

STATISTICAL EDUCATION IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES

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There are specific problems in statistical education in Croatia as a transition country. Being part of former Yugoslavia she was communist country with specific system of secondary and university education , and at the same time the country in the process of economic development. Students from grammar schools come with much greater knowledge of mathematics then students from other secondary schools. The last face problems to understand mathematical foundations of statistics. In developing country the use of computers during pre-university education was scarce due to shortage of money invested in computer technology, so it is possible to find university student without any touch with computer in previous education. In the process of modern statistical education the role of computers becomes much more important, so the situation in Croatia is improving rapidly. There is a problem of so-called 'computer culture' for general population. It is recommended not to use computers in statistical education from the very beginning, because student must understand mathematical and statistical operations without computers. Some professors think that students should solve as many problems as they can without computers, and only after that to use it for computations on massive scale. The other problems in statistical education during communist rule was the lack of some statistical techniques such as survey sampling, because it was politically unwise. Statistical methodology in eg. business statistics was also unlike western standards, due to big difference in economic and political system. Now, after the fall of communism, Croatian economy as well as statistical education is approaching western style.