

My life with statistics – statistical training for teenagers

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Abstract

In spring Statistics Denmark has launched a new and very different product, the theme based education portal "My life with statistics" for school children aged 13-17 years. The aim is to train young people as competent users of statistics and provide them with tools to critically assess the quality of figures and graphs they meet in their daily lives on social media and elsewhere. Statistics Denmark also wishes to remove the dusty image of statistics and open the eyes of young people to official statistics as a relevant and accessible source of knowledge. We aim to do this by communicating in an accessible manner and including gamification features.

Playful learning

Escape rooms and other visually based gamification elements interact with statistics assignments in order to engage the students. Simplified visual tools address typical problems like misleading graphs, median vs. average etc. The structure of the assignments force the children to go a step further than thinking math by relating the statistics to their perception of different issues in society. "My life with statistics" consists of four parallel themes based on topics that young people have expressed interest in during focus groups. The material has been developed in cooperation with teachers. The themes consist of statistical topics close to teenagers such as sports activities and sources of news, but also offer broader perspectives and more abstract subjects like demography and inequality.