

ENSEA of Abidjan: In the heart of Statistical Training in Francophone Africa

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Summary:

The purpose of this article is to introduce the reader to the "Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA) of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire". The article highlights our training program, our resources, our strategies for quality training and regional integration. Our goal here is to enable anyone in need of statistical training, or applied research, or survey to find an effective environment to come to. We would like to foster cooperation in various area of applied statistics and economics.

Key Words

ENSEA, training resources, AT, AD, ITS, ISE.

Résumé

Le but de cet article est de présenter au lecteur, l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA) d'Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. L'article met l'accent sur le programme de formation, les ressources, les stratégies de l'Ecole concernant la qualité de la formation et l'intégration régionale. Notre but ici est de permettre à tous ceux qui sont intéressés par la formation statistique, la recherche appliquée, le traitement des enquêtes à mieux nous connaître. Nous voudrions stimuler la coopération dans les divers secteurs des statistiques et des sciences économiques appliquées.

1. Introduction

Statistics may be defined as numbers language. And the role of a statistician is to crunch, analyze, and give meaning to numbers for decision making and policy advise. Thus, a statistician may play a key role in many areas such as economics, finance, actuarial, population studies, as well as research and development.

A statistician is usually skilled to performed a variety of tasks from simple to complex. He may describe and summarize information contained in a huge data set. At other time, he

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may draw inference from a sample to a whole population. Still, other time, he/she may build models to predict future values, or to suggest effective solution to uncertainty. Therefore, it is important for businesses to have statisticians on board for efficient and accurate decision making.

It is in this regard that "l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA)" developed training programs to cater for the need of private businesses, public administrations, civil society, and international organizations.

The purpose of this article is to introduce the reader to ENSEA, its training and research resources, its strategies for quality training, its vision of regional integration through statistical training, and its perspectives.

2. The Institution: Who Are We

Created in 1962 as the "Ecole de Statistique d'Abidjan" (ESA) with only one training Program, the school grew up steadily to become in 1982 ENSEA with 3 training Programs. A great momentum was reached with the addition of the training program For statistical engineer in 1987 and a milestone was set in 2004 with the DESS Program for professionals. Our mission may be summarized as follows

- To train highly effective statisticians skilled in addressing economic and social issues in a satisfactory manner, in providing policy advice, in participating in policy analysis and decision making
- To carry out research having immediate impact on the creation of wealth and the improvement of economic and social condition of west Africa countries

ENSEA vision is to be the **leader** in statistical and economic training in west Africa, to **provide** the job market **with young, dynamic**, and **excellent** managers with the desire to empower African states in their quest for development, and to provide African scholars with a convenient center for research



3. ENSEA Training Resources

3.1. Training Program

To ensure quality training, ENSEA developed a training program that combines strong theoretical knowledge with practical application through internship in businesses, public administrations, civil society, and international organizations. This training program leads to five types of degree. The description of the degree along with the admission requirements are as follows:

Table 1: Training programs at ENSEA

Degree	Duration	Position or Title	Admission Requirement
AT*	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Collector Statistics Assistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Level in Science 22 years old or less
AD*	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number Cruncher Survey Supervisor 	Either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baccalaureate in Science 22 years or less Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT degree
ITS*	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics Analyst Statistics Designer 	Either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 years of college math or Econ 23 years or less Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AD degree 40 years old or less
DESS*	1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical Analyst, specialized in development issues 	Either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 years of Econ or Management Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITS degree Or Equivalent Diploma

ISE*	3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics Manager • Statistics and Economics Advisor • Statistics Consultant 	Either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 years old or less • 2years of prep math or prep Econ Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 years old or less • 4 years of Econ or Management Or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITS degree • 40 years old or less
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*AT = Agent Technique, AD = Adjoint Technique, ITS = Ingénieur des Travaux Statistiques
 ISE = Ingénieur Statisticien Economiste, DESS = Diplôme d'Etude Supérieure Spécialisée

3.2. Training Facilities

ENSEA offers to its trainees the following:

- 14 regular classrooms with 10 to 50 seats
- 1 auditorium with more than 250 seats
- 2 computer labs
- 1 modern library with hundreds of titles
- Internet connection
- 2 students housing facilities
- 1 cafeteria
- 1 modern health center
- 15 full time and 80 adjunct faculty
- 25 staff and support employees
- A management with clear vision and mission

4. Strategies for Quality Training

To ensure the quality of its training, ENSEA uses a combination of strategies such as admission requirements, faculty hiring policy, approved curriculum, practical internship, and applied research

In fact, ENSEA admitted only the best students from all other francophone African countries who have successfully passed the entrance examination with at least 12 on a 20 points scale. The entrance examination is conducted by INSEE of Paris, France, for three statistical training centers which are ENSEA of Abidjan, ISSEA of Yaoundé, and ENEA of Dakar.

In addition, ENSEA faculty are recruited among the best instructors from the academia, the industry, as well as alumni. ENSEA is planning to have a language lab to enable English stu-



dent to learn and follow their training in French. ENSEA is training its faculty in English in order to allow them to teach some of their courses in English.

As a graduation requirement, each student must complete a 3 to 6 months internship in a business, a public administration, an NGO, or an international organization. The purpose of this internship is to allow each student to put into practice the theoretical tools he or she learnt.

ENSEA also conducts each year a field survey in order to teach student the good skills of data collection. ENSEA carries out applied research in the area of poverty reduction, population, reproductive health, sexual behavior (HIV / AIDS), agriculture, and local development. The statistical analysis of these surveys help in decision making and policy advice.

ENSEA has established partnership with many scientific communities such as:

ENSAE, Paris: Curriculum development

IRD, France: co-research in applied economics and population studies

DITRAME Plus, France: research on HIV transmission from mother to child

INED-CEPED, France: research on population issues

INSEE, France : entrance examination support

IFORD, Cameroon: research on population and admission exam

5. Regional Integration Through Statistical Training

Each year, fifteen to twenty nationalities are present at ENSEA. Students from Benin, Togo, Burkina, Cameroon, Gabon, RDC, and Madagascar mingle together for one to three years. They build network of friendship which last long after graduation. This in turn facilitate regional integration.

6. Way Forward

In order to ensure good ties with the industry and reinforce regional integration, ENSEA has planned for 2005 to 2010 the following:

- Open up the training to English and Portuguese speaking countries of Africa;
- Assist businesses and public administration in creating statistics department or a research and development department
- Design an effective research program in economics, applied statistics, and population studies.

7. How to Contact Us

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