

INTERNATIONAL BIOMETRIC SOCIETY – NORDIC-BALTIC REGION (IBS-NBR)

Bulletin No. 1, 2014

Dear IBS members from the Nordic-Baltic Region,

This is the first Regional Bulletin issued by the new Regional Committee and first presidential address by myself. It has been too long time since you saw the last bulletin of the Region. We are sorry for the delay and are hoping to provide you with more regular updates from now on.



Looking back to year 2013, the main event of the Nordic-Baltic Region was the Regional Conference in Stockholm, in June 10-12. The conference brought together more than 80 participants from than 13 countries. The excellent scientific program, put together by scientific programme committee led by Yudi Pawitan included a wide range of topics from different methodological and application areas of Biometrics. The LOC led by Paul Dickman did a great job putting together the event as well as providing nice opportunities for social communication at the welcome reception and dinner cruise onboard the m/s Riddarholmen.

We are already looking forward to our next regional conference, NBBC15 in Reykjavik, Iceland, in June 2015. The Scientific Programme committee under the leadership of Magne Thoresen (Norway) and the Local Organizing Committee led by Birgir Hrafnkelsson are already working hard to put together an exciting programme. Of course, any ideas and suggestions from the IBS-NBR members are also welcome!

Looking at our membership numbers with 70 current members we could say we are doing well as the IBS Region. However, given the large number of individuals involved in research and practice of biometry in the Nordic and Baltic Countries, we could do much better. Therefore it is extremely important for us all to stop and think more about how we could make IBS more attractive organization to join in this region of the world. All ideas for educational or scientific activities are more than welcome. We must also realize that not all countries in the Region are equally represented. There are only 7 current IBS members from the largest country of the region, Sweden – even less than from Estonia (8 members). Unfortunately there are no members at all from Latvia. Feel free to express your thoughts using our mailing list ibs-nbr@googlegroups.com.

Although there is no regional conference in plan this year, I would like to draw your attention to the International Biometric Conference, IBC2014, taking place in beautiful Florence, July 5-11, 2014. I look forward to meet many IBS-NBR members in Italy this July!

Krista Fischer

Here is the content of the first bulletin of 2014:

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1 Current regional committee

Since 2013, the IBS Nordic-Baltic Region is governed from Estonia. The president is Krista Fischer, treasurer Mait Raag and secretary Silva Kasela (both Mait and Silva started in their roles in 2014).

Krista has been an active member of the IBS since 1994 and she was an initiator of joining the IBS Baltic Group with the Nordic Region in 2007. She is currently working as a senior researcher at the Estonian Genome Center, University of Tartu. Silva is a PhD student at the Estonian Genome Center and Mait is working as a lecturer at the Institute of Public Health, University of Tartu.

2 Mailing list

A new mailing list ibs-nbr@googlegroups.com has been created. The purpose of the list is to give notifications regarding IBS-NBR; it is suitable to post information about events that are related to IBS-NBR members, as well. It is possible to post directly to the mailing list via Google Groups or by sending the message first to Silva.Kasela@ut.ee. The list is moderated and every post is reviewed by listmaster before sending to the members of the list. Please send a request to Silva.Kasela@ut.ee if you have not been included to the list yet.

3 Members

At the end 2012 IBS-NBR had 69 members. Out of 69 members 15 did not continue their membership, including 6 members who were unreachable. Meanwhile, 54 new members joined by attending NBBR conference. Thus, by the end of 2013 IBS-NBR had 108 members.

In 2014 up to 43 members did not continue their membership, including 41 persons who got their membership by attending NBBR 2013. On the other hand 8 new members joined (3 of them have been members of IBS-NBR before). At the moment IBS-NBR has 70 members.

Country	May 10, 2014
Denmark	13
Estonia	8
Finland	23
Iceland	2
Lithuania	4
Norway	10
Sweden	7
Other	3
Total	70

4 Accrual accounts 2013

The IBS-NBR funds were transferred from Norway to Estonia in December. Accrual accounts for 2013:

Income

Membership fees

Senior	50,00 EUR
Regular	4150,00 EUR
Reduced	34,80 EUR

Journal subscriptions

Biometrics	80,30 EUR
Biometrics reduced	0,00 EUR
JABES	21,90 EUR
JABES reduced	0,00 EUR

Revenue from conferences

NBBC 2013	0,00 EUR
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Total income	4337,00 EUR
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Expenditure

Transferral of membership fee to IBS	-3846,49 EUR
Payment for short course at NBBC 2013	-1393,84 EUR
Bank transfer fees	-12,20 EUR

Total expenditure	-5252,53 EUR
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Total net gain (loss)	-915,53 EUR
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Reserves

Transferral from previous year (2012)	19736,48 EUR
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Total reserves	19736,48 EUR
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Balance at 2013-12-31	18820,95 EUR
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5 NBBC 2013

The 4th Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference, NBBC13, was held in Stockholm, Sweden from 10 to 12 June 2013. The conference was aimed at novel developments and applications of statistical and mathematical methods in the field of bioscience. Ten internationally recognized researchers gave a speech and, in addition, 55 contributed abstracts were accepted for oral or poster presentation.

Photos from NBBC2013 in Stockholm:



SPC chair of NBBC13 Yudi Pawitan chairing a session



LOC Chair Paul Dickman grilling sausages for the participants at the Welcome Reception



Conference participants onboard of m/s Riddarholmen

6 Forthcoming events

- 2014-05-30 – 2014-06-04: [course/school] Statistical Practice in Epidemiology using R, Tartu, Estonia; <http://bendixcarstensen.com/SPE/>
- 2014-06-02 – 2014-06-06: [conference] NORDSTAT 2014, the 25th Nordic conference in Mathematical statistics, Turku, Finland; <http://www.utustats.fi/nordstat-2014/>
- 2014-06-08 – 2014-08-21: [course/school] Summer School on Modern Methods in Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Cison di Valmarino, Italy; <http://www.biostat.epi.org/>
- 2014-07-05 – 2014-07-11: [conference] International Biometric Conference 2014, Florence, Italy; <http://www.ibs-italy.info/ibc-2014.html>

- 2014-08-24 – 2014-08-28: [conference] LINSTAT 2014, The International Conference on Trends and Perspectives in Linear Statistical Inference, Linköping, Sweden; <http://www.mai.liu.se/LinStat2014/>
- 2014-08-24 – 2014-08-28: [conference] The 35th Annual Conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, Vienna, Austria, <http://iscb2014.info/>
- 2014-08-28 – 2014-08-30: [conference] The 23rd Annual Conference of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society, Vienna, Austria, <http://www.geneticepi.org/iges-2014/>

We encourage all IBS members in the Nordic and Baltic countries to submit news, comments or other relevant stuff for the bulletin to the secretary: Silva.Kasela@ut.ee

7 Niels Keiding 70



The Biometrics community in the Nordic-Baltic Region wishes Happy 70th Birthday to Professor Niels Keiding, Honorary Life Member of the International Biometric Society since 2008. Niels Keiding was the President of the International Biometric Society in 1992-93 and has been an active member of the IBS already since early 1970-s. Many of us know well his work on survival analysis as well as in causal inference. He is one of the rare biostatisticians who is equally well-known for his theoretical work as well as numerous practical applications. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 research articles and four books. In recent years, Niels has also provided valuable contribution to history of statistics. His overview of the history of the IBS Nordic Region in 1970-1995 is also seen on our homepage (<http://www.ibsnr.org/Nordic%20Region%20history.pdf>).

IBS Nordic-Baltic Region wishes Niels strong health and continuing energy for many coming years.