



IASE News March 2022

IASE Executive News written by Ayse Aysin Bilgin (President of IASE)

We are living in unprecedented times. As well as impact of pandemic on our daily lives, there have been natural catastrophes around the world such as floods, earthquakes, fires and many more. Unfortunately, we are now also watching the disturbing events in Ukraine.

As a member of the ISI Council, I took part in discussions on what ISI and its associations should do in regards to the events in Ukraine. We have decided that ISI should make a public statement. The ISI public statement can be found at <https://www.isi-web.org/node/1404> (a copy of it is also attached to my email). IASE supports the ISI statement on Ukraine. We do have members from Ukraine and Russia, we will continue communicating with them however we will not be involved in any activities such as conferences, webinars, workshops in Russia. We withdraw our sponsorship from any event organised by Russian members, associations or organised in Russia until the situation changes. We strongly condemn the military aggression on Ukraine's population and unbearable damage to education and students in Ukraine.

We reached out to colleagues in Ukraine and Russia. Below I share a personal story from a Ukrainian colleague and short quotes from Russian colleagues.

A personal story - War in Ukraine

On February 24, we woke up at 5 am from the sounds of an alarm siren in Kyiv. Bomb explosions were heard. We hid in the basement. At that time, my youngest daughter was near Kiev, in the city of Bucha. She told us by phone that the airport in Gostomel was being bombed near their town. Russian troops landed there, and fierce battles are going on. We were warned about a large-scale Russian attack on Ukraine, but we did not believe it. The memorable phrase "Kyiv was bombed, we were told that the war had begun" immediately arose in my head about the beginning of World War II, when the Germans attacked the USSR at 4 am on June 22, 1941. The Russians mockingly called this military aggression an "operation." My daughter urgently left for Kyiv, and it saved her from the suffering and deprivation experienced by people who remained in this region (cities Bucha, Irpen, Gostomel) and cannot leave from there. Her former colleague tried to leave Irpen with his family, his car was fired upon by the Russian military. They miraculously managed to stay alive, and the car is not repairable.

On February 26 at night, we heard a strong explosion. This is not far from our house, about 1.5 km away the rocket hit a residential building at 6-A9 Lobanovsky Avenue (see photo).



Later, at the evening of March 2, a powerful explosion thundered in Kyiv near the central railway station. It's about 1 km from our house. The glass in our windows trembled. The large heating main was torn apart there. It was near the center of Kyiv.

In such conditions, we held out until March 4, 2022. When we learned that Kyiv was surrounded by Russian troops, we decided to go to friends in Western Ukraine. Traveled by car for 2 days. On the way, everywhere there was an atmosphere of readiness to meet the enemy with weapons in their hands. Some of the defenders even showed their hunting rifles.

Now we live in a village in a small house with our friends. This is a relatively safe place. But we always think about our relatives, colleagues and friends who stayed in Kyiv and its environs (Bucha, Irpin, Gostomel cities). They are having a very hard time right now. In addition, the residents of Mariupol, Sumy, Chernigov, Kharkov and other cities and villages are now having a very hard time, which the aggressor is mercilessly destroying, sparing neither children, nor women, nor the elderly. My friend lives in Mariupol. For 10 days they have not had electricity, water, gas and heating. It is impossible to contact him by phone. When there was a connection with him, he said that the inhabitants cook their own food on fires in the yard. People are dying of deprivation. The dead are buried right in the yards. This is a humanitarian catastrophe. Residents of Mariupol are being bombed and not allowed to leave the city. On March 9, 2022, Russian troops bombed a maternity hospital and a children's hospital (see photo). As a result of the bombing a children's hospital and maternity hospital in Mariupol, Donetsk region by Russian planes, three people were killed. Among them, one child is a girl. This was announced by the Mariupol City Council at the morning of March 10.



In connection with the Russian attack on Ukraine, our university announced holidays for students from February 24 to March 12 this year. Most likely, the holidays will be extended. This will negatively affect the quality of the educational process. Students dispersed throughout Ukraine and many abroad.

I am very pleased that at this tragic time for Ukraine we feel support from our foreign colleagues and friends (members of ISI). They write and call me from Germany, Sweden, Poland, India, Australia, Israel with support and offer to help me and my family.

I fully support the ISI statement. Russia's perfidious actions against Ukraine undermine the foundations of the global statistical system, when one of its fundamental requirements for statistical information is reliability. Official Russian statistics cannot be trusted. For example, the former director of the Research Institute of Statistics of the Federal State Statistics Service, an elected member of the International Statistical Institute, Professor Vasily Simchera (was born February 26, 1940– dead June 16, 2020) with the words: “I’m leaving, I’m tired of lying!” presented actual data for 2001-2010. Everywhere, the difference in actual values compared to official statistical estimates is two to three times or more. For example, the proportion of the population belonging to socially declassed groups, as a percentage of the total population. Officially: 1.5%. In fact: 45%. According to the Research Institute of Statistics (Rosstat), there are 12 million alcoholics in the country, more than 4.5 million drug addicts, and over 1 million street children.

In an interview with BUSINESS Online, he said: “The state ideology of disinformation has taken over and dominates in the country, and even greater disinformation is recognized as the only effective tool to combat it. Meanwhile, our science, as the highest intellectual authority, called upon to give an objective assessment of erroneously nominated phenomena, takes a neutral position in this struggle and by default becomes an accomplice. But the former domestic practice until recently, in no less difficult conditions of socio-economic development, qualified such ugly phenomena not only as immoral, but also criminal.”

They give false information about the situation in Ukraine and Russia and the consequences of military aggression. For the first time in a week since the beginning of the aggression, the Russian occupying troops admitted that they had losses in the war with Ukraine, but 10 times less than in reality. In particular, they reported that 498 Russian soldiers were killed and 1,597 Russians were injured.

At the same time, Ukrainian defenders report that during the 6 days of the war, the Russians lost about 6,000 people and thousands of pieces of military equipment in Ukraine. The shelling of the Russian invaders claimed the lives of about 2,000 civilians.



Yes, we are having hard times. Our military installations and cities are being bombed. We hide in the basement. But we believe in our victory. We hope that prudence will overcome evil.

Quotes from colleagues in Russia

“We are forced to live in turbulent time with unpredictable consequences.”

“we hope for the soonest settlement of the issue.”

ICOTS 11 News

If you have submitted an abstract, you would be getting decisions on your submissions.

There is still time to submit an abstract for posters and Special Interest Groups (SIG) (see important dates at <https://icots.info/11/?dates>).

SERJ News

New Advisory Board chair of SERJ is Prof Rolf Biehler and the incoming Editor in Chief is Dr Susan A. Peters from the University of Louisville, US.

We have presented a recognition certificate to the previous chair, Prof Jane Watson for her excellent service to IASE by being the first SERJ Advisory Board Chair and leading the strategic decision making for our flagship journal. We also presented recognition certificates to outgoing AB members Mike Shaughnessy from the Portland State University, US and Rebecca Nichols from the American Statistical Association, US.

You can read the articles published in SERJ at <https://iase-web.org/ojs/SERJ/index>

64th World Statistics Congress

The Chair of the Scientific Programme Committee (SPC), Mark Podolskij, invites the statistical community to prepare proposals for the Invited Paper Sessions (IPS) programme.

The 64th WSC 2023, to be held 16–20 July in Ottawa, Canada, will highlight the developments and contributions of statistics, statistical science, and data science in all aspects of life, particularly the well-being and welfare of people. The WSC 2023 will host talks and presentations on a wide variety of topics, with the overall goal of presenting a balanced programme that provides a sense of the current state and future direction of statistics and their applications.

Read the [full announcement](#) on the WSC 2023 website, as well as the [Guidelines for Session Organisers, Chairs, Presenters and Discussants](#).

General enquiries about the Scientific Programme should be directed to scientific@isi2023.org.

IASE online workshops and webinars for future or past IASE webinars can be found at <https://iase-web.org/Webinars.php>.

Our most recent webinar was titled “What does data science mean for statistics education?” presented by Rob Gould (USA) and Helen MacGillivray (Australia). If you missed it go to webinar web page to watch the recording.

There is a webinar organised by Adults Learning Mathematics (ALM) in association with IASE on 14 March 2022. You can find the details of it and register by going to our webinar’s web page.

Pip Arnold had been busy organising the future webinars, she already secured presenters for April and May. Keep an eye on the webinar web page.

IASE Discussion Forum for collaboration and communication Have you logged into IASE online forum yet? If not, here is the link for registering for the forum <https://iase-web.org/forum/index.php?action=register> and more information at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gBRs7Iaouuf9jOgUObwYevFJ0YTnV9H8Ci40zTxi7_8/edit

COMMUNITY NEWS

MATTEX is a scientific conference with international participation, which is organized jointly by the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics and the Faculty of Technical Sciences of the University of Shumen.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pavlina Kalcheva Yordanova is organising a session "Statistics and data science in education" in this conference. The official languages are English and Bulgarian. There will be Conference proceedings with presented talks. Although, the conference web site is in Bulgarian, if you use Google Chrome, it can easily be translated into English with a click on the web page http://info.fmi.shu-bg.net/pages.php?p_id=48

For further information, please follow the web link or contact A/Prof Yordanova (<https://www.shu.bg/faculties-fmi/teachers/?faculties=fmi&teacherId=166&biography>)

PISTAR Workshops

Prof. Dr. Saleha Naghmi Habibullah organised the first IASS-Sponsored Day-Long Virtual Conference on Latest Developments in the Theory and Practice of Sample Surveys and Censuses (<https://www.isi-web.org/events/node-1364>).
