

The Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research

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The Spanish Statistics and Operations Research Society (SEIO) was first created on the 12th of February 1962 under the name of the Spanish Operations Research Society. Its first meeting took place in the rooms of the Institute of Statistical Research of the Spanish Upper Council of

Scientific Research (CSIC) and was attended by 52 people interested in methods of operations research and the propagation of the theory and practice in the field throughout Spain.

In a general meeting held on the 30th of June 1976, the scope of the SEIO was extended to include statistics and computing. In the general meeting held on the 20th of December 1984 it was decided to modify its statutes. The name was changed to the current one of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research. In March 1999, some of the statutes were further amended and the very latest change came in 2012, which are the ones that govern the Society today. At present, the SEIO has nearly 700 individual members plus a number of institutional members. One special member is the Spanish Statistical Institute (INE), part of the Spanish administration for the management of official statistics. In 1989, both institutions signed an agreement to the effect that there is always a representative of INE in the executive committee of the SEIO and a representative of SEIO in the National Council of Statistics. Since then there has been a symposium of public statistics within the confer-

ence of the Society, held every one and a half years. In that symposium a prestigious prize for public statistics is awarded. There are a number of agreements with other national and international societies.

The following is a chronological list of those who have held the position of president of the SEIO since its inauguration: Fermín de la Sierra, Sixto Ríos García, Pilar Ibarrola Muñoz, Marco A. López Cerdá, Daniel Peña Sánchez de Rivera, Elías Moreno Bas, Jesús T. Pastor Ciurana, Rafael Infante Macías, Pedro Gil Álvarez, Domingo Morales González, Ignacio García Jurado, José Miguel Angulo Ibáñez, Leandro Pardo Llorente, Emilio Carrizosa Priego and Jesús López Fidalgo.

Today, the SEIO is in excellent health, and enjoys playing a special role in the promotion of these two popular disciplines, which are very much related, both in the national and international arena. Having statistics and operations research in a single society is not common in many countries. We believe this is a powerful added value with the upcoming new era of data science and artificial intelligence. This places our Society in an important position for modern science.

Our conference every one and a half years is one of our main activities. There were around 400 attendees at the last one. Most of them come from all over Spain and there is a significant number of people who come from abroad, normally invited by one of our working groups. Since 2018 we also have a workshop for our young members in the period between the main conferences. There have been two editions so far and the quality of the contributions and participants has been remarkable.

Another important potential are our journals. *TEST* is the statistical journal and *TOP* is the operations research



General meeting held on the 30th of June 1976.



Prof. Daniel Peña was a plenary speaker at the last conference in Alcoi, 2019.

one. Both are indexed in the Web of Science and Scopus, among other databases. BEIO (Bulletin of Statistics and Operations Research) publishes scientific outreach articles on statistics and operations research. Such articles aim to treat relevant topics in a way which is accessible to the majority of professionals in statistics and operations research without sacrificing scientific correction in the treatment of the subject in question.

At the moment we own nineteen working groups covering most of the areas of our disciplines. The purpose of the working groups is to promote the communication and research between members of the SEIO working on common themes in statistics and/or operations research. They hold some meetings or workshops within the periods between the SEIO conferences. They also organise high quality sessions during the SEIO conference.

Helping young people and promoting women's participation are also big priorities in our Society. We have been making special efforts in primary, secondary and

high school teaching of our disciplines. Transference with industry, private companies and other institutions is also an important goal.

SEIO is part of the Spanish National Committee for Mathematics (CEMat). At this moment one of our representatives holds the presidency of the Committee.



Jesús López Fidalgo [fidalgo@unav.es] has an MSc in mathematics and a PhD in statistics from the University of Salamanca. The PhD awarded a second prize of the Spanish Royal Academy of Doctors. He is the current president of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research (SEIO) and director of the Institute of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. He is editor-in chief of the journal TEST and associate editor and reviewer of a number of journals.