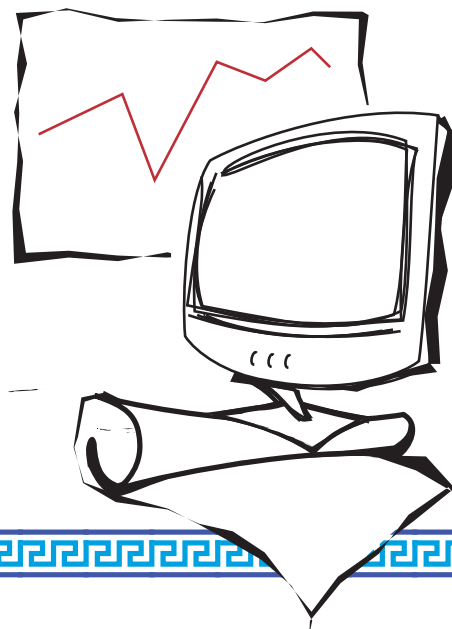


# Sophist

Information Bulletin



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From June 29 to July 2009 the Russian Sociological Data Archive held a fourth methodology seminar «Statistics without tears: regressive modeling with NESSTAR package» The seminar took place in Snegiri

settlement not far from Moscow. Eighteen people from different regions of Russia took part in the seminar. Here we publish the opinions of some of the participants and a photo gallery.

## COMMENTS OF THE SUMMER SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS

I have wonderful impressions of the seminar. Very interesting lectures, getting to know the NESSTAR package, productive communication with colleagues – all this is a good stimulus for further professional growth. I would like to thank all the workers if the RSDA for their toilsome work in creation of the collection of surveys. It is a richest source for the secondary analysis. These unique materials will be useful for practicing sociologists and students. Thank you!

**Almakayeva Anna,**  
Senior teacher of the chair of methodology  
for sociological and marketing research at the Samara state university

A lot of thanks to the organizers of the Summer school for their professional work, for the comfortable conditions that were supplied for the effective study and productive communication with colleagues. I would like to express my gratitude to the participants of the Summer school for their help in studying the new materials, for the new ideas in professional development and just for the pleasant human communication. On the whole one can qualify the work of the Summer school as positive and constructive and advise other colleagues who have not yet used this possibility to attend it. I wish the organizers further success in the field of development sociological knowledge.

**Bagutskiy Nikolay,**  
Assistant professor of social anthropology and social work  
at the Saratov state technical university

The event that I was a participant of, was very useful to me for several reasons. First, in the course of the studies we touched upon the problems of data analysis methodology, which allowed to newly formulate a number of already existing problems and also to remember some forgotten methods. A special gratitude goes to all the teachers of the School who are sincerely interested to pass their rich experience and knowledge to young scientists.

Second, in the course of studies we got the instruments of work with the archive of sociological research and possibility to use them, which is very important for me, as a person who periodically needs to use various sociological data.

Third, it was rather interesting and useful to communicate with colleagues sociologists engaged in research and analysis of the data. It should be mentioned that they all proved to be very interesting people devoted to their work. And since many of them were teachers who did research in the regions, it also gave a possibility to get a notion of the teaching and research process in different regions in

Russia. Analytical sociologists lack communication with the colleagues engaged in similar problems, and in this respect, the Summer school is a unique opportunity from the professional point of view to get to know these people in informal surroundings. It let us form contacts, which in future may be quite useful. Many thanks to all the organizers!

**Bidikhova Iya,**  
Assistant professor of the chair of sociology  
of the International academy of business and management, Moscow

Thank you very much for holding such seminars. The friendly atmosphere, intense studies, acquaintance with Yu.N. Tolstova left an unforgettable impression. The knowledge and experience we got made more productive both our teaching and research work. Let me mark the good organization and wonderful friendliness of the organizers and coordinators of the Seminar. I wish you all success and luck!

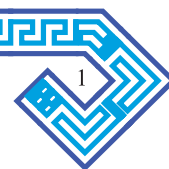
**Galkina Yelena,**  
Assistant professor of the chair of sociology and politology  
at the Ulyanovsk state university

Participation in the work of the Summer school «Statistics without tear: regressive modeling with the use of the NESSTAR package» is an undoubtedly very useful event in a researcher's professional life. A wonderful teaches staff and the software gave an opportunity to look at one's own research work from a different angle. Professional contacts that are made at such events also play a very important role in the further teaching work. A lot of thanks to all the organizers for giving me a possibility to take part in this seminar.

**Gapich Alexandre,**  
The chair of sociology and social work  
at the Northern-Caucasus state technical university, Stavropol

I would like to thank the organizers and teachers for substantial, useful and pleasant in every way seminar! Besides the qualified studies in the form of lectures and laboratory work I also got an opportunity for valuable communication with my colleagues for many regions of Russia. Also very important for me was the possibility to use on-line NESSTAR resource in my research and teaching work.

**Maltseva Anna,**  
Assistant professor of the chair of mathematical methods  
in social studies at the Altay state university, Barnaul



## HOW DO YOU SPEND YOUR FREE TIME?

This year the Russian Sociological Data Archive (RSDA) accepted for storage another module of research within ISSP (International Social Survey Programme), which was realized in 2007. The Module is called «Free time and Sports» and is aimed to see in what way the people from different countries spend their free time. Twenty four countries, Russia among them took part in the research. The surveys of the population were done according to representative samples with the use of generally accepted instruments? That allows comparability of the data. Totally 36087 people were surveyed.

In the course of the surveys the respondents were asked to answer how often they do in their free time the things suggested in the list below:

- watch TV, video, DVD;
- go to the movies;
- go shopping not for necessity but for pleasure;
- read books;
- attend concerts, theatres, exhibitions and other cultural events;
- visit relatives who live separately;
- visit friends;
- play cards and other table games;
- listen to music;
- go in for active rest (sports, training halls, walks);
- attend sports events as viewers;
- engage in handiwork ( sewing, knitting, woodcarving etc.);
- spend time in Internet, at the computer (not for work or studies).

The marks were given according to the five positional scale: every day, several times a week, several times a month, several times a year or less, never.

More often the population of the countries under survey spends time in front of the TV set – 69 % of those surveyed watch TV every day (see Table 1). The next in turn according to the frequency of mentioning the way they spend free time is listening to the music. More than half of the surveyed devote their free time to this type of cultural preferences. The question list did not contain questions about the musical preferences of the respondents, thus one group unites both classic music lovers and hard-rock fans. Internet is also in the three most mass ways of spending free time? But on the other side, 46 % of the respondents declared that they never use the world net in their free time. The direct question if they had an access to the net in their free time was not asked. Nevertheless, the data indirectly confirms that the possibility to use the net significantly differ in different countries (see Table 2). If in New Zealand there is not a single respon-

dent who would from time to time go into the net in his free time, in South Africa the share of those who do not use the world net in their free time reaches 0 %. Russia occupies the third position among those who never use the world net in their free time.

Reading books divides the survey approximately by two – 49 of those surveyed are the people who read books twice a year or never. We should note, that the choice of this type of spending free time in a strong degree depends on the educational level of the respondents. The most reading country is New Zealand: 30 % of the population turn to books every day, and along way there is not a single person who never reads books. High reading indicators gave Australia, Switzerland, France. On the opposite side we find the countries of Latin America, a number of the former USSR countries and Flandreau. Russia ends the tierce of the most reading countries which participated in the research (see Pic. 1).

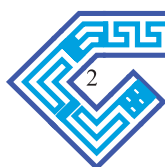
The procedure of the hierarchy cluster analysis confirms presents of several groups of the countries? Which are very close according to the free time behavior. New Zealand and Switzerland form though not big but a stable cluster. People in these countries by one and a half times more often read books, listen to music, go in for sports (more than the people in all the other countries participating in the survey), and almost twice as much engage themselves in handicrafts. They spend a lot of time in Internet. They are not against going to the shops just for pleasure. At the same time they watch TV more seldom than the average indicators in the survey.

The most numerous cluster includes such countries as Australia, France, Sweden, Finland, Norway, South Korea, Taiwan, Slovenia. People in these countries like to spend their free time in Internet, much more often than average in the survey, go in for sports, not against reading. But they are not eager to attend cultural events: going to the movies, theatres, exhibitions or sport events (all these indicators are significantly lower than average indicators in the survey. More seldom than average the representatives of this cluster devote their free time to visiting relatives. If in Israel, the country were this type of free time behavior is the most frequent than in any other country? They visit relatives once in two or three days, the representatives of the cluster under analysis do this twice as rarely, about once a week.

Latvia, Czech Republic and Poland form another cluster. Their favorite free time spending is going shopping just for pleasure. They do it about once in three days (twice as oftener than the average in the survey). Besides, the representatives of this cluster watch TV more, oftener that the average

**Table 1.**  
Frequency of different free time spending forms (percent by line)

How often do you	Every day	Several times a week	Several times a month	Several times a year or less	Never
...watch TV	69	19	6	3	4
...listen to music	53	23	11	6	7
...spend time in Internet	23	15	10	6	46
...read books	16	17	19	25	24
...go in for sports, fitness	15	26	19	12	29
...visit friends	14	27	35	18	7
...visit relatives	6	18	37	33	5
...do handicraft	5	8	13	20	54
...go shopping for pleasure	4	14	33	29	21
...play cards	2	8	14	26	50
...attend cultural events	1	2	10	46	41
...attend sports events	1	5	13	29	52
...go to the movies	0	2	9	42	46



listen to music. But they visit relatives much more seldom than the average statistic respondent.

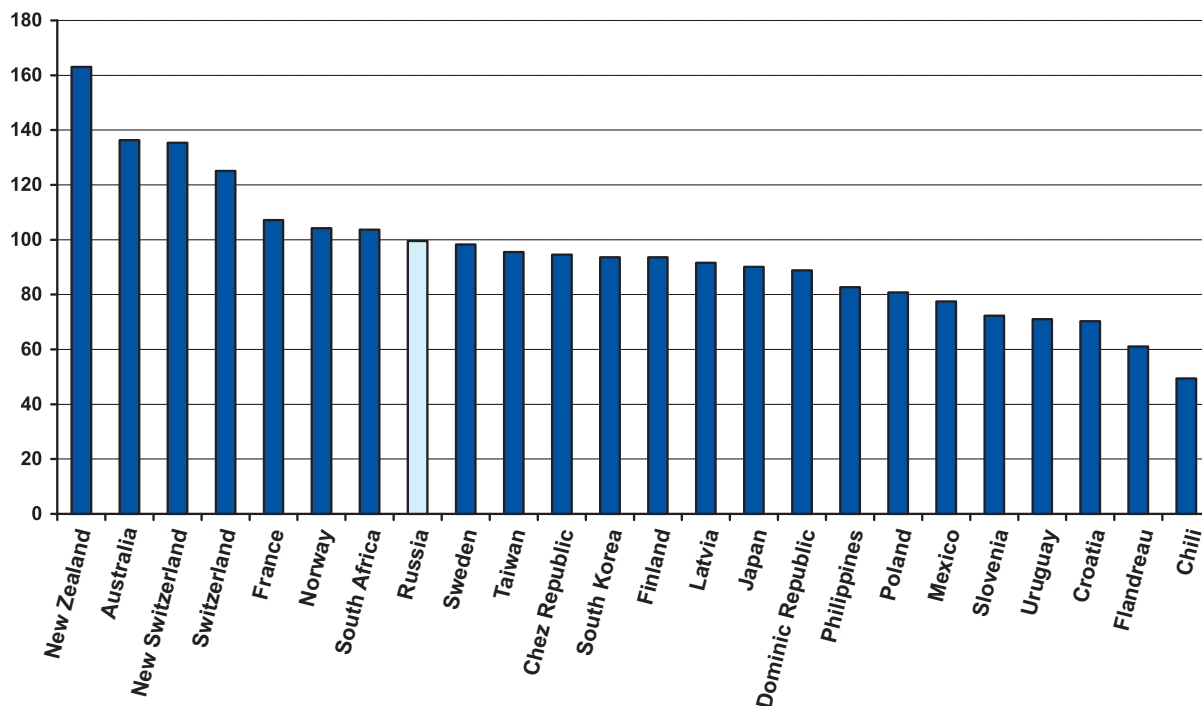
Quite apart in the row of the analyzed countries stands Japan – it remains an independent cluster practically to the last step. The Japanese often spend their free time in front of the TV set: the TV set is switch on practically every day (more than 300 days a year). Much more often than in other countries the citizens of the country of the rising sun visit their relatives, but they meet friends rarer than the participants of the survey in all the other countries. The citizens of Japan are not against visiting shops just for pleasure. But they are not eager to attend entertainment events. Thus they go to the movies twice as rarely as the average, and they attend sports events almost 6 times as rarely (about once in three months). These are the lowest indicators in the survey.

Russia enters the same cluster with such countries as South Africa, Philippines and Dominican Republic. The favorable way of spending free time is visiting entertainment events: they go to the movies and concerts almost one and a half times as often as an average, and sports events twice as often. The representatives of this cluster more often than others play cards and other table games, but go in for sports much more seldom than the respondents in all the other countries – almost twice as rarely as the average. Besides they practically do not use Internet in their free time: if the citizens of New Zealand spend their free time in the net about once in two days the representatives of the cluster under analysis by four times as rarely. As it was mentioned above, a very high percent of the people in these countries never use Internet in their free time.

Even a brief analysis of the data of this research presented to the RSDA shows what opportunities the deposited data can give to the interested researcher. Let us remind you, that the RSDA supplies data for research and teaching on a free of charge basis. The RSDA catalogue of the deposited surveys can be found at the address: <http://sofist.socpol.ru/>.

**Table 2.**  
The share of the respondents who never use Internet in their free time (% out of the number of the respondents who gave a comprehensive answer)

	Never use Internet in my free time
SAR	80
Uruguay	75
Russia	74
Philippines	73
Chili	61
Mexico	60
Croatia	58
Latvia	53
Chez Republic	51
Japan	49
Poland	49
Dominic Republic	47
Israel	42
Taiwan	41
Slovenia	40
Switzerland	35
Flandreau	34
South Korea	32
France	28
Australia	24
Finland	20
Sweden	18
Norway	16
New Zealand	0



**Pic. 1.** The average number of days a year when the respondents read books in their free time





I was very pleased to take part in the seminar «Statistics without tears: regressive modeling with the NESSTAR package», which was organized by the Independent institute of social policy on the basis of the RSDA. I especially liked the while atmosphere, lively communication and discussions of different issues of modern sociological education with my colleagues from different regions of the country, an opportunity to share the experience, listen to everybody and discuss any point of view. And also a good combination of theory and practice.

I also liked the approach to the manner of conducting the seminar: all the main ideas were distinctly formulated and the information was given compactly enough. To my mind this is a great success. Because just within a few days it was possible to get rather a big volume of information and carry out practical work.

The seminar proved useful also for my pedagogical work. Very valuable information on the «Use of computer technologies in sociological research» was presented at the seminar, which I will by all means use in my work. In the course of the seminar I got an idea of how the resources of the RSDA can be used by students for their course papers, and I saw new perspectives for my further development in the field of data analysis.

I thank all the organizers and teachers who worked with us in the Summer school for the constructive seminar. I can say that I spent my time with use. This seminar showed me a new stream and now I have what to think of and what work to do in future.

**Dymina Natalia,**  
Assistant of the chair of philosophy and sociology  
at the Murmansk state pedagogical university

From all my heart I thank the RSDA and the Independent institute of social policy for the organized seminar. The Summer school really proved a useful event, which combined theoretical and practical peculiarities of scientific knowledge. Special thanks for the lecture brilliantly delivered by Yu.N. Tolstova. On the whole I would like to note that the seminar helped widen the scientific horizon and get acquainted with wonderful people from all over Russia (from Stavropol and Saratov to Surgut and Omsk). I wish you further development, and on my part I will use every effort to promote the RSDA in the Republic of Mordovia.

**Zimin Alexander,**  
teacher of the chair of sociology at the Mordovian state university  
named after N.P. Ogarev, Saransk

The Summer school was a useful experience for me. Before that I had never participated in such events. From the professional point of view This visit helped me a lot, shoed me my level and the direction to move

in. I appreciated the kind attitude and understanding of the organizers. I got acquainted with the colleagues from other cities and institutes. It was also very useful.

The idea of creation of the RSDA is very perspective. The whole usefulness of the project we will be able to appreciate in 20 or 50 years, when the present day becomes history.

Thank you very much.

**Nazarova Lyubov,**  
assistant of the chair of sociology and public relations  
at the Tver state university

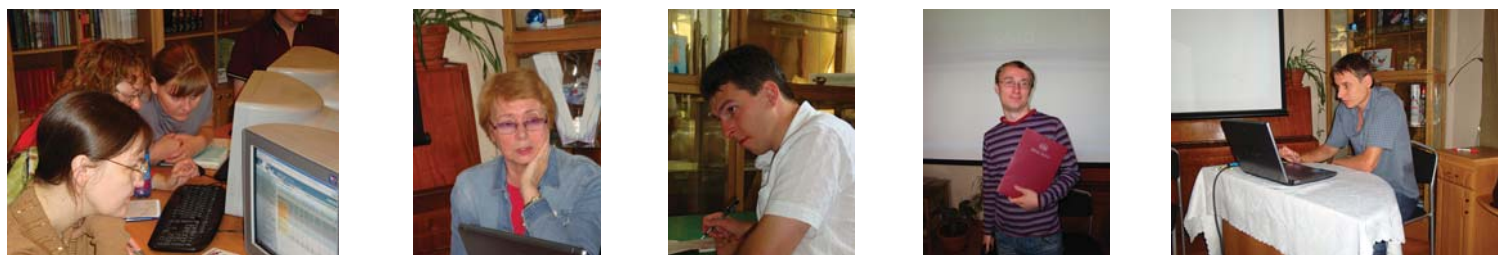
I got most favorable impressions of the Summer school «Statistics without tears». AT last I managed to get acquainted with the NESSTAR programme, which is a very useful instrument for a sociologist, who constantly works with quantitative data. I also got information about foreign archive centers where one can find international research work results for the programme I work on. I would also like to mention the conference which was held in the frame of the School at which we had an intensive and fruitful discussion of my work, done on the basis of the data of the «Monitoring of the social and economic changes». I am sincerely grateful to the workers of the center for valuable advice and commentaries about my research after the end of the session. Thank you for your professional work and kind attitude!

**Naumenko Yekaterina,**  
teacher of the chair of sociology at MGIMO

In July we participated in the next Summer school, which was aimed at acquainting us with the new NESSTAR programme. I was one of the participants of this event for the first time, and I have only positive impressions. First, the experience of work with so highly qualified colleagues from different regions of the country cannot be substituted by anything. Second, after the practical and theoretical classes, which were conducted by high level specialists, we had an opportunity to get answers to our numerous questions. Third, the classes were planned in such a way, that they were not tiresome and overstuffed with information.

To add to the practical methods of work with the programme and positive emotions, we received a strong impulse for our further work which will be quite enough until the next Summer school. Thanks to the organizers!

**Saltykov Alexey,**  
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