Dear Editors of the Austrian Journal of Statistics,

We would like to submit our paper *“Simulation Tools for Small Area Estimation: Introducing the R-package saeSim”* for review to the Austrian Journal of Statistics: Special Issue on R.

The demand for reliable regional estimates from sample surveys has been substantially grown over the last decades. Small area estimation provides statistical methods to produce reliable predictions when the sample sizes in regions are too small to apply direct estimators. Model- and design-based simulations are used to gain insights into the quality of the introduced methods.

In this article we present a framework which may help to guarantee the reproducibility of simulation studies in articles and during research. The introduced R-package, saeSim, is adjusted to provide a simulation environment for the special case of small area estimation. The package may allow the prospective researcher during the research process to produce simulation studies with a minimal effort of coding.

We hope that our paper will be of interest to the Austrian Journal of Statistics.

Yours Sincerely,

Timo Schmid and Sebastian Warnholz