

## **General rules for the national phase of the European Statistics Competition 2025-2026 (ESC), organized by STATEC** (National institute for statistics and economic studies in Luxembourg) in collaboration with **SCRIPT** (Ministry of Education, Children and Youth) and the **Luxembourg Statistical Society**

### **1. OBJECTIVES**

The general objectives of the European Statistics Competition are:

- To promote curiosity and interest in statistics among students.
- To encourage teachers to use new materials for teaching statistics by promoting the use of real data and search for applications of acquired statistical knowledge.
- To show the role of statistics to students and teachers in various aspects of society, making it known as a university study.
- To promote teamwork and collaboration to achieve common goals.

### **2. PARTICIPATION**

Participation in the national phase of the European Statistics Competition is open to all secondary-age students who are studying at any officially recognized educational centre of Luxembourg. Students will participate in teams of 1 to 3 pupils. All students of the team should belong to the same school and category. Each team should have a teacher from their centre acting as the tutor of the team, who will supervise their work.

There is no limitation on the number of participants / teams from the same centre nor on teams supervised by the same tutor.

Students are not allowed to participate in more than one team.

The participation of each team will take place in one of two categories:

**Category A:** students in the last two courses of secondary education (approx. 16-18 years old)

**Category B:** students of secondary education (approx. 14-16 years old)

### 3. REGISTRATION

Tutors of teams wishing to participate in the Statistics Competition must register the teams online at <https://www.statscompetition.eu/esc2026/> → choose Luxembourg and complete the registration form.

The registration must include all the information requested in the form. Participants can send their questions by email to [esc@statec.etat.lu](mailto:esc@statec.etat.lu).

### 4. ASSIGNMENTS

Participants in the national phase of the ESC 2025-2026 will take two eliminatory assignments. Only those who pass **both** assignments will be among the finalists of the Competition.

The first assignment will be done through a web form and will consist of three tests with closed questions. Those questions will have 4 possible answers of which only one will be the correct option.

The second assignment will consist of a photo competition on the theme of "The norm is the exception".

#### **First assignment:**

##### **a. Basic knowledge test**

The goal is to answer 10 questions on understanding of basic statistical concepts, interpretation of graphs, basic probability etc.

A collection of questions with different level of difficulty will be prepared for each category.

##### **b. Use of official statistical data sources test**

The goal is to answer 10 questions on various statistical data. This will require navigation through the STATEC website and the Statistical Portal of Luxembourg [www.statistiques.lu](http://www.statistiques.lu).

### c. Interpretation of statistical reports test

The goal is to answer 10 questions about the Eurostat publication "[Housing in Europe – Edition 2023](#)". The language of the publication is English and therefore the language of the questions and answer options will also be English.

### Second assignment:

#### Photo competition

As part of the competition, STATEC is organizing a photo contest where students are invited to combine the art of photography and poster making, with statistical data to show that "the norm is the exception".

#### Why this topic?

This theme invites us to challenge our assumptions about standards — about what is considered "normal", "average", or "expected". It's rich with both social and statistical meaning, offering a chance to reflect on averages, stereotypes, and socially expected behaviors.

It encourages participants to question preconceived notions and to highlight the gap between common perceptions and the reality revealed by statistics.

#### Educational and Creative Objectives

- Raise awareness about societal stereotypes and biases;
- Develop critical thinking about "norms" and commonly held beliefs;
- Promote the use of statistics as a tool for understanding and questioning the world;
- Emphasize the reliability and transparency of official data (our core mission).

#### Ideas for Exploring the Theme

- Critique or challenge a rule, a social norm, or an average;
- Take a stand against a stereotype;
- Represent human, cultural, physical, or behavioral diversity.

### Topic description:

Participants are invited to create a poster that illustrates a contrast or a gap between:

- A preconceived idea, stereotype, or cliché (assumptions, habits, social norms);
- The measured reality (official statistics, reliable data).

The poster can take two main forms:

- A staged composition (artistic creation, deliberate setup);
- A candid moment (a real-life scene that illustrates a statistic).

The poster must include:

- A photograph taken by the team (no stock photos, no AI-generated images);
- A creative and visually engaging integration of data.

### Rules and Creative Guidelines

- This is a **poster** contest. Students must take an **original photo** and incorporate it into their poster. (No stock photos, no infographics-only posters, and no AI-generated images.) They may use multiple original photos to illustrate contrast or evolution. They must also include a **creative and visually compelling representation of data** (chart, infographic, etc.);
- The photo should **spark curiosity and provoke reflection**;
- Each photo must be **accompanied by a title and a short descriptive text (max 150 words)** that explains or deepens the message;
- Creativity, originality, and relevance to the theme will be the main selection criteria.

## 5. Evaluation Criteria

### First assignment

Each of the three tests of the first assignment will be evaluated in terms of success and failure, taking into account that a correct answer carries a point, an incorrect answer subtracts 0.33 points and a question without answer

carries no points. The maximum grade for each of the three tests will be 10 points.

The result of the first assignment will be obtained by calculating the arithmetic mean, rounded to one decimal place, of the scores obtained in each of the three tests, and multiplying the result by 10, so that the final score for this assignment will be of 100 points maximum.

The ranking of all participating teams will be determined in this way.

The score in the first assignment will be included in the calculation of the final grade with a weight of 50%.

The evaluation of the three test and the calculation of the final score for the first assignment will be automatically done by a program.

Those teams who pass the first assignment will receive a diploma.

## **Second assignment**

The following aspects will be taken into account when evaluating the pdf file of the second assignment:

Message Relevance : 10 points

- Clarity and impact of the link between stereotype and statistics

Originality and Creativity: 10 points

- Originality of the photo(s) (no stock photo, no AI-generated photo(s)) and how it is staged or composed within the poster

Artistic Quality: 10 points

- Composition, lighting and overall aesthetic of the photo and the poster

Data Visualization Quality: 10 points

- Effectiveness and creativity of how data is visually represented

Text Clarity: 10 points

- Engaging title and clarity of the message in relation to the photo and poster

## Final Score

The final score will be obtained as the weighted average, with a maximum of three decimal places, of the scores obtained in the first and second assignments, by the following formula:

Final score =  $0.5 * 1^{\text{st}}$  assignment score +  $0.5 * 2^{\text{nd}}$  assignment score.

The winning team is the one that obtains the highest final score in each category. The other four teams from each category will be considered finalists of their respective categories.

Theoretically, in each age category, there will be 3 winning teams, as long as 3 teams have obtained a minimum of 60% of the point in both assignments of each category.

The best 2 teams of each age category are eligible to participate in the European phase.

## 6. AWARDS

The winning teams of the national phase, three from category A and three from the Category B will receive high-tech prizes that will be announced later.

A special prize will be awarded to the team that submitted the best photo in the photo competition. This means that, in theory, a team can win two prizes: one for their final ranking in the national phase of the competition and one for the best photo. This prize will be a single prize regardless of the age category of the participants.

A thank you prize will be awarded to the tutors of the winning teams of the final ranking and the special prize winning team. One tutor can only win one prize, even if they have tutored multiple winning teams.

## 7. JURY

The national phase jury will include experts in communication, statistics, and photography.

The jury's decision is final.

The jury may decide not to award any prize.

## 8. COMMUNICATION OF THE JURY'S DECISION AND AWARDS CEREMONY

The decision of the jury will be announced to participants via video conference and e-mail. It will also be published on STATEC's website and social media platforms on the date indicated by the organizers.

The organizers will settle the date and place for the award ceremony at a later date.

## 9. Calendar

### National phase

**20 October 2025:** Registration opens

**20 October 2025:** Start of photo contest

**12 December 2025 (23:59 hours):** Registration closes

**15 December 2025:** Publication of web questionnaire

**25 February 2026 (23:59 hours):** Deadline for submitting national phase assignments 1 and 2

**9 March 2026:** Announcement of national phase winners

- ➔ **Registration period:** from 20/10/2025 to 12/12/2025
- ➔ **Period for first assignment:** from 15/12/2025 to 25/02/2026
- ➔ **Period for second assignment:** from 20/10/2025 to 25/02/2026

## **European phase**

**December 2025:** Announcement of the topic for the assignment

**6 May 2026:** Deadline to submit videos

**5 June 2026:** announcement of winning teams

**Award ceremony :** date and location to be announced later

## **10. PUBLICATION OF OUTPUTS**

The awarded outputs in the second assignment or those that received mentions would be announced on the websites of the organizing institutions, indicating the names of the teams, the school they come from and their category. The participants will accept these rules and allow the publication of their works. All the materials presented at the national phase of the Competition will be retained by the STATEC.

## **11. EUROPEAN PHASE OF THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS COMPETITION 2026**

The winning team and the finalists with the highest grade of each category will be eligible to participate in the European phase of the European Statistics Competition. The organization of the national phase will contact the teams in due time to inform them about the European phase.

For this purpose the jury will prepare a list with at most five teams per category sorted by the highest grade obtained in the national phase. The first team in the list will be the winner, followed by the four finalists. In case the proposed teams could not attend or refused to participate in the European phase, the jury will contact the following team of the aforementioned list.

## **12. Reservation of rights**

STATEC and its partners reserve the right to change the terms and conditions of the national phase of the ESC, especially the dates announced in the calendar, or even its possible cancellation, whenever there is justified cause. These modifications would be made public at



<https://statistiques.public.lu/fr/statistique-publique/statec/european-statistics-competition.html>

### **13. Acceptance of the rules of the national phase of the ESC**

Participation in the national phase of the European Statistics Competition (ESC) assumes the acceptance of all these rules.