



Boletín
de la Sociedad de Estadística
e Investigación Operativa

***Andrei Markov (1856-1922). En el
150 aniversario de su nacimiento***

***Decisión Multicriterio: Un Ejemplo
de Revolución Científica Kuhniana***

***El problema de Optimización Vectorial.
Conceptos de Optimalidad***

***Tarificación del seguro del automóvil:
métodos de Análisis Multivariante***

***Predicción del IPC utilizando
Métodos de Subespacio***

Miguel Martín Díaz (in memoriam)



Sociedad de Estadística e
Investigación Operativa

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El resto de colaboraciones y noticias se dirigirán al corresponsal más cercano o directamente al editor. Las referencias bibliográficas y de software se acompañarán de los datos necesarios para su localización y una reseña no superior a 120 palabras. Los resúmenes de tesis se limitarán a 200 palabras y contendrán: título, autor, directores, departamento, universidad y la fecha de lectura. Con relación a congresos y cursos bastará una breve reseña semejante a las publicadas en el Boletín. El formato preferible para estas colaboraciones es MS-Word.

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EDITORIAL

Fabrizio Ruggeri

President of the European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS)

Readers of the Boletín are already aware of ENBIS (European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics) past activities, since one of the most influential ENBIS members, Xavier Tort-Martorell, wrote a paper in the September 2005 issue. I would like, as current ENBIS President, to share with you our vision and future projects, emphasising the ones of major interest for the Spanish statistical and business communities.

First of all, I would like to thank Jesús López Fidalgo for inviting me to contribute to your Boletín and I cannot start without remembering a friend, Jorge Muruzabal, who left us too early.

ENBIS (www.enbis.org) plans to spread sound statistical methods among European business and industry. It started from an idea of few people who discussed for a while and then launched the new association in Amsterdam in December 2000. The

idea of few people has grown into an association with more than 1200 members, which has been able not only to organise the “usual” conferences but also to create a network (the letter N of its name . . .) of scientific cooperation and friendship among many people. In particular the major project so far, Pro-ENBIS, funded by the European Union, allowed a lot of interaction among people in different countries and from academy, industry and consultancy. Pro-ENBIS was used as an umbrella under which ENBIS started and grew. In December 2004 the project ended and new challenges have been posed to ENBIS since then. I have had the “luck” of being the first ENBIS President who had to deal with such a large organisation without the financial support guaranteed by Pro-ENBIS. In the last year, in cooperation with the ENBIS Executive Committee, we have worked to provide ENBIS more, diversified

activities and a stronger structure, so that ENBIS could fulfil better its goal of contributing to the diffusion of the statistical culture in Europe.

The first concern was that no networking activity was possible if it was not supported financially. Therefore a Funding Group, with leading ENBIS members, has been established with the goal of collecting information about call for proposals, gathering people with common interests and assisting them in the submission of proposals. The group is now getting ready for the first calls within FP7, to be launched by the European Union pretty soon. In the meanwhile we submitted a proposal for an exploratory workshop on nanotechnologies and statistics, to be funded by the European Science Foundation. The idea behind the workshop is to gather people from academy and industry and work (and apply for funds . . .) in one of the most relevant industrial areas where the use of statistical methods should be more diffuse.

In this process, like many others within ENBIS, a relevant role is played by the national representatives and the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on specific themes (ten so far) which can provide, respectively, interactions with national statistical and industrial communities and expertise from people with common interests.

Another important challenge we are facing is about the continuing statistical education, providing opportunities not only to students or academicians but mostly to practitioners in business and industry. An ad hoc group has identified different areas in which ENBIS should intervene with activities coordinated by a group to be established in the next meeting in Wroclaw (Poland) in September, 2006.

The first area is about Six Sigma, a popular procedure (although “philosophy” could be a more adequate word) in many industries. Run by the SIG on Quality improvement, we will start a programme which will lead ENBIS to certify Six Sigma courses which fulfil required levels about curricula and activities. We would like the ENBIS label to become a quality guarantee for people attending Six Sigma training courses in Europe. We have already set a Six Sigma Practitioners Circle which will be in charge of examining the courses, whereas curricula and activities have been thoroughly discussed within the SIG on Quality improvement and in Pro-

ENBIS meetings. In a future we envisage the possibility of having the accreditation not only of external courses but also of people attending courses offered by ENBIS.

The second area of interest is about courses. ENBIS is already offering courses before and after the annual meeting: this year, courses on Statistical Consulting, Statistics for Innovation and Optimal Design are offered in Wroclaw. They will be the first courses to use the label “ENBIS Academy” under which we are going to call all our educational activity. We plan to extend these courses, involving national representatives and SIGs a lot. A typical course would arise when a national representative thinks there is a topic which should be offered to some group (e.g. industries in an area) in his/her country and he/she contacts the ENBIS Academy group which will search people willing to give such a course. This year we put together different groups (Swedish and Danish ones) and a course on reliability was organised in Denmark with Swedish instructors.

Endorsement of courses, mostly at an academic level, is the third area of interest. ENBIS is already endorsing a Master on Complexity organised in Italy by the University of Pavia and we would like to extend the courses which get the ENBIS approval as a quality guarantee.

ENBIS is a web-based society and we think of exploiting the web as the fourth area of interest. In a recent paper I wrote for *Scientific Computing World* (April/May 2006 issue) I discussed the opportunity of having a sort of wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org) for practitioners interested in statistical methods. In general, tutorials and other resources can be put on the web (see, e.g., the SIG on reliability) and easily accessed.

Finally, we are exploring with a leading publisher the possibility of publishing practical, sound books mostly for practitioners.

In 2006 we have started also the series of specialised Spring Workshops, as companions to the general conferences we have each year (in Germany in 2007 and in Greece in 2008). This year we had a conference on data mining with a lot of “hands on” activities (quite typical at ENBIS meeting) in Germany whereas a workshop on “Analysis of Simulated Experiments” will be held in 2007 in Italy, in cooperation with DEINDE, a long standing series

of conferences on Design of Experiments.

We organise also sessions within conferences, e.g. at the 2006 Joint Research Conference on Statistics in Quality, Industry and Technology in Knoxville (USA) and at ISBIS2007 in the Azores, just to mention few.

We are sharing our experience and providing support at different levels to organisations in Latin America and Africa, besides cooperating with other associations, e.g. the recently established ISBIS and some national statistical societies.

We have also established some awards, recognising not only excellence in life achievements but also promising young statisticians and people who are promoting the use of statistics in industry and business without being statisticians. We have three awards: the Box Medal for outstanding contribution to the practice of statistics (and the recipients have been so far George Box himself, Soren Bisgaard, Sir David Cox and Gerry Hahn), the Young Statistician and the Best Manager awards. The first recipient of the Young Statistician award was Jesús Palomo, of whom I was co-advisor at Universidad Rey Juan Carlos along with David Rios Insua.

As you can see, we have plenty of activities going on and being planned in the future. The major challenge, as usual, is about finding the right persons for the right place. We have achieved a lot in the past six years but more can be achieved if we increase the number of people working within ENBIS,

besides our international cooperation with existing societies, like SEIO.

I hope to have given the readers of the *Boletín* an idea of what ENBIS is doing and now it is time to discuss briefly about the possible interactions between SEIO and ENBIS and their members. We have national groups within ENBIS (Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and, in a few days, Sweden) and a Spanish group, as mentioned by Tort-Martorell last year, would be very welcome but this is not definitely my business (I would be more interested in an Italian group ...).

More realistically, SEIO and ENBIS can organise joint events, e.g. a Spring Workshop or an ENBIS session within a SEIO meeting (or vice versa, if ENBIS organises something in Spain, after the successful annual meeting in Barcelona in 2003).

Spanish statisticians and practitioners are very welcome to be part of our SIGs, especially now that new funding opportunities should make cooperation easier and give a boost to SIGs activities. Other possibilities are available as well, as I have described earlier. If you need further information, please have a look at our website (www.enbis.org) or contact me (fabrizio@mi.imati.cnr.it) or the next ENBIS President, Ron Kenett (ron@kpa.co.il).

Finally, I have to apologise since I wrote in English. I love a lot your language (and your country) but I can just read and speak it, whereas my writing would be very poor.

September 1st, 2006 – January 31st, 2007

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