

TOOLS FOR SOLVING DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICAL PROBLEMS BASED ON MORTALITY TABLES

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The aim of Demographic Statistics teaching is that the pupil understands the application and use of different techniques or methodologies based on real information. In most cases in which this type of information appears, the volume of data is bigger than usual and the teacher who teaches the subject has to take that in account when developing the course: the pupil can find it hard to handle the task with the application of a more or less complicated technique, and this may then occupy a lot of class time.

In order to introduce Demographic Statistics inside the European educational system, a tool has been developed that will facilitate and motivate the student learning and also, it will support the teacher who teaches this type of subject. Since this subject is given in studies of different areas in which the pupil may not have solid mathematical and computer skills sometimes, the use of a tool that automates these calculations is justified. The objective is to automate different demographic techniques based on population mortality table, designing a web page that contains the necessary theory for understanding these techniques and a spreadsheet associated with each of them, which applies the theory showed and explained by the teacher to mortality information, only by clicking on an icon.

The created web page consists of an introduction, a series of instructions on its use, basic notions on Demographic Statistics and various exercises on different techniques applied to mortality tables of real populations. In each exercise, the user has a theoretical manual and an automated application created through Visual Basic programming. The last aim is that this tool could be used by professionals or pupils but this may turn out for them to be difficult because of their low numeracy level.

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