



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh Central Statistics Office

Preas Ráiteas Press Statement

John Hooper Medal for Statistics and CensusAtSchool

Today, Gerry O'Hanlon, Director General of the Central Statistics Office in conjunction with Minister Séan Sherlock awarded the inaugural John Hooper Medal for Statistics.

Speaking at the award ceremony, Gerry O'Hanlon, the Director-General noted that the consequences of getting policy decisions wrong are significant and so it is critical that decisions made today are informed to the greatest extent possible by good quality statistics. The core role of CSO is to provide the robust, independent evidence required to make those decisions.

In recognition of the importance of the coming generation of information consumers, CSO is developing an educational outreach programme "*Investing in the future – Young People and Statistics*". Initiatives such as *CensusAtSchool* and the *Donal McCarthy Scholarship* are already in place. The *John Hooper Medal* is the latest addition to this programme. Through such initiatives CSO hopes to support the broader education system and contribute to the development and improvement of numerical literacy and critical analysis in our young people.

The Director-General congratulated the participants on the high standard of their work, pointing out that the winners of the *John Hooper Medal*, Michael Stone and Naoise Dack of Belvedere College, represented Ireland in the International Statistics Literacy Programme Poster Competition, where they placed 5th. And Isabel O'Mahony and Alison Hennessy of Marys High School in Midleton, who placed 2nd in the *John Hooper Medal* placed 9th in the International Statistics Literacy Programme Poster Competition.

As part of the proceedings, the Minister Séan Sherlock formally launched this years *John Hooper Medal* competition was launched. Details are available on the CSO website www.cso.ie/newsevents/int_stat_lit_poster.htm.

The Director-General also formally launched the next *CensusAtSchool* questionnaire for the academic year 2011/2012. The theme of the new census is Sport & Health to tie in with the 2012 Olympics. Details are available on the *CensusAtSchool* website (www.censusatschool.ie). In conjunction with this launch, a special statistical release, with results from the latest *CensusAtSchool* was published (www.cso.ie/releasespublications/documents/education/2011/cas2011.pdf)

The Director-General concluded proceedings by thanking the project partners; the National Centre for Technology in Education, National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and Project Maths, who have played central roles in the development of the *CensusAtSchool* in particular but who have also contributed to the *John Hooper Medal*.

First prize and winners of the John Hooper Medal for Statistics

Students: Michael Stone, Naoise Dack
Teacher: Lesley Byrne
Belvedere College
Great Denmark Street
Dublin 1

Poster Title: To Investigate whether the time of day affects the basic arithmetic skills of Fifth Year Students

More/...



An Phríomh-Oifig Staidrimh
Bóthar na Sceiche Airde
Corcaigh
Éire
Oifig i mBaile Átha Cliath
+353 1 498 4000

Central Statistics Office
Skehard Road
Cork
Ireland
Dublin Office
+353 1 498 4000



LoCall 1890 313 414 (ROI)
0808 2347 581 (UK/NI)
+353 21 453 5000
+353 21 453 5555
information@cso.ie
www.cso.ie



Second prize

Students: Isabel O'Mahony, Alison Hennessy
Teacher: Nuala McCarthy
St. Marys High School
Midleton
Co. Cork
Poster Title: Home or Away?

Third prize

Students: Aidan O' Mahony, Shane Kelly
Teacher: Eva Ní Chionnfhaoilaidh
Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh Meal Sior Anraí
Luimneach
Poster Title: An Investigation into the Speech Habits of Teenagers Today

Further examples of students' work are available on the Central Statistics Office Website:
http://www.cso.ie/newsevents/int_stat_lit_poster_results.htm

For further information contact:

Eoin McCuirc 021 453 5504
Felix Coleman 021 453 5129

Central Statistics Office

Phone: LoCall 1890 313 414
021 453 5000 / 01 498 4000, ext 5504 or 5129
Fax 021 453 5555
Internet www.cso.ie
E-mail islp@cso.ie

Central Statistics Office

20 October 2011

– ENDS –