

Small area estimation (SAE) plays an important role in the field of information provision about modern societies using survey sampling. SAE methods enable reliable estimation at detailed disaggregation levels where sample sizes are too small to apply direct estimation techniques. With the rapid development of survey methodology, different governmental agencies are now exploring ways of combining national survey data with administrative and census records to produce reliable small area statistics. The field of small area estimation research is quickly expanding to meet this demand, and is constantly tackling practical problems that are both theoretically and computationally challenging. Furthermore, in recent years, new and challenging problems in SAE have emerged that are associated with Big Data, confidentiality protection, record linkage or interaction between SAE and other fields, where ideas of SAE are applicable, but not without further methodology and computational development.

The main purpose of organizing a conference on small area estimation is to assess the current state of development and usage of small area methodology. This conference continues a series of conferences on small area estimation that have been organized annually at different places around the world. It will give researchers and practitioners from all over the world an opportunity to exchange information or learn about state-of-the-art small area estimation techniques. So far small area estimation has predominantly been an academic area of research. The aim of this conference is to give more attention to applications and implementation in government agencies. Our intention with this conference is to have several invited sessions on focused research areas including a session on applications in official statistics.