

**IN MEMORY
OF PROFESSOR WOLFGANG FÖRSTER
AND PROFESSOR ZDZISLAW HELLWIG**

ŚLĄSKI
PRZEGLĄD
STATYSTYCZNY
Nr 18(24)

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ISSN 1644-6739
e-ISSN 2449-9765

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Quote as: Fleischer, K. (2020). In memory of Professor Wolfgang Förster and Professor Zdzislaw Hellwig. *Śląski Przegląd Statystyczny*, 18(24).

DOI: 10.15611/sps.2020.18.02

Abstract: In September 2019, the 25th Joint Statistical Seminar of the Philipps University of Marburg and the Wrocław University of Economics was held. Therefore some (more or less) interesting facts about these 25 meetings are summarized here as far as they could be reconstructed from the files of one of the founders of these seminars.

Keywords: statistics., Förster, Hellwig.

1. The beginnings

In 1980 Peter von der Lippe (University of Essen, Germany) organized a visit of German statisticians to the Oskar Lange Academy of Economics in Wrocław. During that trip Professor Wolfgang Förster from Philipps University of Marburg got in touch with Professor Zdzislaw Hellwig from the Oskar Lange Academy of Economics. Thanks to their similar research interests they decided to meet again in Germany for a scientific seminar. In 1981 Professor Förster organized a joint seminar in Marburg combined with visits to the universities of Gießen, Stuttgart-Hohenheim and Tübingen. That seminar was the first of 25 joint seminars, held in 38 years of cooperation between the Chair of Statistics in the Department of Business Administration and Economics in Marburg and the Department of Statistics and Economic Cybernetics of Wrocław University of Economics (after its change of name in 2008 from the Oskar Lange Academy of Economics).

2. Dates and locations of the 25 joint seminars

Nr 18(24) The dates and locations of the 25 joint seminars are shown in Table 1, as well as the number of talks and the number of participants during those seminars. The locations alternated regularly between Germany and Poland. Owing to the close relations between the statisticians from the Department of Business Administration and the Department of Mathematics at Philipps University of Marburg, Professor Mammitzsch and later on also Professor Steinebach relatively early joined these meetings.

Table 1. Dates, locations, number of participants and talks

No.	Date	Location	Number of participants	Talks
1	31.3.–6.4.1981	Marburg/Gießen/Tübingen/ Stuttgart-Hohenheim	25	9
2	13.9.–19.9.1981	Wroclaw/Ladek Zdroj/ Jelenia Gora	7	5
3	13.3.–19.3.1983	Marburg/Edersee	13	13
4	23.9.–29.9.1984	Jelenia Gora	12	11
5	24.8.–31.8.1985	Marburg	14	10
6	22.3.–28.3.1987	Wroclaw/Opole	13	11
7	3.10.–7.10.1988	Marburg	11	10
8	7.10.–12.10.1990	Maciejowicz	14	14
9	24.9.–30.9.1991	Marburg	14	13
10	March 1994	Karpacz	13	10
11	5.2.–8.2.2001	Marburg	13	12
12	2.10.–5.10.2001	Wroclaw	21	14
13	14.10.–17.10.2002	Marburg	18	16
14	29.9.–2.10.2003	Kudowa Zdroj	14	7
15	27.9.–30.9.2004	Marburg	19	11
16	26.9.–29.9.2005	Wroclaw	17	10
17	11.9.–14.9.2006	Cologne	15	8
18	24.9.–27.9.2007	Mysłakowice	23	9
19	22.9.–25.9.2008	Burgthann	16	10
20	21.9.–25.9.2009	Wisła	17	9
21	26.9.–29.9.2011	Frauenberg	18	13
22	30.9.–3.10.2013	Swieradow Zdroj	13	8
23	28.9.–1.10.2015	Pottstein-Kirchenbirkig	14	9
24	25.9.–28.9.2017	Kowary	12	8
25	23.9.–26.9.2019	Gollhofen	14	12
		Σ	380	262

Source: own elaboration.

The first meetings were organized by Wolfgang Förster and Zdzislaw Hellwig. The seminar in 1994 was organized by Stanislaw Krawczyk. After Zdzislaw Hellwig's retirement in 1995, the subsequent seminars in Poland were organized by Walenty Ostasiewicz (2001-2009), Zofia Rusnak (2013) and Joanna Debicka (2017).

Wolfgang Förster organized the seminars in Germany until 1991 until his retirement in 1992. Wolfgang Birkenfeld joined the following seminar in 1994 in Poland, however he died unexpectedly in 1996, which led to a longer unstable period with several temporary deputies in Marburg. In 1999 Karlheinz Fleischer became Head of the Chair of Statistics at the Department of Business Administration at Philipps University of Marburg. In 2000/2001, Zdzislaw Hellwig proposed to continue the series of joint seminars. Under the mediation of Jerzy Wawrzynek, Volker Mammitzsch from the Mathematics Department in Marburg organized the next meeting in Marburg in 2001. The subsequent seminars in Germany have been organized since 2002 by Karlheinz Fleischer.

Wolfgang Förster participated in the next seminars in Marburg until he died in 2003, and for health reasons Zdzislaw Hellwig could not participate in the seminars after 1994. He died in 2013, a few days after the 22nd joint seminar.

3. The participants

As can be seen in Table 1, in total 380 persons participated in the 25 seminars, whereas about 60 unknown students which had joined the first seminar in 1981 have been omitted. The number of participants during the meetings ranged between seven (probably more, since no list of Polish participants of the second seminar could be found) and 25 per meeting. Altogether 204 persons from Germany (from the Universities of Marburg, Cologne, Essen, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Tübingen, Leipzig and Gießen) and 176 from Wrocław University of Economics could be accounted for.

In total, exactly 100 different persons participated in the 25 seminars.

The list of persons who attended most of the seminars is given in Table 2.

Table 2. Most frequent participations

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|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Jerzy Wawrzynek (Wrocław, 22 participations), 2) Volker Mammitzsch (Marburg, 21), 3) Josef Steinebach (Marburg/Cologne, 17), 4) Walenty Ostasiewicz (Wrocław, 16), 5) Karlheinz Fleischer (Marburg, 15). |
|---|

Source: own elaboration.

4. The talks

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The number of talks during the meetings varied between 5 and 16 per meeting, and 79 different speakers in total gave 262 talks during the 25 seminars, 123 by Polish and 139 by German speakers. The speakers who gave most given talks are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Participants who gave most talks

1. Stanislaw Heilpern (Wroclaw, 13 talks)
2. Josef Steinebach (Marburg/Cologne, 12)
3. Wolfgang Förster (Marburg, 11)
4. Jerzy Wawrzynek (Wroclaw), Volker Mammitzsch (Marburg, 10 talks each),

Source: own elaboration.

Abstracts of the talks are usually published in the Silesian Statistical Review.

5. Analysis of the model

Besides the talks within the conference part of the seminars, additional highlights of each seminar have always been trips to the surroundings of the conference locations. Walks through the very beautiful regions of both countries, and visits to very attractive places have hugely impressed all participants and gave opportunities for the exchange of ideas in an informal atmosphere.

The meetings and excursions in Poland led the participants to Wroclaw (German: Breslau), Ladek Zdroj (Bad Landeck), Jelenia Gora (Hirschberg), Opole (Oppeln), Bierkowice (Birkowitz), Moszna (Moschen), Nysa (Neisse), Paczkow (Patschkau), Maciejowiec (Matzdorf), Karpacz (Krummhübel), Krzyzowa (Kreisau), Swidnica (Schweidnitz), Kudowa Zdroj (Bad Kudowa), Krakow (Krakau), Myslakowice (Erdmannsdorf), Sniezka (Schneekoppe), Kowary (Schmiedeberg), Wisla (Weichsel), Swieradow Zdroj (Bad Flinsberg), and Sempia Gora (Geiersberg).

During the seminars in Germany the participants visited Marburg, Gießen, Stuttgart-Hohenheim.

Tübingen (Polish: Tybinga), the Bodensee (Jezioro Bodenskie), the Edersee, Wiesbaden, Mainz (Moguncja), Fulda, Limburg, Kassel, Koln (Kolonja), Burgthann, Nürnberg (Norymberga), Altdorf, Feucht, Frauenberg (near Marburg), Ebsdorfergrund, Pottenstein-Kirchenbirkig.

Gößweinstein, Tüchersfeld, Gollhofen, Kitzingen, and Rothenburg o.d. Tauber.

6. Additional remarks

Moreover in 2006 a contract regarding a student and teaching staff ERASMUS exchange program between both universities was signed. From 2007/08 until 2012/13, two students from each country were allowed to study abroad for five months, and since 2014/15 three students per academic year can be nominated for up to 10 months for a study abroad. Many students from both countries used this program to study one semester abroad. As the person responsible for the choice of the German students for the exchange program, the author often gets feedback from German students after their stay abroad. Everyone, who was asked, gave very enthusiastic reports about their fantastic time and lots of useful experiences and impressions, both academic and personal. Nobody regretted his or her stay in Wrocław.

Additionally, each year one member of the faculty can use this contract for teaching staff mobility for one week where eight hours of lectures have to be given.

Moreover, Stanisław Krawczyk and Jerzy Wawrzynek from Wrocław stayed in Marburg several times for longer periods (up to one semester) in order to give courses for students in the Mathematics department.

The 25 joint seminars for the universities of Wrocław and Marburg organized in those 38 years can be summarized as very successful for the exchange and discussion of scientific findings. Many deep friendships were created between the Polish and German scholars from the universities of Wrocław and Marburg.

Hopefully these joint seminars will continue in the future for a very long time to come.

PAMIĘCI PROFESORA WOLFGANG FÖRSTERA I PROFESORA ZDZISŁAWA HELLWIGA

Streszczenie: We wrześniu 2019 roku odbyło się XXV Wspólne Seminarium Statystyczne Philipps-Universität Marburg i Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu. Tekst jest podsumowaniem niektórych – mniej lub bardziej – interesujących faktów dotyczących tych 25 spotkań i został opracowany na podstawie dokumentów posiadanych przez jednego z założycieli tych seminariów.

Słowa kluczowe: statystyka, Förster, Hellwig.