

Continuing Education of WS in Greece

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Introduction

UNESCO Division of Statistics in co-operation with national commissions or with UNESCO country or regional offices has organised through the last ten years, workshops for women statisticians in many countries. The purpose of these workshops was: to promote the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of gender-sensitive education statistics;
to train women statisticians, in methods and techniques needed to ensure the regular production of education indicators allowing meaningful analyses of gender disparities;
to facilitate regional co-operation and inter-country sharing of ideas and experiences in this field.
In Greece little research has been done up to now about the continuing education of Women Statisticians (WS). There are not any well-defined continuing education programs based on the actual needs of WS and it seems obvious that WS do not have equal treatment within the present gender structure.

The aim of this study is to present how could we apply a continuing education program using learning technologies to WS.

The program

Most of women statisticians in Greece are working in Universities, where the others work in private or public companies. Of those who are working in the Universities, the chances of having an extra course are almost double, of other statisticians. But all statisticians want to be well informed with up-to-date knowledge in statistics.

The simplest way to do this is to organize a continuing education course in statistics. This has to be easily accessible in the web and done either by the supervision of any University or by the supervision of the ISI Committee on Women in Statistics. Valuable information and cooperation with UNESCO Division of Statistics has also to be included in this course.

A continuing education program, incorporates learning technologies such as telecommunications, broadcasting, new interactive media, software and hardware for computers. Moreover, in a continuing education program for WS, educators, statisticians, and designers, have to co-operate (1) for a better outcome.

In a web course in statistics, a learning strategy has also to be considered. A learning strategy according to researchers, is an individual's way of organizing and using a particular set of skills in order to learn a content or accomplish other tasks more effectively and efficiently in school as well as in nonacademic settings (2). More simply, a learning strategy is an individual's approach to complete a task. So, different learning strategies may implement different learning technologies.

For a continuing education statistical program addressed to WS, the students will have a role in

which their participation will have some effect on the outcome of this process. So, in a well-organised statistics continuing education program for WS a part of it can be online and/or another part of it can be done during summer where learning technologies will be present.

In this program, WS firstly need an online course to retrieve information easily about statistics, courses, libraries, books etc, because in the web it is very difficult and time consuming to try to find information on a specific statistical topic unless you know the right address. In this program, it is also necessary a wellorganised database of statistical information with asynchronous communication of the members of the group.

Secondly, WS have to be free to ask questions either to University students studying in the Departments of Statistics (via their professors in statistics) or to other statisticians. In this way, students will have a role in the continuing education of WS, who in turn will have a role in the education of students, because we always think that statisticians, as having expert knowledge, they can and they have to pass it along to professional students. Moreover, they will create a fruitful discussion process and a link for future communication in between students- new graduates - and WS.

Thirdly, in summer schools, intensive statistical courses for WS, with real data problems will give them the opportunity to co-operate, discuss about statistics, and find new ways of applying, learning and teaching statistics using new learning technologies.

Summary

This paper suggests ways that an online continuing education statistical course with a summer school in statistics will give the opportunity to WS in Greece for a better training and co-operation amongst them

Resume

Cette etude analyse un processus pour un online cours avec un cours d'ete en statistique qui donnera l'occasion aux statisticiens d'acquies un meilleure entrainement et un etat de collaboration entre eux.

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