



Teaching National Accounts online

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Abstract:

The System of National Accounts is probably the most widely used statistical system in the world, and quite often the National Statistical Institutes oversee the production. The Finnish National Accounts figures are calculated in Statistics Finland, and the organization feels responsible for also advising and training users. Beside the traditional inhouse and onsite training sessions also online courses – both pre-recorded as well as alive – have been offered lately.

The first massive open online course (MOOC), in which Statistics Finland participated, was conducted in co-operation with the Open University of Helsinki. The MOOC on National Accounts included total 13 lectures by 15 different lecturers, and five sets of exercises. Statistics Finland oversaw lectures, exercises and the final test, and the Open University was responsible for the technical implementation and the administrative issues. The passed course was worth of 5 credits for students. The first time, more than 400 persons registered, and more than 100 carried out the course. According to the original plan there will be a full course available every second year via Open University of Helsinki, and at any other time the lectures are freely available for anybody to listen.

Statistics Finland has been offering an introductory course on National Accounts for the junior staff of national statistical offices for years. Originally it was conducted purely by Statistics Finland, later it has been part of the course programme offered by Eurostat. So far, the courses have been organized inhouse at the premises of Statistics Finland, but due to the COVID-19, the ESTP courses in 2021 will be conducted online. The very first international online virtual course by Statistics Finland was the 4-day National Accounts Introductory Course in May 2021.

The presentation will cover the experiences of MOOC and the international online course.

Keywords:

MOOC; virtual course