

Education of experts in small area statistics

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ABSTRACT

Achieving expertise in order to produce small area statistics is considered. A short review of commonly used analysis strategies and statistical tools in small area research shows that skills of different academic disciplines are needed. A small area specialist should master topics in mathematical statistics, survey methodology and widely in experimental mathematics for performing simulation and disclosure tasks. In addition, professional skills are needed for empirical research in some appropriate substance field as for example in economics, social statistics or epidemiology. This knowledge helps to collect relevant auxiliary information and to interpret analysis results. Thus the learning process of a student can not be completed by some academic courses only. Good knowledge can be reached by advanced studies of different disciplines and by participating in practical research at some organization, which produces small area statistics. Timing and content of this kind of training program is sketched.

Key words: Multidisciplinary know-how, team work, political relevance.