

## Director's Message – April 2018



Dear ISI members,

This Spring, at least for those in the Northern Hemisphere, ISI has been experiencing some exciting developments, which I would like to share with you.

At the start of the year, we launched the ISI webshop – just in time for the 2018 renewal of ISI and Associations memberships. The feedback we received from members who used it was very positive. We were delighted to hear that the webshop is user friendly and proved to be successful in serving its intended purpose of updating membership details and facilitating membership payments.

The development of the webshop took several years and we had many obstacles to overcome. Nevertheless, with the common effort of the developer Ewan Crawford and the staff of the ISI Permanent Office, we succeeded in completing this complex project. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone involved for all the hard work in getting the webshop running. Needless to say, we are still working 'back office' on removing remaining inconsistencies, and when the work is completed, we will continue improving its usability and functionality.

In March, the ISI Executive Committee (EC) visited Kuala Lumpur for its periodic meeting and a meeting with the [WSC 2019](#) National Organising Committee (NOC). We were impressed by the progress made in the WSC preparations so far and the commitment demonstrated by the national organisers. The NOC updated the EC on some of the attractive features as part of the WSC 2019. Importantly, the recently announced 2<sup>nd</sup> International Prize in Statistics will be presented to the winner at the ISI 2019 Opening Ceremony. [Nominations](#) for the prize are open until 15 August 2018.

For the ISI office, more exciting events are around the corner. The EC approved the proposal to host the WSC 2021 in The Hague, The Netherlands. The organization of this WSC will include a drastic change in the organisational model. It is the ISI itself who will be in the driving seat and thus the main organiser – of course with the support of Statistics Netherlands and the VVS+OR (The Dutch Statistical Society).

The staff of the ISI office are excited to work towards the success of this new model. At the same time, we see challenges lying ahead. We will need to work with strategic partners and establish long-term relationships with sponsors. An example of such long-term relationship is the recent [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) ISI signed with [Esri](#). The MoU focuses on collaboration in the area of statistical geospatial integration, capacity building and education. Esri and ISI are planning to organize a student competition using the Esri software.

Last but not least, you may have been informed already about the [European Union General Data Protection Regulation](#) (GDPR) coming into force on 25 May 2018. This Regulation extends the scope of the EU data protection law for the processing of individual data and is directly applicable in all EU and EEA member states. The GDPR dictates that the processing

of personal data is only allowed if there is a lawful basis. The rights of the individual data subject have been strengthened – including the right ‘to be forgotten’. The aim is to have one uniform privacy protection regime in EU in order to enable easier data exchange within the EU/EEA. At the same time, personal data cannot be transferred to countries outside the European Union unless they guarantee the same level of data protection. There are serious fines involved in cases of breach. Like professional organisations within the EU/EEA, ISI has started work on adapting its privacy policy and is taking the necessary steps to adhere to the GDPR. In the coming period we will inform the ISI and Association members about their rights and obligations and the new rules that will apply.

Ada van Krimpen  
ISI Director