DIFFERENT GAMES OF CHANCE IN HUNGARY: REPORT ABOUT A PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

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This poster shows a classroom project to be developed in ten hours. It is prepared for 14-16 years old pupils in secondary school. The aim of the project is to give new possibilities for the realistic mathematics teaching on the field of probability and statistics. The project is based on working groups. Every group (four or five students) works on a different type of game. The types of games offered are: wet, casino (roulette and dice only), lottery, scratch and “automatic money winner. The pupils get written materials and Internet resources which are prepared by the Hungarian project participants.

The pupils have to prepare an introduction to their game for their classmates. They use in their presentation Internet, written material and statistics about the games, and have to give answers to some questions given at the beginning of the activity.

This course can be used as an introduction to probability (different notions) and expected value, and as a continuous connection to real statistics. These ideas are quite new in Hungary. Statistics has been introduced in the curriculum first in 2000. The main problem is the teachers’ attitude and readiness to teach statistics. They have no praxis and fear of the very different contents and viewpoints of statistics.

The project gives possibilities to compare the different countries on this field and to use the mathematics education to pay more attention to the sometimes dangerous passion for games. Among the German partners can be found the teacher organization MUED who have excellent realistic materials. A short overview of the stochastic materials will be given in this poster.

The group of the authors is led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ödön Vancsó, Eötvös, from Lóránd University, Mathematics Teaching and Education Centre and three teachers took part in this project: Georg Emese, Piroska Török and Ilona Schekk who are all teaching in Hungarian secondary schools.

The frame of the experience is a common European Union project: Developing quality in mathematics education in a European context. Development of classroom culture by teachers. The number of the project is: 118846-CP-1-2004-1-DE-COMENIUS-C21.

The first concrete experience with pupils was planned for April 2006. This poster summarizes the results of the school experience.

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