

## **Brief history of ECAS**

### **(European Courses in Advanced Statistics)**

ECAS is an extension to the *Journées d'Étude en Statistique* created by the French *Association des Statisticiens Universitaires* (ASU), ancestor of the *Société Française de Statistique* (SFdS). In 1984, the three organizers of these « Journées », Jean-Jacques Dreesbeke (Brussels), Bernard Fichet (Marseille) and Philippe Tassi (ENSAE-Paris), received a very clear mandate from the Board of ASU, chaired by Yves Escoufier (Montpellier): they were asked to make all necessary contacts with the statistical societies of Germany, Italy and the Netherlands in order to organize training on statistics at a European level following a framework similar to that of the JES. The case of Belgium was more complex because the Belgian Statistical Society hadn't had any activities from a long time. The contact was the *Société pour la Gestion scientifique des Entreprises* (SOGESCI), located in Brussels and carrying out some statistical activities next to mainly operational research. The European Commission proposed some financial aid for this project.

Bilateral discussions were successful: the *European Courses in Advanced Statistics* (ECAS) was created as an “association de fait”, based in Brussels and its first board was composed of the three JES organizers, Adriaan Abrahamse (Netherlands), Siegfried Heiler and Norbert Victor (Germany), Carlo Lauro and Alfredo Rizzi (Italy). The first ECAS session was organized in 1987 by Carlo Lauro, Professor in Naples. The topic was *Methods for Multidimensional Data Analysis*.

Since then, every two years, an ECAS session is organized by one of the participating countries. France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands did not remain alone for very long. Those countries were joined later by Belgium — with the new *Belgian Statistical Society* — Spain, Finland as well as the United Kingdom...

Jean-Jacques Dreesbeke was the first President of the ECAS board; his mandate was from 1987 to 1993; the secretaryship was taken over by Philippe Tassi. The following Presidents were Siegfried Heiler (Germany) from 1994 to 1997, Daniel Peña (Spain) from 1998 to 2001, Bernard Fichet (France) from 2002 to 2005 (during this last year new statutes were created), Hans Nyquist (Sweden) from 2006 to 2009, Ricardo Cao (Spain) from 2009 to 2013, Anne Ruiz-Gazen (France) from 2013 to 2015, Jean-Michel Poggi (France) from 2015 to 2017 and Sylvain Sardy (Switzerland) since 2018.

Since 2014, the members of the *Federation of the European National Statistical Societies* (FENStatS) were allowed to participate to the ECAS project (<http://ecas.fenstats.eu/>). In 2017, twenty-two countries were concerned by this possibility. In this context, the presidency of Jean-Michel Poggi impulsed a new dynamic increasing the rhythm and broadening the diversity of the ECAS trainings, defining besides the traditional university-type organizations, a new type oriented toward official (public) statistics and another toward industrial statistics. So, in 2017, three schools were organized: the first one in Fréjus (France), on *High Dimensional Statistics*, jointly organized with the *Société Française de Statistique* (SFdS), and two others on industrial statistics, jointly organized with, on the one hand, the *European Network for Business and Industrial Statistics* - ENBIS, and on the other hand, *IRSDI - Initiative de recherche en sciences des données pour l'industrie*. In 2018, three trainings have been organized: in February at ENSAI (Rennes, France), on *Statistical Disclosure Control for Official Statistics* (with EMOS, *European Master in OS* and the SFdS), in May in Catania (Italy)

on *Clustering and Visualization of Complex Data* (with IASC) and in September, in Nancy (France) on *Deep Learning / Additive Modelling* with ENBIS.

In 2019, two sessions are already scheduled: in July in Lisbon, on *Statistical Analysis for Space-Time Data*, with the *Portuguese Statistical Society* (SPE) and the *Spanish Statistical and Operational Research Society* (SEIO), and in October, in Fréjus, on *Network Analysis, Inference, and Modeling*, with the SFdS.

So ECAS has recently increased its visibility and extended the area of its trainings in order to become a real supplier of services for national statistical societies, internationalizing their activities of doctoral and professional training.

October 28, 2018

Jean-Jacques Droesbeke



Nos praeses, ab epistulis et ceteri socii consilii societatis  
quae Europaeus studiorum cursus statisticae eruditissimae prouehendae uocatur  
anglicaque lingua siglis E.C.A.S. designatur  
gratias maximas agimus illustrissimo professori

doctissimo uiro in prouincia artis statisticae  
ad solutionem multimodarum rerum pertinentis  
quod egregias lectiones  
ad auditorum maximum usum institutionisque nostrae laudem  
cursu studiorum dedit qui  
Vniuersitate Neapolitana bene iuuante  
hoc anno ab a.d. III Non. Oct. ad a.d. VII Id. eiusdem mensis  
Capreis factus est.

Datum Capreis in Italia anno MCMLXXXVII a.d. VII Id. Oct.  
et sigillo societatis E.C.A.S. obsignatum.

Ab epistulis

Praeses

Philippus TASSI

Ioannes-Iacobus DROESBEKE

ceteri socii consilii

Hadrianus ABRAHAMSE

Bernardus FICHET

Sigefridus HEILER

Carolus LAURO

Alfredus RIZZI

Norbertus VICTOR

*Certificate of the first session of ECAS*