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EDITORIAL

The ALEA project won the Best Cooperative Project Award conferred for the very first time by the International Association for Statistical Education - IASE; the prize distinguished the partnership among institutions committed in the promotion of statistical literacy in Portugal. ALEA (www.alea.pt) is a joint initiative of Statistics Portugal, Tomaz Pelayo Secondary School and the Northern Regional Education Directorate.

In this occasion, we would like to share the prize with those who see in ALEA a great opportunity for interaction concerning the teaching and learning statistics: it is important, therefore, to continue reinforcing this knowledge network towards literacy.

Many Thanks!



First International Statistical Literacy Competition of the ISLP - registration until

February, 28th, 2008.

After the game "Who wants to be statistically literate?", in some places of Northern Portugal, the registration is now opened for the First International Statistical Literacy Competition. The main objective of this competition is to encourage school students to become interested in statistical data analysis and chance in a way that will help them make more sense of the information that surrounds them in their daily life. Another objective is to promote and encourage teachers and students to use the statistical literacy resources that exist in their countries to achieve the first goal. More information in:

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

ALEA
receives

**INTERNATIONAL
PRIZE**

ALEA won the Best Cooperative Project Award, a prize created within the framework of the International Statistical Literacy Project - ISLP and granted for the very first time. The ISLP aims at promoting statistical literacy worldwide and is led by the International Association for Statistical Education, a Section of the International Statistical Institute - ISI. The prize was handed during the 56th Session of the ISI, which took place from 22 to 29 August, in Lisbon. The award recognised ALEA as an example of cooperation among different organizations, towards the promotion of statistical literacy in Portugal.

Launched in 1999, this site aims at providing effective tools for the understanding, using and teaching of Statistics. ALEA has been specially designed both for teachers and students of basic and secondary education levels. It was created by Statistics Portugal and Tomaz Pelayo Secondary School, to which the Northern Regional Education Directorate joined later on. The scientific supervision is assured by Professor Maria Eugénia da Graça Martins, from the Faculty of Sciences of University of Lisbon.

ALEA co-partners develop original tools specially oriented to the learning and teaching of Statistics, whose main support is the web site <www.alea.pt> where assorted contents are provided: introductory courses (to Statistics and Probability); teaching materials (Dossiers and Resources); historical and biographic data (i.e. important names and dates in statistics); educational games (Having fun); challenges for students (based on everyday issues); and, additionally, statistical information (Surroundings, EuropALEA, Portuguese speaking countries, etc.).



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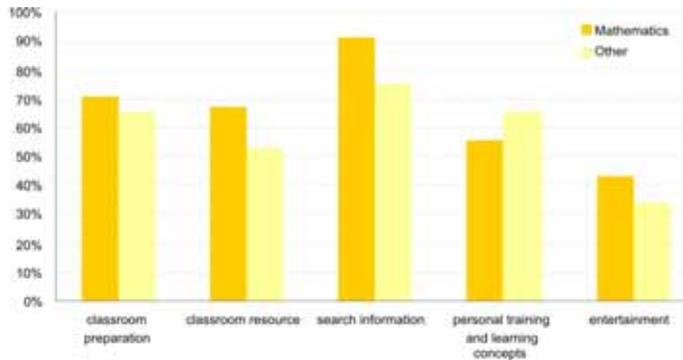
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TEACHERS USE ALEA MAINLY TO SEARCH FOR INFORMATION

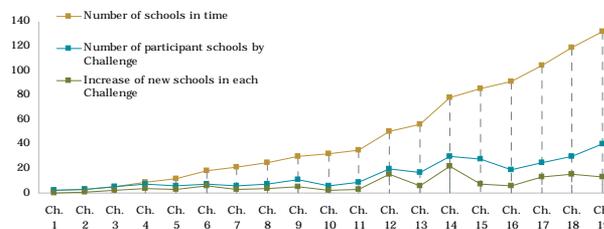


This is one of the results of the survey launched in 2007. The target population of the study contains all the registered users of ALEA. Among all those who answered, we have found that 66% have a degree in Mathematics. Another conclusion of the survey is that teachers not having a background in Mathematics prefer to use ALEA for personal training and classroom preparation. The results are available in the ALEA web site at www.alea.pt

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE!

MORE THAN 3500 STUDENTS FROM 140 SCHOOLS ACCEPTED THE CHALLENGES ...

ALEA Challenges are everyday problems put to students in order to develop their liking for statistics. These problems are based on news stories published in newspapers and magazines and there are prizes for the best replies.



ActivALEA - "ACTIVATE AND UPDATE YOUR LITERACY"



To organize qualitative and quantitative data, one must start by creating frequency tables and to represent the data graphically. The last ActivALEA exemplifies the use of Excel in the construction of a bar chart of a qualitative or discrete quantitative variable.

In the space ActivALEA, sheets with exercises, notes, observations and comments are disseminated with the aim at systematising the basic statistical learning at an elementary level.

Editions available:

1. Population, sample and descriptive statistics
2. Association between qualitative variables
3. The Simpson's paradox
3. Is a graph more valuable than one thousand words?
4. Association between quantitative variables: the correlation coefficient
5. Random experiments
6. Frequency tables
7. Bar charts



DID YOU VISIT YOUR SURROUNDINGS?



In the area "Your Surroundings", users can consult and download statistical information by region, municipality and parish, by searching on a map. Several statistical indicators are presented - Resident

population, Number of families, Number of buildings and Illiteracy rate - for each geographic unit selected on the map.

HIGHER LITERACY IN AGRICULTURE!

Between 1989 and 2005, the level of education among the agricultural holders and their average age increased. At the same time, the number of agricultural holdings has been reduced in about 50%.

These and other statistical data that characterize the evolution of agriculture in Portugal in the last 26 years are presented in Portugal Agrícola 2007, a publication that was recently made accessible by INE. In ALEA, a synthesis of this information is available in the last *Actualidade do INE*.



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