

**14TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BELGIAN STATISTICAL
SOCIETY, HOUFFALIZE
12 - 13 OCTOBER 2006**

The BSS 2006 meeting was organized by the Institute of Statistics of UCL and took place in the Ol Fosse d'Outh seminar center at Houffalize in the province of Luxemburg. This meeting was organized jointly with the biostatistical section of the society and with three statistical groups linked to SBS-BVS: b-ENBIS (the Belgian branch of the European Network for Business and Industrial statistics), RSS-3CC (the Three Country Corner local group of the Royal Statistical Society) and the Quetelet Society.

In addition to the traditional activities, this 2006 edition was marked by two special events: it was preceded by a special afternoon for young statisticians and was followed by a workshop and a hike on Friday afternoon. In total 141 persons registered: 63 students, 48 participants from academics and 31 from private companies or other organisations.

The afternoon for young statisticians started the day before the official meeting on 11 October. During this stimulating and pleasant event, three young Belgian PhDs in statistics presented their career path and the asset of having a PhD when working in private companies or public organisations. Each of the 60 participants had also the opportunity to discover the work of the others in a quiz-based poster-session.

On October 11 and 12, a varied and rich scientific program was proposed to the participants of the "official" SBS-BVS meeting. Each of them could find presentations in his own specialisation and open his mind to various other subjects. The five plenary sessions given by the invited speakers were especially appreciated for their scientific quality and the clarity of the presentations adapted to the variety of the public. They covered a very broad range of topics such as: data mining (Bart Baesens – KULeuven), statistical problems in organ donation and transplantation (Dave Collett -UK Transplant), sampling methodology in the Pisa study (Erich Neuwirth - University of Vienna), nonparametric regression in survey estimation (Jean Opsomer - Iowa State University) and statistical and mathematical models in epidemiology (Ziv Shkedy, Hasselt University).

These plenary sessions were completed by six thematic sessions organised jointly with our partners b-ENBIS, RSS-3CC, Quetelet society and the Biostatistical session of SBS-BVS. Within the 30 presentations, many PhD

students had the opportunity to present their work. This stimulating oral scientific program was completed by a poster session (coupled with a cocktail) where 34 young statisticians presented their work and which showed how diverse and rich the work of the young generation in Belgium can be. In the workshop on Friday afternoon, Christian Ritter (UCL and Monnet Center) offered to 25 participants an introduction to the “deployment of statistics in an office environment”.

As usual, the atmosphere of the conference was friendly and pleased. The winners of the quiz of the poster session opened the bar on Wednesday afternoon with the bottles of Chouffe they gained in the competition. This local Belgian beer set the tone to the two relaxed and happy evenings of the conference. The hike on Friday afternoon was also a success: 15 participants could discover the beautiful neighbourhood of the conference centre and finish their afternoon on the terrace with the workshop participants around cakes and ... some more beer.

The organising and the scientific committees want to thank all the participants for their contribution to the success of this meeting! We are looking forward to meet you again next year in Antwerp!