

January 10, 2018

We the undersigned organizations and individuals call on Greek authorities to halt the legal proceedings against Andreas Georgiou, the former president of the Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT), and other senior ELSTAT officials for their ELSTAT work under Georgiou's leadership 2010-2015. The Government deficit and debt figures, produced by ELSTAT under Dr. Georgiou's stewardship, have been validated numerous times by Eurostat as complying with the highest international standards. Further, Dr. Georgiou during his tenure leading ELSTAT strictly followed the best practice statistical principles enshrined in European Union and Greek law.

The continued prosecutions of Dr. Georgiou for his work, many times after findings of innocence—amounting to double or even potentially triple jeopardy—are troubling on multiple levels. The prosecutions undermine the current production of Greek statistical figures, which in turn undermines Greece's efforts to end its cycles of economic crises, and attract foreign investment. Trusted, credible statistical data are a cornerstone of a well-functioning democracy and a healthy economy. The prosecutions also violate the scientific freedom and human rights of Dr. Georgiou and his colleagues to present their scientifically derived statistical data without interference and to “extend and disseminate knowledge for the good of humanity.”¹

In summary, we call on Greek authorities to drop its prosecutions of Dr. Georgiou and his colleagues, exonerate them of past convictions, and drop ongoing investigations relating to their official ELSTAT Work. Further, the Greek Government should apologize on behalf of the Greek State to Dr. Georgiou for the appalling treatment he and his colleagues have endured over a protracted period at the hands of the Greek State for essentially doing their duty to the highest standards.

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46 as of March 5, 2018

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American Educational Research Association

American Sociological Association

American Statistical Association

Association of Public Data Users

Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability

Center for Human Rights Science, Carnegie Mellon University

Center for Liberal Studies - Markos Dragoumis

Committee of Concerned Scientists, Inc.

¹ <https://www.aaas.org/page/committee-scientific-freedom-and-responsibility>

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Finances Publiques et Economie (FIPECO)
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The International Environmetrics Society
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Eduardo Acabbi, Grad student, Harvard University
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Antonis Adam, Assistant Professor, University of Ioannina
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James Arthur
Spyros C. Asproudis
Paul F. Smith, MAppStat PhD DSc Astat, Professor of Neuropharmacology, Dept. Pharmacology and Toxicology, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of Otago Medical School, Dunedin, New Zealand
John Astin, Director, Kent Consultancy Ltd (UK)
Costas Athanasiou, Assistant Professor (chemical engineer, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
Emmanouil Bairaktaris
Grzegorz Baltissen, Intern, Methodology Statistics Netherlands
Oren Bar
Konstantinos Bargiotas, MP Greek Parliament, Democratic Coalition
Carlo Bastasin
Dr. Jens Bastian, Independent Economic Consultant, Former Member of the Task Force for Greece of the European Commission in Athens, Greece
Dr. Charles K. Bayne, Statistical Consultant, American Statistical Association
Dr. Sabine Bechtold, Head of Department Population, Finance and Taxes, Statistisches Bundesamt, Wiesbaden
Thorsten Beck, Professor of Banking and Finance, Cass Business School
Roeland Beerten, Chief Statistician, Statistics Flanders
Melanie Bell, Professor, University of Arizona
Agnès Bénassy-Quéré, Professor, Paris School of Economics, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne
Ana Corberó Bennett
Nikos Benos, Assistant Professor, University of Ioannina

Yakir Berchenko, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management
Ariel Bereslavsky
Jocelyn Vande Berg
Herman Beun
Dr. Julia L. Bienias
Lorenzo Bini Smaghi
George C. Bitros, Professor of Political Economy, Emeritus, Athens University of Economics and Business
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Judith Blau, Professor Emerita, University of North Carolina
Ronald Blokzijl, MSC
Marie Bohata, senior researcher, Economics Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences
David Bokhorst, PhD candidate, University of Amsterdam
Vassilios Bontozoglou, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece
George Boutsis
Saxon Brettell
Warren A. Brown, Senior Research Associate, Program on Applied Demographics, Cornell University
Netty Bruekers
Nichol Brummer
Franco Bruni, Professor, Bocconi University, Milan
Bart Buelens
Christian Buettner
Joep Burger, Methodologist, Statistics Netherlands
Charles A Calhoun, Ph.D., Principal Consultant, Calhoun Consulting LLC
Leonidas Camarinopoulos, Professor Emeritus, University of Piraeus
Mike Camden, Statistician, retired
Michel Camdessus, Former MD of the IMF
John Cameron
José Manuel Campa

Carlo Alberto Carnevale Maffè, SDA Professor, Bocconi University School of Management - Milan (Italy)
Christopher Carroll, Professor of Economics, Johns Hopkins University
Alex Castaldo, CFA, Financial Analyst
Thanos Catsambas, Former Alternate Executive Director, International Monetary Fund
Lefteris Cavadias
Manos Chalkias
Richard Chandler, Professor of Statistics, University College London
Éric Chaney, Economic Advisor, Institut Montaigne
Charilaos Charisis, Senior Auditor-Economist, Clyde Charre
Emmanouil Chavakis
Michalis Chikaras, Geotechnical Engineer
Joannes Chliaoutakis, Professor, TEI-K
Alkiviadis Choidas
Ajai Chopra, Former IMF Deputy Director in the European Department, Retired from IMF
Anastasia Choulina, Senior Central Banking Expert
Kostis Christodoulou, Lecturer, London Business School
Evangelos Chronopoulos
Cynthia Z. F. Clark, Ph.D., former Administrator, National Agricultural Statistics Service
Marios Clerides
Sofronis Clerides, Professor of Economics, University of Cyprus
M Kerem Coban
George W. Cobb, Professor of Statistics, emeritus, Mount Holyoke College
Fannie Cobben, Project manager, Statistics Netherlands
James J. Cochran
Michael P. Cohen, Principal Statistician
Charles Coleman, Mathematical Statistician, US Census Bureau
Michael Colledge, Statistical consultant

Sophie Cook, Executive Director Emerita,
Committee of Concerned Scientists
Peter Cosmetatos
Brian Costello, Statistician, Retired Central
Statistics Office, Ireland
David A. Cox, Professor of Mathematics, Amherst
College
Diane Coyle, Professor of Economics , University
of Manchester
Michael R. Crager, Fellow, Biostatistics, Genomic
Health, Inc.
Panos Dakoulas, Professor, University of Thessaly
Peter Daniëls, Statistician
Jon Danielsson, Professor, London School of
Economics
Aurelien Daubaire
Lori Davis, Associate Director of Biostatistical
Consulting
A de Boer
Laurens de Haan, Professor (retired) of statistics,
Erasmus university Rotterdam
Jurriën de Jong
Peter de Jong, WSO
Tessa de Wit, Statistics Netherlands
P.P. de Wolf, dr. ir., methodologist at National
Statistical Institute
Sir Angus Deaton, Senior Scholar, Princeton
University; Presidential Professor, University of
Southern California
Daniel Defays, Faculty Professor, University of
Liège
Ioanna Dementi, Journalist
Maria Demertzis, Deputy Director, Bruegel
Panicos Demetriades , Professor of Financial
Economics, University of Leicester
Ruthanne M. Deutsch
Michelle Devost, Epidemiology Analyst
José G. Dias, University Staff Member, Ph.D.,
Instituto Universitário de Lisboa
Egon Dietz, Manager
Andrew Dillon, Daniels Professor of Information
Science, University of Texas-Austin

Evangelos Dimarakis
Viktor Dimas
Theodosoulis Dimitrios
Διονυσίου Παράσκειου
Sebastien Diot
Kari Djerf, Senior Researcher, Statistics Finland
Stefanos Doukas , Mechanical engineer ,
Γεωργίος Δουρμούσης
Aristos Doxiadis
Philip Dragoumis
Kostas Drosopoulos
E. A. Druiff
Sandrine Dudoit, Professor, University of
California, Berkeley
Gilles Dufrénot, Professor of Economics, Aix-
Marseille School of Economics
James P Dunne, Statistician, Retired Central
Statistics Office Ireland
Romain Durand
Jean-Michel Durr, Consultant, ASA
Dr. Robert Durrant, Senior Lecturer, University of
Waikato, New Zealand
J. Dyen
Giles Edwards
Martin S. Edwards, Associate Professor, Seton
Hall University
Vincent Ehlers, B.Sc., Union Investment
Paul Eilers, Professor emeritus, Erasmus
University Medical Center
Bruce Elsheimer
Ioannis Emmanouil, Professor, University of
Athens
Kay Endriss
Stephan Ertz, Head of Credit, Union Investment
Mark Evarts
Evelio O. Fabbroni, Executive Director, IASI
William R. Fairweather, Ph.D., President, Flower
Valley Consulting, Inc.
Bhavin Faldu
Stratos Fanaras, Statistician
Catherine Finneran, Senior statistician (retired),
Central Statistics Office Dublin

Justin Fisher (Personal Capacity), Senior Statistician, U.S. Government Accountability Office
Nicholas Fisher, Professor
John Fitzpatrick, Retired - Central Statistics Office, Ireland
Andrew Flatt, Consultant, None
Leon Floros-Xynopoulos, Banker
Andreas Flouris, Associate Professor, School of Physical Education and Exercise Science, University of Thessaly
Nikos Fournarakis
John A Frangos, Ph.D., President/CEO, La Jolla Bioengineering Institute
John A Frangos, President/CEO, La Jolla Bioengineering Institute
Ingimundur Fridriksson, Economist
Federico Fubini, Editor/Columnist, Corriere della Sera
Christos Fytilis
Anders Gäddlin
David R. Gagnon, Md Mph Ph.D., Research Professor of Biostatistics, Boston University School of Public Health
Nick Galatis
Vasileios Galiotos
Jan Galkowski, Principal Statistician, Westwood Statistical Studios
Juan C Gallardo
Jaume Garcia, Professor, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Stefano Gargano
Donal Garvey, Director General (Retired), Central Statistics Office, Ireland
Federico Gavazzoni, Assistant Professor of Finance, Insead
Stephen George, Professor Emeritus of Biostatistics, Duke University School of Medicine
Andreas M Georghioi, Master of Science in Statistics and Operations Research
R. Georgiadou

Διανέλος Γεωργούδης
George C Georgiou Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Towson University - University System of Maryland
A.Gerakis
Dan-Ion Ghergut, Ph.D., ISI
Fabio Ghironi, Paul F. Glaser Professor of Economics, University of Washington
Χαράλαμπος Γιαννακόπουλος
Jacques René Giguère, Professor of Economics, Collège de Sept-Îles
Ralph Gildehaus
Chris Giles, Economics Editor, Financial Times
Ioannis Glykos, Economist
Patricia J Goedecke, Statistician, University of Tennessee
Marta Gonçalves, Senior expert, Statistics Portugal
Fabrizio Gorla
Ed Gracely, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Jean-Pierre Grandjean, Inspecteur général honoraire, Retired from INSEE
Charles Grant, Director, Centre for European Reform
Megan Greene
Sander Greenland, Professor of Epidemiology and Statistics, University of California, Los Angeles
Dr. Ioannis N. Grigoriadis, Associate Professor & Jean Monnet Chair, Department of Political Science & Public Administration, Bilkent University
Erica L Groshen, Visiting Senior Scholar, Cornell University-ILR School
Lelys Bravo de Guenni, Full Professor, Universidad Simon Bolivar, Caracas - Venezuela
Peter Guttorp, Professor emeritus, University of Washington
Mt Haarmans
Hermann Habermann, Consultant, Formerly Deputy Director, United States Census Bureau, Chief Statistician United States of America and Director United Nations Statistics Division

Peter Hackl, Professor, DG of Statistics Austria
(retired),
Lisa Hall, Fonterra
Mark Hallerberg , Professor, Hertie School of
Governance
Professor David J. Hand, Emeritus Professor of
Mathematics, Imperial College London
John Hanes
Hannezo Guillaume
Lars Peter Hansen, Professor, University of
Chicago
Nick Haralambopoulos
Oliver Hart, Andrew E. Furer Professor of
Economics, Harvard University
Dr. Evi Hatziandreou, Scientific Advisor
Maurine A Haver, Founder & CEO, Haver
Analytics
Martin Heger
Anita Heinonen, Head, International Affairs,
Hagai Helman
Dr. Harold Henderson, Statistician, AgResearch,
New Zealand
Peter Henken
Christian Hennig, Department of Statistical
Science, University College London
Dimosthenis Hevas, Professor of Financial
Accounting, Athens University of Economics and
Business
Ken Hodges, VP, Data Science , Claritas
Lieneke Hoeksma, Statistical researcher, Statistics
Netherlands
Adam Honig, Professor of Economics, Amherst
College
Nicholas Horton, Professor of Statistics, Amherst
College
Leendert Hoven, Senior Statistical Researcher,
Statistics Netherlands
Loretta Howard , Loretta Howard Gallery, Inc
Yingyao Hu, Professor of Economics, Johns
Hopkins University
Fred W. Huffer, Professor, Dept. of Statistics,
Florida State University

Beat Hulliger
Fred L Hulting, Statistical Scientist
Dr. Ruth Hummel, Statistician, SAS Institute
Ioana Hussiada
Petros Iconomidis, Filiates General Hospital
Maria Ilemosoglou
Nikos Iliopoulos
Yannis M Ioannides, Max and Herta Neubauer
Chair and Professor of Economics, Tufts
University
Dimitris Ioannidis, Marketing & Communications
Consultant
Savvas Iosifidis
Valerie Isham, Professor
Jun Ishii, Associate Professor of Economics,
Amherst College
Otmar Issing, Center for Financial Studies
Andrii Istochnikov
Antoinette Janssen
Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Statistical expert
Bruce Johnston retired
Ian Jolliffe, Professor (Emeritus), University of
Aberdeen
Tim Jones
Dr. Daniel Kahneman, Professor Emeritus,
Princeton University
Apostolos K. Kakaes, Ph.D., President, Cosmos
Communications Consulting
Nektarios Kalaitzakis
Vassilios Kaleris, Professor, University of Patras
Philip M Kalina, Statistician, Predictive Medicine,
Inc
Basil Kaludes
Stathis Kalyvas, Arnold Wolfers Professor of
Political Science, Yale University
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George Kanakis
Polyxeni Kanavitsa
Asimakis K. Kanellopoulos
Alexandra Kapatou, Faculty, American University
Pantelis Kapsis, Journalist
Loukas Karaoglanis, Ophthalmologist

Konstantinos A. Karatzoglou, Dr.-Ing TU BS
Theofanis Karefilakis
Antypas Karipoglou, Lawyer
Konstantinos Karitsos
Elina Karmokolias
George Kasimatis
Ilias Kastanas, Ph.D.
Christos Katagas, Emeritus Professor, University
of Patras
Konstantinos Katopis, Mechanical Engineer
Eran Katz
Gregory Theodosios Kavounas, Principal,
Kavounas Patent Law Office, PLLC
Lawrence E. Kavounas, MBA
Andrew H. Kayton
Petr Kazil, ir. RE
Bill Keating, Retired, Retired Central Statistics
Office, Ireland
Adam Kennard
Arthur Kennickell
Jon R. Kettenring, Director, Research Institute for
Scientists Emeriti, Drew University
Eunice J. Kim, Data Scientist, iCIMS
Yang K Kim, Finance Manager, Carnegie
Institution of Washington
Chris Kingston, Professor of Economics, Amherst
College
Georgia Kiousi
Jo Kloprogge, Scientist
Richard Kloser, Professor of Mathematics
Merijn Knibbe
Alexa Koenig, JD, Ph.D., Executive Director and
Lecturer, Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley
School of Law
R.J. Kok, MSC
Χρήστος Κοκκόλης, Κος
Georgios Kokkoris, Assistant Professor, University
of the Aegean, Greece
Fotis Kokotos, Elounda SA
Nicholas Koligiannis
Christos Kollias, Professor of Applied Economics,
University of Thessaly

Panagiotis Kolliopoulos
Efthimia Komi
Charilaos Koniotakis, Griechenland (GRC)
Christos Kontas
Pantelis Kontopodis, Professor
Christos Kontos
Christian Kopf, Head of Fixed Income, Union
Investment Group, Frankfurt, Germany
Wiet Koren, Statistical researcher, Ph.D.,
Statistics Netherlands
Nikita Kotsenko, PhD Candidate, Hebrew
University
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Lina Kourafa, Travel Agent
Κουράφα Παναγιώτα
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University, UK
Michael Koutras
Dimitris Koutsogeorgas
Eva Kraemer
Klaus Krickeberg, Prof. Dr. Dr.h.c. Dr.h.c., Retired
from the University of Paris 5
Sabine Krieg, Statistics Netherlands
Alan Krueger, Bendheim Professor of Economics
& Public Affairs; Former Chairman of White
House Council of Economic Advisers, Princeton
University
Dr. P.H. Kruiskamp, Methodologist / Statistical
Researcher, Statistics Netherlands
Dennis Kunimura, Owner, g4b Analytics LLC
Robert Kyle, Hogan Lovells LLP (pro bono counsel
to Mr. Georgiou)
Nicholas Kyriakopoulos, Professor of Engineering,
The George Washington University
Elias Kyrou
Johan Lammers, Business analyst/methodologist,
Consultant business registers Elstat
Julia Lane, Professor, New York University
Jessica Lavery
Peter Lazos, Journalist

Jean-Pierre Le Gléau, Inspecteur général
honoraire de l'Insee, Membre élu de l'IIS
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Holger Leerhoff
Ginargyros Lefteris
Tanya Leise, Associate Professor of Mathematics,
Amherst College
William Lelieveldt, Principal Press Officer,
European Central Bank
Oscar Lemmers
Fabrice Lenglard, French Statistician and
Economist, Former Head of National Account
Division, INSEE
Martin Lenz, Union Investment
Koutsogiannis Leonidas, Economist
Stefano Lepri, Economics commentator, La
Stampa (Italian daily newspaper)
Lequiller Francois, Author of Understanding
National Accounts, IARIW
A.G. Leris
Dr Joseph Levy
Donald Lewin, Consultant
Donald K. Lewis, Principal, Lewis Consulting LLC
John R. Lewis
S. Lioukas, Professor, AUEB
Michael Lipka, Παν/μιο Πατρών
Leslie Lipschitz, Partner, Global Strategic Advisors
LLC, Global Strategic Advisors LLC
Ioannis Lixouriotis, Ameritus Professor of Law -
Attorney at Law, Panteion University of Socila
and Political Sciences of Athens
Thomas A. Louis, Ph.D., Professor of Biostatistics,
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public
Health
Christos Louvaris, PhD candidate, University of
Amsterdam
Martien Lubberink, Victoria University Wellington
Helmut Luetkepohl, Professor
Martin Luppès, Statistics Netherlands
Lars Lyberg, CEO, Lyberg Survey Quality
Management Inc

Alphonse L. MacDonald, Vice-President elect,
Inter-American Statistical Institute
Evangelos F. Mageirou, Professor Emeritus,
Athens University of Economics and Business
Mart Mägi, Director General, Statistics Estonia
Filippo Magnani
Selma Mahfouz
George Makris
Eleni Malandraki, KEFiM
Spiros Malandreniotis
Jason Maratos
George Margaris
David Marker, Senior Statistician, Westat
Georgios Markides, Financial Consultant
Tiago A. Marques, Senior Research Fellow,
University of St Andrews
Philippe Martin, Professor of economics,
SciencesPo
Eric S. Maskin, Adams University Professor,
Professor of Economics and Mathematics,
Harvard University
Lina Massou, Research Associate, Primary Care
Unit, Department of Public Health, University of
Cambridge
Klaus Masuch
Minos Matsoukas, University of Patras
Donald Matthews
Dimitris Mavridis, Professor in Statistics,
University of Ioannina, Greece
Dr. William Mawby
Sam A. Mawn-Mahlau, Director, Davis, Malm &
D'Agostine, PC
Prof. Dr. Thomas Mayer, Founding Director,
Flossbach von Storch Research Institute
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Sam McFarland, Professor Emeritus of
Psychology, Western Kentucky University
Margaret McLoughlin, Retired, Central Statistics
Office, Ireland
Douglas McWilliams, Deputy Chairman, Cebr
Nikos Megapanos, History graduate student,
Ionion University, Greece

Isaac Meilijson, Professor Emeritus, Tel Aviv University
Robin Mejia, Statistics and Human Rights Program, Center for Human Rights Science, Carnegie Mellon University
Em. Melissinos
Chantal Melser
Adi Mendel
Dimitri Meris
Konstantinos Metaxas
Yiorgos Metaxas
Ruud Meulenbroek , MSc
François Meunier, Affiliated Professor, ENSAE (France)
Natasha Miaouli, Associate Professor, Athens University of Economics and Business
Kakouris Michael, Businessman ,
Alex Michaelides, Professor of finance, Imperial College London
Andreas Milidonis, Associate Professor, University of Cyprus
Curtis Miller, research assistant professor, University of New Mexico
Iain Miller
Poppy Miller, PhD student statistics, Lancaster University
Robin Milot, Statistical Researcher, Statistics Netherlands
Robert Moffitt, Professor of Economics, Johns Hopkins University
George Momferratos
S. Philip Morgan
Motomi Mori, Professor of Biostatistics, Oregon Health & Science University
Matthias Mors
Ioannis Moschakis, Head of Organization, Methodology and International Relations Division of ELSTAT, Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT)
Michael Mourselas
Ioannis Moustakis, Postgraduate Student

Christine Mueller, Prof. Dr., TU Dortmund University
Donal Murphy, Retired Central Statistics Office Ireland
Jean Pierre Mustier, CEO, Unicredit
Vijay Nair
Christos Nakas, Associate Professor, University of Thessaly, Volos, Greece
Makita Naoki
Mr Jon Neale
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Constantinos Nicolaou, Statistician
Erik F. Nielsen, Group Chief Economist
George Nikas
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Gerry O'hanlon, Former Director General, Central Statistics Office, Ireland; Retired
Paula Milheiro Oliveira, Universidade do Porto, Faculdade de Engenharia
Andrew Olson
Paul O'Nolan, BSc Ms MBA
J. Keith Ord, Professor Emeritus, Georgetown University, Georgetown University
Amine Ouazad, Associate Professor of Economics
Edvard Outrata, Ex-President of the Czech Statistical Office (1993-99), Member of the Czech Statistical Council
Antonios Pagkoutsos
Evangelos A. Pagotsis, Editor - Publisher, Hellenic Defence & Technology magazine
George Palios
Efthymios Paloukis
Κυριάκος Παναγιώτης
Nikolaos Pandis
Ugo Panizza, Professor of International economics and Pictet Chair in Finance and Development, The Graduate Institute Geneva

Georgia Panopoulou
Fausto Panunzi, Professor of Economics, Bocconi University, Milan
Georgios Papachristou, Doctoral researcher, Loughborough University
George Papaconstantinou, Former Greek Finance Minister
George Papadopoulos, President, George Papadopoulos, CPA/PFS, CFP
Thomas Papadopoulos
Athanasios Papageorgiou
Peter Papagiannellis
Pavlos Papanicolaou
Yiannis Papanicolaou
Konstantinos Papapostolou, Statistician in Elstat
Evangelos Papastamos
George Papoutsis, Dipl. Engineer
Vasileios Parlapanis
Ioannis Patellis
Michael Patellis
Constantine Pateras
Carlos Daniel Paulino, Professor, Center of Statistics and Applications, University of Lisbon
Theodoros Paximades, Senior Accountant
Pali Lehohla, Former Statistician General of South Africa and former Vice President of the ISI; member, United Nations Secretary General Independent Accountability Panel
Stephen Penneck, ISI
Richard Penny, Senior Researcher, Statistics New Zealand
Dinis Pestana, Professor, Faculty of Science, Lisbon University
Gerassimos Petratos, Ph.D., Professor of Physics, Kent State University
Katy Petropoulou
Dimitrios Pettas
Magnus Pettersson, PStat, Statistikkonsulterna
Klaus Pforr, GESIS
Edmund Phelps, Nobel Laureate in Economics 2006; Director, Center on Capitalism and Society, Columbia University

Solon Philopoulos, Chemical Engineer
Nanopoulos Photis, Former Director at EUROSTAT (1983-2003) Currently Visiting Professor, Dept. of Computer Engineering & Informatics University of Patras
Frank P. Pijpers, Senior methodologist, Statistics Netherlands
Jean Pisani-Ferry, Professor, EUI, Hertie School and Sciences Po
Michael Polder, Statistics Netherlands
D. Politis
Cristian Popa
Richard F. Potthoff
Stamatis Poulimenos
Dennis Pramas
Davide Prandi
John S Preisser Jr
Megan Price, Executive Director, Human Rights Data Analysis Group
Ulrich De Prins
Pantelis Protopapas, Chief Statistics Officer, Statistical Service of Cyprus
Petros Psichis
Aidan Punch, Former Assistant Director General, Central Statistics Office, Ireland
Walter J. Radermacher
Maarten Raes
Bert Rector
Adrian Redmond, Retired Senior Statistician, Central Statistics Office, Ireland
Alyson Reed, Executive Director, Linguistic Society of America
Nikos Refenes
Philip T. Reiss, Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Haifa
Robert W. Ressler, University of Texas
Robert H Riffenburgh, Ph.D. Pstat Fasa Frss, Biostatistician; Professor, Naval Medical Center San Diego; San Diego State University
Beuter Rita, Senior expert, EIPA
César Rocha

Nicos Rompapas, Executive Director, KEFiM
Markos Dragoumis
Bengt Rösener, Portfolio Manager, Union
Investment
Marty Rottman
Othon Roussos, Lawyer
Fabrizio Ruggeri, Vice President, International
Statistical Institute
Professor David W. Rupp, Director, Canadian
Institute in Greece
Philippos Sachinidis, Former Minister of Finance
for Greece
Raffaella Sadun, Associate Professor, Harvard
Bishnu Saha
Marco Salcoacci, Union Investment
Matthew Salomon, Senior Economist (GFI) &
Adjunct Professor (UMUC), Global Financial
Integrity and University of Maryland University
College
Lauren R. Samuels
Gilbert Saporta, Emeritus Professor, CNAM,
France
Penelope Sarikaki , Attorney at Law
Amit Sasson
Sabine Sattelberger, Federal Statistical Office of
Germany (Destatis)
Eleni Savvani
Athanasios Sbarounis
Carlo Scarbolo, Italy
Andrea Scheller
Jerald Schiff, Former Deputy Director,
International Monetary Fund
Emmanuel Schizas, Member, Academic Board,
Liberty Forum of Greece
Peter Schmidt, Head of Department , Federal
Statistical Office of Germany - Destatis
Isabel Schnabel, Professor of Economics,
University of Bonn, Germany
Kai-Uwe Schnapp, Prof. Dr., Universität Hamburg
Aurel Schubert
John Schuenemeyer, President, Southwest
Statistical Consulting, LLC

Reinoud Segers, Statistics Netherlands
Gary Shapiro, Past Chair and Co-Founder,
Statistics Without Borders
Jesse Sharp, Owner, Sr. Statistician, Sharp
Statistical Sciences
Prof. J. Michael Shaughnessy, Professor Emeritus,
Department of Mathematics & Statistics,
Portland State University
Thomas H. Short, Jr., Associate Professor,
Statistics Program, West Chester University of
Pennsylvania
Isabel Silva, FEUP
Kenneth D. Simonson, 2012-2013 President,
National Association for Business Economics
Christopher Sims, Professor of Economics,
Princeton University
Katharine Sims, Associate Professor of
Economics, Amherst College
Georgios Skoulakis, Assistant Professor,
University of British Columbia
Robert D. Small
Keith Smith, Senior Research Fellow, Imperial
College, University of London.
Paul A. Smith University of Southampton
Hallgrimur Snorrason, former President IAOS,
former Vice-President ISI
Tsarsitalidou Sofia, Ph.D. Student, University of
Ioannina
Soiler Dimitris
Aaron Sojourner, Associate Professor, University
of Minnesota
Calliope Spanou , Professor, National and
Kapodistrian University of Athens
Bruce D. Spencer, Professor of Statistics,
Northwestern University
Piet Sperling, Drs.ing.
Diomidis Spinellis, Professor, Athens University of
Economics and Business
Spyros Spyrou, Professor of Finance
Tassos Stamatelos, Professor, University of
Thessaly
Maria Stavropoulou

Nikolopoulos Stavros, Managing Director of
Infopro Business Consultants
Panagiotis Stefanopoulos, Colonel Dental Corps
(Ret.)
Joseph E. Stiglitz, Columbia University
Bernd Stoertzbach
Stephanie Strakbein, Graduate Teaching and
Research Assistant
Georgios Stratoudakis
Werner Sturzenegger
Prof. György Surányi, Prof of Finance, Corvinus
Univ.,Budapest, former. Governor NBH
David A. Swanson, Professor, University of
California
Anders Christianson
Alexander Swoboda, Professor of Economics
Emeritus, Graduate Institute of International
and Development Studies
Thaddeus Tarpey, Professor, Wright State
University
Apostolia Tasoudi
Sérgio Tavares
Jean-Luc Tavernier, Head of Insee
Cristina Teles de Oliveira, Sociedade Portuguesa
de Estatística
Timo Teräsvirta, Professor, Aarhus University
Minoas Theodorakis
Lars Thygesen, Consultant, Thygesen Statistics
Consulting
Cedric Tille, Professor of economics, Graduate
Institute of International and Development
Studies
Stavros Topouzis, Associate Professor, University
of Patras
Bob M Traa, Economist
Traynard Étienne, Coordonnateur des directions
régionales, Insee
Dennis Trewin, Former Chief Statistician for
Australia and President of the International
Statistical Institute, Dennis Trewin Statistical
Consulting

Yorghos Tripodis, Associate Professor,
Department of Biostatistics, Boston University
School of Public Health
Ion Trmpouyzakod
Edwin M. Truman, Former Assistant Secretary of
US Treasury, for International Affairs
Spiridon Tsamitas
Stephanie Tsantes
Stavros Tsavalos
Dimitrios Tsintzilonis
Rolf Turner, Honorary Research Fellow,
Department of Statistics, University of Auckland
Ilias Tzakis
Dimitris Tzelepis, Associate Professor
Alexandros Tzirkotis, Capt Hellenic Navy retired
Hubert Ulber
Martin Upsdell, Senior Statistician, AgResearch
Dimitrios V
Πέτρος Βαφειάδης Michigan State University
Valter Vairinhos, Researcher, ICAA/ICLAB-
Santarém Portugal
Diego Valiante, Senior Economist, European
Commission
Jocelyn van Berkel, Statistical researcher GFS,
Statistics Netherlands
Annemieke van de Steeg
A. van Delden, Senior Methodologist, Statistics
Netherlands
Mark van der Loo, Methodologist, Statistics
Netherlands
Willem J. van der Woude
Ada van Krimpen, ISI Director, International
Statistical Institute
Arjan van Loon, Statistical researcher, Statistics
Netherlands
Peter van Maanen, Researcher National
Accounts, Statistics Netherlands
Janet van Niekerk, University of Pretoria, South
Africa
Vincent van Polanen Petel, Statistics Netherlands
Simon N Vandekar, University of Pennsylvania
Mauricio Vargas, Senior Economist

Elizabeth Vasile, University of California, Berkeley
M.Vasilikos
Vasilis Vassalos, Associate Professor, Athens
University of Economics and Business
Stavrola Vaxevanidou
Juan Luis Vega Croissier
David Vegara, Lecturer, ESADE Business School
Ron Vellekoop, Drs, Statistics Netherlands
Nicolas Veron, Senior Fellow, Bruegel and
Peterson Institute for International Economics
John Verrinder
Matthieu Vignes, Senior Lecturer in Statistical
Genetics, Institute of Fundamental Sciences,
Massey University, New-Zealand
Vesa Vihriälä, Managing Director, Research
Institute of Finnish Economy
George Vlachopoulos, Judge
Maria Vlachopoulou
Ms. Marianna Volpi
Alexander von Mühlendahl, Professor Dr.iur., J.D.,
LL.M., Visiting Professor, Queen Mary University
of London, Centre for Commercial Law Studies
Sibylle Von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Director, Federal
Statistical Office of Germany (Destatis)
Katherine K. Wallman, United States Chief
Statistician (1992-2017), US Office of
Management and Budget (retired)
Anke Weber, Prof. Dr., HSHL, Germany
Elmar Wein, Statistician with responsibility for
statistics in domestic trade of Germany
Jakob von Weizsäcker, Member of the European
Parliament, European Parliament
Guenther Welter, Senior Portfolio Manager,
Union Investment
Kirsten West, retired, U.S. Census Bureau
David Whitford, Consultant, Statistics Without
Borders

Eva Wiessing, Journalist/writer
Lynn Wilkinson
Pehr Wissén, PhD, Swedish House of Finance,
Stockholm School of Economics
Geoffrey Woglom, Richard Volpert Professor of
Economics, Amherst College
Simon Wren-Lewis, Emeritus Professor of
Economics, Oxford University
Miranda Xafa, CIGI
Athanasia Xenaki, General Director of ELSTAT
(2010-2016)
Ioannis D. Yaprakis
K F Yee
Stergios Yiantsios, Professor, Aristotle University
Chrysanthos Zamboulis, MD, PhD, Emeritus
professor of Medicine, Aristotle's University of
Thessaloniki
Paolo Zanghieri
Nikolaos Zaprianos , Dr.lur.
Giovanni Zattra
Kees Zeelenberg, Chief Methodologist, Statistics
Netherlands
Stavros Zenios, Professor of Finance and
Management Science, University of Cyprus and
the Wharton Financial Institutions Center
Emmanuel Zervoudakis , Ph.D., former IMF senior
staff member
Jean-Pierre Zigrand, Director, Systemic Risk
Centre, LSE
Gerrit Zijlmans, project manager, Statistics
Netherlands
Thomas Zimmermann, Destatis
Richard C. Zink, Principal Research Statistician
Developer, JMP Life Sciences, SAS Institute
John Zoscak
Michel Zouboulakis, Professor of Economics,
University of Thessaly- Greece

216 additional signers added January 10-25

Tahar Abdesslem, Economist and Statistician

Jonathan Algar

Mark Allen, Fellow, CASE Research

Klaus R. Allerbeck, Prof. Dr., Goethe Universität
Frankfurt a. M., Germany

George Anayiotos

Ali Arab, Associate Professor, Georgetown
University

Patrick Armstrong, Senior Analyst, European
Securities and Markets Authority

Teresa Artigas

Gemma Bachiller

Thomas Backteman

Jan Amat Badiella

Adrian Barnett, Professor, Queensland University
of Technology

Lluís Maria Bassas

Thomas K. Bauer, Prof. Dr., Vice President of RWI
- Leibniz Institute for Economic Research

Thomas Bebis

Jean-Marc Beguin, Inspecteur général of the
French NSI (Insee)ee (retaité en, INSEE (now
retired)

Agnès Belaisch

Samuel Bentolila, Professor, CEMFI (Madrid)

Julia Berlin, Statistician, teacher analyst

Manfred Berres, Prof. Dr., University of Applied
Sciences Koblenz

George Berry, Sociologist

Michael Bertolacci, Ph.D. student, The University
of Western Australia

Derek Bingham, Professor, Simon Fraser
University

Ian Birch, Chief Transport Economist, Cebr,
London.

Olivier Blanchard, Professor emeritus,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Jean-Louis Bodin, Inspecteur Général de l'INSEE
Honoraire, France, Former President of the ISI.
Former President of the IAOS

Dr. Thomas Bogenschütz

Joshua Bon, University of Western Australia

Roser Borrell

Panagiotis Bouroutzis

Dr. Ross Bowden, Statistical Consultant, AlunaBlu
Pty Ltd

Alan J. Branford, Ph.D., Adjunct Associate
Professor in Mathematics and Statistics

Elisa Broggi

Eva Brualla Martí

Joachim Buddendick, Senior Portfolio Manager,
Union Investment

Roser Borrell Busquets

Juan Sabater Bustamante

Alberto Cabane

Mireia Cama, European Patent Attorney

Alex Sarri Camargo, Political Advisor in the
European Parliament

David Campbell, Associate Professor, Simon
Fraser University

Laurent Camus

Salvador Cardús, Professor, Universitat
Autonoma de Barcelona

Imma Gálvez Carrillo, Lecturer, UPC

Daniel Merino Casajuana

Panos E Cavoulacos

Nanjamma Chinnappa, Retired Statistician

Nicholas A. Christakis, MD, PhD, Professor, Yale
University

Jeremie Cohen-Setton, Research Fellow, Peterson
Institute for International Economics

Fabio Colasanti

Professor Annie L. Cot, Professor in Economics,
University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne

Constantine C. Coulouvatos, Managing Director,
Amalia Hotels

Joshua Cox
Conor J. Curran
Etienne Davignon
Harris Dellas, Professor of Economics, University of Bern
Stephane Dèo, Strategist, LBPAM
Elias Dinas, Swiss Chair in Federalism, Democracy and International Governance, European University Institute
Carl Donovan, University of St Andrews
James G. Dowty
Peter Doyle, Economist
Benoit d'Udekem, Managing Partner, Finitude sprl
Gary Dunnet
William T.M. Dunsmuir, Professor of Statistics, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
Dean Eckles, Assistant Professor, MIT
Katherine B. Ensor, Noah G. Harding Professor of Statistics, Rice University
Margit Epler, former member of ESGAB
Fredrik Erixon, Director, ECIPE
Piero Esposito, Researcher, LUISS-SEP
Esther Fages
Oriol Ferrer i Ribalaiga
Soteris Flourentzos, Lawyer, Soteris Flourentzos & Associates LLC
Josep Fontova
Claudia Fornieles, student
Greetje Frankena, Principal Economist
Cathy Furlong, Chair, Statistics Without Borders
Giacomo Gabbuti, PhD Student, University of Oxford
Hal Gainer
Arnau Gironella Garcia
Luis Garicano, Professor of Economics and Strategy, London School of Economics (On Leave), IE Business School
Jordi Gaset
Robert P. George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton University

Jordi Gili
Richard Gillette, Professor Emeritus, Montana State University
Diana Gillooly, Senior Editor, Cambridge University Press (for identification purposes only)
John Glover
Ian Goldring, Director
Elena Rico Gomez, Faculty, Universitat de Barcelona
Marta Gomez
Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, Professor of Economics, University of California, Berkeley
Dionyssis Goussetis, Columnist
Michael F. Grace
Tammy Grace, Ph.D.
Alexander Greer, Professor, Brooklyn College
Alex Grimaud, Ph.D. Candidate, Utrecht University
Fran Guasch, Industrial Engineer
Joan Tubert Guillaumet
Michael Haliassos, Chair of Macroeconomics and Finance, Goethe University Frankfurt
Alison Harcourt
Prof. Martin Hellwig, Director (em.), Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods, Bonn, Germany
Gianna Hessel
Susan Hinkins, Retired
Amy Hogan, Statistics Teacher, Brooklyn Technical High School
Oliver Hogan, Chief Economist, Cebr
Ian Holmes, Associate Professor, University of California, Berkeley
Christopher Hols, PhD candidate, University of Bonn
John Huelsenbeck, Professor, University of California, Berkeley
Amanda Hughes
Michael Lauren Jackson, Former teacher at Athens College
Caroline Jamet, Insee

Marta Juarez
Anna Karismo, Journalist
Matthias Kleiner, Professor; President, Leibniz-
Assoziation Germany
Robert Kollmann, Full Professor (Economics),
European Centre for Advanced Research in
Economics and Statistics, Université Libre de
Bruxelles
Electra Kontoroupi, MSc., Columbia University
Judith A. Korey
Iikka Korhonen
Nicos J. Koulis
Efstathios Kouninis
Constantine Lazarakis
Jerome Legras
Prof. Zafra Lerman, President, Malta Conferences
Foundation
Ngo Lee Ling, Perdana Fellow, Perdana Fellows
Alumni Association, Malaysia
Renato Loiero, parliamentary counsellor,
President of national statistic surveillance
authority
Anthony G. Loukas
Giovanni Majnoni
Taryn Major, Biostatistician
Yoav Margolin
Lluís Martí
Carles Masdeu
Maria Masferrer
Silvia Merler, affiliate fellow, Bruegel
Ariadna Anton Miró
Spyros Missiakoulis, University of Athens
John Mullahy, Professor, University of Wisconsin
Diamanto Nikolopoulou
Montserrat Novellon
Pól Ó Duibhir, Retired economist
Rigas Oikonomou, Assistant Professor, Université
Catholique de Louvain
Jordi Ortiz
George Pagoulatos, Professor of European
Politics & Economy, Athens University of
Economics & Business

Evangelos Papadopoulos, Professor, NTUA
Michael G. Papaioannou, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar
and Professor, LeBow College of Business,
Drexel University
Xenophon Paparrigopoulos, Professor, U. of the
Peloponnese
Fotopoulos Paris
Diane Patronas, Realtor, Long and Foster Real
Estate
Seguin Pascal, Chief of Régional Statistics Office
Pays de la Loire, INSEE – France
Nicholas Patronas, Medical doctor
Oscar Pazos
Martí Perarnau
Emmanuel E. Platsidakis
Mark Pollard, Independent Statistician
Richard Portes, Professor of Economics, London
Business School
Elliot Posner, Associate Professor of Political
Science, Case Western Reserve University
Pilar Prieto, PhD, ICREA, Universitat Pompeu
Fabra
Alexander Protonotarios
Mary E. Putt, Professor of Biostatistics, University
of Pennsylvania
Deyan Radev, Postdoctoral Researcher, Goethe
University Frankfurt and University of Bonn,
Germany
Monica Rafecas
Sowmya R. Rao
Michael Rasmussen, Statistical Society of
Australia
Douglas Rediker, Non-Resident Senior Fellow,
Brookings Institution
Peter Riginos
Kris Rogers
Marek Rojicek, Czech Statistical Office
Manel Romani, MD
Warren Ronsiek
Dariusz K. Rosati, Professor, Warsaw School of
Economics

Jacek Rostowski, Former Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister of Poland, Central European University, Budapest and Sciences Po Paris

Javier Rua

Venanci Saborit

Júlia Salvador, Masters degree

Andre Sapir, Professor, Université libre de Bruxelles

Sergi Sarri, Spokesperson PDeCAT Sants-Montjuïc District (Barcelona, Catalonia)

Tracey Savage, Senior Analyst, Stats NZ

Riikka Savolainen, Teaching Fellow, King's College London

Christoph M. Schmidt, President, RWI -- Leibniz Institute for Economic Research

Reinhold Schnabel, Professor of public finance, University Duisburg-Essen

Christoph Schnelle, MBIostats, University of Queensland

Peter Schwendner, Professor, Zurich University of Applied Sciences

Jas Sekhon, Robson Professor of Political Science and Statistics, UC Berkeley

Charles Shaw

Elizabeth Sigman, Professor, Georgetown University

Christopher Smart, Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Glòria Soler

Jennifer Starling

Athanasios Stavrakoudis, Assistant Professor, University of Ioannina

John Stockie, Professor, Simon Fraser University

Diana Strassmann, Carolyn & Fred McManis Distinguished Professor of the Practice, Rice University

Per Strömberg, Professor, Stockholm School of Economics

George Svolos

Manel Aguayo Tarragó

Platon Tinios, Economist, Assistant Professor, Department of Insurance and Statistics, University of Piraeus, Greece

María José Tintore

Daniel Tompkins, Associate Professor (retired), Temple University

Isidro Torra

Joan Torrejon

Constantine Tzanos, PhD, Nuclear Engineering

Cecilia Valles, Archivist

Teresa Armengol Vallès

Mariel Vazquez, Professor, UC Davis

Antonio Rodríguez Verdugo

Pierre Vertray

Carlos Vilarrodona

Àlvar Vinacua, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, Technical University of Catalonia

Lucio Vinhas de Souza

Mark Wahrenburg, Prof. Dr., Goethe University Frankfurt

Claire Waysand

Volker Wieland, Professor, Goethe University Frankfurt, German Council of Economic Experts

Susan R. Wilson, Professor, University of New South Wales

N David Yanez, Professor of Biostatistics, Oregon Health & Science University

Robert Yant

Stella Yant

Peter Zaphiropoulos, Professor of Molecular Biology, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Jonathan Zeitlin, Distinguished Faculty Professor of Public Policy and Governance, University of Amsterdam

Jeromin Zettelmeyer

264 names added post January 25

Robert A. Agnew, Analytics Consultant
Gudrun Ambros, journalist
Thomas Antzenhofer, M. A., MA-LIS
Anke Anyadiegwu
Claudia Arnold, Dr. Arnold Chemie-Beratung
Demos Athanasopoulos, PhD, Professor/Chemistry
Department Chair, Pace University
Ulf Austermühle
Urs Ballmer
Jens Becker, Dr., Physician
Christiane Behnert
Luigi Bellina, Dipl. Ing. (FH), Waldkirch, Germany
Ulrich Berger, Univ.Prof. Dr.Dr., WU Vienna
University of Economics and Business
Achim Berlitz, Dipl.-Staatswiss.
Lisa J. Bernstein, Principal Statistical Scientist,
Genentech, Inc.
Jutta Bertram, Prof. Dr., Hochschule Hannover
Reinhard Bimashofer
Benjamin Blinten, Political Science Librarian
Annelies Blom, Prof. Dr., University of Mannheim
Georg Blüml, metteur en scène, auteur
Thomas Börner
Rachel Braun, High school statistics teacher
Heinz Brunner
Sven Brysch
Wolfgang Büchel
Simon Buettner
Henning Busboom
Trevor Butterworth, Executive Director
Murray Cameron
Gerard Caprio, Professor of Economics
Sérgio Dias Carvalho Silva
Arthur Charpentier, Professor
Ολιβερ Τσενιινγκ, Research Scientist
Frank Chervatin
Roland Clos
Dr. Rebecca Conley
Margaret Conomos, Statistician (Health)
Michael Costello, ASA
Ludwig Csepai, Mag. phil., Austria
Heinrich Dahmen, DVM
Paul Inuwa Dalatu
Daniel Danner, GESIS - Leibniz-Institute for the
Social Sciences
Hubert Daubmeier, Privacy professional
Thomas Davis
Dr. Thomas Dielmann, CEO, entrepreneur retail
industry
Wolf Doleys
Alf Domeier, Dr.med., Rentner
Shawn Donnelly, Assistant Professor European
Studies
F. Duerfeld
Hans Edelmann
Ralph Ehlers, Dr. rer. nat.
Stefan Elser, Statistician
Sommer Erich
Klaus Erler, Dr. rer. nat.
Walter Ernestus
William B. Fairley, President, Analysis & Inference,
Inc.
Andreas Feid
Lars P. Feld, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c., University of
Freiburg, Walter Eucken Institute and German
Council of Economic Experts
Klaus Fischbach
Jens Fischer, Ministry of Education of the State of
Hesse
Nico Fischer, Research Associate, Gemeinsamer
Bundesausschuss
Steffen FischerWolfgang Flamme
Jean J Fortier, Ph.D., SSCMonika Frank
Manfred Fricke, Diplom-Volkswirt
Andrea Fritz
Manuel Frondel, Prof. Dr., RWI
Jürgen Gehne
Martin Gehring, Bürger der Stadt Regensburg,
Bayerns, Deutschlands, Europas
Rainer Geisler, Prof. Dr.

Bernd Giering, Studienrat
Dietrich Goetze, Dr.med.
Pauline Gossner
Christian Alexander Graf, Dipl.-Math.,
Qualitätssicherung & Statistik
Joachim Grammig, Professor Dr., University of
Tuebingen
Jenna Grauer-Gray, M.S., AAAS
Dr. Manfred Gravekarstens
Rolf Gröber
Piet Groeneboom, Professor, Delft University
Eduardo Gutiérrez-Peña, Researcher
Erwin Hachmann, Dipl.-Psych.
Torsten Haeffner, PEN
Carolina Haensch
Ruth Hammerbacher, Director, Hammerbacher
GmbH, Osnabrück, Germany
Dr. Rolf-Dieter Hanrath
Karoline Harzenetter, GESIS
Volker Häselbarth, Mathematician
Dr. Sven Heinrich, Chief Controller
Peter S Heller, Visiting Professor of Economics
Martin Helmke
Holger Hengevoß, Germany
Matthias Hennig
Marion Hertel, Mannheim, Ph.D. in chemistry
Ulrich Hesse
Martin Heymann, Teacher
Thomas Hilberer, Universität Tübingen
Sebastian Hildebrand, Goethe University Frankfurt
am Main
Lars Hofmann
Herwig Holme, Dipl.Ing
Josef Holzer
Johann Hombach
Harald Hormess
Karsten Hötzer
William A. Huber, Senior Statistician, Analysis and
Inference
Matthias Huehn, Professor, University of Navarra
James Hyde
Manfred Ilg

Gerhard Illing
Jan Jäckle
Hans-Jörg Jacobsen, Prof. Dr., Professor Emeritus
Sarah Jacobson, Associate Professor of Economics
Manfred Jäger
Jacques Janssen, PhD, Principal Statistician
Dalibor Jeremic
Richard Junesch, Universität Stuttgart
Rainer Jung
Elmar Kerber, Dr.sc.agr.
Nealia Khan
Chris A.J. Klaassen, Professor Emeritus of
Mathematical Statistics, University of
Amsterdam
Thomas Klein
Marcus Klemm, Professor for Economics and
Statistics, University of Applied Sciences
Würzburg-Schweinfurt
Dr. Martin Knechtel
Daniel Knittel, Programmer for statistics
Thomas Köcher, Austria
Erich Kollegger, Mag., Department Statistics and
Geoinformation Styria
Tim Kreisel
Moritz Krell
Christoph Kronenberg, PhD
Marie Kühn
Sven Kummutat
Dr Peter Kupka, Research Coordination, Institute
for Employment Research (IAB)
Kenneth Kuttner, Professor
Benjamin Lang
Werner Lange
Dominika Langenmayr, Professor
Christine Leib-Mösch, Prof. Dr., Scientist
Dr. Konrad Leitner, Technical University of Berlin
Christian Liesen, Prof. Dr., ZHAW Zurich University
of Applied Sciences
Peter Lohaus, Statistical Institute of Berlin-
Brandenburg (retired)
Jeremy Loscheider, Data Scientist

Helmut Ludwigs, Geschäftsführender
Gesellschafter, Prisma GmbH
Lukas Magnin, Germany
Stefan Mais
Dr. med. Andrea Mann-Rentz
Jan Marx, MD
Lutz Mattner, Prof. Dr., Universität Trier
Brigitte Matzke
Karl Ulrich Mayer, Stanley B. Resor Emeritus
Professor of Sociology, Yale University
Martin Mayer
Karsten Meier
Dr. Dieter Meinert
Philippe Meleard
Frank Meyer, OStR
Ulrich Milde, Diplom-Ökonom
Evelyn Möller
Wolfgang Monninger
Peter Montiel, Professor
Thomas Mueller-Hotop, Dr.
Jörg Müller
Thomas Müller-Schneider, Prof. Dr.
Magnus Münch, MSc, Leiden University
Robert M. Münch, CEO
Holger Nachtigall
Norbert Naumann
Ricardo Neuner, M. A.
Peter Niebergall
Manfred Nolting, Dipl.- Betriebswirt
Dieter Nuhr, Artist, Comedian
Patricia O'Hara, Former ESGAB member
Dr. Peter Orth, OPC - Orth Plastics Consulting
Hans-Peter Ott
Notburga Ott, Prof. Dr., Ruhr-University Bochum,
Germany
Sebastian Otte
Christopher Paciorek, Adjunct Professor,
Department of Statistics, UC Berkeley
Anastasia Patrikiou
Anja Perry, Senior Researcher, GESIS - Leibniz
Institute for the Social Sciences
Eckart Petig

Paul Pieper, University of Illinois at Chicago,
University of Illinois at Chicago
Luigi Pieri
Tanja Pott
Burkhard Rauhut, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c., Emeritus,
RWTH Aachen University
Karuna Reddy, Research Data Analyst
Martin Reichert, Diplomphysiker
Thomas Reichhart
Lars Riber
Donata Riedel, Correspondent, Handelsblatt
Steven Rivkin, Professor, University of Illinois at
Chicago
Alice Robbin, Associate Professor Emerita, Indiana
University Bloomington
Heinrich Roetzel
Hajo Rohmert
Holger Rootzen, Professor, Chalmers University of
Technology
Helle Rootzen, Professor, Technical University of
Denmark
Joachim Roux
Mike Rückert
Stefan Sachtleben, Dr. med.
Luca Salice
Janin Sameith
Rolf Schaefer, Rechtsanwalt
Michael Scheland
Wolfgang Scherf, Prof. Dr., Justus-Liebig-
Universität Gießen
Thomas Schiedek
Herbert Schlembach, N
Ulrich Schmelzle
Erich Schmidt
Hilmar Schneider, Prof. Dr., Institute of Labor
Economics
Silke Schneider
Jan Schnellenbach, Professor for Economics
Jette Schröder
Philipp Schönborn
Christian Schnoor

Gregor Schöner, Professor, Ruhr-Universität
Bochum, Germany
Stefanie Schubert, Professor of Economics
Hans-Joachim Schulze, retired
Daniel Schumann, M.A. Economics
Immo Sennewald
Lara Shore-Sheppard, Professor of Economics
Monika Simek, Mag.
Jan Simon
Joachim Singer
Dr. Wolfgang Socher, CTO, VIPcom GmbH
Verena Sommer, Max Planck Institute for Human
Development
Hans-Joachim Sommermeier, Dipl.-Geograph, OK
Susanne Soretz, Prof. Dr.
Hasso Spode, Prof. Dr., TU Berlin
Dr. Burkhard Stahlmecke
Roland B. Stark, Statistician and Research
Consultant
Ralf Stauder, Dipl.-Inf. (Univ.), Technical University
of Munich
Peter J. Stauvermann, Professor
Hans-Georg Steden, Studiendirektor Sozial- und
Erziehungswissenschaften
Maria Steinberg
Christian Stoeckel
Hans Strasburger, Prof. Dr., Ludwig-Maximilians-
Universität München
Christian Stricker
Michael Strödick
Dr. Christoph Strupat
Anna Talmann
Peter Tamas, Wageningen University
Hilde Tobi, Wageningen University & Research
Dirk Tornow
Mark Trappmann
Eberhard Triesch, Prof. Dr.
Robert Trosse, Citizen of Germany, Citizen of
Germany
Rauscher Ulla
Katharina Utecht
Wolfgang Utz

Carol Valoris, Executive Director, CCS
JM Varela
Paul Vierus
Eckehard Vogt, Dipl.-Kfm
Ernst von Kardorff, Prof. i.R., Dr. phil., Senior
Researcher
Renke Christian von Seggern
Stephan Voshage
Hans-Joachim Weber
Maria-Christina Weber
Michael Weber
J.G. Weltens
Alexandra Wicht
Harald Wiegand, Diplom-Volkswirt, Private
Micha Wild
Ulrike Winkelmann
Heike Wirth, GESIS
Walter Witt
Klaus Wuchner
Iacovos Yiacoumis