

EDITORIAL NOTE

This issue of the Journal of the Italian Statistical Society includes the whole of the articles pertaining to the year 2000, which should have been published in three separate issues. In fact from 2001 onwards the Journal will change denomination and Publisher. It will become «Statistical Methods and Applications - Journal of the Italian Statistical Society», published by Springer-Verlag. The new Editor will be M. Vichi, whom we wish a good work and success in pursuing the task of making the Journal a reference for all statisticians, in Italy as well as in the rest of the world, interested in the theory, methodology and applications of Statistics.

The transition phase, from the original Journal first published in 1992 by Giardini-Istituti Editoriali e Poligrafici Internazionali, to the new Journal, has caused a remarkable delay in the publication of the issue of 2000, for which we apologize to the subscribers, the readers and the Authors expecting to see their work published. Nonetheless, we feel that the 'continuity' of the yearly volumes is a value in itself, deserving the effort made in collecting and revising the papers selected for this issue.

The same notion of 'continuity' applies as well to the editorial policies of the old and new Journals. In fact the original inspiration is maintained, namely the way of looking at Statistics as a method, an interface between Logic and Mathematics on one side and real world problems on the other one. Different approaches and formalizations are admitted in this perspective, the only criterion of assessment being the aptness of the techniques, or of the underlying theories, at enabling the researcher to draw relevant information from empirical data in order to cast light on the real problem under investigation.

This editorial line is witnessed by the articles published in the series from 1992 to 2000. A total of 185 papers (two thirds written by Italian Authors and one third by Authors from other Countries), whose contents range from theoretical foundations to different methodologies and to techniques for specific applications. A representative sample of this spectrum is constituted by the present issue, which we hope will turn out useful and stimulating for the readers, whom we would like to think for their interest in our Journal.

THE EDITOR