Teaching Survey Statistics by Teleteaching: A joint project at three German universities

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Although surveys have become a frequent tool in economics and social sciences there is not adequate education of students in the design and the analysis of surveys. For Germany there is a need to establish a master program with a strong focus on survey statistics. However, there exists no German university with a minimum of 3 teachers that is needed to run successfully a specialized master program.

We present an initiative of three docents at three universities in three different German federal states who run a joint master program in survey statistics. The program started in the winter term 2010/11. The major feature is the accumulation of teaching modules from the different universities which generates an attractive curriculum. The accumulation is reached by what we call 'Teleteaching'. This is not only a mere video conference. On a second channel the slide presentation is transmitted in a bi-directional fashion. This channel offers the possibility to communicate between all three sites via a tablet functionality. Thus it is possible that students from Trier may ask the docent in Berlin a question by writing or underlining a formula on the joint slide representation. This approach guarantees a bi-directional learning on the audio, video and formula channel. Meanwhile the technical issues work quite well and we solved the technical problems at the beginning.

The administrative differences of the three German States are not so easy to cope with. There are different teaching terms and different examination rules.

The presentation gives an overview of our concept and presents videos and screenshots of the teaching. The difficulties in the realisation of the concept will be presented also. The web page of the program can be found at Master.Surveystatistics.net.