

2021-12-01

Director's Message

Messages & Reports



Time to say goodbye... But not yet.

The month of December is always a time of reflection on the past year. At the same time, we look forward to the new year. 2022 will be a special year for me as I plan to retire in July, after more than 12,5 years at the ISI. In my capacity as ISI Director, my first WSC was in Durban, South Africa in 2009. I attended many WSCs before that, when I was Head of International Relations at Statistics Netherlands, but this was a completely new experience. Since then, together with the dedicated and enthusiastic teams in the host countries, we have organized six WSCs: in Hong Kong, Dublin, Rio de Janeiro, Marrakech, Kuala Lumpur and the virtual one in 2021. The spirit one enjoys during a physical WSC is amazing, it gives lots of inspiration and energy to our work. In addition to the WSCs, I was involved in the organization of many other events, regional conferences, management workshops in Africa and Asia. I participated in the UN Statistical Commission on behalf of the ISI and worked with dedicated members of the ISI Executive Committee and my great team at the ISI Permanent Office. It was an intensive and fulfilling experience. I hope my successor will continue building on this experience and will bring the ISI to new heights. The Executive Committee will start the search for the new ISI Director early 2022. If you know of any good candidates, please let me know.

2021 has been an exceptional year for all of us. The pandemic has had a major impact on our lives, our work and our relationships with others. Last year we were optimistic and hopeful that a vaccine would help us get back to our normal lives. The reality is that the 'normal' is not in sight but we are all looking for the light at the end of the tunnel. At the ISI office, one colleague was infected by COVID-19, but has largely recovered. So we feel blessed that we are healthy and safe and I really hope that it is the case for most of you. At the same time, I wish lots of strength to those of our members who were affected by the pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, 2021 has been a successful year for ISI. We conducted a very successful pre-WSC online short course programme (SCP), which consisted of 20 courses attended by a total of 455 participants. I would like to thank all the instructors and participants for contributing to the success of the programme. The second edition of the online SCP will run in 2022, more details will be available soon. For the WSC 2023 in Ottawa, we are preparing an on-site SCP, more information on it will be shared in due course. One of the other successful projects this year was the ISI & Associations webinar programme. For those who missed their favorite webinar, they are all available for watching on demand in our webinars library.

The virtual WSC 2021 proved to be a success, but it required a lot of time and effort from the ISI PO team; this time there was no host country we could rely on. The WSC was attended by 1,600 participants spread over 5 days, and included 232 scientific sessions and 50 e-posters, which is a great result. People have indicated their appreciation of the online version of our congress, but of course we are all looking forward to meeting each other in person in Ottawa in July 2023. I plan to attend the WSC 2023 and meet my friends from the statistical community. The work on the WSC 2023 has already started and we are sure it will be a successful event, a place where we can meet in person, but also offer facilities for those who aren't able to join personally. Follow our news and social media posts to stay up to date.

Last but not least, an email regarding membership renewal for 2022 is currently being sent to all of our members. I thank you in advance for renewing your membership and helping keep ISI up and running!

Let me finish by wishing you a happy, safe and healthy New Year!

Ada van Krimpen
ISI Director

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