



Warsaw, 11 March 2017

**Professor Gunnar Andersson**

**Chair of the Stockholm University Demographic Unit**

Dear Gunnar, Dear Colleagues,

We are deeply saddened by the news of Jan making his “final transition”. He was an outstanding demographer and a remarkable person. Directly or indirectly, he influenced our research, professional choices and our thinking about science, demographic research and values attached to the development of the European research community.

Jan greatly influenced our research by developing methods for modelling life-courses and showing how they can be used for understanding the ongoing changes in family dynamics. We all benefitted from his work not only by learning how to apply event-history models, but also by learning how to apply them correctly. Jan always paid attention to teach us how to avoid common mistakes, such as conducting anticipatory analysis or relying blindly on significance tests. We were meeting Jan at various events, conferences, seminars – all over the world. We read his articles, listened to his talks. He always had an important message to give and he was, indeed, shaping our thinking on demographic and statistical issues. He was always setting the best possible example of what it means to be a good researcher and he was always full of great ideas and useful advises.

Jan was also a great teacher. He contributed immensely to the development of numerous young generations of demographers. He did it by teaching courses in event history analyses, but most importantly by attracting young students to work with him at the MPIDR and at SUDA. He had an incredible ability to gather young people around him, make them enthusiastic about demography and statistical modelling. He was also very generous in mentoring his students and offering them excellent conditions to pursue their research interests. Several generations of young scholars benefited from his teaching and supervision, including us.

Finally, Jan was a great person. Those of us who collaborated with Jan or stayed at the Max Planck Institute—when he was leading the Fertility Division—benefitted from his supportive approach. Jan supported our scientific progress, but we also learned what a caring man he was. He was delighted to see our publications, but he also loved watching our personal growth and our families expanding.

He was a great scientist, an inspiring and generous mentor and an amazing person. We will try to pass what we have learned from him in our research, our teaching and our lives.

He will be missed. No one will ever replace him. And he will always be remembered.

Anita Abramowska, Anna Matysiak, Monika Mynarska, Marta Styrc,  
Irena E.Kotowska

Unit of Demography, Institute of Statistics and Demography