

## RESULTS OF A RECENT “B-STAT NEWS” SURVEY

We first thank all those who participated to the B-Stat News survey. We collected 34 responses leading a response rate of 11% (better than in our wildest dreams!). After discussing the data during a long and pleasant meeting, here are the main results and conclusions. In general, you agreed with the main items included in the B-Stat News, as seen in the Table below and made relevant comments.

Item	Include the item			
	No n (%)	Yes with changes n (%)	Yes n (%)	I don't know n (%)
Announcement	0 (0)	0 (0)	31 (91)	3 (9)
Recent PhD	1 (3)	1 (3)	30 (88)	2 (6)
Forthcoming statistical events	0 (0)	1 (3)	33 (97)	0 (0)
Member news	2 (6)	1 (3)	27 (79)	4 (12)
Recent publications	3 (9)	1 (3)	26 (76)	4 (12)

It was suggested to add a section on what the PhD students are now doing, to list members by working place, to notify the changes of members in professional activities and to announce forthcoming statistical events worldwide or perhaps in neighboring countries.

Your suggestions about other items to be included in the B-Stat News were quite constructive to improve the newsletter and to focus on your expectations.

- A presidential editorial and one research article in each issue
- Links to good websites, software
- Job announcements in statistics
- Announcements of short courses and long-term visitors in Belgian universities
- Interviews with statisticians in the field or senior statisticians about their career
- Presentation of different statistical groups or business groups
- Broaden to psychology, sociology, demography
- Statistics in the news
- Non-obvious applications in statistics (e.g., the use of statistics by Banksys)
- Information on the master programs in statistics

- Some more soft content, such as joke, cartoons,... related to statistics, mind puzzles

Most of the suggestions will be integrated in the next issues. The web-site was and (will be) improved (thanks to Laurence, our webmaster). It is worth noting that all job announcements sent to the webmaster or the editors are posted in the “job” page of the website and are often updated and that all statistical events are listed on the “events” page. Links to several websites and statistical packages are also given on the “Statistical link” page. A novelty is that the electronic version of B-Stat News now possesses an interactive table of contents. You can directly access to the content you are interested in. In a near future, we plan to add a page with links to web pages of statistical working groups where information about regular seminars or short courses, for example, can be found. We also plan to take contact with all university groups before each publication of the B-Stat News to ensure that any relevant information such as long term visitors, short courses, conferences... is known. It will also permit to broaden information to different fields of applications such as psychology, psychometrics, sociology... Then comes the “big revolutionary” changes. First, we will interview one statistician per issue (ex-PhD student, retired statistician, statistician working in the industry...). Then, we invite you to transmit us all information about statistics you found in the newspapers, during some courses or in your job that you find relevant to communicate to the other members (including non-obvious statistical applications, strange statistics...). Finally, we try to reserve one or two pages to more soft contents. In this issue, we propose you a game.

We kindly invite the 10 persons ready to write a contribution to do it! They proposed to write about surveys in Belgium, research, description of the new interuniversity graduate school in statistics, statistics in the news, reports on 3CC and IAP activities and solving riddles with statistics.

The B-Stat News is the newsletter of the Belgian Statistical Society. We think it is aimed to inform members about statistical activities in Belgium but also about who are the members and what happens in the statistical field. It was suggested to improve the layout but we first try to improve the content.

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