

## President's Annual Report 2003-2004

*Dr. Diego Kuonen, President of the SSS-BI*

It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Annual Report for the past year – particularly in this year that marks the 1st anniversary of the founding of the section “Business and Industry” (SSS-BI).

Let me briefly retrace its birth. During the conference dinner of the “Swiss Statistics Meeting 2002” a group of statisticians working in business and industry discussed about the possible creation of a new Section of the Swiss Statistical Society (SSS) entitled “Statistics in Business and Industry”. A result of this fruitful discussion was the creation of its drafted bylaws. This led to its unofficial birth: the Section’s constitutional assembly on May 9, 2003, in Bern. A first committee was put together, and the goals of the SSS-BI, according to the bylaws agreed upon, are:

- Representing the interests of statisticians working in business and industry.
- Providing a platform for the coordination and the development of statistical training programs with applications in business and industry.
- Organising conferences in coordination with the other activities of the SSS and its other Sections, e.g. the organisation of specific sessions within the annual “Swiss Statistics Meeting”.
- Promoting the contact among statisticians working in business and industry on the national as well as on the international level.
- Promoting the contact with other organizations with similar objectives.

You will find the complete bylaws in French and German on the Section’s homepage at [www.stat.ch/sssbil/](http://www.stat.ch/sssbil/). The official birth was then on October 30, 2003, during the general assembly of the SSS at the “Swiss Statistics Meeting” in Montreux. The first official general assembly of the SSS-BI – marking its 1st official anniversary – will be on November 18, 2004, in the context of the Swiss Statistics Meeting in Aarau, Switzerland, which will be held on November 17-19, 2004; please find further information at [www.statoo.ch/sst04/](http://www.statoo.ch/sst04/). You are all kindly invited to celebrate this anniversary with us in Aarau.

The first committee of the SSS-BI has had a very productive year and is pleased to count already about 70 SSS-BI members. Since its official birth in October 2003 the committee met several times, exchanged a huge amount of emails, and tried to do his best to fulfil the section’s ambitious goals. One of the first things we did was the creation of promotion material for the SSS-BI, which is available in English, French and German on the SSS-BI homepage at [www.stat.ch/sssbil/](http://www.stat.ch/sssbil/). Feel free to use the SSS-BI presentation and/or the SSS-BI flyer to pass the word about the SSS-BI to your friends and colleagues. Thanks in advance for your help.

With regards to the above goals additional efforts can be summarised as follows:

- The SSS-BI was and is heavily involved in the construction of the scientific programme and the organisation of last year’s and this year’s “Swiss Statistics Meeting”.
- The SSS-BI is actively promoting the contact with the Basel Biometric Society (BBS), a Section of the “Region Austria-Switzerland” of the “International Biometric Society”

(IBS), and with other organizations with similar objectives. For example, with the forthcoming Section "Statistics in Business and Industry" (SBI) of the "International Statistical Institute" (ISI). As such, the SSS-BI will co-organise the international symposium ISBIS 4. This satellite meeting to the 55th Session of the ISI will be held on April 13-16, 2005, in Cairns, Australia. The SSS-BI representative in the program committee of ISBIS 4 is Dr. Yves-Laurent Grize, committee member of the SSS-BI. More information about ISBIS 4 is available at [www.action-m.com/isbis4/](http://www.action-m.com/isbis4/). Furthermore, the SSS-BI will also co-organise the annual meeting of the "International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB)", which will be held on August 27-31, 2006, in Geneva, Switzerland. As such, Dr. Diego Kuonen, president of the SSS-BI, will be representing the SSS-BI as a member of its scientific programme committee.

Our main activity, however, was and is the recruitment of new members for the SSS-BI. Note that at current, if you are a SSS member the membership is free of charge. So, if you are a SSS member and if you want to join us, please send an email to the treasurer. If you are not a SSS member you can fill in the SSS application form at [www.stat.ch](http://www.stat.ch) by indicating that you would like to join our Section.

For the next year we will continue to try to do our best to continue fulfilling the SSS-BI's ambitious goals. In addition, we will set up a working group entitled "Public awareness". Its objective is to discuss ways on how to make efforts to increase public awareness of statistics through promoting better knowledge on statistical methodologies, proper use of statistical data as well as better understanding of the scope, definition and uses of statistics among the general public. If you would like to participate actively in this working group, please contact one of the SSS-BI committee members.

Looking back it was and is a great pleasure for me to preside and to work together with a motivated Committee of volunteers. Many thanks to all of my colleagues from the Committee for the nice moments, the fruitful and interesting discussions and for sharing the same vision about the SSS-BI. Lastly I want to thank all the members of the SSS for their interest and support especially those members who contribute actively to encouraging interest for the SSS-BI.

In case you have any remarks and/or questions concerning the SSS-BI, or if you would like to participate actively within the SSS-BI, please do not hesitate contacting one of the Committee members. You will find further information at [www.stat.ch/sssbj/](http://www.stat.ch/sssbj/). Thanks in advance for helping to pass the word about the SSS-BI to your friends and colleagues.

*Lausanne, September 2004*

