

EXPERIENCE OF CARRYING THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OLYMPIAD IN RUSSIA

Pavel Smelov and Elena Egorova

Moscow State University of Economics, Statistics and Informatics (MESI), Russia
psmelov@mesi.ru

For the last 20 years in Russia there was a situation when less young people choose career of statisticians. In this regard Moscow state university of economics, statistics and informatics (MESI) with Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) support since 2010 started carrying the National statistical Olympiad.

Carrying these Olympiad is intended first of all to:

- promote statistics, increase of statistical literacy and general statistical culture;
- improvement of specialists training quality;
- identification of talented youth and formation of workforce capacity for research, design and business activity;
- involvement of students to solution of scientific and practical problems which are important;
- stimulation and encouragement of scientific creativity of students, help in implementation of new decisions, introduction of the executed scientific development;
- complex assessment of a professional standard of graduates in the specialty;
- development of recommendations on improvement of vocational training for students.

In the first year students of only 5 universities took part in the Olympiad, in 2013 there were already 51 teams or 153 students. Thus it should be noted that the majority of participants aren't professional statisticians, and study for economists, ecologists, sociologists, etc.

In 2013 the Olympiad began to take place in 2 stages. The first stage – selection round via the Internet. Students at the same time all over the country take screen test for determination of theoretical training. And also they post on the Internet texts of scientific reports which is estimated by the group of experts. On the termination of the first stage 10 teams which move to the second round are selected. The second round takes place in MESI. Within this stage participants solve problems, present their scientific reports for jury and perform a command task. The main competition is the command task. Students within 8 hours on the basis of presented data have to investigate in advance unknown public phenomenon or process. Following the results of work presentation must be prepared and is presented for jury. By total estimate both the winning team, and the winner in individual offset are determined. Rewarding ceremony traditionally takes place in Federal State Statistics Service, awards and gifts are handed over by the head of service.

The Olympiad are widely covered in mass media and social networks. Many of the first Olympiad participants after the graduation work in official statistics. MESI and Rosstat plan to develop this direction. In 2014 carrying the Olympiad among high-school children is planned. Winners of these Olympiad will get nominal grants and will be able to study on bachelor degree programs in area of statistics in MESI for free.