

General rules for the national phase of the European Statistics Competition 2026-2027 (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/> → 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.

4. ASSIGNMENTS

Participants in the national phase of the ESC 2026-2027 will take two eliminatory assignments. Only those who complete and pass **both** assignments will be among the finalists of the Competition.

The first assignment will be done through a web questionnaire 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 "Measuring the invisible".

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.

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.

c. Interpretation of statistical reports test

The goal is to answer 10 questions about the Eurostat publication "[Demography of Europe](#), 2026 edition". 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 "measure the invisible".

Why this topic?

Some realities are easy to observe: the number of cars on a street, the amount of waste produced, or the number of students in a classroom. Others are much less visible: stress, the feeling of safety, loneliness, well-being, habits, perceptions, or certain forms of inequality.

Yet these realities can also be observed, quantified and analysed through statistics.

The theme "Measuring the Invisible" invites participants to use photography to make visible a phenomenon that cannot be seen directly, but that data can help reveal.

It encourages students to reflect on a central question: how can we visually represent what statistics allow us to measure, but our eyes cannot always perceive?

Educational and Creative Objectives

- **Show students** that statistics can also be used to measure abstract or less visible phenomena;
- **Encourage** students to look at their daily lives and surroundings from a different perspective;
- **Develop** their ability to transform data or an abstract phenomenon into a visual message;

- **Stimulate** creativity by asking them to photographically represent something that cannot be seen directly;
- **Develop** critical thinking about data: how can a perception, behaviour or feeling be measured?
- **Encourage** the use of reliable data or the completion of an original survey;
- **Highlight** the role of official statistics as a tool for understanding society.

Description of the topic

Participants must create a poster that visually represents a phenomenon or reality that is not directly visible, but that can be observed, measured or better understood through statistics.

The project must combine:

1. An original photographic interpretation of an “invisible” phenomenon (no AI);
2. Statistical data or a survey that helps measure, contextualise or reveal this phenomenon.

The aim is therefore not simply to illustrate a number, but to create an interaction between photography, data and message.

The poster may be based on:

- a staged scene: an artistic creation or a symbolic or conceptual composition;
- a candid scene capturing a measurable phenomenon;
- a contrast between what is visible at first sight and what the data allow to be discovered;
- a photographic composition or montage created from photographs taken by the team.

Ideas for Exploring the Theme

- **Make visible** an abstract reality, feeling or phenomenon that is difficult to observe;
- **Explore** how concepts such as well-being, stress, loneliness or the feeling of safety can be measured;

- **Show** the difference between what can be seen in a situation and what data can reveal about it;
- **Represent** habits or behaviours that generally remain invisible in everyday life;
- **Highlight** how the accumulation of small individual behaviours can form a collective phenomenon;
- **Question** what numbers can teach us about a reality that cannot be fully understood through observation alone.

The poster must include:

- At least one original photograph taken by the team;
- Data incorporated in a visual, creative and understandable way;
- A title;
- A short explanatory text of no more than 150 words presenting the chosen phenomenon, the data used and the intention behind the project.

Rules and Creative Guidelines

- The entry must be a **poster**. Students must take at least one **original photograph** and incorporate it into their creation; the poster cannot consist solely of graphic elements;
- Stock photographs and AI-generated images are not permitted;
- Students may use several photographs taken by their team if this helps them develop their concept more effectively;
- The poster must include an **interesting and creative visual representation of data**;
- Statistical data should not simply be placed next to the photograph: it must contribute to the overall message of the poster;
- The photograph should **capture attention, arouse curiosity or encourage reflection**;

- Data may come from official sources or from a survey carried out by the students themselves;
- If students conduct their own survey, they must be able to briefly explain how the data were collected;
- Creativity, originality, the quality of the connection between photography and statistics, and the relevance of the message 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:

Relevance of the message: 10 points

- Clarity and impact of the connection between the preconceived idea and the statistics

Originality and Creativity: 10 points

- Originality of the photograph and the way it is staged or incorporated into the poster

Artistic Quality: 10 points

- Composition, lighting and overall aesthetic quality of the photograph; quality of the visual representation of the data

Data Visualization Quality: 10 points

- Effectiveness and creativity of the visual representation of the data

Text Clarity: 10 points

- Engaging title. Ability to explain the message and its connection with the photograph in a simple and clear way

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 2026: Registration opens

20 October 2026: Start of photo contest

11 December 2026 (23:59 hours): Registration closes

14 December 2026: Publication of web questionnaire

19 February 2027 (23:59 hours): Deadline for submitting national phase assignments 1 and 2

8 March 2027: Announcement of national phase winners

- ➔ **Registration period:** from 20/10/2026 to 11/12/2026
- ➔ **Period for first assignment:** from 14/12/2026 to 19/02/2027
- ➔ **Period for second assignment:** from 20/10/2026 to 19/02/2027

European phase

December 2026: Announcement of the topic for the assignment

5 May 2027: Deadline to submit videos

Early June 2027: Announcement of the 24 best videos

Award ceremony and winner announcement: between 22-24 June 2027 | Location to be announced

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 2026-2027

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.