

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

Bulletin No. 1, 2015

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1 IBS-NBR President's Corner

Dear IBS-NBR members,

There are only 2 month left of the year 2015 and it is time to look back at the year 2015 in IBS-NBR. The highlight of the year was definitely the 5th Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference in Reykjavik. The participation rate exceeded our expectations – despite the venue being far from home for all others except icelanders themselves, the meeting attracted participants from 15 different countries. It is notable that a large proportion of participants (24 out of 110) came from outside of the Nordic-Baltic Region. I would like to thank Birgir Hrafnkelsson on behalf all attendees of the meeting for excellent local organization – everything went very smoothly and both scientific and social programme of the Conference were exciting and enjoyable.



The next Nordic-Baltic Biometric conference will be held in June 2017, in Copenhagen, Denmark. Prof. Torben Martinussen from the University of Copenhagen has agreed to lead the Local Organizing Committee and prof. Jaakko Nevalainen is leading the Scientific Programme Committee. The SPC has already started the discussions on topics of invited sessions and keynote lectures. However, any suggestions from the IBS-NBR members are very welcome and they could be forwarded to Jaakko (jaakko.nevalainen@utu.fi) or myself (Krista.Fischer@ut.ee).

Next year, in 2016, there will be no regional meeting, but we hope that a large number of IBS-NBR members will attend the International Biometric Conference (IBC-2016) in Victoria, Canada: <http://biometricconference.org/>. Do not miss the abstract deadline on 6 January 2016.

Thinking of our region, we still need to think how to make better use of the IBS for other educational and networking activities besides conferences. Worryingly, we still have a country in our region with no active IBS members – Latvia, and only three members from Lithuania. In case you know any (bio)statisticians from Latvia and Lithuania, please inform them on IBS and encourage them to join the Society.

Krista Fischer, Tartu, 2nd November, 2015

2 Overview of the memberships

At the beginning of 2014 there were 67 members in IBS NBR. Eleven members did not continue their membership in 2015, and 8 new members joined us by the beginning of 2015. The number of members by country at the beginning of 2015 was as follows:

Denmark	10
Estonia	8
Finland	23
Iceland	2
Latvia	1
Lithuania	3
Norway	8
Sweden	8
United Kingdom	1

3 Accrual accounts 2014

CASH FLOW	1.1.2014--31.12.2014	1.1.2013--31.12.2013
Income		
Membership fees		
Senior	75,00	50,00
Regular	2 500,00	4 150,00
Reduced	34,80	34,80
Journal subscriptions		
Biometrics	102,20	80,30
JABES	29,20	21,90
Deposit interest	15,95	-00
Total income	2 757,15	4 337,00
Expenditure		
Unpaid invoices	-300,00	-00
Transferral of membership fees to IBS	-2 429,29	-3 846,49
Payment for short course at NBBC 2013	-00	-1 393,84
Bank transfer fees	-11,82	-12,20
Total expenditure	-2 741,11	-5 252,53
Total net gain (loss)	16,04	-915,53
BALANCE	31.12.2014	31.12.2013
Reserves		
Transferral from previous year	18 820,95	19 736,48
Total reserves	18 836,99	18 820,95

4 Membership renewal for 2016

We are waiting for applications to prolong IBS NBR membership for 2016. As the USD / EUR rate has changed in recent years, it was decided at the Regional Council Meeting to set the membership fees for 2016 as following:

Regular	60,00 EUR
Regular (Latvia, Lithuania)	14,00 EUR
Senior retired	30,00 EUR
Student	0,00 EUR

All registered members have access to the members area of the [IBS website](http://www.biometricsociety.org/) (<http://www.biometricsociety.org/>) with online access to IBS journals: [Biometrics](#) and [Journal of Agricultural, Biological, and Environmental Statistics \(JABES\)](#), as well as [Biometric Bulletin](#).

Subscription to a print version of *Biometrics* or *JABES* either adds 10 EUR to the annual membership fee.

All questions regarding the membership fees and IBS-NBR regional account should be addressed to the regional treasurer Mait Raag (Mait.Raag@ut.ee).

5 NBBC 2015

The Nordic-Baltic region gathered for its 5th regional conference from June 8-10, 2015 in Reykjavik, Iceland. The conference was held at the Hilton Hotel and was hosted by the University of Iceland.

The conference was very successful and attracted about **110 participants** from **more than 15 different countries**. The local organizing committee was led by Birgir Hrafnkelsson (Iceland). The Scientific Program Committee led by Magne Thoresen (Norway) had done a great job putting together an exciting program, with three keynote talks, six invited sessions, more than 50 contributed talks divided into up to three parallel sessions, and a number of poster presentations.

Talks by the keynote speakers could be considered as the highlights of the conference: IBS president, John Hinde gave a talk on translational statistics and highlighted the importance of reproducible data analysis; Norwegian statistician, Odd Aalen gave a talk on new developments in causal inference; statistician at deCODE Genetics, Daníel Guðbjartsson fascinated the audience with the results of analyses of the whole genomes of a large fraction of Icelanders. Not less interesting were the contributing talks from different fields of biometric research, including fisheries, molecular biology, registry-based research, causal inference, forest structure modelling and analysis of psychiatric data.

In addition to the excellent scientific programme, an enjoyable social programme provided opportunities to mingle. The participants were invited to visit the high-tech company deCODE genetics where they got the opportunity to learn more about the company and the ongoing research there. The conference dinner took place at the historic building Iðnó which is a restaurant and theatre at the heart of Reykjavik. A stand-up comedian came for a visit to the conference dinner, adding even more to the fine atmosphere of the evening.

Some photographs (taken by Mait Raag) of the conference are shown here:



Poster session area



IBS president John Hinde, IBS NBR president Krista Fischer and members of IBS NBR from Lithuania enjoying the coffee break



Conference room A



Lovely Reykjavik

6 Regional Council Meeting

Regional council meeting was organized during the Nordic-Baltic Biometric Conference in Iceland on 10th June 2015. Birgir Hrafnkelsson (member of Regional Council, Iceland), Rimantas Eidukevicius (member of Regional Council, Lithuania), Magne Thoresen (member of Regional Council, Norway), Geir Egil Eide (IBS NBR Past President, Norway), Krista Fischer (IBS NBR President, Estonia), Mait Raag (IBS NBR Treasurer, Estonia), Silva Kasela (IBS NBR Secretary, Estonia), Theis Lange (Denmark) and Jaakko Nevalainen (Finland) attended the meeting.

Several important topics including members and membership fee, the next regional conference and the next Regional Executive Committee for 2017-2020 were discussed.

Minutes from Regional Council Meeting can be found on IBS-NBR web page.

7 IBS-NBR web page

The IBS-NBR webpage is <http://ibsnbr.org>.

If you have any suggestions regarding the web page, please send them to the Regional secretary Silva Kasela (silva.kasela@ut.ee).

If you would like to advertise an event/course/conference, you could use IBS-NBR mailing list by sending an e-mail to ibs-nbr@googlegroups.com.

8 Meetings in 2016

The XXVIIIth International Biometric Conference (IBC2016), July 10–15, 2016, Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. <http://biometricconference.org/>



The 10th Tartu Conference on Multivariate Statistics, 27 June - 2 July 2016, Tartu, Estonia
<http://www-1.ms.ut.ee/tartu16/>

Nordic Conference on Mathematical Statistics – NORDSTAT, 27 - 30 June 2016, Copenhagen University, Denmark

Joint Statistical Meetings, 30 July – 4 August, Chicago, U.S.A,
<http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2016/>

37th Annual Conference of the International Society of Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB37) in Birmingham, UK, 21-25 August 2016.

See also: <http://www.biometricsociety.org/meetings-events/events-calendar/> for IBS regional meetings and other events all over the world.

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