both the ratio-type and the product-type exponential estimators. Properties of the proposed estimators are obtained up to first order approximation. The modified exponential estimator under optimum conditions is shown to be more efficient than the simple sample mean and the ratio-type and product-type exponential estimators, as proven also by an empirical illustration.

The article *The Class of Estimators of Finite Population Mean Using Incomplete Multi-Auxiliary Information* by **Meenakshi Srivastava** and **Neha Garg** discusses a class of estimators for the mean of the finite population using available incomplete multi-auxiliary information. Some special cases of this class of estimators are considered and theoretical results are numerically supported. All the proposed estimators are more efficient for mean estimation. Authors conclude that the maximum use of available incomplete multi-auxiliary information can increase the efficiency of the estimators.

Turgay Ünalán and **H. Öztaş Ayhan** devote their paper on *Probability Sample Selection Method in Household Surveys when Current Data on Regional Population is Unavailable* to the problems with establishing the appropriate probability of selection of surveyed households when the quality sampling frame is not available. Such situations are taking place in developing countries where surveys planned for future periods long after the census date

cannot be representative. This creates under-coverage and bias for estimations. Therefore, population projections and data adjustment methodologies are proposed to provide a representative probability selection of the updated population. The method contains the correction on the differences of the sum of strata and aggregated values. Examples are also provided to demonstrate the potentials of the proposed methodology.

Janusz L. Wywiał's paper *Sampling Designs Proportionate to Sum of Two Order Statistics of Auxiliary Variable* discusses the case of a conditional sampling design proportional to the sum of two order statistics. Several strategies including the Horvitz-Thompson estimator and ratio-type estimators are checked for their accuracy and compared on the basis of computer simulation which allows one to expect the estimation strategies with the sampling design. In general, the accuracies of the considered ratio type strategies showed to be the best among all the strategies considered in the analysis. Some reservation to these conclusion is however advised given that the employed computer simulation was based on special data set and that a simulation analyses on a larger scale is still needed to establish such a type of generality.

Two research papers make up the *research articles* section. **Nicholas T. Longford** and **Ioana C. Salagean** in their paper *The Effect of Unemployment Benefits on Labour Market Behaviour in Luxembourg* estimate the effect of awarding unemployment benefits on gaining long-term employment after an unemployment spell and on the time it takes to achieve it. To this aim they apply the potential outcomes framework, and they conclude that such awards, regarded as a treatment, are associated with poorer labour force outcomes than no awards. The authors show that their conclusions are unequivocally negative about the benefit. Unemployment spells associated with benefits tend to be longer, even after matching on background.

In article *Households' Saving Mobility in Poland* **Barbara Liberda** and **Marek Pęczkowski** examine the mobility of Polish households with regard to saving rates during the years 2007-2010, and compare it with the households' saving mobility during the years 1997-2000 using panel data constructed from the Household Budget Surveys. The Markov mobility matrix was employed to estimate the long-term (ergodic) distribution of households according to the saving rates. The long-term households' distribution reveals a tendency towards polarization of households in terms of saving rates. However, the polarization showed to be asymmetrical towards the highest saving rate groups what allows the authors to conclude that it explains why Polish households could maintain rising savings during the highly uncertain period of the financial crisis in 2007-2010.

The main part of the *other articles* section constitutes **Andrzej Młodak's** paper *Coherence and Comparability as Criteria of Quality Assessment in Business Statistics*. The problems of coherence and comparability exceed the classical notion of analysis of survey errors due to including the question of how results of two or more surveys can be used together and how the relevant data can

effectively be compared to obtain a better picture of social and economic phenomena over various aspects (e.g. space or time). This paper discusses characteristics of the main concepts of coherence and comparability as well as a description of differences and similarities between these two notions. Types of coherence and various aspects of perception of these notions in business statistics are analysed. Main sources of lack of coherence and comparability, factors affecting them (e.g. methodology, time, region, etc.) and methods of their measurement in context of information obtained from businesses are also presented.

The next paper, *Statistics As a Profession - Statistician As an Occupation: Observations and Comments From a Panel of Experts* by **Włodzimierz Okrasa** and **Beata Witek** has a bit different character as being based on the results (observations and comments) of a specially organized panel to discuss the issue of the status and the role of statistics as a discipline along with the challenging issue of how to ensure that its followers, statisticians, meet the quality standards in the more and more demanding professional environment. Major panel's contributors were leading representatives of academia: Prof. Prof. Cz. Domanski, J. Dziechciarz, M. Krzyśko, M. Rocki and J. Wywiał. Contributions from highly competent audience are included as well.

Three notes on the past conferences, followed by above mentioned announcement on the upcoming conference devoted to the International Year of Statistics, conclude this volume.

Włodzimierz Okrasa

Editor

