

Bruges, 2nd of May 2024 . Conference 'Towards a More Statistically Literate Future'

Break-out Session C "Creating an Open Dialogue for Statistical Literacy Programmes"

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To break the ice, the audience is asked to guess the meaning of three sequences of letters. The puzzle can be solved if one knows the three proposed languages: English, French, Burmese. The game reveals how linguistic ability is based on statistical and probabilistic mechanisms applied by our brain, thanks to which we are able to quickly assess the probability of different alternative meanings and choose the most relevant one.

Two of the proposed phrases, "Stats if fun" and "C'est la mere à boire," captionally describe the attitudes of statisticians and non-statisticians toward a discipline unfamiliar to most people.

In addition to traditional educational activities in schools, which are often confined to the area of mathematics, it is considered essential to promote statistics in a broader cultural sphere, through nontraditional modes and languages.

For example, on the occasion of a cultural and artistic festival in the city of Rovigo, the Maggio Rodigino, the city was plastered with posters with statistical data on the year's theme, gender equality <https://maggiorodigino.com/>.

Another example, used by the Italian National Institute of Statistics, to bring statistics in school disciplines from which it seems most distant is the workshop "Homer was a statistician" in which some basic statistical concepts are highlighted among The Iliad verses.

These are two of many examples in which Istat offers statistics in nontraditional settings and places, changing the language without losing correctness, with the aim of making statistics closer and more familiar even to those, and they are many, who fear or reject formal mathematical language.

So far, the response from the public has been definitely positive, so it is believed that such modes of contact are useful in promoting statistics as a tool within everyone's reach.