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## TWO DATA VIZ COMPETITIONS TO MARK WORLD STATISTICS DAY 2015

Not one, but two data visualization competitions are being held to commemorate World Statistics Day 2015. The first is sponsored by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) as part of its plans for the October 20 global celebration of statistics. The other is sponsored by Wiley and its Statistics Views program. Here's information about both competition so you can enter each:

## UNSD's #WSD2015 Data Visualization Challenge

As part of its celebration surrounding World Statistics Day 2015 and following the launch of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report, the UNSD last month announced the #WSD2015 Data Visualization Challenge competition.

The UNSD-backed contest challenges you or a team of up to three people to use creativity and imagination to build an infographic or dynamic visualization featuring the latest data from the 2015 MDG report.

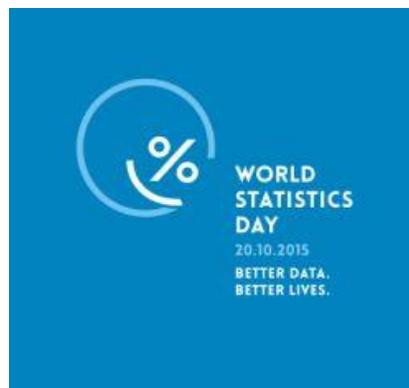
The winning solution will be announced October 20—World Statistics Day 2015. Also, the best visualizations will be showcased on the [UNSD website](#), on the [Unite Ideas website](#) and at related platforms worldwide.

### What is the Task?

Visualize the MDG data answering a development policy question such as the following:

- What are the interlinkages, synergies and tradeoffs between different targets? For instance, does achieving certain targets increase or decrease the likelihood of achieving other targets?
- What is the relationship of different types of official development assistance to the achievement of different MDG targets?
- What characteristics of least developing countries were most relevant to explain the achievement of development goals and targets?

These research questions are only examples; develop your own questions to put your analytical and data visualization skills to the test.



Final submissions must cover the following materials:

- A web link (url) to a working (live) demo
- Original code, data files and other electronic files hosted in a public repository
- A PDF document describing your project, which should include:
  - Abstract: A brief summary of the project (maximum 120 words).

- Problem and Motivation: A description of the problem you have addressed, explaining why it is relevant, what are the main variables involved, and what development policy questions you intend to address.
- Approaches: Describe the approaches used for examining and analyzing the data.
- Tools Utilized: Describe which technologies you leveraged in your project.
- Results: Describe how the results of your work may contribute to improve the use of data for development.

## Data

The project must use the indicators from the MDG database, [which can be accessed here](#). A tab delimited downloadable file also is available in the resource section on the right of the page. A comprehensive metadata repository for the MDG dataset is [available at this link](#).

In addition to the MDG database, participants are encouraged to use other international sources of official statistics to enhance their analysis (e.g., any series available in UN Data, World Bank Development Indicators, etc.).

## Who Can Participate?

The challenge is open to the general public. UNSD encourages the participation of students, data scientists, data journalists and graphic designers. Teams of up to three people can submit by acknowledging all contributors under the “description” field on the submissions form. Participants can submit as many times as they’d like, however, only their last submission will be judged. The submission deadline is September 20.

All solutions will be reviewed by the #WSD2015 Data Challenge Committee. Only original work will be accepted and judged following these criteria:

- Alignment with challenge objectives
- Sound data analysis and accuracy of results
- Originality
- Relevance
- Quality and organization of documentation presented

[Learn more and submit your data visualization.](#)

## Statistics Views Best Data Visualization Competition

[Statistics Views](#) and [Wiley](#) are sponsoring the Best Data Visualization Competition in recognition of World Statistics Day 2015. The winner gets the choice of an Apple Sports Watch or \$500 in Amazon vouchers.

The focus for this year’s global celebration is official statistics. For this competition, which closes October 2, entries should present international data from across all the world's continents. Entries will

be judged by a panel of representatives from the ASA, Royal Statistical Society and European Network of Industrial and Business Statistics.

[Click here for eligibility and submission guidelines](#). The winner will be announced October 20—World Statistics Day.

## **OECD WORLD FORUM ON STATISTICS, KNOWLEDGE AND POLICY COMING UP IN OCTOBER**

The 5th Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy will be held October 13-15 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The event is themed “Transforming Policy, Changing Lives”.

For over a decade, the OECD has been spearheading work on well-being measurement and policy, in line with its mission of promoting “Better Policies for Better Lives”. Many individuals and organisations around the world also have been part of a global call for better measures and policies for progress “beyond GDP”.

The OECD Forums on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy have been important drivers of this agenda, providing a space for all kinds of practitioners to take stock of experiences, learn from best practices, and gain inspiration for further change. Gradually, this work has led to a paradigm shift, one that puts people at the centre of public policies and collective action. In the process, the key question has evolved from “How do we measure progress?” to “How do we best put those measures into practice for policies aimed at improving lives?”



## **Transforming policy, changing lives** 5th OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy Guadalajara, Mexico | 13-15 October 2015

### **Moving from measurement to implementation**

The 5th OECD World Forum will address the latter question with a focus on action and implementation. It will provide an opportunity to showcase concrete examples of the impact of policies, frameworks and institutions that are using new well-being measures around the world, and will explore how this accumulated experience can contribute to country-level action in the pursuit of a new set of universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are now being discussed at the United Nations.

## **2015 is a year for change**

This year marks the deadline of the Millennium Development Goals and the launch of a new process to make sustainable development a reality worldwide. This shift will require a transformation in government policy and in people's behavior. The World Forum will highlight how the work of the OECD and others contribute to that process by promoting evidence-based, people-focused policy tools for enhancing people's well-being and fostering sustainable and inclusive economies. In addition to presenting relevant success stories at the local, country and international level, the Forum will foster the discussion of broader implementation issues across a number of topics of relevance to the SDG agenda, including inequalities, livable cities, trustworthy institutions, peaceful and cohesive societies, job quality, lifelong learning, mental health, social mobility, increasing resilience of marginalised groups as well as sustainable and inclusive economic development.

For the first time, the OECD World Forum will be held in Latin America, in Guadalajara, Mexico. It is a fitting location for an event focused on the themes of transformation and policy innovation as Latin America as a region, and Mexico in particular, has experienced immense change in recent decades. The Forum is co-organised with INEGI, the Mexican National Statistical Institute, which has been at the forefront of experimentation and development of new statistical measures of well-being. Organizers are thankful for the support provided by the state of Jalisco, the host, in the preparation of the Forum.

Several high-level speakers already have been confirmed, including the following individuals:

- Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General
- Joseph E. Stiglitz, professor of economics, business and international affairs at Columbia University and Nobel Laureate in economic sciences
- Rebeca Grynspan, secretary-general of the Ibero-American General Secretariat
- Fabrizio Barca, Ministry for Economy and Finance, former minister for Territorial Cohesion, Italy
- Richard Layard, director of the Well-Being Programme Centre for Economic Performance at the London School of Economics
- Alicia Bárcena, executive secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Aïcha bah Diallo, chair of the Forum of African Women Educationalists
- José Antonio Meade, Mexico's minister of Foreign Affairs
- David Miller, CEO of the World Wildlife Fund Canada and former mayor of Toronto
- Gus O'Donnell, chair of Frontier Economics and former United Kingdom cabinet secretary

[Click here for more information about the OECD World Forum, including the agenda and registration.](#)

## **U.S. CHIEF DATA SCIENTIST SPOTLIGHTS STATISTICS IN JSM 2015 VIDEO ADDRESS**

In a recorded video message to attendees of the 2015 Joint Statistical Meetings in Seattle earlier this month, U.S. Chief Data Scientist DJ Patil spoke about why the work of statisticians is so critical to the country and urged more multidisciplinary collaboration to meet the unique opportunities before the nation.

Calling statisticians the backbone of how the United States has dealt with data for centuries and citing their contributions to innovation, Patil noted a new opportunity to become increasingly data-driven through greater collaboration among the many disciplines comprising data science.

On the question of what to call ourselves—i.e., statistician, data scientist, economist, Patil drove home the importance of working together on how we take data to transform it into insight and wisdom and ultimately better policy and evaluation of policy. He urged more multidisciplinary collaboration to meet unique, emerging opportunities such as creating the next generation of health care, yielding more benefit from data for local communities, and developing groundbreaking applications.

Speaking directly to students, Patil congratulated them on attending the research conference and implored them to treasure the opportunity. He recommended students consider public service, a rewarding career given the scope and impact of the problems to be addressed, especially with a statistics background. Patil also praised the many amazing statisticians in federal service. [View the three-and-a-half minute video.](#)

### **RSS LAUNCHES E-COURSES IN STATISTICS AND SCIENCE FOR JOURNALISTS**

The United Kingdom's Royal Statistical Society (RSS) this month launched [two free online courses for journalists on statistics and science.](#)

The journalism e-learning modules, funded by the Department of Business and Innovation (BIS), takes journalists through a range of real-life scenarios related to statistics, surveys, scientific research and uncertainty. Each highlights questions to ask, pitfalls to look out for and how to communicate clearly to an audience.



The courses are targeted at all journalists and journalism students, particularly those without statistical or scientific training. Statistics for journalists helps journalists to question and report on basic statistics that are central to many everyday stories, including surveys and polls, percentages and uncertainty. Science for journalists provides an overview of where scientific and health stories start—how science works and is communicated, key questions to ask and how to find suitable experts. Each self-guided course takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete. Both are [available free of charge on the RSS website.](#)

The courses are based on presentations developed through the RSS Science Journalism Programme, which were developed and delivered by volunteers to journalists and journalism students across the country from 2010 to 2015.

[Click here](#) for full programme details, including example syllabuses, presentations and resources, and the network of tutors who volunteer to deliver presentations on statistics and science in newsrooms and at universities.

## THE WORLD OF STATISTICS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Following are The World of Statistics participating organization-sponsored events and activities around the world scheduled for the remainder of this month and September. [Click here](#) to see the complete 2015 calendar. Remember to submit your organization's events for the calendar by [using this convenient form](#). And, start sending us your 2016 activities and events [using the same form](#).

### August:

- **August 19-20**—[Big Data and Statistics School](#), University of Costa Rica School of Statistics, San José, Costa Rica
- **August 24-26, 2015**—[National Conference on Health Statistics](#), National Center for Health Statistics, North Bethesda, Maryland, USA
- **August 31-September 4, 2015**—[Opening Workshop of the 2015-2016 Program on Statistics and Applied Mathematics in Forensic Science](#), Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA

### September:

- **September 2-5, 2015**—[IXth International Conference on Multiple Comparisons Procedures](#); MCP.org; C.R. Rao Advanced Institute of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science; International Indian Statistical Association; International Chinese Statistical Association; Hyderabad, India
- **September 7-10, 2015**—[RSS 2015 International Conference](#), Royal Statistical Society, Exeter, United Kingdom
- **September 7-11, 2015**—[Nigerian Statistical Association Annual Pre-Conference and Conference: Osun](#); Nigerian Statistical Association, Central Bank of Nigeria, National Bureau of Statistics, National Petroleum Corporation, and Nigerian Port Authority; Osogbo, Nigeria
- **September 9-11, 2015**—[Statistics and Demography: The Legacy of Corrado Gini](#), The Italian Statistical Society, Treviso, Italy
- **September 9-11, 2015**—[10th International Symposium on Computer Science in Sports](#), International Association of Computer Science in Sport, Loughborough, United Kingdom
- **September 14-15, 2015**—[DStatG Junior Workshop](#), German Statistical Society, Hamburg, Germany
- **September 15-18, 2015**—[Statistical Week](#), Association of German Municipal Statisticians, Hamburg, Germany

- **September 16–18, 2015**—[ASA Biopharmaceutical Section-FDA Industry Statistics Workshop](#), ASA Biopharmaceutical Section and U.S. Food and Drug Administration Statistical Association, Washington, D.C., USA
- **September 17-18, 2015**—[An Introduction to Sequence Analysis](#), Applied Quantitative Methods Network, Edinburgh, United Kingdom
- **September 19-22, 2015**—[2015 International Total Survey Error Conference](#), Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS), Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- **September 20-23, 2015**—[Applied Statistics 2015](#); Statistical Society of Slovenia, University of Ljubljana and Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia; Ribno (Bled), Slovenia
- **September 26, 2015**—[2015 New England Symposium on Statistics in Sports](#), NESSIS, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA

## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATION NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics:

**Australia**—The University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in Toowoomba will celebrate World Statistics Day 2015—October 20—by hosting Dr. Neil Gordon of the Defence Science & Technology Group based in Adelaide and Dr. Ross Darnell, principal research scientist at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Brisbane.

Gordon, who was part of the Australian team to search for missing Malaysian Airline Flight MH37, will speak on “Bayesian Statistics and the Search for Flight MH370”. On March 7 last year, MH370 carrying 239 passengers and crew from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing lost contact with air traffic control and was subsequently reported missing. In his talk, Gordon, a member of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau search advisory team, will show how Bayesian statistical estimation methods have been used to process the Inmarsat data and produce a probability distribution of MH370 flight paths that defines the current search zone in the southern Indian Ocean.



Darnell will present a talk titled “Data Literacy in a World of Big Data”. There is an increasingly large amount of data available either publicly or available to scientists across the globe. Making honest predictions from these data is not necessarily determined by quantity. Even large datasets can be generated with limitations which define their quality. In his talk, Darnell will argue data scientists need to be trained to understand these limitations of empirical evidence.

In the opening session, Professor Shahjahan Khan, the event organiser, will provide a brief introduction on “Why World Statistics Day?”

**Ethiopia**—Bahir Dar University will host the Bahir Dar International Conference on Mathematics and Statistics Education September 15-20. The dual conference themes are “Statistics Education for Sustainable Development in Africa” and “Mathematics Education: Improving Quality and Introducing Technology at All Academic Levels in Africa”. The mathematics education segment (AFRICME) has previously been presented in some African countries, while the conference on statistics education (AFRICOTS) is to be conducted on the continent for the first time.



Eminent personalities, including presidents of international mathematics education and international statistics education organizations, will participate. Twenty international speakers are expected to present. The first two days will be devoted to parallel workshops on mathematics and statistics education. Details can be found on the [conference webpage](#). Organizers invite interested individuals to attend the event. Direct your questions to Dr. Essey Kebede of the Bahir Dar University Department of Statistics via phone at 0923297333.

**United States**—The 2015 International Total Survey Error Conference will take place September 19-22 in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference, which is sponsored by the [Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics](#) (COPAFS) with support from Kellen Company, will highlight the use of the total survey error framework to understand and address issues of data quality in official statistics and in survey, opinion and market research.

Presentations and short courses will explore new tools and approaches for understanding the sources of error and developing methods for reducing total error. Keynote speakers are Colm O'Muircheartaigh from the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and a NORC senior fellow, and Abe Usher, chief technology officer for HumanGeo.



Among the many invited talk topics are the following highlighted sessions:

- Big Data: A Survey Research Perspective
- The Role of Statistical Disclosure Limitation in Total Survey Error
- Mobile Web Surveys: A Total Survey Error Perspective

During the conference, attendees will network at a reception with fellow statisticians, survey managers and methodologists, pollsters, public opinion researchers, and marketing research professionals from around the world.

The hotel reservation deadline is August 31. [Register today](#) and [view the preliminary program](#).

**St. Helena**—The island’s Statistics Office will be conducting a population and housing census February 7 next year. Echoing the tagline of World Statistics Day 2015, the St. Helena Census will provide “Better Data for Better Lives”.

Over the coming months the Statistics Office will be developing the questionnaire and platform to efficiently deliver the essential data required for monitoring, planning and decisionmaking on St. Helena for years to come. Public engagement will be crucial to the successful completion of the census. As such, a series of public-oriented events are planned to ensure everyone hears the message that the census is taking place, they count and must take part.



With the start of air access to the island in February 2016 and mobile-phone technology in September 2015, the island is facing a period of unprecedented change. St. Helena will continue to be known as the most extraordinary place on earth, but will no longer be one of the planet’s most remote places. With journey times reduced from several days by ship to a few hours by plane, physical barriers to access will be reduced to financial constraints. Mobile phones will change the immediacy and manner of communications, perhaps generating the greatest impact on day-to-day island life. The importance of accurate data to describe and report on the impact of these changes cannot be overemphasized.

The 2016 census will provide the pre-air-access demographic baseline for the island. This baseline will be maintained and built upon through the appropriate use of administrative data. Accessibility is not a term that generally applies to many of these potentially valuable information sources, but progress is being made and as the benefits of access to good data become more widely appreciated by the island community, more will follow.

**United States**—The American Statistical Association (ASA) and statistics careers are highlighted in the following news story from a San Francisco television station and being carried nationally by MSN Video:

[Good at Numbers? Consider a Career in Statistics and Earn Over \\$100K](#)

Also, a new video—[profiling LinkedIn statistician Deepak Kumar](#)—is posted to the [This is Statistic website](#). In the video, Kumar shares his thoughts on why statistics is so important and why it's such an interesting career. Two other recently released campaign videos—[Why You Need to Study Statistics](#) and a profile of [U.S. Census Bureau statistician Chandra Erdman](#)—also are available.

You are encouraged to post [these and all the “This is Statistics” public awareness campaign videos](#) to your website and use them in meetings with university/college administrators and prospective students to illustrate the growing importance of statistical skills to our nation's economy.

[Email your questions about the This is Statistics public awareness campaign to Jeff Myers.](#)

**United States**—The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Stevens Conference on High Frequency Finance and Analytics (HF2015) will be held October 29-31 at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. The conference, sponsored by the CME Group Foundation and Stevens Financial Systems Center, focuses on sharing the latest research and applications of models for data sampled with high frequency.



This three-day conference will gather key academic, industry and government thought-leaders in the areas of mathematical finance, financial engineering, quantitative finance, stochastic processes and applications and more from across the globe. The following individuals are confirmed speakers:

- Peter Carr, Morgan Stanley and New York University
- Robert Almgren, Quantitative Brokers and New York University
- Alvaro Cartea, University College London
- John Schwall, IEX Group
- Sylvain Corlay, Bloomberg Research
- Xin Guo, University of California, Berkeley
- Sebastian Jaimungal, University of Toronto

The conference will feature graduate student research, its first-ever recruiting event and data provider talks about the utility and availability of financial datasets. A dinner cruise on the Hudson River will provide networking opportunities. For more information and to register, [go to the event website](#).

**Ethiopia**—The Ethiopian Statistical Association (ESA) held its 24<sup>th</sup> annual conference June 27 at the Addis Ababa University College of Natural Sciences. Celebrated under the theme “Harnessing the Power of Data for Poverty Reduction in Ethiopia”, the event was attended by more than 175 association members and guests from various governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

In his opening speech, Dr. Debreteyion Gebremichael, deputy prime minister and the head of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, said he appreciated the initiative taken by ESA to make “data” the conference’s main focus. He said as the global economy gets more competitive and the challenges to be addressed become more complex, data—especially statistical data—have become the most powerful way to integrate and analyse various dimensions of problems and seek viable solutions. “The ministry is committed to working closely with the Ethiopian Statistical Association,” Debreteyion said. “It also needs other professionals, associations, academic and research institutions, nongovernmental organizations, federal and regional government agencies to contribute their part in this national task to eradicate poverty and transform the living standard of our people.”



*From left to right: Setegn Tigabu, Shibru Temesgen, Yao Faustin, Chukuwdozie Ezigbalike, Ms. Aberash, and Dr. Debreteyion Gebremichael.*

During his presentation, ESA President Shibru Temesgen said data have core values in improving people’s lifestyle and good governance and building democracy, transparency and accountability. He also noted there commonly is a lack of data in terms of volume, coverage, quality, access, time and relevance in developing countries, which challenges evidence-based decisionmaking. In consequence, he added, some policies seen to fail; plans miss targets and objectives; and people suffer from unsuccessful policies and plans. This issue requires, he said, enhancement of the production and use of data, building on the existing capacity of statistical agencies, academic and research institutions and development partners that have a crucial role in the development of a National Statistics System (NSS).

He added ESA has sponsored discussion forums and conferences that have contributed to the development of the NSS and the statistical profession in Ethiopia. Production of quality data, civil registration and vital events, research and education, health development and agriculture are some areas that ESA has contributed.

**United States**—[Computation+Journalism Symposium 2015](#) will be held October 2-3 in New York City, New York. The symposium is a celebration and synthesis of new ways to find and tell news stories with, by and about data and algorithms. It is a venue to seed new collaborations between journalists and computer and data scientists; in essence, it is a bazaar for the exchange of ideas between industry/practice and academia/research.

Journalists today routinely encounter social and political systems that are driven by new technologies. To critique their operation, a journalist needs an understanding of computation—of the consequences of classification and counting, of the collection and analysis of data, and of the accountability of algorithms. Far from virtual, inert quantities, data and computation exert real forces in the physical world, shaping and defining systems of power that will play larger roles in people’s lives.

Journalists, “the explainers of last resort,” must adapt responsibly—finding and creating new kinds of “stories” that respond directly to new technologies, whether that “story” is an article written in English or in Python, a data visualization, an API or database, an immersive virtual experience or a sensor drone deployment.

Computation+Journalism is a forum for discussing the ways journalism is and should be adapting in the face of new technologies. Organizers invite the participation of a broad range of thinkers, doers and storytellers to this interdisciplinary meeting—a hybridization of journalism and the computing and data sciences. They want to hear from journalists with an interest or experience in developing new technologies or applications and from data and computer scientists working in news, or storytelling broadly, and collaborating or hoping to collaborate with journalistic organizations.

Papers and panels that explore the interface between data and computer science and journalism will be presented at the event. These will be divided into one of four categories.

- Stories, visualizations or other interactive experiences exemplary of outstanding journalism produced about or with data, code and algorithms.
- Platforms that support journalistic work and enable new ways of finding, producing, curating or disseminating stories and other news content.
- Research papers that explore a question of interest in journalism or information studies or in data and computing science as it relates to journalism and news information.
- Pedagogical innovations, describing how technology can be used in the teaching of journalism or journalism can be used in the training in data and computer science and other branches of engineering.

Panels in these categories will consist of between three and five participants and a moderator. These panels should be thought of as a discussion on a topic of interest to the computation and journalism communities. The organizers’ goal with this approach is to surface new topics and extend the reach of the meeting to new communities.

This year, organizers anticipate relationships with two journals—the *American Journalism Review* and *Digital Journalism*—that will help publish the symposium proceedings.

The work presented at last year’s symposium [is available online](#). [Learn more and register for the 2015 symposium](#).

**Nigeria**—Dr. Mohammed Tumala, the president of the Nigeria Statistical Association (NSA), recently spoke to the *Daily Trust* newspaper about how the country would benefit by professionalizing statistical

practice. “Quality statistics can only be produced by professional statisticians who are guided by documented code/ethics of practice and adore their profession. Indeed, many of the members of the National Assembly we interacted with wish to see the statistics profession practiced like the accounting profession in the public service, where the statistician-general recruits, trains and posts statisticians to all ministries under a unified condition of service,” he told reporter Francis Arinze Iloani. [Click here to read the complete interview](#), which is published under the attention-grabbing headline “Nigeria: Data Mining is the Easiest Way to Fight Corruption”.

**Ghana**—In an article published online on GhanaWeb, Professor N.N.N. Nsowah-Nuamah, the chief patron of the Ghana Association of Statistics Students (GASS), advised statisticians in the country to always produce credible information to augment the efforts of government. Statistical computations, he said, could turn the fortunes of the nation around, explaining that without reliable and credible data important economic areas would crawl. [Click here to read the complete article](#).

**United Kingdom**—*Significance* magazine has announced the names of the three finalists for its annual Young Statisticians Writing Competition, which is organised in partnership with the [Young Statisticians Section of the Royal Statistical Society](#). The finalists and the topic of their articles are:

- **Annie Herbert**—The Great British Bayes-off: How much difference (statistically) does a soggy bottom make?
- **James Skeffington**—Warren Buffett: Oracle or Orangutan?
- **Samantha Tyner**—The Joy of Clustering (with Bob Ross)

Each will present a paper based on their article at the Royal Statistical Society’s [2015 Annual Conference](#), which takes place September 7–10. The winning article will be published in the October issue of *Significance* and online; runners-up also will be published online. [Read more](#).

## NATIONAL STATISTICAL ORGANIZATION: NEWS & EVENTS

Following is the latest news and information from national statistical organizations participating in The World of Statistics and other national statistical agencies:

**Namibia**—The Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA) has appointed Sikongo Haihambo acting statistician general effective the first of August through January 31 next year.



Haihambo is the former deputy chief executive officer of operations of the Millennium Challenge Account Namibia and has held several executive positions in state-owned enterprises (SOEs). He also has served as a director on boards of various public and private institutions. "The board is confident that he will be able to lead the agency to his best abilities," said NSA Board Chairperson Florette Nakusera. She also thanked outgoing acting statistician general Liina Kafidi for her selfless efforts in steering the agency during her six-month tenure.

Separately, the agency will continue its search for an eligible candidate to fill the statistician general position.

**Romania**—The National Institute of Statistics (NIS) and Institute of National Economy (INE) held the second roundtable discussion in its ongoing quarterly series. The session, titled "The Impact of the Recalculation of the Main Labour Force Survey Indicators in the Framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy", was held June 25 at NIS headquarters in Bucharest. The study was presented by Silvia Pisciă, general director of NIS's General Department of Social Statistics and Demography. The event brought together specialists from various prestigious Romanian institutions such as the NIS; INE; Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly; Ministry of Public Finance; Ministry of Education and Scientific Research; National Agency for Employment; University of Bucharest; Romanian Academy; National Forecast Commission; and Romanian Commercial Bank. Media representatives also attended the event. The quarterly roundtable series will continue this year with presentations on the following topics: "Gaps in Per Capita Consumption Indicators Depending on the Level of Household Income" scheduled for next month and "Trends in R&D and Innovation in Romania and Requirements of the EU 2020 Strategy" planned for December. This institutional partnership brings together official statistics and the academic community in order to clarify statistical methodologies, evolutions of data series or develop new indicators and/or methods for quantifying/estimating the current economic and social trends.

## **JOIN THE WORLD OF STATISTICS**

If your organization or an organization you know of isn't yet participating in The World of Statistics, encourage them to join today. Joining is easy; just ask a representative of the group to go to [www.worldofstatistics.org](http://www.worldofstatistics.org) and click on the "Join" icon on the top right-hand side of the homepage to become an official participating organization in The World of Statistics. Participation is valuable and is absolutely free!

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