

# ISLP Newsletter

2(3) December 2010



## World Statistics Day was celebrated!

World Statistics Day (WSD) was celebrated on 20th October 2010 in many countries. The focus for this ISLP Newsletter is on activities on WSD as reported by ISLP country representatives.

It was fantastic to note that this special day was celebrated so widely.

The ISLP poster competition is in progress. We already have participants from 11 countries and 29 countries have informed us that they'll market the competition in their country. Follow the link <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/competition>

to get the up-to-date situation on registration.

Also visit the ISLP Competition Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/International-Statistical-Literacy-Competition/149816448366974>

The call for International Statistical Literacy Project (ISLP) country coordinators to promote and implement project activities continues.

At present we have more than 70 country coordinators representing every continent but still many countries are missing.

Please look at the list of country coordinators on <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/people>

If your country is missing, consider if you are interested in a leadership role for the ISLP. If your country is already listed but you are interested in the ISLP, don't hesitate to give your contact information to the ISLP Director Reija Helenius (email: [reija.helenius@stat.fi](mailto:reija.helenius@stat.fi)).

Thank you all for the past year and best wishes for a successful cooperation again in 2011. Let's promote statistical literacy together all over the world!

Seasonal greetings,  
Reija, Sharleen and Pedro  
ISLP Executive

World Statistics Day



Service • Professionalism • Integrity

in brief...

World Statistics Day initiatives in

Burundi, Australia, Estonia, Finland, Bulgaria, Canada, Iran, India, Pakistan, Argentina, New Zealand, Portugal, Senegal

Making data Meaningful

'Statistics are Important!' a new learning resources website from Statistics Canada

EarlyStatistics Comenius Course

2011 Census video for the Deaf

Women in Statistics Conference

You can find the list of selected country coordinators in the following link: <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/people>

**World Statistics Day**  
 initiatives worldwide

**Burundi**

by *Léonard NTAKIRUTIMANA*

**World Day and the African Statistical 2010 Edition**

**General Theme**

Celebrating the many advances of official statistics, the core values of service, integrity and professionalism

*1. Commemorative Events*

**World Day of Statistics 20.10.2010**

Special Occasion Speeches (MUPIRA Pierre, Minister of Planning and Municipal Development).

Topics developed

1. History of Statistics in Burundi + fundamental principles of official statistics (NDAYISHIMIYE Mr Nicolas, Director General of ISTEERBU)

2. The Statistical Law in Burundi (Déogratias Buzingo, Agent ISTEERBU)

3. The National Strategy for Statistical Development in Burundi (Mr. Vénérand NIZIGIYIMANA, Agent ISTEERBU)

**World Day and African Statistics from 18 to 19.11.2010**

Special Occasion Speeches (MUPIRA Pierre, Minister of Planning and Reconstruction and Municipal Development)

Topics developed

1. The Statistical Law in Burundi (Déogratias Buzingo, Agent ISTEERBU)

2. The National Strategy for Statistical Development in Burundi ((Mr. Vénérand NIZIGIYIMANA, Agent ISTEERBU)

3. Harmonization of official statistics: the continental strategy (as part of the African Union) Mr Joachim NTISIBIRA, Agent ISTEERBU)

4. The training of statisticians at the University of Burundi (Dominique Niyonzima, University of Burundi)

5. Cyclical trends in Burundi in 2008 and the macroeconomic outlook (Jean Claude SIBIMANA)

6. Importance and Challenges of statistics for monitoring the MDGs in Burundi (Gervais KAREKUZI / UNDP)

7. The problem of statistical data collection services by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Posts and Tourism (Serge BIRIZANYE, Director General for Trade)

8. Statistics and quality of political debate (Gervais NDUWIMANA, Researcher IDEC)

**Celebration of World and African statistical Day in Burundi**

Although there were financial problems, Burundi through the Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi (ISTEEBU) fully and jointly commemorated two events: World Statistics Day and the Day of the African Statistical dated 18.11.2010 and 19.11.2010 in Bujumbura, Hotel Source du Nil. Theme: Celebrating the many advances of official statistics, the core values of service, integrity and professionalism.



The Minister of Planning and Municipal Development, Mr Peter Mupira, presented on Thursday, November 18, 2010 at the Hotel Source du Nil in Bujumbura at the opening session of the 18th World Day of the African statistician. The day was celebrated under the theme "Celebrating the many advances in official statistics, the core values of service, integrity and professionalism." His speech stressed the reason for the theme of this year, responding to the many successes achieved in the field of statistics. "The development of Burundi is impossible without statistical analysis that is the basic tool for the success of the Vision 2025 challenge," he said.

He reflected on the importance of statistics on in the vision 2025, the establishment of the institution statistics and surveys already conducted by the statistics department and the general census of population and housing. The general census of enterprises and

the national report on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2010 .



The Director General of the Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of Burundi (ISTEEBU), Mr. Nicolas NDAYISHIMIYE, said that despite difficulties, he was able to paint a picture of significant progress in the assets of his department. He cited the establishment of legal and institutional arsenal since 2007, the development and adoption of the national development strategy by the Government of Burundi in 2009, developing the legal framework for growth and fight against poverty, the second generation PRSP, etc. The Director General of ISTEERBU recalled that the establishment of a good strategy to help decision makers make better choices in the country's reconstruction. Statistics is a strong element of good governance and provides a reliable base for developing, managing, monitoring and evaluating policy, such as reducing poverty, he concluded.



During the two days of work, participants analyzed the statistical laws and their implementing legislation, the national strategy for statistical development, the problem of statistical training in Burundi, and the role of statistics in the field of health. The use of statistics in Burundi began in 1948 but the Legislative Decree No. 1 / 17 of September 25, 2007 commonly called the 'law of statistics' recently enacted requires other mechanisms to be fully effective.



## World Statistics Day Initiatives worldwide

### Australia

*By Gai Mooney*

World Statistics Day was celebrated at Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) offices across the country with cake, presentations and seminars for staff and key statistics users. Other organisations also took the opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of statistics, including the Statistical Society of Australia (SSAI), the Office of Economic and Statistical Research, Queensland and the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority.

The Australian Statistician, Mr Brian Pink hosted a world Statistics Day seminar at the ABS Central Office in Canberra where Professor Glenn Withers from Universities Australia spoke about the importance of statistics in decision making.

Mr Pink also released three papers: the [Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policies](#) (cat. No. 1500.0); the Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey results; and the NatStats 2010 Conference Recommendations.

The Guide for Using Statistics was produced by the Statistical Literacy Unit of the ABS to assist people to use quality data to inform their decisions, especially in the area of policy making. The Guide has been highly praised by peak bodies in Australia and overseas.

The Community Trust in ABS Statistics Survey was conducted in July 2010 by an organisation independent of the ABS. The survey found 92% of community respondents 'tended to trust' or 'trusted' ABS statistics 'a great deal' while the corresponding figure for specialist users was 100%.

Among the [NatStats 2010 Recommendations](#) was a recognition that citizens must be able 'to critically evaluate and understand statistics' and that 'producers of statistics should both advocate and take practical measures to support enhanced statistical education that will lead to improved statistical literacy'.

The Education Services Unit of ABS promoted World Statistics Day to schools across Australia and suggested ways for teachers to promote statistics in their classrooms.



Figure 1: A Guide for Using Statistics for Evidence Based Policy; Released on World Statistics Day, 20/10/2010



Figure 2: ABS staff in Victoria celebrated with a World Statistics Day cake

### World Statistics Day in Estonia

*By Aime Lauk*

#### **WSD Conference:**

On 20 October World Statistics Day was celebrated for the first time, under the auspices of the United Nations. Statistics Estonia organised conference "Estonian Statistics in Focus" for this occasion. "Official statistics influence everyday life very much, they enable us to observe the trends of social life and the economy and serve as the basis for making

decisions by government, enterprises and the whole society," remarked Mr Priit Potisepp, the Director General of Statistics Estonia. "The conference was to discuss the situation of official statistics on the threshold of the 90th birthday of Estonian statistics and the expectations and demands on statistics of the 21st century information society," Mr Potisepp explained.

Based on recent statistics, the conference provided an overview of the Estonian economy, social life and some price developments in Estonia and in the rest of the world. "Also the biggest event of the near future was discussed - the Population and Housing Census taking place in 2011," Mr. Potisepp added. Experts from various subject areas of statistics, the Macroeconomic Analyst of Swedbank, Ms Maris Lauri, and the Audit Manager of the National Audit Office, Mr Urmet Lee, made presentations. The Opening speech was delivered by Mr Jürgen Ligi, the Minister of Finance and 192 participants took part.

Information about the conference is available on the web site:

<http://www.stat.ee/49733>

(English)and

<http://www.stat.ee/ulemailmne-statistikapaev-2010>

(Estonia). Photos can

be viewed on Facebook,

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=531370&id=323304855460>



#### **CROSSWORD:**

We also compiled a crossword (in Estonian), using an old caricature about statistics and statistical definitions. Solutions were done on the Statistics Estonia website, [www.stat.ee](http://www.stat.ee) and 60 people solved it. Crosswords have great popularity in different events (fairs, seminars etc)but it is not possible to translate this one as the joke will be lost in translation.





Professor Seppo Laaksonen at Orimattila on World Statistics Day.

By Minna Korhonen

## WSD activities aim to bring statistical literacy to public attention in Finland

Educational institutions were the target for the first World Statistics Day in Finland. The goals were to highlight the significance of reliable information in everyday life and in decision making, to familiarize people with statistics and to promote the Official Statistics of Finland.

The producers of Official Statistics gave educational institutions an opportunity to invite a visiting expert to give a lecture of any topic related to statistics and statistical literacy. Altogether 13 schools varying from elementary school to upper secondary school and reaching from southern Finland to upper north were visited, some via video conference.

Professor Seppo Laaksonen, was one of the visiting experts. He visited an upper secondary school in Orimattila that was a successor of the school he used to go to years ago. "The feeling that I was left with was very powerful. I noticed that the school premises had gone through many changes but the fact that statistics were given as little attention as before was evident. Getting students excited of statistics was a challenge", Seppo said. He discussed the latest results of PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) with students and highlighted that students' self-efficacy was an important factor in the learning process. "I think that it is vital to encourage students' self-efficacy in studying and in making the best of their own lives", Seppo said.

### Learning materials to promote statistical literacy

A number of new learning materials were also produced and shared via Statistics Finland's website. The materials are free of charge and some are published in English as well as Finnish. The English materials were developed in cooperation with the ISLP-network. Look at the materials at Statistics Finland's website or at ISLP-website.

To attract public attention Statistics Finland prepared a press release discussing the most typical characteristics of a Finnish female and male. The release was accompanied by a small exhibition of a typical Finnish at the Library of Statistics.

In summary, World Statistics Day was a vast amount of work but received a reasonable amount of media attention and positive feedback from educational institutions and from visiting lecturers. School visits especially can be viewed as groundbreaking work in promoting statistical literacy as a part of the work of every statistician.

by Nadezhda Tsankova

In Veliko Turnovo, the medieval capital of Bulgaria, World Statistics Day - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010, was celebrated by a joint announcement of the ISLP Poster Competition and a press conference with Borislav Borisov, the director of the Regional Statistical Bureau.

## Bulgaria

We announced the results from the preliminary census, the revised ISI Declaration on Professional Ethics and the start of the ISLP Poster Competition in Bulgaria together with members of the national organizing committee. Information about ISLP was prepared and published by Georgy Buchvarov, a journalist at the regional newspaper "Borba" and Penka Gurbozanova, a journalist at Cable Radio of Veliko Turnovo. Lectures were also given to students from "St. Cyril and Methodius University of Veliko Turnovo", Institute of Economics of Bulgarian Academy of Science, teachers from Old School of Economics, "Vasil Drumev" High School, American College Arcus, municipal officers and businessmen. The Bulgarian ISLP country coordinator Nadezhda Tsankova published useful information about the event on the Bulgarian ISLP blog: <http://islp.blog.bg/druqi/2010/10/28/mpsq-islp-startira-vyv-veliko-tyrnovo.626167> and photographs are available on the Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!/album.php?aid=32220&id=100000900601764>



## World Statistics Day initiatives worldwide



### At Statistics Canada in Ottawa *by Mary Townsend*



Wayne Smith, Chief Statistician addresses the audience. Photo: J. Kerr.

The United Nations (UN) determined it was time that the world acknowledged the important role of official statistics in our societies and economies. Who at Statistics Canada wouldn't agree with that? The UN chose October 20, 2010 as the day, and Statistics Canada was among the hundreds of statistical organizations around the globe that marked this historic occasion. The Chief Statistician, Wayne Smith, felt this was a day to also acknowledge the valuable contributions of all statistical employees, since statistics are only as good as the people who make them possible: "On World Statistics Day, I wish to recognize the critical role you play in supporting official statistics in Canada and look forward to your continued collaboration." Work on the event began in March 2010, when our participation in the event was first announced and a WSD Committee was formed. The committee had countless decisions to make about who, what, where, how and when. But, finally, posters went up, a venue was decided on and invitations were sent out.

Directors from all Statistics Canada's divisions were asked to identify three or four of their employees who wanted to attend. A link to a live broadcast was created and made accessible on the Internal Communications Network for employees who wished to watch from their desktops. This meant that everyone could participate.

#### On the day

To kick off the celebration, employees on their way in to work were greeted by senior managers, who wished them a happy World Statistics Day and offered them hot

beverages. At 1:00 p.m. the celebration began. Invited guests and panel members were introduced to "[We are Statistics Canada](#)" the first of two featured videos. It can be viewed on the UN's World Statistics Day Canada page, StatCan's external site and YouTube.



Bruce Little and Peter Hall answer questions. Photo: J. Kerr.

Next, the podium was turned over to Mr. Smith, who introduced our special WSD guests and and speakers, saying, "I want to thank each and every one of you for your important contributions to the Canadian statistical system...this occasion would not be complete without hearing from some of our stakeholders and data users." Up first were our invited guests from the National Bureau of Statistics of China, who spoke about their successful collaboration with Statistics Canada on the Statistical Management and Information Program—an important partnership that spans over 15 years. We were honoured to hear delegation members speak about the benefits of this truly international collaboration and pleased they joined us for the celebration. Next to speak was Peter Hall, Vice-president and Chief Economist at Export and Development Canada, who shared his point of view on the importance of the work we do. He humorously likened the topic of statistics to "watching paint dry," but he went on to say that although the science of statistics may be regarded by many as "dreary," the data we produce is invaluable and plays a pivotal role in the guidance of what we plan, accomplish and appreciate in our society.

Mr. Smith next introduced Bruce Little, author, former Special Advisor to the Governor of the Bank of Canada, and former Economics Writer for The Globe and Mail. He stressed the necessity of quality statistics and strong data in order to understand "what makes our world

tick." He went on to say that "we need your steady hand" in order to see things as they really are and make good decisions. Mr. Little closed with "we all have reason to think about how millions of Canadians believe that a sound statistical system is a vital part of how Canada works."

Mr. Hall and Mr. Little comprised our panel of experts, and indulged the audience with a lively question and answer period.

The afternoon concluded with the unveiling of the video, "[Statistics Canada: An Employee Perspective](#)". The video featured 11 employees from various divisions, all occupying unique positions at various levels of responsibility. Each shared their thoughts and feelings about the work they do, their values and their contributions to Canadian society.



Cake! Photo: J. Kerr.

In closing, Mr. Smith thanked the invited guests, the panel and the men and women of Statistics Canada for their continued effort and dedication to quality. Shortly after 2:35 p.m., the chairs were removed to accommodate a greater crowd. Two immense cakes were showcased on either side of the entrance. These were soon sliced up and served to the celebrants. We all belong to something important and the work we do here matters—and it matters to the world.

#### For Students on World Statistics Day

Also from the Education Outreach program at Statistics Canada, a new area of the Learning Resources website was launched entitled 'Statistics are Important!' which seeks to explain What's the use of statistics and describes Why Learn with Statistics. International experts define What is Statistical Literacy? and, students are provided with examples of interesting Careers involving statistics.

[http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/edu06/edu06f/edu06f\\_0003-eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/edu06/edu06f/edu06f_0003-eng.htm)





World Statistics Day was celebrated across Canada by the Statistical Society of Canada with several public lectures including the highly entertaining talk "Statistics in the Headlines" given by Prof. Jeffrey Rosenthal at the University of Toronto. The day was also marked with the appearance of a humorous video mourning the recent Canadian government decision to replace the mandatory census long-form questionnaire by a voluntary survey. The video can be seen at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntU3\\_x6PqY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntU3_x6PqY)

Media coverage of these events is available. See, for example, "Census Mourned on World Statistics Day" at <http://www.cbc.ca/technology/story/2010/10/20/long-form-census-world-statistics-day.html>

and "Statisticians mark Statistics Day with mock funeral for census" at:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/statisticians-mark-statistics-day-with-mock-funeral-for-census/article1766159/>

## Iran

by Afshin Ashofteh

On World Statistics Day in Iran the Iranian Statistical Society distributed a new educational statistics story book. Called One day with statistics it was written in Farsi (Persian) by Afshin Ashofteh (a lecturer in the statistics department of Isfahan University for 5 years and now working in the Statistics Department of the Central Bank of Iran). Afshin has a website about statistical literacy in Farsi at [www.savadeamari.com](http://www.savadeamari.com).

## New Zealand

By Sharleen Forbes

In New Zealand on World Statistics Day we highlighted the importance of official statistics to community, national, and international development. It was a time to celebrate the work of statisticians, economists, and others who support the production of official statistics. Among the activities on the day were: 2011 Census education resource.

Statistics New Zealand made available a 2011 Census education resource for primary, intermediate, and secondary schools to use during the first school term and throughout the rest of the year. The resource contains everything teachers need to have a successful, curriculum-based unit on the 2011 Census.

New Zealand Official Yearbook 2010 Statistics New Zealand released the New Zealand Official Yearbook 2010 on World Statistics Day. The yearbook provides a comprehensive statistics picture of life in New Zealand since 1893.

## Senegal

The ISLP in Senegal celebrated the first World Statistics Day, October 20th 2011, by organizing a national and public workshop on the topic: Statistical tools for teachers and pedagogical managers within the free R software environment.



Overall view of the workshop room; participants doing their lab works with R software.

The event took place at the African Management Institute (IAM). It was attended by many teachers and Schools managers from several areas in Sénégal, under the patronage of the Communications and ICT Minister, Mister Mouhamadou Mbamba Guirassy. The event was covered by the National TV Channel One. On November 24th, the African Statistical Day was also celebrated, again under the auspices of the ISLP. After television coverage of the two events, the french name of ISLP, that is PILS (Programme International de Littéracie Statistique), is now popularized. We worked closely with the National



Family picture of the participants, around ISLP Senegal Coordinator, Prof. Gane Samb Lo (brown jacket). It would be interesting to see the presence of three women. From left to right : Dr Fatou Néné Diop (ISLP deputy coordinator), Sirandou Soukouna (Msc in Computer Sciences) Adja Mbarka Fall (Ph.D student in Statistics)

Statistics and Demography Office (ANSD) in preparing and executing the workshop. The program offered to the participants and delivered by statisticians from Gaston Berger University (Saint-Louis, Senegal) was as follows:

- 1 - How to read and apply results of Surveys.
- 2 - Descriptive Statistics revisited.
- 3 - Introduction to R.
- 4 - Handling pedagogical data in R : One and two dimensional cases.
- 5 - Case studies by participants and labs in R.
- 6 - Panel discussions on the Statistics and their use in schools.

A full report is available at : <http://www.statpas.net/islpa/jmsnu/y2010senegal.php>

## India

Prof. D.S.Hooda reported that in India World Statistics Day was celebrated at the University of Delhi with a two day seminar on "Statistics education and various application of statistics" on 20th and 21st October 2010. The audience was college students and faculty members from various colleges in Delhi.

## Pakistan

### WORLD STATISTICS DAY WEEK ACTIVITIES: KINNAIRD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN, LAHORE, PAKISTAN

The Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences organized World Statistics Day activities in the city of Lahore. Pakistan for the entire week from Monday, October 18 to Saturday, October 23, 2010. The Department of Statistics at Kinnaird College For Women, Lahore organized the Kinnaird College Statistics FESTIVAL (Forum for the Enlightenment of Students, Teachers, Innovators, Veterans, Amateurs and Learners) on Monday, 18th October, 2010.

Teachers and students of Statistics and/or related disciplines from various universities and colleges of Lahore as well as a delegation of faculty and students from a college in Rawalpindi participated. All the sessions of the FESTIVAL were held in the College Hall which was beautifully decorated with colourful and attractive statistical posters prepared by students of Kinnaird College and other institutions. The Program consisted of seven Academic Sessions and a Prize Distribution Ceremony. The academic sessions were as follows:

1. Why Probability ?
2. Regression
3. Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 4. Forecasting 5. Categorical Data Analysis 6. Research Methodology 7. Fathom and Tinkerplots

The Prize Distribution Ceremony included, among other things:

1. Announcement of Results of the Kinnaird Statistical Poster Competition 2010 (an intercollegiate competition launched by Kinnaird College in order to encourage and train the students to participate in the International Statistical Literacy Poster Competition 2010-11);
2. Short addresses by students who won prizes in the Kinnaird Statistical Poster Competition;
3. Keynote Address with reference to the World Statistics Day by Prof. Dr. Munir Ahmad, Patron and Founding President, Islamic Countries Society of Statistical Sciences;
4. Address by Mr. Asif Bajwa, Secretary, Statistics Division, Government of Pakistan (Chief Guest of the Prize Distribution Ceremony);
5. Address by Dr. Rukhsana David, Principal, Kinnaird College For Women.

Feedback from participants indicated that they found the Academic Sessions informative and interesting, the atmosphere pleasant and inspiring, and the Prize Distribution Ceremony a befitting culmination to a highly successful day.

The faculty and students of the Kinnaird College Statistics Department are deservedly proud that Kinnaird College For Women in Lahore, Pakistan was the first educational institution in the world to celebrate World Statistics Day!

by *Adriana D'Amelio*

## Argentina

The President of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), Professor Jozef Teugels, has invited national and regional societies of Statistics to celebrate World Statistics. In this regard, and following that call, a round table has been organized under the IX CLATSE where we discussed "Ethical Issues in Official Statistics" maintaining, of course, a strict academic and technical line. The panelists addressed the issue from different angles: the accuracy of the information of the statistical offices, the ethical issues of future professionals in statistics, the lack of a code of practice in the region, etc.

The theme of the round table is very suggestive and important. Suggestive mainly by what has been expressed in 1985 by Professor Edmond Malinvaud, who said that: "The first service, and more often the most important for those working in official statistics, is to put the politicians, the leaders of the economy and the responsible for public opinion, confronted to reality. Human groups always tend to create their myths and arguments in order to preserve them. Those who work in statistics, bringing real situations, prevent these myths to separate men from reality and to neglect the underlying problems". The theme is therefore important for the manipulation of Official Statistics that we support in several countries such as Argentina."

The panel was composed as follows:

Participating Panelists:

- Jean-Louis Bodin (France)
- Inspector General Honorary of the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France (INSEE)
  - Former Director of International Relations of the INSEE (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France).
  - Former President (1999-2001) International Statistical Institute (ISI).
  - Former President (1989 - 1991) of the IAOS (International Association for Official Statistics).

Maria Teresa Blaconá (Argentina)

- Director of the School of Statistics, Faculty of Economics and Statistics, National University of

Rosario, Argentina.

- Third Vice-President of the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI)
- Former President of the Argentina Society of Statistics (2004 - 2008)

Laura Nalbarte (Uruguay)

- Professor of the Faculty of Economics and Management, University of the Republic, Uruguay.
- Director National Institute of Statistics, Uruguay
- Former Director of the Institute of Statistics, Faculty of Economics and Management, University of the Republic, Uruguay (2008 - 2010).

José Pascual (Chile)

- Creator of the line at the Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile.
- First Director of the Master Plan in Statistics at the Catholic University of Valparaíso, Chile (1971 - 1973).
- Former President of the Chilean Society of Statistics (SOCHE) (1982 - 1985).
- Former Chairman of the Statistics Education Section SOCHE.
- Professor at the Institute of Statistics, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso, Chile.

Eduardo Gutiérrez Peña (Mexico)

- President of the Mexican Statistical Association (AME).
- Director of Department of Probability and Statistics, Institute for Research in Applied Mathematics and Systems (IIMAS) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Moderator

Juan Carlos Abril (Argentina)

- President of the Sociedad Argentina de Estadística (SAE).
- Professor at the Institute of Statistical Research of the National University of Tucuman, Argentina.
- Researcher, National Research Council (CONICET) of Argentina.

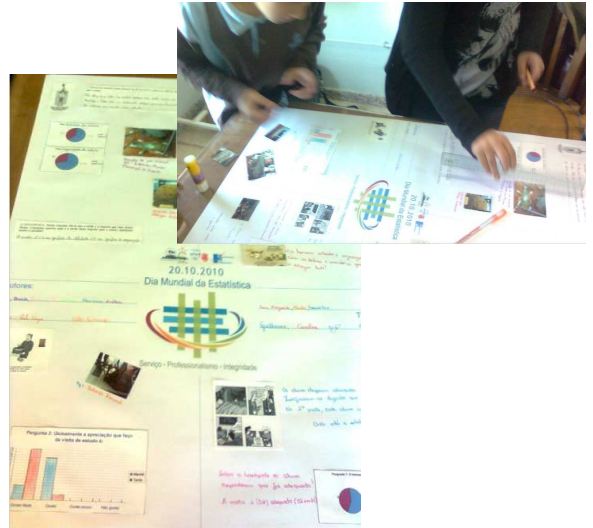
Panel  
Title: STATISTICAL LITERACY  
"Who should implement?"



By Maria Manuel Nascimento

In Portugal, grade 7 school students (ages 11-12) had fun with statistics on the first World Statistics Day: 2010. 20.10!

Students created posters which included graphic representations of survey data along with other information and humorous notes (jokes) retrieved from ALEA, the youth website from the Official Statistical Office (INE) of Portugal.



Seen above are 7th grade (ages 11-12) students in a Portuguese school doing tasks to celebrate the first World Statistics Day: 2010.10.20. The final product of those tasks was a poster (one by each group) containing statistical information gathered from a survey. In one task they commented on some jokes retrieved from the ALEA site in Portugal - the student site of the Official Statistical Office (INE) in Portugal.

# Making Data Meaningful

A new text (part 4) of this series, with the title "A Guide to Improving Statistical Literacy".

By Vadim Isakov

We live in the age of numbers. Development of new communication platforms makes different kinds of data easily available at our fingertips. Reporters rave about data journalism, ordinary bloggers actively discuss statistics as governments open their statistical resources to people. It is not surprising, therefore, that "Wired" magazine, a popular publication reporting on technological innovations, called statistical literacy one of the essential skills for the 21st century.

That is why, on the initiative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, an international team of experts in statistics formed a group responsible for writing a new instalment of the highly acclaimed "Making Data Meaningful" series. This new text, will form part 4 of this series, with the title "A Guide to Improving Statistical Literacy". It will cover a wide range of topics related to this field, including current initiatives and different strategies for improving statistical literacy among opinion leaders, decision makers, educators, businesses and general public. The guide will also discuss how to improve dissemination activities in different statistical organizations and provide directions on evaluating the impact of statistical literacy activities.

The first three parts of the "Making Data Meaningful" series are available for free download from <http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/writing>

Part 4 is expected to be released in 2012. For more information please contact [support.stat@unece.org](mailto:support.stat@unece.org)

## 'Statistics are Important!'

Statistics Canada has a new learning resources website

In this new section on the Statistics Canada Learning Resources website, there are quotes from international experts including Chris Wild, Neville Davies, Iddo Gal and Jane Watson reporting on 'What is statistical literacy' and 'Why learn with statistics.' There are also links to Statistics: Power from Data!- a guide to data collection, processing and analysis as well as a link that explains some interesting Careers in Statistics.

It is available at:

[http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/edu06/edu06f/edu06f\\_0003\\_eng.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/edu06/edu06f/edu06f_0003_eng.htm)

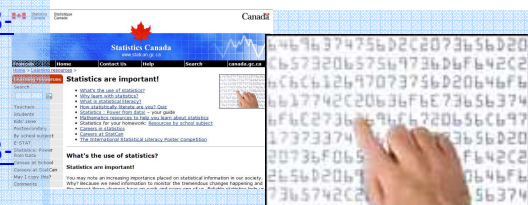
The French version is available at, la version française est disponible aussi :

[http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/edu06/edu06f/edu06f\\_0003\\_fra.htm](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/edu/edu06/edu06f/edu06f_0003_fra.htm)

### Did you know?

Saleha Habibullah has been awarded the Best University Teacher Award by the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan.

The Award Ceremony was in Islamabad on December 1, 2010





## EarlyStatistics Comenius Course

by Maria Meletiou-Mavrotheris

The course "EarlyStatistics: In-Service Training in Statistics Education" will be offered three times during 2011. This course is the main outcome of the EU funded Socrates-Comenius project Enhancing the Teaching and Learning of Early Statistical Reasoning in European Schools (Ref. No: >226573-CP-1-2005-1-CY-COMENIUS-C21, 2005-2008). It is offered as a LLP Comenius inservice course targeting European elementary and secondary school mathematics teachers. The course aims at helping teachers improve their pedagogical and content knowledge of statistics through exposure to innovative educational tools and resources, and cross-cultural exchange of experiences and ideas.

The following three sessions of the course have been planned for 2011.

Session 1: Nicosia, Cyprus;  
May 22-29, 2011

Session 2: Nicosia, Cyprus; July  
17-24, 2011

Session 3: Nicosia, Cyprus;  
Sept. 11-18, 2011

The above mentioned course editions are included in the LLP Comenius Training Database, therefore individuals interested in attending the course can apply for a Comenius (school education) mobility grant to cover both the course fees and accommodation and subsistence costs. In order to do so, they should contact the Lifelong Learning Programme National Agency in their country.

Please be aware that to apply for Sessions 1 and 2 of the course, the deadline to request a LLP grant from their National Agency is the 14th of January 2011. The deadline to apply for a LLP grant for Session 3 of the course is the 29th of April 2011. Detailed information about the course can be obtained from the LLP Comenius/Grundtvig Training Database, Course Reference Number: CY-2011-070-003.

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/trainingdatabase/search.cfm>  
Although the language of instruction is English, participants from Spain and Greece could still participate even if they are not fluent in English, since all the course material will also be available in their national language.

## Women in Statistics Conference

The School of Government at Victoria University held a Women in Statistics conference opened by the Minister of Women's Affairs, Hon. Pansy Wong, chaired by Kim Hill (a well-known journalist who is also a member of the Minister of Statistics Advisory Committee on Official Statistics). Six talks were given by: Associate Professor Jenny Brown: President of the NZ Statistical Association and Head of Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Canterbury; Associate Professor Megan Clark, Head of School of Mathematics, Statistics and Operations Research, Victoria University; Professor Natalie Jackson, Professor of Demography, Director Population Studies Centre, Waikato University; Lisa Davies, Director, Kaipuke Consultants Ltd; Rachael Milicich, Manager National Accounts, Statistics New Zealand and Adjunct Professor of Official Statistics, Sharleen Forbes.



## 2011 Census video for the Deaf

Statistics New Zealand released a video about the 2011 Census for the Deaf. Filmed with a sign language interpreter, the video covers the importance of the census, what the information is used for, and what people need to do on census day. The video is available on [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz), YouTube, and on the Deaf Aotearoa website.





## ISLP Poster Competition 2010-2011

### ISLP Competition

The ISLP Poster Competition is in progress. Rules and instructions are published in English, French, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish. The goal of the International Statistical Literacy Competition is to increase awareness of Statistics among students and teachers throughout the world, to promote statistical literacy resources and to bring together parties interested in statistical literacy in each country. The ISLP Poster Competition has started on 13th September. For more details, please visit:

<http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/competition-second>

Currently, thirteen countries have already confirmed their participation: [http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/competition-second\\_participating\\_countries](http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/competition-second_participating_countries)

Examples of dissemination of this competition are many. In New Zealand, the theme is "It happens in my neighbourhood" (see image).

### Now is Your Chance to Enter the ISLP Statistics Poster Competition

## WIN \$1000

The theme for the New Zealand competition is:

**"It happens in my neighbourhood"**

- Create a poster that tells the story of a data set
  - Work with your friends
- Students from all over the world will be involved
  - Win fantastic prizes
- NZ winners take part in the international competition

2 ages categories  
Born in 1995 and younger  
Born in 1992 - 1994

Teams of 2-3 students

Competition Closes 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011

Website: <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~iase/islp/competition-second>

### An example of a marketing of the International Statistical Literacy Competition

By Maria Gabriella Ottaviani  
(National Coordinator)  
On behalf of the Italian Committee

The registration process in Italy for the ongoing ISLP poster competition is now over. The Italian marketing campaign ended up with 30 teachers and 559 students registering for the competition.

Reaching such a high number of participants is thanks to a joint venture of the Italian Official Statisticians and of the Italian Academic Statisticians. Both the President of Istat – prof. Enrico Giovannini – and the President of the Italian Statistical Society (SIS) – prof. Maurizio Vichi- accepted the proposal to support together the ISLP initiative.

A joint committee, who translated the competition materials from English into Italian at the same time keeping contact with the ISLP International Committee, was established. The competition materials were published in the Istat and SIS websites. In addition, a message was sent to all the SIS members and Istat staff encouraging them to share the information all over Italy. Moreover, a very important factor was that the SIS President sent a message to every Italian school encouraging teachers to register.

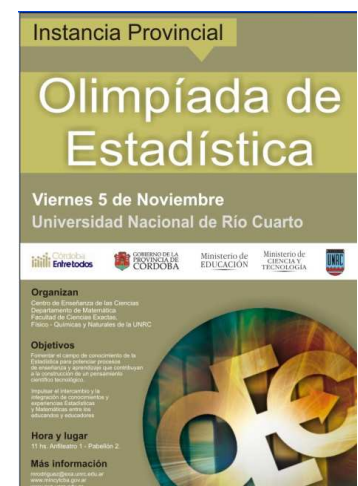
Now Italy is about to send each teacher a welcoming message, informing them the amount of schools and teachers subscribing for the competition and giving them additional instructions for the school and national competitions. Italy also wants to inform that thanks to the donations of Istat and SIS the winners of the Italian competition will be awarded.



The ISLP Competition now has its own Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Statistical-Literacy-Competition/149816448366974>

The Facebook page is mainly meant for teachers and students to discuss and share good practices about poster making. Suggestions for the development of the page are also welcome.



The first Statistical Olympics of Cordoba, (OEC) in Argentina has been organized, with the official recognition of the Education Ministry and the participation around 200 students. More information at: <http://www.cba.gov.ar/vernoticia.jsp?idNota=251829&idCanal=56542>