Teaching and Learning Econometrics in a Computer Laboratory: Empirical Evidence from TEMPUS CD_JEP "Statistical Methods for Business and Economics"

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An important change that has had a significant impact on teaching and learning statistics and econometrics over the past few decades has been the increased application of microcomputers and of user-friendly computer packages, particularly at university level. Microcomputers and software as teaching tools benefit students by replacing abstract lectures with real-data based problems, thus contributing to better understanding and analysis, which is the biggest challenge in teaching of statistics and econometrics.

With the increased use of computers and software in instruction and learning, additional research and discussion is needed on the appropriate ways to apply computers and software in econometric classroom in order to get the students interested in econometrics.

Although there are many articles examining the effect of the use of computers and software in teaching econometrics, only a few of them are empirically based. The purpose of this paper is to bridge this gap by describing how the use of microcomputers and software (particularly EViews 6), have transformed teaching, learning and examination of statistical and econometric subjects taught at the international postgraduate (master) studies "Statistical Methods for Business and Economics" at the Faculty of Economics-Skopje. We assert that only by adopting a lecture/laboratory format econometric theory and its application in economics and business can be brought together to improve student learning.