Biostats hosts International Symposium on current trends in modeling and software development in Data Science

The Biostatistics Research Unit, jointly with the Data Science Institute at Hasselt University (Belgium), hosted the "International symposium on current trends in modeling and software development in Data Science" from 20-23 February 2024. The aim of the symposium was to provide a platform for discussion about both methodological and biostatistics capacity development topics and to initiate South-South and North-South interactions and engagement. This symposium was the opening event of The VLIR-UOS International Training Program project eR-BioStat ITP - Development of local E-learning platforms in (bio)statistics.

During the first two days, Prof Ziv Shkedy (Hasselt University) showcased the eR-Biostat Platform for teaching and learning statistics at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. In the second short course, Dr Rudradev Sengupta (Janssen Pharmaceutica) took participants through data analysis, modeling and reporting using R, R studio and R markdown.

The conference was held on 22 and 23 February and invited speakers from the North represented several institutions including Hasselt University, Jannsen Phamaceutica, The NIH and Brown University. There was also a high degree of geographic diversity with speakers and delegates from South Africa, Kenya, Mozambique, Botswana, Ghana and Ethiopia. Within the South, speakers included leadership of Statistics departments from the University of Pretoria; University of Venda; University of Zululand; University of KwaZulu Natal; Stellenbosch University, University of South Africa; as well as the SAMRC and HSRC.