

August 2026

Circle U Collaboration

**SLAM-U**

Strengthening Statistical Literacy in Health Sciences:  
Latin America - CircleU Collaboration

Postdoc Fernando Valentim Bitencourt

Aarhus University - Department of Dentistry and Oral Health

# OUR TEAM



**Dr. Fernando  
Bitencourt**  
Aarhus University



**Dr. Jing Kang**  
King's College London



**Dr. Katja Petrovic**  
University Clinical  
Center of Serbia



**Dr. Daiana Böttcher**  
Pontifical University of Rio  
Grande do Sul



**Dr. Carlos Adorno**  
National University of  
Asunción



**Dr. Ke Zhou**  
King's College London



**Olívia Horn**  
Pontifical Catholic University  
of Rio Grande do Sul



**Dr. Fiona Puntieri**  
Humboldt-Universität zu  
Berlin



**Dr. Pamod  
Amarakoon**  
University of Oslo



**Dr. Cynthia Jara**  
National University of  
Asunción

# THE PROBLEM

Health research has become increasingly collaborative and international.

However, collaboration becomes difficult when researchers from different countries and disciplines often **do not speak the same statistical language**.

**The same statistical term may:**

- take different meanings across disciplines;
- be translated inconsistently between languages;
- be misunderstood by researchers and, mainly, students.

As a result, communication becomes more difficult, learning takes longer, and **interdisciplinary collaboration is less effective**.

**This Circle U project aims to bridge that gap.**

# OUR PROPOSAL

Our goal is to make statistical concepts **clearer**, **more accessible**, and **consistent** across languages and disciplines.

To achieve that, the project aims to develop an open-access tri-lingual glossary in **English**, **Portuguese** and **Spanish**.

## The glossary will:

- provide clear, standardized definitions;
- include practical examples and visual illustrations;
- make complex statistical concepts easier to understand;
- support students, researchers and health professionals;
- improve statistical communication across disciplines and languages.

With that, it is expected that statistical communication will be made easier and there will be a **better understanding** of the subject overall.

# HOW IT ALL STARTED



# PROJECT TIMELINE

**2024**

**2025**

**2026**

**Next Steps**

## **Circle U Summer School**

The need for an interdisciplinary initiative that benefited both the CircleU and Global Health was discussed and thought about.

## **Postdoctoral mobility programme**

Dr. Fernando and Dr. Jing Kang conversed about teaching and the challenges they encounter in statistics literacy in students and researchers.

## **First Semester**

In January, the initial meeting took place, where core terms were mapped. After that, was the content development phase, in which the first draft of the glossary was made.

## **Hybrid Workshop**

In September, host a 2-day in-person workshop in Latin America with ~30 participants (academics, translators, students) to test materials. All content will be available online for accessibility.

## **Final Months**

In the months of October and November, a beta version of the material will be available in the CircleU platform. In December, the final report will be submitted.

# GLOSSARY DEVELOPMENT

## 1. SCREEN

Screen previous glossary  
Read relevant literature  
Identify key terms

## 2. SELECT

Build an initial term list  
Team Discussion  
Refine selected terms

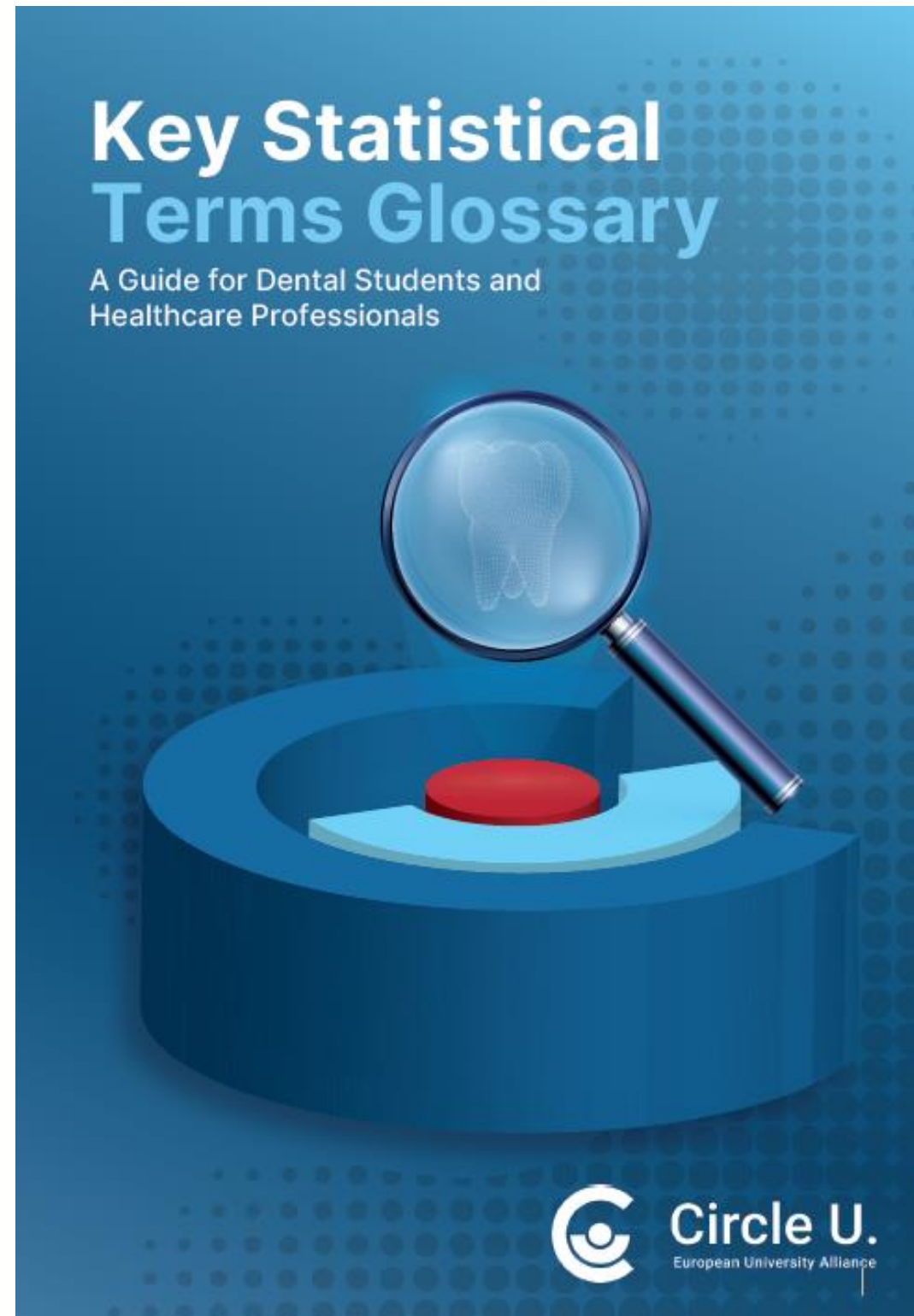
## 3. DEVELOP

Allocate terms across the team  
Describe in plain English  
Add example & Visualisation

## 4. REVIEW (Ongoing)

Cross-review glossary entries  
Check clarity & consistency  
Refine the content

# GLOSSARY DRAFT

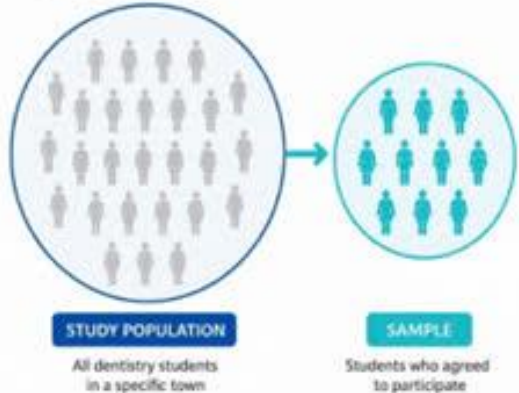


# GLOSSARY DRAFT



## 5.Sample (Olívia)

|            |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Category   | Nature of data and variables                                                                                                      |
| Definition | A smaller subset of individuals selected from the study population.                                                               |
| Example    | Out of all dentistry students in a specific town, the sample would be only the students who agreed to participate on the project. |



# THE EXPECTED OUTPUT

**From a glossary to a sustainable learning resource. It is not only about defining terms, it could be a shared understanding of statistics.**

## **Trilingual Glossary**

English · Portuguese · Spanish

## **Workshop & Feedback**

Testing · Refinement · Evaluation

## **Open-access Resources**

Definitions · Examples · Visuals

## **Collaborative Network**

Students · Researchers · Educators

# KEY LESSON

## **Different perspectives**

Different disciplines may understand and use the same statistical term differently.

## **Translation $\neq$ equivalence**

Statistical terms do not always translate directly across English, Portuguese and Spanish.

## **Accuracy vs accessibility**

Definitions need to be scientifically accurate but still understandable to students.

# SUM

## **Shared language**

Bridging disciplines and countries

## **Co-creation**

Learning from different perspectives

## **Clarity & accessibility**

Making statistics easier to understand for everyone

## **Beyond translation**

Adapting concepts across contexts

## **Open & sustainable**

Building resources for future learning

# THANK YOU

[fvbitencourt@dent.au.dk](mailto:fvbitencourt@dent.au.dk)