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Dear readers,

After more than four years of implementation, the World Bank-funded MONSTAT co-operation project with the National Statistical Office of Mongolia ended in December 2014. The Federal Statistical Office is pleased to have co-operated successfully with the Mongolian partners over such an extended period of time. An article on page 7 provides information about the achieved results.

The third phase of the European Union programme to support the Turkish Statistical Institute was also completed at year-end after ten years of intensive co-operation. The Federal Statistical Office was a partner in all three components. The article in this issue covers the very well organised final conference in Ankara and gives an overview of the German contribution to the overall project.

The exchange with the Statistics Centre of Abu Dhabi on professional issues has intensified further. After a bilateral co-operation agreement had been signed on the occasion of the visit of the Director General of the Statistics Centre Abu Dhabi, Butti Al Qubaisi, the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Roderich Egeler, visited Abu Dhabi in February 2015.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

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Should you not yet receive our electronic publication regularly and be interested, please send a request to cooperation@destatis.de.

First visit to the Statistics Centre of Abu Dhabi

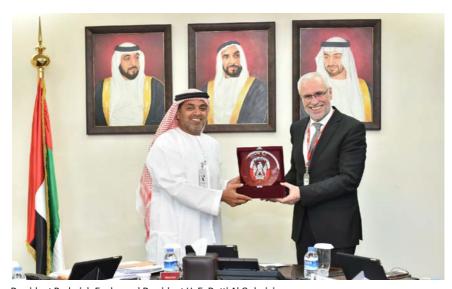


For the first time since the bilateral co-operation agreement between the Federal Statistical Office and the Statistics Centre of Abu Dhabi (SCAD) had been signed in March 2014, professional discussions were held at top management level in Abu Dhabi from 18 to 20 February 2015.

As requested by the SCAD, President Roderich Egeler and his delegation presented the system of official statistics in Germany, the publication strategy of the Federal Statistical Office, principles of quality management and the 2011 census.

The representatives from the Statistics Centre of Abu Dhabi described their experience in the fields of "e-statistics", census implementation, economic statistics, geographical information systems, interactive visualisations and apps.

In addition, details of the bilateral co-operation between the two offices in the year 2015 were specified in these bilateral talks.



President Roderich Egeler and President H. E. Butti Al Qubaisi



Representatives of the Federal Statistical Office at the Statistics Centre of Abu Dhabi (SCAD)

Completion of the World Bank project with the National Statistical Office of Mongolia



"One Hand cannot tie a bundle"

The project's closing conference took place in Mongolia on 28 October 2014 as part of the World Bank project "Strengthening the National Statistical System of Mongolia". On that occasion, President Roderich Egeler and his delegation met with the heads of the Mongolian statistical office and representatives of the World Bank. Members of the media were present when the project partners presented the results for several outstanding project components.





President Egeler and President Mendsaikhan during the interview

At the beginning of the project, both offices had set themselves the goals to strengthen the National Statistical System of Mongolia, to build a sound statistical capacity basis and to provide reliable and timely statistics in accordance with international standards. All the goals that had been agreed upon could be attained.

In the World Bank twinning project running from August 2010 to December 2014, a total of 84 consulting activities were carried out. All specialised and cross-cutting fields of statistics were dealt with during short-term missions in Mongolia and study visits to Germany, Korea and Finland. More than 500 participants from the National Statistical Office and regional offices of Mongolia attended these activities. The consulting activities were split up into the following components:

Component	Expert missions	Study visits	Total
Component A: Further development of the legal and institutional frame work and organisational structure of the statistical system	12	14	26
Component B: Further development of the statistical infrastructure	10	7	17
Component C: Further development of statistical procedures	21	11	32
Component D: Development of an IT plan	6	3	9
Total	49	35	84

While the twinning project was under way, a global assessment of the Mongolian National Statistical System was made by UNECE and Eurostat in 2013/2014. The assessment showed that the Mongolian National Statistical System had made great progress especially in the fields of national accounts, data dissemination, registers and quality management.

On 1 and 2 October 2014 a Destatis representative took part in an international seminar focussing on the results of the Global Assessment. The outcomes of the World Bank twinning project have been discussed and evaluated within this seminar.

GIZ activity supplements World Bank project

After the closing conference a two-day workshop has been organized on supply and use tables funded by the Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which was run by a German national accounts expert. This two-day event was meant for representatives from various ministries of Mongolia and institutions working with the results of supply and use tables. The event was received with great interest.

Co-operation from 2015

In view of their positive experience with the long-term co-operation in the World Bank project, the two parties agreed to consider a continuation of the twinning project as bilateral co-operation from 2015.



Participants at the closing conference in Ulan Bator

Twinning project with Mongolia: Overview of project activities

		October 2014
Expert mission on seasonal adjustment		
methods	Ulan Bator	6 – 10
Expert mission on national accounts	Ulan Bator	20 – 24
Closing conference	Ulan Bator	28
IOT user conference	Ulan Bator	30 – 31
		November 2014
Expert mission on national accounts	Ulan Bator	3 – 7

Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey – completing the success story



On 4 December 2014, the final conference of the third phase of the EUfunded USST III co-operation project (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey) took place in Ankara. During that conference, the results of the USST programme were presented to the public. The Federal Statistical Office was one of the partners involved in project implementation.

In their welcome addresses the speakers, among them Cevdet Yilmaz, Turkish Minister of Development, emphasised the importance of the project and the progress achieved in Turkey. In their papers and presentations, the German long-term adviser Ullrich Eichler and experts of the Turkish Statistical Institute (Turkstat) and of other authorities described the results achieved in the statistical areas covered by the project.

The regular EU progress reports compiled in the framework of the accession negotiations certify that the Turkish statistical system fulfils the EU requirements in many areas. However, there is still need for alignment with the relevant standards especially in the area of national accounts.

For the time being, the conference marked the end of close and successful co-operation between the EU and Turkstat in the framework of the USST project, which covered a period of more than ten years.

The Federal Statistical Office was engaged in all phases of the project. The relevant periods of implementation are shown in the table below:

Phase		Period
	USSTI	19 April 2004 – 18 February 2007
	USST II	21 September 2007 – 30 November 2009
	USST III	28 December 2012 – 27 December 2014

The EU provided a training grant for each of the project phases, which the Turkish Statistical Institute used mainly to finance study visits to other countries. The Federal Statistical Office organised a high number of such study visits to Germany.



Experts of the International Co-operation unit during a study visit in Bonn

On the whole, the Federal Statistical Office carried out 127 Co-operation unit activities with Turkstat during the three project phases:

Phase	Expert missions	Study visits	Total
USSTI	44	37	81
USST II	11	18	29
USST III	5	12	17
Total	60	65	127

However, co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and Turkstat has not ended although the above EU project was completed. In accordance with a bilateral co-operation agreement signed in 2014, Turkstat has continued to be an important partner of the Federal Statistical Office that also provides experts for World Bank projects. In addition, Turkstat trainees regularly support the Federal Statistical Office's work.

Overview of the project activities

		September 2014
Expert mission on the construction price index	Ankara	22 – 26
Study visit on national accounts	Wiesbaden	23 – 24
		October 2014
Study visit on national accounts	Wiesbaden/	
	Hannover	15 – 17
Study visit on the production index		
in construction	Wiesbaden	22 – 23
		Naamb au 2017
		November 2014
Seminar on quality management	Bonn/	November 2014
Seminar on quality management in official statistics	Bonn/ Bad Ems/	November 2014
		November 2014
	Bad Ems/	3 – 13
	Bad Ems/ Frankfurt/M.	
in official statistics	Bad Ems/ Frankfurt/M.	
in official statistics Study visit on international	Bad Ems/ Frankfurt/M. Luxemburg	3 – 13

Seminar on quality management in official statistics

Between 3 and 13 November 2014, the Federal Statistical Office organised a seminar on quality management in official statistics in its Bonn Branch Office. A total of 18 experts from Turkstat, the Turkish Statistical Institute, attended the seminar. The participants who have been appointed as quality coordinators at Turkstat are to serve as multipliers in their respective areas of responsibility. The seminar's focus was on the following topics:

- Total Quality Management
- Statistical programme planning, controlling of deadlines and milestones
- Human resources management and development
- Regional and municipal aspects of quality management, including excursions to a Land statistical office and a municipal statistical office
- EU quality reports and metadata projects
- Quality management regarding publications and co-operation with the media
- Eurostat's role in the European Statistical System and in the area of quality management
- Quality management applied in specialised statistical units
- Use and quality control of administrative registers for statistical purposes



Participants in the TQM seminar in the Bonn Branch Office

This seminar of the Federal Statistical Office is a product which focuses on both managing statistical processes and assuring data quality in official statistics. It can be readily customised to the needs of interested statistical institutions. As statistical results have to meet continuously increasing accuracy and relevance requirements in a globalised information society, well trained and qualified staff are indispensable for statistical offices to meet the increasing data requirements.

The modular seminar approach allows either all modules to be dealt with in a more or less concise form or individual modules to be discussed in detail. All topics are approached in a discussion-oriented manner, and case studies can be added where necessary. The lecturers and organisers involved in the seminars are competent statisticians of the Federal Statistical Office who have gained international experience. To date, the Federal Statistical Office has organised a number of comparable courses tailored to the needs of various statistical offices.

Delegations from the National Bureau of Statistics of China come to Germany



Two delegations from the National Bureau of Statistics of China (NBS) were welcomed in Germany in recent months. The first study visit on the cost structure survey in manufacturing took place in September 2014. On the whole, four NBS staff members visited the Federal Statistical Office to exchange views with their German colleagues on indicators, sample surveys and other specialist aspects. Other topics discussed were the statistics of small and medium-sized enterprises and the links between structural statistics and national accounts.

Since 2008, the NBS and the Federal Statistical Office have exchanged views and experience in the area of employment statistics. During a study visit in November 2014, the experts discussed particularly issues of data collection and entry in relation to the German microcensus and the labour force survey. This included the extrapolation method used, time series and dependent interviewing, that is, using data of previous enquiries for the purpose of follow-up surveys. During their visit to Eurostat, the Chinese guests were given an insight into the way the labour force survey functions at the European level.

Both visits were organised in the framework of the bilateral programme of co-operation between the NBS and the Federal Statistical Office. The exchange of views and experience on the cost structure survey and employment statistics is planned to be completed by 2016.



Experts on employment statistics at the Federal Statistical Office

Co-operation with the NBS training centre

Supporting the NBS training centre by sending trainers from the Federal Statistical Office to participate in workshops organised in China is another aspect of German-Chinese statistical co-operation. The NBS training centre is tasked to train Chinese specialists and also staff of other Asian statistical offices in various specialist statistical and cross-cutting areas, using for this purpose the skills and knowledge of both national and international experts.

The NBS plans to make extensive use of questionnaire pretests in the provinces and at the national level and to set up a pretest laboratory based on the German experience. A seminar on this topic took place in Beijing in September 2014. During previous visits to Wiesbaden, several Chinese delegations had been given the opportunity to visit the pretest laboratory of the Federal Statistical Office. Against this background, the NBS invited an expert of the Federal Statistical Office who shared her conceptual, methodological

and organisational pretest experience with the Chinese colleagues in a workshop. Her information about "eye-tracking", that is, tracking the moves of an individual's eyes during questionnaire completion, was received with utmost interest. This technique provides information for improving the user-friend-liness of electronic questionnaires. Lecturers from Statistics Canada and Eurostat participated in the same three-day workshop.

Co-operation with the NBS training centre is intended to continue in 2015.



Participants of the "International Workshop on Statistical Questionnaire Testing and Evaluation" in Beijing

Overview of the project activities

		September 2014
Study visit on the cost structure survey	Wiesbaden	15 – 19
Expert mission during the "International		
Workshop on Statistical Questionnaire		
Testing and Evaluation"	Beijing	17 – 19
		November 2014
Study visit on employment statistics	Wiesbaden/	
	Bonn/	
	Luxembourg	3 – 7

Kazakhstan: Moving closer to the end of the implementation with a strong focus on the result



The World Bank-funded KAZSTAT co-operation project was launched in 2012 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016. In a consortium with the statistical offices of Finland, South Korea, Russia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the Federal Statistical Office conducted trainings for the Kazakh Committee on Statistics (CS). Since 2014 when the second half of the KAZSTAT project began, the focus of work has gradually been changing as increasing support is provided to the Kazakh colleagues in their effort to put the knowledge they have acquired into practice. Consequently, there will be many more consulting missions in Kazakhstan in the two remaining years than study visits to the consortium countries.

This was also a central recommendation of the mid-term review. The assessment of the progress made half-way through the co-operation project was prepared by the former head of the Polish statistical office, Józef Olenski, who acted as an external expert for the World Bank. In his evaluation he also recommends that a methodological unit be established and training be intensified in order to support the production process by methodological expertise in statistics. In all, Józef Olenski regarded the implementation as very positive in his report. According to the expert, the project management is on best practice level and can thus be seen as a successful implementation of a project that size. This was affirmed also by the World Bank.

The results of the mid-term review were also discussed at the 3rd High Level Planning Meeting held in Bonn on 2 October 2014. The planning for 2015 revealed that the number of project activities will be reduced slightly for the sake of a better results orientation and that the emphasis will shift to missions in Kazakhstan. In line with this, the Kazakh delegation presented concrete results achieved until then with regard to the individual components. For example, the Committee on Statistics has already revised or drawn up 20 methodological papers on the basis of experts' recommendations. In addition, organisational improvements were achieved by centralising the dissemination function in a new unit and combining energy statistics and balances.

The restructuring at Kazakh government level, which took place in August, has even increased the challenges facing the Committee on Statistics. A central project task is transferring expert input into concrete results under these circumstances.



Heads of office Roderich Egeler and Alikhan Smailov (centre) with participants of the third High Level Planning Meeting in Bonn

The pace at which the KAZSTAT project is implemented accelerated once again in 2014 compared with a year earlier. Together with the partner offices of the consortium but also other partners such as the statistical offices of Turkey, France, Denmark, Italy, Poland and Sweden, a total of 123 project activities were carried out. The following co-operation activities were held from September 2014 to February 2015:

Area	Expert missions	Study visits
Labour market and labour costs .	4	_
Population	2	5
Education and culture	1	_
Services / ICT	3	2
Energy	3	1
Data collection tools, quality	2	2
Health	_	1
Information technology (IT)	6	1
Agriculture	1	2
Organisation, planning and		
personnel	5	2
Prices	1	2
Registers	4	1
Sample survey	1	_
Structural statistics, investments	1	1
Tourism	1	2
Environment	1	1
Dissemination	2	_
National accounts	4	3

European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) – Seminar on knowledge transfer and presentations to international audiences



For the seventh time already, the Federal Statistical Office hosted the ESTP course "Presentation, facilitation and consultation skills for statistical trainers" or briefly "Train the Trainers" in Wiesbaden. 13 participants from seven statistical institutes of the EU and Turkey attended the seminar. The course held in English was to teach them presentation techniques and improve their didactic skills, thus enabling them to impart specialist knowledge on a highly professional level to international audiences.



Participants of the ESTP course "Train the Trainers"

ESTP seminar "Balance of Payments – Advanced course" at the German Bundesbank

The German Bundesbank had been commissioned by the Federal Statistical Office to host the seminar "Balance of Payments – Advanced course" in Frankfurt in September 2014. The course was part of the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). Two staff members of the Bundesbank presented the information on balances of payments to be provided by the course. There were 10 participants from national statistical institutes and national banks of the EU itself, EU accession countries and EFTA.

The seminar was organised by the national ESTP contact point of the Federal Statistical Office. When it was evaluated, the course received very good ratings from the participants for both content and organisation.

It was based on the introductory course of Paris and, as a pilot seminar, held for the first time.



Participants of the ESTP "Balance of Payments - Advanced course"

European Union



Participants during the seminar

Visitors from Kyrgyzstan receive information on labour market statistics



In October 2014 a delegation from Kyrgyzstan visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. The nine visitors were from the Kyrgyz Ministry of Labour, Migration and Youth and the National Statistical Committee. The visit focused on conceptual and methodological issues of labour market statistics.

After a general introduction to the system of official statistics in Germany, the visitors received information about internationally agreed concepts of labour market reporting (employment, unemployment, underemployment and potential labour force), about collecting the relevant data in the microcensus and the labour force survey and, finally, about the survey designs of the microcensus and the labour force survey.

During their stay in Germany, the delegation also visited the head office of the Federal Employment Agency in Nuremberg. The purpose of the study visit was to make a contribution to improving labour market services in Kyrgyzstan and to initiate processes of change. The guests were accompanied by representatives of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) that is currently engaged in a vocational training and employment promotion programme in Kyrgyzstan.



Delegation from Kyrgyzstan with staff members of the Federal Statistical Office

Visitors from the Republic of Korea



As part of the regular exchange of experience with Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), a Korean delegation visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden on 17 and 18 November 2014. Vice-President Dieter Sarreither welcomed the high-ranking delegation and outlined the current developments in German official statistics. The delegation was then provided with interesting facts about co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder.

At the request of the Korean visitors, diverse aspects of business statistics such as the business register and relevant sampling techniques were covered by the German lecturers. The data available on the current mail-order business and internet retail trade in Germany were another topic discussed during the visit.

The Land Statistical Office of the Freistaat Sachsen in Kamenz completed the picture from the perspective of a Land statistical office. A presentation on the process of restructuring the Land office after German reunification was of particular interest to the delegation.



Sungwook Choi, Head of Delegation, signing the visitors' book



Staff of the Federal Statistical Office with the Korean guests

Supporting the State Statistical Office of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in education statistics



Between 2012 and 2014, the State Statistical Office of Macedonia was the Federal Statistical Office's partner in a joint twinning project. While the relevant activities were still being completed, another IPA-funded exchange of experience took place in the area of education statistics with the Macedonian colleagues.

In November, a German expert visited Skopje to provide consultation on UOE education data supplies ¹ in accordance with the UOE 2014 Manual.

The focus was on analysing the education programmes of institutions of higher education considering especially the Bologna structure and relevant allocations to the ISCED² three-digit headings, examining the ISCED mappings of Macedonia and Germany in relation to the allocation of education programmes, and investigating in detail questions of allocating first-year stu-

dents (similarly to higher education graduates) in view of a primary degree or beginner per ISCED level or per three-digit heading. On the basis of the relevant German methods, the participants exchanged experiences regarding the development of estimation methods, the underlying assumptions and their description in the UOE Quality Report.

- 1 UOE = UNESCO, OECD, Eurostat.
- 2 ISCED = International Standard Classification of Education.

Final conclusion of the twinning project with the State Statistical Office of Macedonia

The implementation phase that ended in August 2014 was followed by a concluding phase, which generally encompasses the official completion of an EU twinning project. The final report outlined in detail the consulting activities performed, the project results achieved and the project expenditure. The latter was checked in an audit conducted by an independent audit firm. In that framework, the correctness of both resource consumption and supporting documents was certified in accordance with the Twinning Manual of the European Commission. As soon as the contract monitoring unit of the Macedonian Ministry of Finance has approved the final report and final payments have been made, the twinning project will be completed in organisational terms, too.

German-Russian exchange of experience on data confidentiality



From 19 to 21 November 2014, the Vice-President of the Russian Statistics Service, Alexander Kevesh, and his delegation visited the Federal Statistical Office to exchange experiences on data confidentiality. The discussion covered various aspects of data confidentiality such as imputation methods, the legal framework and the scientific community's access to microdata.

Furthermore competent staff of the Federal Statistical Office took this meeting as an opportunity to present the pretest laboratory to the visitors.



Staff of the Federal Statistical Office together with the Russian guests and interpreters from the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Federal Ministry of the Interior



Vice-President Kevesh signing the visitors' book

Delegations from Taiwan visit the Federal Statistical Office



Two delegations from Taiwan visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden in the summer of 2014.

The delegations received information about the Federal Statistical Office, the system of official statistics in Germany and co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and Eurostat. In addition, the agenda covered topics such as geographical information systems, life tables and industrial statistics. Other issues discussed included short-term economic indicators, the production index and seasonal adjustment procedures.



Delegation from Taiwan with representatives of the Federal Statistical Office

Deputy Minister of Architecture and Construction of Belarus visits the Federal Statistical Office



The Deputy Minister of Architecture and Construction of the Republic of Belarus, Alexander Sidorov, headed a delegation visiting the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden on 17 September 2014. This was Alexander Sidorov's second visit to discuss various items of construction price statistics in Germany.

Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Head of Department "Strategy and Planning, International Relations, Research and Communication" of the Federal Statistical Office, welcomed the delegation. After her welcome address, the guests were provided with information about construction price statistics in Germany. The visitors from Belarus showed great interest in aspects of practical implementation, the differences between construction cost and construction price statistics and sampling for purposes of price collection. During that exchange of information the guests gained many new insights.

During their stay in Germany, the delegation from Belarus also visited the Construction Cost Information Centre of German Chambers of Architects, the Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Architects, the Land Office of Construction and Transport of Thüringen in Erfurt, and a medium-sized construction firm.



Representatives of the Federal Statistical Office

News in brief



Delegation from Belarus

Internship report

Interns regulary support the international statistical co-operation activities. Here is their feedback:

Julia Gruber, 1 August to 30 September 2014 in Bonn, International Co-operation

"Being in charge of project planning is a great responsibility and requires a lot of organisation, but a good result makes all the past work more than worthwhile. I found it particularly interesting to look after a Chinese delegation in Wiesbaden. The internship did not only help me get to know the basic structure and related work packages of project management but also provided opportunities for an intercultural exchange with foreign guests. Assisting a very friendly team in their work was a great pleasure for me and once again I would like to say 'thank you' for the great co-operation."



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