

STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

International statistical co-operation



1/2014

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

Published by: Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office)
Wiesbaden

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Phone: +49 (0) 611 / 75 24 05

Periodicity: semi-annually

Published in June 2014

Order number: 0000024-14531-1

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Dear readers,

Many experts from the field of statistical co-operation gathered together at the beginning of December last year in the biggest conference room of the main building in Wiesbaden. Together with the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Roderich Egeler, they looked back on the most productive year in international co-operation so far. Staff in Bonn and Wiesbaden organized a total of 173 individual activities last year alone as part of three large, ongoing projects with project partners in Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Macedonia, as well as several other projects and bilateral schemes. These included expert missions to and study visits of delegations from partner countries. Such a large number of project activities would not have been possible without the support of national statistical institutes in Europe and the German statistical offices of the Länder, some of which have worked with Destatis for many years and support joint projects with their experts.

Two of the large, current projects will come to an end in 2014: the EU Twinning project with the Macedonian State Statistical Office and the World Bank project with the National Statistical Office of Mongolia.

The exchange between participating experts resulted in a number of suggestions on how the project work could be improved, so that all project participants could profit from the co-operation.

On the following pages we present the whole spectrum of international statistical co-operation activities between May and December 2013. A special mention needs to be made of the first informational visit from Uzbekistan to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden within the context of bilateral co-operation in ten years.

Another great success achieved as part of the German statistical co-operation with the National Statistical Office of Mongolia was the first-time participation of several Mongolian statisticians in two courses of the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). The ESTP is a tool used to harmonise and exchange expert best practices in Europe. Destatis is one of the biggest users of this training programme and has been quiet active in the implementation of the ESTP for a number of years.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

The editors

Ringo Raupach

Christine Kronz

Volker Gutekunst

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Mongolia project – half-yearly project co-ordination meetings in Wiesbaden and Berlin



In June and December 2013 representatives of the Federal Statistical Office headed by President Roderich Egeler, the top management of the Mongolian National Statistical Office and representatives of the World Bank met for the bi-annual project co-ordination meetings in Wiesbaden and Berlin. The meetings focused on the realization of the MONSTAT Twinning project financed by the World Bank, target achievement, planning for the coming year as well as preparation of the project's final conference. The long-standing liaison between all participants allowed meetings to be conducted in a friendly work atmosphere.

Representatives from the World Bank praised the Mongolian and German project partners for their progress made so far and for their team work. Consultation work by experts from Destatis has already led to several new developments in the partner office in Ulan Bator. The Mongolian Office's motto in the year 2013, "User-friendly data", gave impetus to the development of an information service, a library and the further development of an internet presence. The focus was especially on communication between data producers and users, which is strengthened through regular information sessions and the training of data users. Participants discussed, amongst other things, the Global Assessment, which had begun in October 2013, and is to be continued from March to April 2014. The Global Assessment by UNECE, EFTA and UNESCAP is a comprehensive status analysis of the Mongolian national statistical system.

One year before the project's end most of the envisaged goals have already been achieved. Both parties have agreed to execute another eight consulting missions in 2014.



From left to right: Tumurchudur Gantumur, Simone Koll, Kerstin Dietzel, Tserendagva Gerelgua, Batjargal Badamtsetseg, Mustafa Dinc, Roderich Egeler, Sonomtseren Mendsaikhan, Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Jochen Arnhold, Dandar Oyunchimeg, Mijiddorj Ganchimeg, Guli Babadjanova, Christine Kronz



From left to right: Sonomtseren Mendsaikhan, Mustafa Dinc and Roderich Egeler at the official welcome

Overview of project activities

May 2013		
Expert mission: Education statistics	Ulan Bator	6 – 10
Study visit: Labour and wage statistics	Helsinki	13 – 17
June 2013		
Expert mission: National accounts	Ulan Bator	27 May – 7 June
Expert mission: Gender-statistics	Ulan Bator	3 – 7
Project co-ordination meeting	Ulan Bator	10 – 12
September 2013		
Study visit: Gender-statistics	Bonn/ Wiesbaden	23 – 25
Expert mission: Administrative data	Ulan Bator	23 – 26
October 2013		
Expert mission: Data dissemination, information service	Ulan Bator	30 Sep. – 4 Oct.
Expert mission: Data quality	Ulan Bator	14 – 18
Expert mission: Questionnaire design and development	Ulan Bator	14 – 18
November 2013		
Study visit: National accounts	Berlin/ Wiesbaden	1 – 8
Study visit: Price statistics	Wiesbaden	18 – 20
December 2013		
Project co-ordination meeting	Berlin	16 – 18

KAZSTAT project is in full swing



The KAZSTAT project, which is financed by the World Bank with the aim to further develop the Kazakh statistical system, is now in its implementation phase. The project with ARKS, the Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Statistics, had begun with assessments of the current situation in October 2012, and the first year of the implementation phase was 2013. A total of 92 activities were carried out, during which ARKS' staff were, whilst in the actual country, informed about the consortium countries' individual systems and were advised by experts from these respective countries in Astana. Specialists from both parties gave positive feedback on the collaborative work. ARKS has already developed first project results on the basis of this exchange. This is especially true for the subject-matter statistics – for example, a pilot survey on price statistics was conducted with innovative technology. In addition, documents on methodology and questionnaires in many other areas of statistics were revised. ARKS took on creating an internal training programme in cross-sectional areas and with support from the KAZSTAT project has already given staff its first training course.



Group photo taken at the first High Level Planning Meeting. Fourth from the left, left to right: Alikhan Smailov, Mustafa Dinc (Weltbank), Roderich Egeler

In addition to the consortium partners from Germany, Finland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, South Korea and Russia, the project gained a partner in the Turkish Statistical Institute (Turkstat) in 2013. Turkstat has so far supported the project in the subject areas of national accounts and agricultural statistics. In order to avail our Kazakh partners of the best possible expertise, experts from other countries are also involved in consulting missions. What is more, the World Bank's "Twinning approach" allows the partners to direct the project in a content and goal-oriented manner and to implement the project in a flexible way, in partnership. It was in this spirit of partnership that both heads of office, Roderich Egeler from the Federal Statistical Office and Alikhan Smailov from ARKS, discussed plans for 2014 at the first high-level project co-ordination meeting in Wiesbaden in November 2013. It became apparent at the meeting that many interim goals have already been achieved in the project, which can serve as a basis for further project implementation. An ambitious work schedule has been set out for 2014, upon the basis of which the consortium under Destatis' lead will support their Kazakh colleagues in further developing their statistical system.



Project co-ordination meeting in Wiesbaden

Overview of project activities

		April 2013
Expert mission: Sampling methods	Astana	15 – 19
Expert mission: Tourism statistics	Astana	15 – 19
Expert mission: User relations	Astana	22 – 26
Expert mission: Science and innovation statistics	Astana	22 – 26
		May 2013
Expert mission: National accounts	Astana	29 Apr. – 3 May
Project management meeting	Astana	13 – 17
Study visit: Classification	Prague	13 – 17
Expert mission: Dissemination strategy	Astana	20 – 24
Study visit: Information technology	Daejon	27 – 31
Expert mission: Energy statistics	Astana	27 – 31
Study visit: Population register	Helsinki	27 – 31
		June 2013
Study visit: Classification	Wiesbaden	3 – 7
Study visit: Survey methods	Prague	3 – 7
Study visit: Labour market statistics	Wiesbaden	3 – 7
Expert mission: Standard of living statistics	Astana	3 – 7
Expert mission: Non-observed economy	Astana	10 – 14
Expert mission: Price statistics	Astana	10 – 14
Study visit: Agriculture register	Kopenhagen	17 – 21
Study visit: Structural statistics	Wiesbaden	17 – 21
Study visit: Agricultural statistics	Wiesbaden	17 – 21

Kazakhstan

July 2013		
Study visit: Sampling methods	Wiesbaden	8 – 12
Study visit: Quality management	Wiesbaden	15 – 19
Expert mission: Seasonal adjustment	Astana	22 – 26
Study visit: User relations	Wiesbaden	22 – 26
Study visit: National accounts	Bratislava	22 – 26
Study visit: Industrial statistics	Wiesbaden	22 – 26
August 2013		
Expert mission: Interaction between bodies	Astana	5 – 9
Expert mission: National accounts	Astana	12 – 16
Study visit: Information technology	Daejon	19 – 23
Study visit: Price statistics	Wiesbaden	19 – 23
September 2013		
Expert mission: National accounts	Astana	2 – 6
Study visit: Respondent relationship	Astana	9 – 13
Study visit: Price and trade statistics	Helsinki	9 – 13
Expert mission: Standard of living statistics	Astana	9 – 13
Expert mission: Agriculture register	Astana	16 – 20
Expert mission: Price statistics data collection	Astana	16 – 20
Expert mission: Energy statistics	Astana	16 – 20
Expert mission: Agricultural statistics	Astana	16 – 20
Study visit: Tourism statistics	Stuttgart/ Wiesbaden	16 – 20
Study visit: Population statistics	Bratislava	16 – 20
Expert mission: Training	Helsinki	23 – 27
Expert mission: Labour market statistics	Wiesbaden	23 – 27
Expert mission: Price statistics	Astana	23 – 27

October 2013		
Study visit: Data processing	Daejon	30 Sep. – 4 Oct.
Expert mission: Classification	Prague	30 Sep. – 4 Oct.
Expert mission: Data processing	Astana	14 – 18
Expert mission: Institutional structure	Astana	14 – 18
Expert mission: Structural statistics	Wiesbaden	14 – 18
Expert mission: Agricultural statistics	Astana	14 – 18
Study visit: Population statistics	Rostock	14 – 18
Expert mission: Business register	Astana	21 – 25
Study visit: Structural statistics	Wiesbaden	21 – 25
Study visit: Energy statistics	Helsinki	21 – 25
Expert mission: Science and innovation statistics	Helsinki	21 – 25
Consortium meeting	Bonn	29
November 2013		
Expert mission: Classification	Astana	4 – 8
Study visit: Dissemination and marketing	Wiesbaden	4 – 8
Project management mission	Astana	8 – 14
Expert mission: Population register	Astana	11 – 15
Expert mission: Dwelling stock register	Astana	11 – 15
Expert mission: National accounts	Astana	11 – 15
Study visit: Transport statistics	Wiesbaden/ Flensburg	11 – 15
Expert mission: Labour market statistics	Astana	11 – 15
Expert mission: Telecommunications development	Astana	18 – 22
Study visit: Price statistics	Helsinki	18 – 22

Kazakhstan

November 2013

Expert mission: Population statistics	Astana	18 – 22
High-level planning mission	Astana	19 – 20
Study visit: National accounts	Ankara	25– 27
Study visit: Organisational structure	Bonn/ Wiesbaden	25 – 29
Expert mission: Structural statistics	Astana	25 – 29
Study visit: Construction statistics	Wiesbaden/ Stuttgart	25 – 29
Expert mission: Living standard statistics	Helsinki	25 – 29

December 2013

Expert mission: Strategic planning	Astana	2 – 6
Study visit: Respondent relationship	Wiesbaden	2 – 6
Study visit: National accounts	Prague	2 – 6
Expert mission: Training	Astana	4 – 8
Expert mission: Training	Astana	9 – 13

An intensive exchange: Twinning project with the Macedonian State Statistical Office



The Twinning project “Support to the State Statistical Office for capacity building and improving compliance of statistics with EU standards“ runs from August 2012 until August 2014. The project leader is Destatis, with Denmark as the junior partner and the statistical offices in France, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria as further partners. Experts led 45 missions in 2013. Partner offices in the Czech Republic and Bulgaria each hosted an additional study visit of Macedonian statisticians. In addition to the consulting missions, three regular steering committee meetings took place in Skopje.

Of the project’s 87 foreseen consulting missions, 58 were carried out by the end of 2013. So far the project has been implemented according to plan.

A monitoring mission conducted on behalf of the EU in June 2013 awarded the project good/very good feedback. The final report emphasised the outstanding collaborative work between partners. The examiners expect that all project goals will be achieved.

The Destatis co-operation team in Bonn was joined by trainee Tatjana Velkova-Jovanchevska from January until June 2013 under the Eurostat Traineeship Programme. Before that Tatjana Velkova was, in her role as RTA counterpart, the most important go-to person for the German long-term expert at the Macedonian State Statistical Office.

Interview with Verka Panova Macedonian Component 1 Leader for specialist matters



1. What are the key areas and project goals of your component?

Component 1 of the “Harmonization of the National Accounts Statistics” twinning project was designed as the component with the largest number of hours for the technical missions because the actual implementation of the European System of Accounts (ESA 1995 and ESA 2010), as methodological frames, provides comparability of data pertaining to the economy, the GDP and other economic aggregates with those of all other countries.

Furthermore, the intention of this component was to transform the national accounts data published according to the current Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev. 1) into data according to NACE Rev. 2 for the 2000 – 2008 series, and that was implemented. The method selected for work in this component proved to be very appropriate since it combines work with real data with training about the methodological changes that will be brought about by the implementation of the ESA 2010.

The missions focus on the sector accounts that provide information about several most important aggregates for each institutional sector of the economy: the gross-domestic product, savings and indebtedness.

Additional parts of this component are missions related to the calculation of quarterly seasonal data, a very important process that ensures the comparability of time series data. There also were missions on sustainability indicators and health accounts.

2. Are you satisfied with the progress made with regard to the project goals?

In general, the missions are implemented as planned. This resulted in the development of non-financial accounts tables by institutional sector for the 2008 – 2010 time period, which integrate many methodological improvements related to the implementation of the ESA 1995 methodology, especially the inclusion of data that had not properly been determined methodologically in the regular work, such as income in kind and the reliability of information not yet included, through their evaluation from the current sources.

3. Can you indicate some specifics related to the activities in your component?

One of the greatest benefits from the Twinning project in this component is the improved operational process with regard to sector accounts, the calculation of GDP and value-added data, by balancing the data between the sectors and by using supply and use tables. This experience was actually used for the development of the data for 2012.

One of the biggest achievements of this project is the calculation and valuation of own production, the calculation of depreciation and the assets value using the perpetual inventory method (PIM) and the reclassification of the institutional units. Special attention was paid to the development of the state sector account.

The above improvements will result in a revision of the data published from the year 2000. This revision is planned for 2014 when the most important methodological changes from ESA 2010 influencing the GDP are expected to be implemented, such as the calculation and capitalization of research and development, the calculation of military equipment as basic assets and the reclassification of the financial sector in accordance with the new classification based on ESA 2010.

In order to harmonize the sectorization of the institutional units, an inter-institutional group was established with a mandate to continuously work on the sectorization of the units with a view to the data needs of national accounting, monetary and financial statistics.

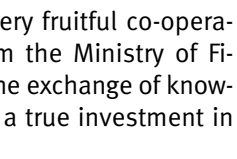
Especially relevant for the State Statistical Office are the trainings provided by the consultancy accounting company under the twinning project. These increased the professional knowledge of the staff in terms of identifying and explaining the accounting sources of data in order to identify the categories in national accounts and statistical production in general.

4. What is your forecast for the remaining time of the Twinning project?

There are a few more missions left in this component, which are very important for attaining the main objective. These are the missions for integration of the sector accounts and balancing of data using permanent prices by means of supply and use tables, including the testing of seasonally adjusted quarterly and annual data series with regard to value added, i.e. the GDP categories.

I want to emphasize again that the experience that was shared by the experts with regard to the business process and the preparation of data was very valuable for the future work in this area. The knowledge acquired in the national accounts unit will contribute towards a better quality of the data, more competent and consisted integration of the available sources of information, their analysis and logical interpretation and quicker and more efficient implementation of the ESA 2010.

The work in the Twinning project also led to a very fruitful co-operation and an integration of the budget data from the Ministry of Finance and the data from the National Bank; and the exchange of know-how between the experts from all institutions is a true investment in the future work.



The following co-operation activities have been carried out since April 2013:

			April 2013
National accounts	Skopje		8 – 11
Laeken indicators	Skopje		8 – 12
National accounts	Skopje		8 – 12
National accounts	Skopje		15 – 19
			May 2013
Information technology	Skopje		13 – 17
National accounts	Skopje		13 – 17
Geographic information system	Skopje		14 – 17
Information technology	Skopje		21 – 23
3rd Steering committee meeting	Skopje		27 – 28
National accounts	Skopje		27 – 31
			June 2013
Quality management	Skopje		3 – 7
National accounts	Skopje		10 – 14
Foreign trade prices	Skopje		10 – 14
Information technology	Skopje		10 – 14
National accounts	Skopje		10 – 14
National accounts	Skopje		17 – 20
Agriculture	Skopje		24 – 28
Data management, confidentiality and deanonymisation	Skopje		24 – 28
Environment	Sofia		26 – 28
			July 2013
National accounts	Skopje		8 – 12
National accounts	Prague		17 – 19
			August 2013
National accounts	Skopje		26 – 30

Macedonia

September 2013		
Information technology	Skopje	2 – 6
Geographic information system	Skopje	10 – 13
Quality standards	Skopje	10 – 13
National accounts, indicators	Skopje	16 – 18
4th Steering committee meeting	Skopje	18 – 20
October 2013		
Transport statistics	Skopje	30 Sep. – 3 Oct.
Sustainable forestry	Skopje	30 Sep. – 3 Oct.
National accounts	Skopje	14 – 17
Crime statistics	Skopje	15 – 18
National accounts	Skopje	28 – 31
November 2013		
National accounts	Skopje	4 – 8
Laeken indicators	Skopje	4 – 8
Data usage and security	Skopje	12 – 15
Information technology	Skopje	18 – 22
Cultural statistics and indicators	Skopje	25 – 29
National accounts	Skopje	25 – 29
December 2013		
Quality management	Skopje	10 – 13

Bilateral co-operation with Russia



The Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat) and Destatis have been sharing their knowledge and experience with each other on a regular basis since 1999. Current developments in official statistics are the subject of these meetings. The topics “classification” and “foreign trade” stood at the forefront of the visit to Wiesbaden which took place from 23 to 25 April 2013.

The meeting was positively influenced by the previous, successful trip to Russia of President Roderich Egeler and Head of Department Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski from 16 to 18 April 2013. The focus of the visit was to intensify the co-operation between the two offices. Further to this, visits were made to the regional statistical office in St. Petersburg and the University of Economics and Finance. The discussions dealt with recent developments in the areas of quality management, strategic planning, use of administrative data and collaboration with universities.

Another central issue of the co-operation between the two offices is the involvement of Rosstat as consortium partner in the World Bank Twinning project with Kazakhstan.



The Russian delegation headed by the Vice-President of Rosstat, Alexander Kevesh (middle)



From left to right: Alexander Kevesh, (Vice-President of Rosstat), and President Roderich Egeler

Co-operation with China reaches a new phase



Destatis and the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) have a good twenty years of successful co-operation to look back on. The Memorandum of Understanding with the NBS which was recast last year is the basis upon which co-operation between specialists continued in 2013.

First, two Destatis staff members visited the Chinese statistical office for a mission on cost structure surveys. Employment statistics followed as the second topic with a mission at the beginning of 2014.

Co-operation on strategic topics found expression in two representatives of Destatis participating in an international conference hosted by NBS and UNSD on “Modernising official statistics” in Tianjin. The contribution of Destatis attracted much interest. It concentrated on steps used to modernise and standardise statistical production processes in Germany and went into detail on the particulars of working within a federal system.

Overview of co-operation activities

October 2013		
Expert mission: Modernising statistical production processes	Tianjin	24 – 26
December 2013		
Expert mission: Cost structure survey	Beijing/ Xi'an	1 – 6

Co-operation with Turkey: USST Steering Committee Meeting



Collaborative work between Destatis and the Turkish Statistical Institute (Turkstat) takes many forms. First, Destatis is, together with other statistical offices and private companies, Turkstat's partner in the EU-financed USST 3 project, Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey. Representatives from different ministries, the Turkish National Bank and an EU delegation as well as representatives of consortium leader GOPA Consulting and a representative from Destatis took part in the third steering committee meeting in May 2013, which Turkstat organised.

A total of two thousand mission days in Ankara are planned before the project's end on 27 December 2014. German support is envisaged in the area of business statistics in particular.

An EU training grant, which runs parallel to USST 3, allows Turkstat to participate in study visits abroad. The grant began mid-2011, was extended until the end of 2014 and now complies with the running time of the USST 3 project. This additionally enables Turkstat to conduct study visits – as was done to Germany, for example, in several instances. These study visits should touch on topics similar to the ones dealt with under USST 3. It was within this context that Destatis staff were able to welcome their colleagues from Turkstat for a study visit on business registers in Wiesbaden in December 2013.

Turkstat also takes part in the EU Multi-beneficiary statistical co-operation programme in the area of statistics – IPA MBP 2011. Its goal is to harmonise the statistical systems of accession countries and potential candidate countries with European standards. This programme finances many different types of missions, such as the participation in workshops and seminars, statistical surveys, as well as study visits abroad and in-country expert missions. An expert on foreign trade from Destatis has already visited Turkstat in Ankara as part of the programme.

Lastly, the two offices work together on projects, too. Turkstat has been supporting the World Bank-financed Kazakhstan project with its own experts since 2013 (see page 9 ff.).

Overview of co-operation activities

		May 2013
3rd Steering committee meeting USST 3	Ankara	7
		September 2013
Expert mission: National accounts	Ankara	12 – 13
		November 2013
Expert mission: Foreign trade	Ankara	19 – 20
		December 2013
Study visit: Electronic data collection, business register	Wiesbaden	9 – 11

European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) – 2013 and beyond



The European Statistical Training Programme was very well received by European statisticians again in 2013. According to Eurostat, around 550 staff members from statistical offices of EU member states, EFTA and (potential) candidate countries joined. With 42 participants, Destatis made up the largest group. The feedback on the content and quality of the courses was extremely positive.

The continued success of the ESTP led Eurostat to offer the training programme for a third time. A call for tender will be sent out Europe-wide in April 2014, to which national statistical institutes of the EU and EFTA countries can apply with potential trainers.

Destatis will be responsible for organising two courses in 2014. One course to be held in Wiesbaden from 3 to 5 September 2014 is “Presentation, facilitation and consultation skills for statistical trainers”. The second course is “Balance of Payments”, which will be held in Frankfurt from 22 to 24 September 2014 in co-operation with the German Bundesbank.

A participant’s report on the ESTP course “Train the Trainers”

In September 2013, the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) again offered interested staff from national statistical offices as well as from other international institutions the chance to participate in the advanced course, “Presentation, facilitation and consultation skills for statistical trainers”. As I had recently been included as an expert in a data base of the International Monetary Fund, I saw an excellent opportunity in joining this ESTP course to further develop my experience as a presenter in front of an international audience yet in a secure training environment. Upon successful application I was able to look forward to three exciting seminar days with 16 participants from the national statistical institutes of Germany, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Poland, Serbia and Hungary as well as the statistical offices of the European Union (Eurostat) and the United Nations (UN).

British trainers Duncan Miles and Denis Greer led the comprehensive course programme. Both shared their knowledge and experience on the broad fields of presentation techniques and teaching in an expert and easy-to-understand manner.

Participants were introduced to the theories of group dynamics and taught basic approaches with which one can use group dynamic processes to achieve the best possible results. Regular practical group exercises enriched the seminar.

The twenty-minute presentations in English of each participant were the definitive highlight of the event. The different speaking styles and reactions of the audience were also very interesting. Subsequent to every presentation, speakers were asked to reflect upon their own impressions and following this, the participants were asked to contribute their impressions of the presentation and finally, the stress situation. Aspects of body language, the inclusion of individual persons or the whole group during the presentation as well as their reaction were mentioned.

It was surprising to me, in a positive way, how different one's self-perception can be from other's perception of oneself. This builds self-confidence immensely. I gained valuable advice from the trainer-moderated feedback sessions on which strengths I should draw on in the future and which weaknesses I need to work on. Further to that, all presentations were recorded with a camera and each participant was given their own video for them to reflect upon.

One's own notes from the very agreeable course delivery of the two trainers as well as the comprehensive course documents provide one with a very good reference. The approaches taught in the course are not only applicable to presentations, but could also be transferred to other situations in one's work and personal life. Above all the openness and friendliness of the participants contributed to a relaxed working and learning atmosphere over the three days. This did not make the farewell easy.



Working atmosphere in the ESTP course “Train the Trainers“



Participants of the ESTP course “Train the Trainers“

Twinning project with the statistical office of Bosnia and Herzegovina completed



The EU financed Twinning project which supported the statistical system of Bosnia and Herzegovina came to a close at the end of 2013. The project had begun in September 2011 and was extended past the two-year timespan.

Destatis participated in this collaboration as a junior partner to the Danish statistical office. Our in-house experts conducted consultations on two topics: tourism statistics and coordinating the national statistical system. The latter topic is quite important, given the federal structure of the state. In this context, the heads of the three different statistics institutes – the central statistical office, the statistical office of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the statistical office of the Republika Srpska – visited Destatis in Wiesbaden in March 2013 (see previous issue of this publication).

Trainee assignment in the Federal Statistical Office

Four trainees from our partner offices ended their stay at the Federal Statistical Office in June 2013. They completed an exchange programme between the statistical offices of current and potential candidate countries and the EU, which is financed by Eurostat. The programme gives staff from these countries the chance to work in EU offices for nearly half a year. There they are able to put their prior experience to work, to get to know their field from an EU member state's perspective and take some important stimuli back to their home office.

In the latest round, in which Destatis participated, a Macedonian staff member worked in the statistical co-operation team in Bonn. Three other colleagues came from the Turkish Statistical Institute and supported staff dealing with population census, IT development and business statistics.

Another trainee from the Turkish Statistical Institute was financed by his home state and completed a traineeship parallel to the others at the interface between data dissemination and IT development.

Consulting mission on water statistics in the Serbian statistical office



In autumn this year a Destatis expert conducted a mission on water management statistics in Serbia, which was the first consulting mission of a Destatis expert at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia (SORS). The short-term mission was planned and put out to tender under the IPA 2011 Programme (Instrument for pre-accession assistance) financed by the EU. This instrument is to promote a further harmonisation with European standards. In addition to reforming the public sector and improving the legal system, the programme focuses on the subject of energy and the environment.

During the four-day mission, the colleagues dealt with this central topic from the statistical perspective. Specialists analysed both the methodology with a view to the delivery of data to EUROSTAT and questionnaires for data collection. They also discussed the features of the geographical information system (GIS) and possible uses of the system at the SORS.

There was an exchange between Destatis and the SORS even before the consulting mission on water statistics took place. In 2011 two staff members from Belgrade stayed in Wiesbaden and Bonn as trainees for several months.

A visit from Uzbekistan



Upon request of the Munich-based Institute for Economic Research (ifo), the Federal Statistical Office received representatives from the Uzbek Institute of Forecasting and Macroeconomic Research on 29 November 2013 after a nearly ten-year break in their history of statistical co-operation. The Uzbek Institute was newly founded in 2008. The colleagues from Uzbekistan were particularly interested in the possibility of a co-operation between the two statistical offices. Destatis representatives presented the international statistical co-operation and the role that Destatis plays within the European



Signing the guest book

Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). Then the guests visited the headquarters of the “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit” (German Agency for International Co-operation, GIZ) in Eschborn.

ECO Seminar on national accounts

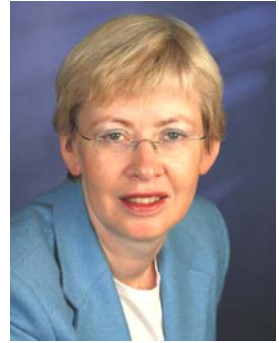
In September the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) organised a seminar in Ankara on the introduction of the latest United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA 2008) in co-operation with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC). Organisational support was also provided by the Turkish Statistical Institute TURKSTAT, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

This initiative is part of the technical assistance granted by UNSD to enhance the statistical systems of the ECO Member States and support them especially in their efforts to introduce the SNA 2008. Statisticians from Central and South Asia participated in the training courses.

The two representatives of the Federal Statistical Office explained how financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM) are treated in national accounts and provided an overview of co-operation activities with the ECO member states in support of the further development of national accounting. Turkey, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan continue to be important partner countries of the Federal Statistical Office in the region. In addition, the German Agency for International Cooperation supports the statistical office of Pakistan.

New Head of Division

Angela Schaff, former Head of Division “Planning and Co-ordination, International Co-operation“, is as of July 2013, Head of the Department “Health, Social Statistics, Education, Households“ in the Federal Statistical Office. We congratulate her and wish her all the best in her new position.



Her successor has been confirmed: Mr Bernd Störtzbach, a familiar face in statistical co-operation, returns. He was previously responsible for the international committee work, where he built himself a broad network. As of January 2014, he is also responsible for international co-operation. He had previously worked in this area from 2003 to 2009.



New staff member – Dennis Kaschuba

Mr Kaschuba has been a new member of academic staff in Section B104 since 15 April 2013. He works on the World Bank Twinning project with Kazakhstan and has taken on the responsibility of project management together with several other colleagues. Mr Kaschuba had gained some prior experience in international co-operation with Russia, Tajikistan and Azerbaijan. He worked as an intern for a German-Russian youth exchange foundation, the German Chamber of Commerce in Baku, as well as the GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) in Tajikistan on the topics of labour market and vocational training. During his Masters in International Relations he completed another internship with the Representative of German Industry and Trade in Washington D.C. There he worked on the areas of economic development from a labour market policy point of view.



We look forward to his contribution and wish Dennis Kaschuba well.

Internship reports

Konrad Mühlberg, 9 September to 13 December 2013
International Co-operation in Bonn

“Being involved in the study visits I was not only able to refresh my Russian and hear talks on different topics of official statistics given by experts but also to take on responsibility myself and last but not least, to help my colleagues.“



Sandra Horn, 1 September to 30 December 2013
International Co-operation in Bonn

“I really enjoyed the fact that we interns got the opportunity not only to take over the administrative preparation of project study visits but also to participate in the activities ourselves.”



Waldemar Stobbe, 17 June to 6 September 2013
International Co-operation in Bonn

“The internship was particularly useful for my future job as it helped me develop in my career. For that I am very grateful to my colleagues in Bonn.”

Tim Brackmann, 4 March to 3 July 2013
International Co-operation in Bonn

“During my internship from March until June 2013, I was able to gain a lot of valuable experience. I view its comparatively long duration of four months as very advantageous. I found the opportunity to be involved in a study visit of statistical experts from Kazakhstan in Wiesbaden particularly exciting and interesting. For a whole week I was able to see how international statistical exchange looks in practice. Apart from that it was also good to see that, after good planning and preparation, all those involved gave positive feedback about the visit.”



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