

STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

Statistical Co-operation
with Transition and Developing Countries



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Federal Statistical Office of Germany

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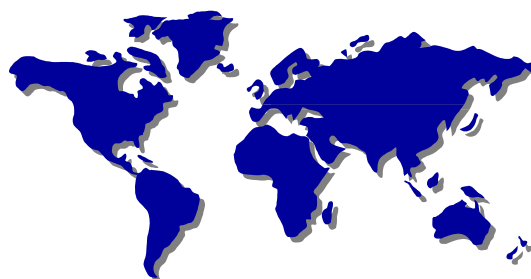
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Editorial

The period covered by this issue of the newsletter "Statistics across borders" was marked by an event which had been prepared in many ways over a couple of years. 1 May 2004 was the day when 10 new members joined the European Union. We share the happiness of the people and our partners in the new Member States and send our heartfelt congratulations to them. We are convinced that our co-operation will continue to be successful and that the work performed at the statistical offices across the EU will be of mutual benefit in the future, too.

As a matter of course, this issue also contains information about activities in progress and newly launched statistical co-operation projects. In this context, particular mention should be made of the co-operation with the Turkish Institute which has started on the basis of the USST programme. Another highlight was the symposium on the reform of China's official statistics. As co-organiser of the symposium, the Federal Statistical Office presented the project-related results of long-term co-operation.

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Enlargement of the European Union

On 1 May 2004, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia acceded to the European Union. German official statistics and particularly the statistical offices of the eastern European countries can look back on a long tradition of co-operation. On 1 May 2004, the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Johann Hahlen, transmitted his congratulations to the heads of the statistical offices of the new Member States and, in this context, underlined the important role official statistics had played in the process of accession negotiations. He also expressed his best wishes for a further good co-operation within the European Statistical System.

The new Member States are highly interested in continuing the exchange of experience. The Phare programme in the framework of which the European Union has so far supported the exchange of experience, is now replaced by what is called a transition facility to fund further co-operation measures. This transition programme is intended to end in 2006.

The bodies of German official statistics look forward to a continuation of the above co-operation.



Twinning project with Poland

The Polish-German Twinning Project "Statistical Information System" was continued successfully. All in all, 72 of 81 consultations were held until 31 July 2004. Apart from a large number of expert missions to Warsaw and some regional offices and from the study visits Polish statisticians paid to the three partner countries - Germany (Federal Statistical Office and the relevant statistical offices of the Länder), Denmark and Finland - 11 seminars were organised and delivered. The topics of these seminars included intra-Community trade statistics, statistical indicators, tourism statistics, agricultural statistics and quality management. The seminars were designed to prepare the Polish statisticians for applying – after their country's accession to the EU – the regulations and procedures as used within the European Statistical System.

All project goals have been fulfilled in the individual fields of activity. Consultations are still to be held, in particular, on the following issues: introduction of intra-Community trade statistics, price statistics, analysis of agricultural data for rural areas, and enhancement of the Internet portal of the Polish Statistical Office. Calls for tender were issued for performing the relevant agricultural analyses and enlarging the Internet portal, and related contracts were awarded to external companies.

In agreement with the project partners, Mr. Ullrich Eichler, the project's pre-accession adviser (long-term expert) from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony (Germany) finished his successful participation in the project on 17 April 2004, i.e., at an earlier time than originally scheduled, to engage in the Federal Statistical Office's new project concerning the Turkish Statistical Office (see also page 5).

The investment-related activities of the Twinning project, which the Polish Central Statistical Office was responsible for, were completed successfully. The volume of equipment acquired and currently delivered to enlarge the scope of information technology, incl. portable equipment for a



computer-assisted data collection by interviewers in the context of both the labour force survey and price statistics, corresponds to the volume specified.

On 19 and 20 October 2004, a final conference will be held, marking the official end of the project. The conference on "The Statistical Information System and the Challenges of Membership in the European Union – Results of the Twinning Project" will take place in the training centre of the Polish Statistical Office in Jachranka near Warsaw. A goal of the conference will be to present the results achieved in selected areas of the project. The conference will be attended by the Presidents of the two offices who have been partners in the project, i.e. Mr. Toczynski (Central Statistical Office of Poland) and Mr. Hahlen (Federal Statistical Office of Germany).

The Central Statistical Office of Poland started another Twinning project with Statistics Sweden in March 2004. The content of the new project is based on what has been achieved in the course of implementing the Polish-German Twinning project. German experts will participate in the new project as well.

Paris21 Workshop "National Strategy for Statistical Development" in Panama



The workshop in Panama City from 20 to 22 April 2004 was the second regional workshop run by Paris21¹⁾ in Central America. The objective of these workshops is to jointly prepare and formulate national strategies for the further advancement of the countries' statistical system. The particular aim of the workshop in Panama was to formulate so-called schedules for the national statistical offices. A schedule of that kind is to specify the relevant framework conditions, individual steps of work, necessary financial resources and the partners participating in the preparation of a national strategy.

The delegations from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama, who attended the workshop, were assisted by representatives of international organisations such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Economic Commission of the United Nations in working out the schedules in the respective working groups. A representative of the Federal Statistical Office attended the workshop, too.

Background: Commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the GTZ²⁾ is carrying out a project aimed at "Supporting Measures in the Statistical Area in Co-operation with the Paris21 Initiative". A goal of the one-year project is to provide the BMZ with regular information about major Paris21 activities. To this end, representatives of the GTZ and the Federal Statistical Office attend meetings and co-operate in working groups and in relevant regional workshops of the Initiative. Another focus is on establishing contacts with representatives of international organisations that are actively engaged in building statistical capacities in developing countries. The workshop in Panama is a good example of the efforts taken at the multilateral level to build statistical capacities.

¹⁾ Paris21 is a consortium whose aim is to promote the building of statistical capacities in developing countries. Members are representatives of UN Member States and international organisations. <http://www.paris21.org>

²⁾ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH - German Technical Co-operation. Commissioned by the BMZ (Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), the GTZ carries out projects in the area of development co-operation.



All in all, the objective of the GTZ project is to provide the BMZ with sufficient information as a basis for designing the future development co-operation activities in the area of building statistical capacities in developing countries.



PHARE Management Group

Since April 1999, meetings of the Management Group on Statistical Co-operation in the context of the Phare programme have been convened and chaired by Eurostat once a year. Apart from being responsible for the practical implementation of the Phare statistical programmes, the Management Group is concerned with accession issues in terms of statistical matters.

Starting with the Phare programme 2002, which runs from July 2004 until May 2005, grants are only awarded to newly acceded and candidate countries – which is new in the area of co-operation. The relevant rules and formalities provide for a specified percentage amount to be used for funding co-operation measures.



Starting co-operation with Turkey

After the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the State Institute for Statistics of Turkey (SIS) have repeatedly expressed their wish and readiness for an intensified co-operation in the past few years, the latter can now be achieved on the basis of the USST programme (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey).

The USST programme includes, among other things, a component regarding technical co-operation for which calls for tender were issued at the European level. In a consortium with the consulting firm ICON-Public in Cologne, the ASA Institute and the Turkish company Meteksan, the Federal Statistical Office was recently awarded the contract for this project. In his function as EU Management Adviser, Mr. Ullrich Eichler is the head of the project team in Ankara. Commissioned by the Federal Statistical Office, Mr. Eichler, Vice President of the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony, had previously worked as long-term adviser in the context of the Twinning project with Poland in Warsaw. The Turkish specialist supervision in respect of subject matters and project implementation is in the hands of Dr. Ünal Gundogan, Vice President of the Turkish Institute.

The project runs for a period of about three and a half years, i.e., it will end in November 2006. On the part of the Federal Statistical Office, the focus of co-operation is on the areas of business statistics, business register, dissemination of statistical information, and organisation and management of a statistical office. Besides, expert missions will be organised on issues such as income from employment and consumption behaviour of households, and on individual aspects of national accounts.

The expert missions will be supplemented by study visits to Germany. To this end, the Turkish Institute has received a financial grant from the European Union which is called "Training and Travel Facility" Grant (TTF). The content of the study visits will be discussed and agreed during a visit the Turkish project team headed by Vice President Dr. Gundogan will pay to the Federal Statistical Office in late August.



In their co-operation, both sides place particular emphasis on a coherent planning of measures. For this reason, the key experts were invited to Ankara as early as during the project's Inception Phase, as it is called.

On the occasion of the beginning of co-operation, Group I E (Co-operation with other Countries) of the FSO together with imap-Institut of Düsseldorf organised a seminar on "Intercultural Communication in Turkey" in Wiesbaden on 1 July 2004. During the seminar, the experts who will be sent on missions to Turkey in the context of the USST project had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the hosting country and, in particular, with the country's cultural and political background and special characteristics.

The objectives of the seminar were to point out intercultural aspects and to introduce the state- and policy-relevant ideas and concepts prevailing in Turkey. Apart from explaining the country's historical background, the lecturer Mr. Bülent Arslan described current socio-economic and political tendencies and developments and provided information on the role of the Islam in the Turkish culture.

The seminar was attended by a large number of experts of the Federal Statistical Office who will participate in the project and by colleagues of the Federal Criminal Police Office which is also engaged in Twinning projects with Turkey. Unanimously, the participants judged the seminar as a measure providing an excellent introduction and preparation for co-operation. They also suggested to prepare a summary and make the relevant documents available to other interested colleagues and, if requested, to offer another moderated exchange of experience in the course of the project.

German assistance in developing migration statistics in Bulgaria –challenges, chances, dangers and results



Like Romania, Bulgaria is a country whose accession to the European Union is planned for 2007. During the accession process, Bulgarian statistics, too, is faced with requirements whose fulfilment is aimed at adjusting the methods to the standards prevailing in the European Union so that comparable results can be obtained. Besides, new statistics and evaluation methods are to be introduced in areas where information is required, but not yet available.

As part of this process, the Twinning Light project on "External Migration" was implemented between October 2003 and April 2004. The German federal government has stressed that it is highly important for German public authorities to actively participate in Twinning projects. They are designed to help the candidate countries adopt the *acquis communautaire* and, at the same time, are a good opportunity for German experts to pass on their specialist knowledge.

In concrete terms, the project was to establish the bases for migration statistics in Bulgaria with the aim to provide information on external migration based on the data available in the country. The main expert engaged in the project was Dr. Richter of the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony.

Since the late 1980s, Bulgaria's population has declined from 8.8 million to just under 8 million. Apart from the low birth rate, the second main reason for this development is the continued negative balance of migration. Each year a large number of Bulgarian citizens leave their country to



earn money abroad. Thus, for instance, the number of Bulgarian citizens living in Germany amounts to about 40,000. Other major countries of destination are the USA, Greece, Great Britain and Canada.

The above situation shows clearly how important informative migration statistics are to the Balkan country of Bulgaria. The fact, however, that migration flows have so far not been recorded on a uniform basis across the EU Member States has made the task more difficult. Furthermore, the quality of the methods used for statistical recording in the various countries cannot in each case be characterised as adequate. In the recent past, however, measures have been initiated to improve this quality.

Consequently, there has been some leeway for a solution in Bulgaria, which has to be adequately used both to ensure largest-possible compatibility with the results of the other EU Member States and to make optimal use of the data sources available.

The focus of the project was in particular on increasing the extent to which the population register is used in order to base political discussions of migration issues on robust statistical data.

The results obtained in this area were supplemented by first practical approaches. Also, applications were filed regarding the allocation of funds for technical implementation.



Traineeship at the Federal Statistical Office

Ms. Katja Rutar, staff member of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, took up a traineeship at the Federal Statistical Office, where she stayed from 1 January to 28 May 2004. This is what Ms. Rutar told us upon our request about the experience and impressions she had gained during her stay:

Traineeship

In the context of the Phare programme of the European Union, experts from the new Member States and candidate countries are given the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the European standards and the *Acquis communautaire*. They are invited to take up what is called a traineeship at one of the national statistical offices of the European Union over a five-and-a-half month period. In line with the "learning on the job" concept, the trainees will be fully integrated into the work processes of the department they are assigned to.

As the Federal Statistical Office strongly supports this form of co-operation, it has several times welcomed trainees from accession countries. In September 2004, four colleagues from Hungary and Latvia will begin their traineeship in Germany.

In May last year, my superior (at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia) circulated a letter which included an invitation to apply for a five-month traineeship at various European Statistical Offices, one of which was the German Federal Statistical Office. As regards the latter, the circular pointed out that the successful applicant would have the opportunity to choose among several spheres of work (while the other offices only offered traineeships in definite areas).



Many years ago, I went to a bilingual (German and Slovenian) secondary school in Austria. As I had not practised my German since that time, I regarded the German offer as an excellent opportunity both to familiarise myself with the work routine in another statistical office and to brush up my German. My superior supported my wish though she added at the same time that she would really lack a staff member in that case. I hence promised to assist her from abroad.

Soon after I had filed my application with Eurostat which offers and co-ordinates this kind of exchange, I received a phone call from Germany. I was so astonished that things developed so quickly that, after the end of the telephone conversation, I was no longer sure whether my future mentor from the Group of Mathematical and Statistical Methods had really got the impression that I was able to speak good German. Over the summer, however, things progressed less quickly at Eurostat. The beginning of my traineeship was postponed from September to December and then to January so that I finally arrived in Wiesbaden in early January.

I was under less stress in the beginning than I had expected. As it turned out, we were applying mainly the same computer programs. However, it took me some time until I got used to the data. I had to ask time and again why the German marginals were decimal figures as I was used to marginals in registers or current population statistics which were whole figures or "whole persons". Also, the expression "Land Statistical Office" was completely new to me; there is no such thing as a Land in Slovenia which has a population of not more than two million.

With time, I got used to the new data as well and made quite a lot of analyses on their basis. Having the time for doing such things is definitely an advantage of a traineeship as, at your own workplace, you usually do not have the time for making analyses due to the overwhelming number of regular tasks. Another advantage is that you stop taking for granted the methods and procedures you have applied so far. You start comparing them to the methods you have just got acquainted with. In general, I would say that the work routine is rather similar at the German and the Slovenian Statistical Offices, though there are many differences as far as details are concerned. It is also very useful to meet people whose area of work is similar to yours so that you can discuss with them subject-related questions in the future, too.

I really enjoyed working with members of the Group of Mathematical and Statistical Methods. I learned a lot from them – not only about statistics, but also about Hesse and Germany as a whole. And I believe that they in turn know a bit more about Slovenian statistics and Slovenia now than they did half a year ago.

Katja Rutar



International Statistics Symposium in the People's Republic of China

An International Statistics Symposium on "Reforms, Progress and Challenges: China and its partners in Statistical Co-operation" took place in Beijing from 11 to 13 May 2004.

More than 100 representatives from the People's Republic of China and another 15 countries (e.g. France, Great Britain, Japan, Korea, Laos, Viet Nam) and international organisations (e.g. OECD, UN, World Bank) attended the symposium.



The goal of the symposium was to introduce major national and international user groups to the results of the project-based co-operation of China's official statistics with partner countries and international organisations and to emphasise the importance of reformed statistics for economic reforms.







Part of the symposium were, among other things, presentations of the results of co-operation projects between China's National Bureau of Statistics and the German Federal Statistical Office, on the one hand, and Statistics Canada, on the other.

As was stated by both the organisers and the participants, the symposium was a great success and made a contribution to enhancing the acceptance and credibility of Chinese official statistics among the general public not least by reflecting its co-operation with other national statistical offices and international organisations. However, the Chinese side also stressed that reforms were still required in Chinese official statistics. Following the symposium, an exchange of experience organised by the IMF took place on 14 May 2004 for the countries participating in the IMF's General Data Dissemination System (GDDS).



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES







Overview from October 2003 to July 2004

<p>29 September – 2 October 2003 in Lodz</p> 	<p>Concluding the consultations on the labour force surveys, an expert from the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg visited the Polish regional office in Lodz. The statisticians discussed the legal bases and the organisational, methodological and technological arrangements needed to conduct the <u>labour force survey</u>. The Polish Central Statistical Office intends to procure laptops under the Twinning project to be used by interviewers when they collect data for the labour force survey.</p>
<p>29 September – 3 October 2003 in Jachranka</p> 	<p>In the context of the Twinning project, experts from the Federal Statistical Office held the first of four advanced training courses with identical contents for Polish administration staff dealing with <u>Intra-Community trade</u>. As the Polish government had decided to have the data collected by the customs authorities, the majority of participants came from the Polish customs administration. The experts provided information about the legal and methodological bases of intra-Community trade, about survey documents and possible checks in intra-Community trade statistics. Participants had the opportunity to study these issues closely on the basis of realistic examples. The other courses were held until end of November.</p>
<p>5-17 October 2003 in Wiesbaden and Bonn</p> 	<p>The visit under the three-year project to establish a system of <u>foreign trade statistics</u> at the National Bureau of Statistics of the PR of China was mainly dedicated to the topics of information service, graphical representations in publications containing statistics from other countries and the exchange of information on databases for the administration of information on foreign countries. Based on the work performed so far in the field of databases, on which the Chinese side provided a progress report, new priorities of further development were to be defined and problems which had arisen were to be analysed. The presentation dealing with the tasks of the information service providing statistics of foreign countries was meant to introduce that service on the one hand and the aspect of user-orientation also of public bodies on the other.</p>
<p>6-9 October 2003 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>At the end of the consultations on <u>short-term statistics</u> and the <u>survey of production</u>, two experts of the Federal Statistical Office visited the Central Statistical Office in Warsaw. The statisticians discussed questions of detail such as variables and social characteristics of the Regulation concerning short-term statistics and the Polish legal bases as well as the implementation of the production survey.</p>
<p>6-10 October 2003 in Almaty</p> 	<p>During the expert mission on issues of <u>agricultural price statistics</u> under the GTZ programme, questions were discussed relating to the index of purchase prices of farm supplies and the establishment of a weighting scheme for index computations. The submitted draft list of questions on the future statistics of raw wood, which was discussed, is well suited for the pilot surveys planned. The pilot surveys are to be conducted in all forests of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Although the topic had not been on the agenda, questions regarding “basic inflation” ratios of consumer prices were treated, too.</p>
<p>8-10 October 2003 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>An expert from the Federal Statistical Office met Polish colleagues in Warsaw to exchange information on questions of <u>agricultural databases</u>. The consultations focussed on possible solutions regarding the methodological preparation of the EUROFARM Project in Poland and its implementation with a view to information technology. Questions of detail relating to information technology were discussed intensively.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES




Overview from October 2003 to July 2004

<p>13-15 October 2003 in Bratislava</p> 	<p>The meeting served to help the colleagues from the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic with <u>statistical surveys in the iron and steel industry</u> and with developing a data collection and processing system geared to European requirements in that sector. Suggestions and examples of how to ensure the reliability of incoming data and to check the data material collected met with great interest. Ways to enforce the obligation to provide data were mentioned, too. It became also clear, however, that in view of the relatively small field of the survey, data confidentiality (disclosure control) is of specific importance. Thus the amount of processed data to be published is restricted considerably.</p>
<p>18-25 October 2003 in Tbilisi</p> 	<p>During the expert mission, last preparations were made for the sample survey to be conducted as part of the <u>household survey</u> in the Kakheti region of Georgia. The elaboration of the questionnaires was terminated with regard to their contents, and the time schedule of the sample survey was updated. Furthermore, the interviewers were trained so that the field work can start at short notice. Finally, conceptual considerations concerning the evaluation programme and the list of questions were discussed.</p>
<p>20-22 October 2003 in Sofia</p> 	<p>During the visit paid by staff members of the Federal Statistical Office and the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony to the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria, the action planned under the <u>Twinning Light project on "External Migration"</u> (see also <i>page 6f.</i>) was prepared with regard to contents and organisation. The project will be running until May 2004. The goal of the project is to establish a register to record persons leaving the country.</p>
<p>20-22 October 2003 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The talks with representatives of the National Statistical Office of the Republic of Bulgaria focussed on the preparation of action (as regards contents and organisation) under the <u>Phare Programme 2001</u>. The programme (to run until August 2004) provides for consultations and study visits in the fields of environmental statistics, short-term statistics, statistics of vacancies, labour cost statistics and income statistics. The German experts informed also on tasks, activities and goals of the Federal Statistical Office's statistics co-operation and on the recently developed product of "Statistical Capacity Building". More than 30 staff members of the NSI and its president, Dr. Hadjiiski, attended the presentation and participated in the ensuing discussion. The Bulgarian side showed great interest in this training measure. It was agreed to hold consultations under the present Phare Programme on the product component of "Total Quality Management".</p>
<p>27-31 October 2003 in Warsaw and Kielce</p> 	<p>A German and a Danish expert held a joint consultation on the subject of <u>agricultural statistics</u> under the <u>Twinning with Poland</u>. The talks centred on an analysis of the 2003 census of agriculture and the EU agricultural structure surveys of the years to come. In this context, the sampling concepts on which the surveys are based were also discussed.</p>
<p>29-30 October 2003 in Prague</p> 	<p>In that meeting, work was continued on the contents, methodological and technical concepts for the development of a border-crossing <u>harmonised database</u>. This time, the meeting focussed on completing the work on the common catalogue of regional codes for Saxony, the Czech Republic and Poland, further developing the catalogue of standard tables to be published on the internet, starting work on a catalogue of graphics and subject-matter related maps to be published on the internet and collecting the required metadata in line with a metadata structure developed as part of that project.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from October 2003 to July 2004

<p>31 October 2003 in Bonn</p> 	<p>24 statisticians from the "Census Center" of China's National Bureau of Statistics and various provincial statistical offices were informed at the Branch Office Bonn about "<u>The System of Official Statistics in Germany</u>", "<u>The Organisational Structure of the Federal Statistical Office</u>", "<u>Co-operation with other Statistical Offices</u>" and "<u>The Purpose and Data Collection Methodology of Service Statistics</u>". The visit to Bonn was the final event of a three-week's study tour through the Federal Republic of Germany. Before, the delegation had been informed about the service and foreign trade sectors, among others at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour, the German Office for Foreign Trade, the Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Posts and the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of North Rhine-Westphalia. At the Bonn Branch Office, the Chinese guests showed particular interest in the division of work between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder in producing federal statistics and in the data collection methodology of service statistics. As the PR of China is preparing a survey in the field of service statistics, further exchange of experience with the German colleagues has been requested.</p>
<p>5-7 November 2003 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>An expert from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony visited the Polish Statistical Office under the Twinning project for an exchange of views on <u>agricultural databases</u>. In the focus were questions of how to set up and maintain an agricultural farm register.</p>
<p>10-14 November 2003 in Bishkek</p> 	<p>This GTZ project entitled "<u>Agricultural Census in Kyrgyzstan</u>" is a continuation of the 2000 to 2002 consultations preparing and supporting the first phase of that census. In November 2003, the second phase of the Agricultural Census took place in which the German expert in the Ysyk Ata Rayon could participate. In addition to the technical support provided for the census itself, the surveys documents, organisation, data collection and data quality were examined and assessed. In the opinion of the German advisor, the preparation and implementation of the agricultural census had been optimal, this referred especially to census organisation. In the following months, the data collected were processed and analysed critically. Immediately after the processing work had been terminated, the revision and updating of the agricultural farm register started.</p>
<p>10-16 November 2003 in Almaty</p> 	<p>The consultation of an expert from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony at the National Statistics Agency of Kazakhstan under the GTZ "<u>Population Statistics</u>" project served to discuss issues relating to household enquiries and problems of sampling, corrections and extrapolations of the results as well as international developments in poverty calculations, international social indicators and new household statistics. Differences were identified between the surveys in the two countries. It was found out, for instance, that the European system cannot be completely adapted due to special features in Kazakhstan. There are essential differences especially with regard to income data. Thus the income is estimated on the basis of household expenditure although income data are collected, too. Finally, both sides were of the opinion that considerable quality improvements had been achieved in the statistics of the living conditions of the population.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES







Overview from October 2003 to July 2004

<p>10-29 November 2003 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The goal of this expert mission under the German-Bulgarian <u>Twinning Light project "External Migration"</u> was to continue the theoretical preparation of migration statistics so that in the next stage the specific data requirements can be directed at the Bulgarian authorities. Definitions of migrants were derived from UN recommendations and the data requirements of international organisations. On the basis of these definitions, the criteria for determining migrants were elaborated and different groups of migrants were specified.</p>
<p>11-14 November 2003 in Almaty</p> 	<p>During the harmonisation and co-ordination talks under the GTZ-programme "<u>Promoting the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan</u>" held with the heads and project managers of the Statistics Agency and the representatives of the GTZ in Almaty, the state of the components which are presently being implemented was analysed and suggestions were made as to how the co-operation could be continued. In view of the positive experience and good results, the Statistics Agency wishes to continue the co-operation under the GTZ programme and thus presented two proposals for new components for the years 2005 to 2006, namely regional statistics and innovation statistics (e.g. a survey covering biotechnology enterprises, a survey of information technology in enterprises, statistics of patents and licenses, etc.). Both sides regard the continuation of the GTZ programme as a way to implement the agreement on statistical co-operation between the two offices, which was undersigned at the end of 2003.</p>
<p>17-21 November 2003 in Jachranka</p> 	<p>With the last of four courses on the introduction of the <u>Intrastat-System</u> in Poland, the experts from the Federal Statistical Office completed the training of the personnel dealing with these statistics on the Polish side. It is intended, however, that the Polish colleagues continue to receive advice in that field.</p>
<p>24-28 November 2003 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>A Danish colleague had the opportunity to continue an exchange of views with the Polish colleagues on harmonising <u>transport statistics</u> regulations under the <u>Twinning with Poland</u>. In that field, Poland's statistics are well-developed, although not all transport statistics are collected yet with the frequency required by the EU.</p>
<p>24-28 November 2003 in Prague</p> 	<p>After the official start of this <u>Twinning Light project</u> entitled "<u>Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities</u>" with the Czech Statistical Office to run six months, a first consultation took place at the Statistical Office of the Czech Republic. The meeting was attended by the Vice-President of the Federal Statistical Office and the Head of the Department for "Questions of Principle of Federal and International Statistics, Dissemination of Information" as main experts. Apart from taking stock of present action in the field of strategic planning and quality management at the Czech Statistical Office, this first expert mission was aimed especially at drawing up a detailed plan of measures. As the project is running only for a limited period of time, the ten expert missions scheduled will take place at short intervals.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from October 2003 to July 2004

<p>27-28 November 2003 in Prague</p> 	<p>During the meeting with the Czech partners, open questions were discussed which related to technical solutions for implementing the <u>border-crossing harmonised database</u> and its internet publication. One central issue was structuring and implementing navigation through the stock of data. In the following, a program was discussed for semi-automatically generating HTML pages with tables for presentation on the internet. The project partners should be enabled by that program to generate all HTML pages in the four languages Czech, Polish, English and German. Finally, during the action the option was explained to realise the graphics intended for internet presentation by means of Java Applets. In the course of the talks, valuable experience could be gathered and imparted in conceptualising and implementing multi-language internet presentations in the context of statistical publications.</p>
<p>1-5 December 2003 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>An expert from the Federal Statistical Office informed Polish statisticians on the legal bases and the implementation of <u>producer price statistics</u>. The Polish statisticians showed particular interest in the following issues: preparation of the weighing patterns, price collection in specific areas, quality adjustment procedures in the case of changes in the price-determining variables. In addition, questions pertaining to import and export price statistics were discussed intensively.</p>
<p>1-5 December 2004 in Radom</p> 	<p>The first training seminar on <u>tourism statistics</u> under Twinning Poland was held by Danish experts. It was attended by Polish statisticians from the Central Statistical Office and the regional offices entrusted with compiling tourism statistics in Poland. In addition to EU provisions, the Danish procedures used in tourism statistics and the implementation of the EU provisions in Poland were discussed.</p>
<p>8-20 December 2003 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The mission of experts from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony and the Land Statistical Office of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania under the <u>Twinning Light project "External Migration"</u> had the aim of terminating the theoretical phase of migration data capture, deriving specific requirements for the data to be provided by the participating Bulgarian authorities and making organisational preparations for data provision. Also, the IT system was evaluated under the aspect of registering other groups of migrants.</p>
<p>11-12 December 2003 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>The German project manager of Twinning Poland met the persons involved in the project in Warsaw to discuss the progress made so far. The meeting was attended also by a representative of the Finnish Statistical Office, which participates in the project. At the subsequent 6th meeting of the <u>Project Steering Committee</u>, interim results and the course of the project were presented to representatives of the European Commission Delegation and further Polish institutes working on the project.</p>
<p>16-17 December 2003 in Kamenz</p> 	<p>Proceeding from previous action, at this two-day consultation with the Czech partners the work was continued on still open subject-matter, technical and organisational questions of implementing the <u>border-crossing harmonised database</u> and its publication on the internet. The first major issue dealt with was evaluating the program for generating HTML pages. Moreover, the state of data and metadata provision for that publication was discussed and assessed. For several subjects, conclusions were drawn correcting the scope and/or time of publication. The third major issue was the technical implementation of statistical graphics generation by means of Java Applets.</p>



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5 January – 27 February 2004 in Sofia	<p>Several missions of experts from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony, the Land Statistical Office of Mecklenburg- Western Pomerania and the Federal Institute for Population Research under the <u>Twinning Light project "External Migration"</u> aimed at completing the theoretical preliminary work as far as possible in order to prepare the practical implementation of the project. The specific IT aspects identified were integrated into the draft version of the IT system. Furthermore, possibilities were examined to describe the migration processes analytically. On the basis of these results, well-aimed inquiries were made regarding data sources available. Moreover, a meeting was held with potential data suppliers.</p>
	
19-21 January 2004 in Berlin	<p>The Polish delegation of the 8th session of the German-Polish "<u>agricultural statistics</u>" partnership group met experts from the Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture and the Federal Statistical Office. On the occasion of the international Green Week, the delegation had the opportunity to talk also to experts from subordinate agencies of the Ministry. The programme included a visit to the Berlin-based branch office of the Central Market and Price Reporting Agency for Products of Agriculture, Forestry and the Food Industry and a visit to a 60 ha agricultural holding operated by a family and located near Potsdam. The study visit centred on presenting and discussing the procedures for determining reliable information on absolute agricultural prices and their development by means of price indices for the input and output of agricultural holdings. Further subjects dealt with were the use of administrative data, the coverage of prices for land and leasehold property, measures ensuring data quality and the definition and identification of agricultural holdings in line with EU provisions.</p>
	
19-21 January 2004 in Warsaw	<p>Two Finnish statisticians visited the Central Statistical Office of Poland in order to complete the consultations on <u>finance statistics</u> under Twinning Poland. The experts discussed the progress Polish statistics has made in this field. More specifically, issues of introducing quarterly national accounting and the notification of data for the "excess deficit" convergence criteria were discussed. The Finnish experts recommended that the Polish colleagues promote the efficiency of information and data exchange between the units of the Office and with the Finance Ministry.</p>
	
19-23 January 2004 in Prague	<p>During this visit of German experts under the <u>Twinning Light project on "Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities"</u> in the Czech capital, information was gathered in face-to-face talks with senior staff members of the Czech Central Statistical Office on present strategies and goals in general and in individual subject areas. At the same time, suggestions were collected for future strategic goals. Their analysis will be helpful for the conceptual preparation of a two-day strategy workshop to be held. While in the last few years the activities of the Czech Office had primarily been aimed at fulfilling the conditions for the EU accession of the Czech Republic, the aim now is to develop a joint vision and mission supported by all those involved and central strategic goals for the Czech Central Statistical Office. The methodological bases of the strategic planning process were also imparted during this consultation, and suggestions for improving the essential planning processes at the Czech Office were prepared in co-operation with the Czech colleagues.</p>
	



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<p>21-23 January 2004 in Bonn</p> 	<p>During the study visit, the <u>waste statistics</u> system and the organisation of the primarily plant-related surveys in Germany were presented. The guests described their system of waste statistics. In contrast to the German data collection system providing for a survey covering all operators of waste disposal facilities, in Bulgaria data are obtained from those who generate the waste. In addition to fundamental definitions, questions could be discussed with regard to waste flows and accounting. The final topic dealt with was environmental-economic surveys in industry. The discussion on the effects of the European Union Waste Statistics Regulation in the countries of Bulgaria and Germany was regarded as very helpful. First results and proposals of the two countries for implementing these new requirements were presented, and methods were discussed for procuring information which is not obtained via existing surveys.</p>
<p>27 January – 26 February 2004 in Prague</p> 	<p>From 27 to 29 January, another consultation was held in Prague by two experts from the Federal Statistical Office under the Twinning Light project "<u>Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities</u>". The major goal of that project is introducing modern management processes at the Czech Central Statistical Office. In order to promote the participation of staff members of the Czech Office in devising goal-identifying and planning processes for the Office, it was decided to hold two workshops. The first workshop – a strategy workshop for the upper level of senior staff – took place on 5 and 6 February 2004. That workshop aimed at preparing a vision and a strategy for the next few years which correspond to the new framework conditions at the Czech Office. Afterwards, from 25 to 26 February 2004, a self-assessment workshop was held with a representative cross section of Czech Office staff members. In this context, the experience was presented which had been gathered in this field at the Federal Statistical Office. The results of the two workshops had some influence on the phrasing of the vision, the strategic goals and the specific activity planning of the Czech Office.</p>
<p>28-30 January 2004 in Jelena Gora</p> 	<p>The first central issue of this action was presenting to the members of the working group on statistics of the Euro region Neißé the progress the project had made and the project results achieved in implementing the <u>border-crossing harmonised database</u>. After the Polish colleagues had been involved in the project only on an informal basis in the past, it is now possible to integrate them into the project work. For that reason, they were informed in detail about the subject-matter and technical concepts elaborated, especially regarding the preparation of the first publication of statistical data on the internet. In the run up to that meeting, the Polish colleagues made tests with a software tool to generate standard tables for the publications. So the final layout of the tables and the way in which to link the metadata (definitions, descriptions of statistics and surveys) were determined. Further optimisations regarding navigation through the data supply were also agreed upon. Due to methodological problems at the Czech Central Statistical Office it is not possible to convert historical data to the respective state of the territorial breakdown. For that reason, Czech data are published for the year 2002 only. The same holds for the Polish data. Solving that problem is an indispensable prerequisite in particular for the presentation of informative time series.</p>



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<p>28-30 January 2004 in Bonn</p> 	<p>This consultation with Slovak experts at the Federal Statistical Office centred on general <u>project management</u> and <u>project and budget controlling in international co-operation</u>. At the beginning, the guests were given an overview of the system of official statistics in the Federal Republic of Germany and of the organisational structure of the Federal Statistical Office. Special attention was paid to the Division "Co-operation with other Countries / Translation Service", which is responsible for international statistics co-operation at the Federal Statistical Office. The guests were informed about the principles and goals of statistics co-operation of the Federal Statistical Office, moreover it was pointed out which organisational structures and procedures are used for project management under statistics co-operation.</p>
<p>2-6 February 2004 in Copenhagen</p> 	<p>A delegation of Polish statisticians visited the Statistical Office of Denmark under the Twinning project in order to be informed about how to implement <u>tourism statistics</u>. Among others, the following subjects were discussed: data quality, presentation and dissemination of the results, Danish tourism statistics, Danish business registers.</p>
<p>15-21 February 2004 in Peking</p> 	<p>The meeting with Chinese experts served to prepare the international symposium in May 2004 (see also <i>page 8f.</i>) and to <u>harmonise</u> the future <u>bilateral co-operation</u>. The co-operation programme provides for ten measures. The <i>Project on International Statistics (PIS)</i>, which had been delayed for six months on account of the SARS crisis, is presently just before the end of the second project phase and will be completed by mid-2005. Referring to major fundamental decisions on future priorities, the Chinese side suggests that two new topics be included which should be treated more intensively in the next few years. These are the regionalisation of the gross domestic product, first at the level of the provinces and municipalities, later also at the level of prefectures, and the preparation of an environmental-economic accounting system in line with international standards. Further projects are planned on the "Exchange of Experience on Latest Developments and Strategies in the Field of Information Technology" and "General Data Dissemination Standard: Co-ordination and Publishing/Press".</p>
<p>23-26 February 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>An expert from the German Bundesbank informed Polish colleagues about the <u>seasonal adjustment</u> of time series from quarterly national accounting. The expert demonstrated the seasonal adjustment program X-12-ARIMA, discussed with the Polish colleagues how specific national features of the calendar could be accounted for in calendar adjustment and presented Eurostat's recommendations in the field of seasonal adjustment.</p>
<p>1-5 March 2004 in Radom</p> 	<p>Under the Twinning Poland project, a German expert and the German long-term adviser presented the common Classification of Territorial Units for Statistics (so-called <u>NUTS Regulation</u>) as well as the use and computation of statistical indicators. The training seminar was to provide a general overview of these subjects and familiarise the Polish participants with some specific regulations which will be important for their work within the framework of the European Statistical System.</p>



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<p>2-5 March 2004 in Wiesbaden and Bonn</p> 	<p>A delegation of Polish statisticians was informed at the Federal Statistical Office and at the Hessian Land Statistical Office about the implementation of the EU <u>labour force survey</u> and the use of laptops in data collection. In that context, the guests were also briefed about the monthly labour market statistics on the ILO activity status and the German microcensus. The Central Statistical Office of Poland plans to introduce computer-assisted interviewing in the labour force survey under the Twinning project. At the Hessian Land Statistical Office, the Polish guests were made familiar with the German experience in that field.</p>
<p>2-5 March 2004 in Kiel</p> 	<p>In continuation of a study visit to Kiel in September 2003, a delegation of ten Polish statisticians and IT experts visited the Statistical Office for Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein in Kiel. The guests learned about the implementation of the <u>agricultural structure survey</u> and IT processing of statistical data on agriculture. The German colleagues introduced the agricultural register, the AGRA Online Program and the Poseidon Program.</p>
<p>3-5 March 2004 in Bonn</p> 	<p>It was explained to the Czech colleagues how disability is defined in Germany. In addition to the health aspect, this definition refers to an actually reduced participation in social life. Moreover, the two major statistics of officially acknowledged disabled persons in Germany was presented, i.e. the two-yearly <u>statistics of severely handicapped persons</u> compiled by means of administrative data and the four-yearly statistics of disabled persons forming part of the microcensus. The statistics of severely handicapped persons can be compiled rapidly and efficiently and provides a good stock of basic data on officially acknowledged severely handicapped persons (e.g. their age, sex and nationality as well as type and cause of the impairment). The Czech side intends to use physicians' data on disabled persons. On account of the large number of survey units, a sample will be used as a basis for the first survey. Similar to Germany, the survey is intended to provide basic data on age, sex and nationality of the disabled as well as on type and cause of the impairment.</p>
<p>3-5 March 2004 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>Under the Twinning Light project "<u>External Migration</u>", the experts from the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria and from other Bulgarian authorities were informed at the Federal Statistical Office and the Federal Institute of Population Research on the organisation of population statistics and the compilation of data on migration statistics in Germany, and on the organisation of migration statistics in the EU countries. Project results were discussed and information was exchanged on research work performed in the field of migration. Moreover, the contacts established in the course of the project to researchers from the Federal Institute of Population Research were intensified.</p>
<p>9–10 March 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>On the occasion of the 7th meeting of the <u>Project Steering Committee</u> of Twinning Poland, the project participants met in Warsaw. They discussed the progress the project had made and future action. At the centre of the talks was the announcement that the German long-term expert was going to leave Warsaw early, i.e. one month before his secondment officially ended, in order to participate in another co-operation project in Turkey.</p>
<p>15-17 March 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>A Danish expert discussed questions of establishing and maintaining <u>business registers</u> at the Central Statistical Office of Poland. Thus the structure and the technical details necessary for setting up a statistical business register were explained. The Polish Statistical Office is presently modernising its IT technology under the Twinning project, of which the Polish business register will profit, too.</p>



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<p>16-18 March 2004 in Hradec-Kralove</p> 	<p>To ensure the internet presentation of the joint Czech-Polish-German border-crossing harmonised database, the work progress was analysed and a time schedule was agreed upon for extensive action. It was still not clear whether it will be possible to have the complete internet presentation translated into the English language.</p>
<p>16-29 March 2004 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The mission of experts from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony and the Land Statistical Office of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania under the Twinning Light project "External Migration" aimed at preparing and holding a seminar for representatives of the Bulgarian authorities, who will provide migration data in future. Legal and organisational framework conditions of migration statistics in the countries of the EU were presented, the organisation of the German system of population and migration statistics was explained, the information system for recording migration in Bulgaria was presented, and various aspects of that system were discussed.</p>
<p>17-19 March 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>In order to exchange experience with data deliveries to Eurostat and other international organisations, an expert from the Federal Statistical Office met Polish colleagues in Warsaw. The Polish Office already has a well-founded stock of experience in exchanging data with Eurostat. Still the co-ordination of work processes and the co-operation of the units involved at the Polish Office should be scrutinised.</p>
<p>22-24 March 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>The Danish transport statistics expert of Twinning Poland held his last consultation in Warsaw. He discussed the progress Poland had made in introducing and implementing the EU regulations in the various fields of transport statistics. More specifically, methodological questions and the state of survey implementation were talked about.</p>
<p>22-24 March 2004 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>A Bulgarian delegation was informed about the following range of topics: public budget, public account incl. deficit, financial accounts and debt position of the state. In that context, experts from the German Bundesbank and the European Central Bank were consulted, too.</p>
<p>22-25 March 2004 in Bratislava</p> 	<p>In a seminar, several subject areas of intra-Community trade statistics were discussed with regard to Slovakia's EU accession. At the outset, the Intrastat data collection system was introduced and major legal bases explained. The participants discussed the experience Germany has gathered especially with measures informing respondents when the Single European Market was introduced and when the EU expanded in 1995. Of great interest was the procedure reminding respondents who had not submitted data at all, had submitted incorrect data, incomplete data or provided the data late. Moreover, the extensive plausibility checks were presented. Different types of errors (obligatory error, facultative error, automatic corrections) were explained and possible instruments for plausibility checking were presented.</p>
<p>22-26 March 2004 in Berlin and Hanover</p> 	<p>Accompanied by the German long-term expert (Twinning Poland), Polish statisticians visited the Land Statistical Office of Berlin and the CeBIT trade fair for computer technology in Hanover. The aim of the trip was to collect information on recent developments in electronic data collection, firewall systems and network safety. At the computer centre of the Land Statistical Office in Berlin, the Polish guests were shown how these technologies are used.</p>



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<p>22-26 March 2004 in Ulan-Bator</p> 	<p>During the visit to the Statistical Office of Mongolia, first of all the current situation was assessed. It was found out how finances are managed and what technical equipment is available (hardware, software). The Mongolian side presented in particular the procedures used in budgetary planning, fund management, co-operation with the regional statistical offices and the Ministry of Finance. The product classification at the NSO was explained, which is the basis of budgetary planning and management. The German side presented the structure of the federal budget, fund management and the principles of cost and results accounting.</p>
<p>29-31 March 2004 in Bonn</p> 	<p>This consultation continued the series started in February 2003 on the annual structural survey in the <u>service sector</u> and the quarterly short-term surveys in certain service fields in keeping with the provisions of Council Regulation 58/97 concerning structural business statistics. The central issue were problems and difficulties encountered in the course of the survey in Germany and how they could be solved. Another main issue were the theoretical and practical prerequisites of representative sampling, checking and editing of the data, handling and estimating of non-response, processing the results and presenting them. Compared with Germany, the catalogue of variables is much larger in the Czech Republic. For that reason, the questionnaire used in Germany was of great interest to the colleagues from the Czech Statistical Office. The goal pursued was not to impose too much of a burden on the respondents with a shortened catalogue of variables while meeting the data requirements of the EU Regulation concerning structural business statistics as well as national data requirements.</p>
<p>29 March – 2 April 2004 in Jachranka</p> 	<p>In order to make Polish statisticians from the Central Office and the regional offices familiar with the legal bases of the EU and the implementation practice in <u>surveys of agricultural statistics</u>, two German experts held a training seminar in Poland. The issues treated on that occasion ranged from the agricultural structure survey via IT processing to the survey of fruit trees.</p>
<p>31 March – 2 April 2004 in Prague</p> 	<p>Under the Twinning Light project "Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities" with the Czech Republic, another expert mission of staff members from the Federal Statistical Office took place in Prague. This consultation aimed at devising an action plan comprising the preparatory measures for the introduction of <u>strategic planning processes</u> from January 2005 in co-operation with the Czech colleagues. By means of interviews with senior staff members, information was collected on the progress made so far in redefining the strategic goals of the Czech Statistical Office (ČSÚ), and an action plan was elaborated jointly for introducing and implementing strategic planning mechanisms at the ČSÚ. Furthermore, the consultation served to conceptually prepare and schedule the next actions.</p>



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<p>31 March-2 April 2004 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>At the beginning of the consultation, the general methodological and legal bases of <u>intra-Community trade statistics</u> were presented and discussed. Then different forms of reporting were treated and explained. In the following, the guests from Hungary had the chance of getting to know the practical work in the processing department. The problem is that there is not enough personnel at the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH) to process the Intrastat data completely, while it is not planned to recruit new staff members. Therefore, the KSH has concluded a co-operation contract with a private-law company, 90 % of which, however, belong to the Chancellor's Office. That contract provides that the company is responsible for document-based data collection, while the KSH takes over EDP-based data processing. Apart from the processing work, the visitors showed great interest in the publication of foreign trade data. Special attention was paid to the marketing concept of the Federal Statistical Office and the Länder. As in 2002, a mirror comparison between Germany and Hungary was made for 2003. Deviations have been reduced slightly for both directions.</p>
<p>31 March-2 April 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>An expert from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony discussed questions of improving the security of data processing by introducing a new fire wall system with Polish colleagues at the Central Statistical Office in Warsaw. Under the Twinning Poland project, the Polish Statistical Office procures hardware and software to improve <u>data security</u>.</p>
<p>5-7 April 2004 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>At the beginning of this action, the guests from Bulgaria received an overview of <u>labour force statistics</u> in Germany, then the use of administrative sources for the statistics of persons in employment was treated (legal regulations, organisation and data collection, access to data, confidentiality). Moreover, the labour force survey was presented as part of the microcensus, and ways to increase the response rate were explained. Further topics included: coding methods, evaluating the reliability of data compiled in labour force statistics by calculating stochastic and non-stochastic errors using the Swedish GLAN software, training and monitoring of interviewers taking as an example the Land Hesse.</p>
<p>13-15 April 2004 in Berlin</p> 	<p>This was the first action in the field of <u>data processing</u> involving Latvia, which thus centred predominantly on the exchange of information on the present situation. As the Latvian Office plans to set up regional branch offices, the subjects discussed related to practical aspects of publication, a joint internet and intranet platform, marketing activities, service quality and press releases. During most of the stay, presentations were held by staff from the Federal Statistical Office, explaining how the areas discussed are handled in Germany. The experience gathered at the statistical offices of the Länder provided the Latvian participants with particularly helpful ideas.</p>
<p>14-16 April 2004 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>Manifold problems were discussed with the guests from the Czech Republic relating to <u>producer price statistics</u> of industrial products, the statistics of foreign trade prices and the statistics of service prices. The German side mainly presented the methodological concepts. The discussion focussed on the projects of producer price indices for telecommunication and for legal counselling, auditing and tax consultation. As regards the project "Producer Price Indices for Telecommunication", the subjects of discussion were the specific features of the German telecommunications market, the part played by the Regulatory Authority for Telecommunications and Posts, the readiness of the telecommunications enterprises to provide information and the complexity of the extremely short-lived telecommunications market.</p>



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<p>17-24 April 2004 in Peking</p>		<p>The goals of the “Project on <u>International Statistics</u>” aimed at in the elapsed second project year under the bilateral co-operation with China were all attained. Important progress was made in the three main task areas of project co-operation (data collection and documentation, data dissemination and database development). For the following third project phase scheduled to run until mid-2005, the work plan was revised and partly made more specific. It was agreed that the co-operation should focus in particular on the goals of online data dissemination, well-aimed user information by means of an information service on international statistics at the NBS and the publication of short-term statistics and analyses. Finally, the Chinese side stressed their great interest in continuing and intensifying the co-operation in selected fields of work.</p>
<p>19-21 April 2004 in Bonn</p>		<p>In the course of the study visit, selected fields of the new technical concept of <u>plausibility checks</u>, which is presently being introduced at the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder, were presented to the delegation from Slovenia. It was agreed not to restrict the exchange of experience and programmes to the specific action. Thus the Slovenian colleagues will have the chance to keep track of the entire introduction process.</p>
<p>19-23 April 2004 in Berlin and Flensburg</p>		<p>A delegation of Polish statisticians visited the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) in Berlin to discuss questions of private transport, and the Federal Motor Transport Authority in Flensburg to obtain information on <u>goods traffic statistics</u>. The Federal Motor Transport Authority presented the Central Vehicle Register, the statistics of the carriage of goods by road from data collection to publication, and the submission of data to Eurostat.</p>
<p>19-23 April 2004 in Jachranka</p>		<p>In a second training course on <u>tourism statistics</u>, two experts from the Federal Statistical Office and the Land Statistical Office of Saxony-Anhalt trained Polish statisticians from the Central Office and the regional offices. In addition to EU legal requirements and their legal implementation in Germany, it was explained and discussed in detail how surveys of tourism statistics are conducted. The electronic processing of the data, the tabulation of results and the submission of the data to Eurostat were also treated.</p>
<p>19-23 April 2004 in Sofia</p>		<p>Under the expert mission in Bulgaria, current <u>marketing strategies</u> and the respective publication procedures followed were presented and discussed first. In particular, the marketing concept and the publication programme of the Federal Statistical Office were presented and a first marketing concept was developed for the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria (NSI). Another major issue treated was market investigation with a view to publications. Related questionnaires were revised, and procedures and methodological aspects were discussed.</p>
<p>20-22 April 2004 in Panama City</p>		<p>For a report on the meeting on the occasion of PARIS21 please refer to <i>page 4f</i>.</p>
<p>21-23 April 2004 in Wiesbaden</p>		<p>Two experts from the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria paid a study visit to the Federal Statistical Office, which was to help familiarise them with the common EU basis in the field of <u>labour force and income statistics</u>. The lectures centred on the structure of income statistics comprising among others tabular analysis procedures of the data collected and their economic significance. The goal was to improve the precision, timeliness, availability, comparability, coherence and completeness of the data.</p>



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<p>21-23 April 2004 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The mission of three experts from the Federal Statistical Office was dedicated to the subject of "<u>Total Quality Management</u> for Capacity Building in Statistics". During the stay, modern methods of management were discussed and implemented. The fields of application mentioned included human resource management, strategy development, annual planning, process analyses and the handling of challenges resulting from globalisation, competitive pressures and altered information requirements of statistics users. Furthermore, there was a discussion about the experience gathered with the "quality initiative", which aims at improving the quality of statistical information and services in Germany, and on concepts for restructuring public administration by means of e-Government.</p>
<p>23 April-1 May 2004 in Ulan-Bator</p> 	<p>As part of the Tacis6 component "<u>business registers</u>", an expert mission took place in Ulan-Bator (Mongolia) entitled "Development Plan for the Business Register". For the purpose, the stock of the existing business register was to be checked first. Under earlier Tacis programmes, there had already been co-operations in that field as well as first sample surveys. In a joint effort, the model of a database structure was finally developed for the business register.</p>
<p>26-27 April 2004 in Vilnius</p> 	<p>The expert mission on issues of <u>national accounting</u> had the purpose of answering questions related to the measuring of financial intermediation services (FISIM). An expert from the Federal Statistical Office analysed the present state of implementation of the respective EU directive at the Statistical Office of Lithuania (StD) in Vilnius. Considerable progress has already been made, though there are problems resulting from differences in the definitions.</p>
<p>26-30 April 2004 in Prague</p> 	<p>On the eve of the Czech Republic's accession to the EU, issues relating to <u>foreign trade statistics</u> were discussed at the Czech Statistical Office. A central issue was the introduction of intra-Community trade statistics, which became necessary with EU accession on 1 May 2004. Apart from that, problems in the field of third-country trade outside EU borders (Extrastat) were addressed, and a mirror comparison was made. The Czech colleagues were particularly interested in questions of statistical confidentiality. As regards foreign trade statistics, European legal norms provide for passive confidentiality. Traditionally, the active confidentiality approach has been applied in the Czech Republic also in the field of foreign trade statistics, there will be a conversion to passive confidentiality only on 1 May 2004.</p>
<p>27-29 April 2004 in Prague</p> 	<p>The aim of this consultation under the Twinning Light project "<u>Strategic Management and Planning of Statistical Activities</u>" was to review the strategic goals of the Office, to elaborate a list of priorities and to prepare the development of measures and indicators in co-operation with the colleagues from the Czech Republic. In interviews, the German experts discussed the draft version of strategic goals and sub-goals with senior staff members of the Czech Statistical Office.</p>
<p>10-13 May 2004 in Kamenz</p> 	<p>Experts from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony advised the Bulgarian guests on how to set up an <u>integrated statistical information system</u>. The following central issues were treated: description of the individual components of a statistical information system (SIS), development and use of statistical data, and organisation of meta data bases.</p>



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<p>3-6 May 2004 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>An initial study visit of staff members from the publications section of the National Institute for Statistics of Romania (NSI) at the Federal Statistical Office served the purpose of getting to know the <u>statistical data dissemination</u> systems of the other party. The focus was on the dissemination programme of the Federal Statistical Office, aspects of public relations work and marketing strategies/user requirements and the presentation of the data on the internet. The GENESIS database and online access via GENESIS online were described. The Romanian colleagues presented their recently developed database system, which is comparable with the German system.</p>
<p>10-12 May 2004 in Ankara</p> 	<p>At the outset of the USST project (for details see also <i>page 5f</i>), the key experts were informed at the State Institute for Statistics of Turkey about the status quo in the fields of <u>business statistics</u> (10 -12 May) and <u>business registers</u> (12 -14 May). On that basis, the work to be performed under the project in the above-mentioned areas was then planned in detail with regard to subject matter and time scheduling.</p>
<p>10-13 May 2004 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>When Bulgarian experts from the National Statistical Institute and the Bulgarian customs administration were advised on matters of "<u>foreign trade statistics</u>", the topics dealt with included the practices and procedures followed in extra-Community trade and the processing of the data records, an introduction into the data collection and monitoring systems of the Intrastat declarations, the presentation of the publication programme and the marketing concept of the Federal Statistical Office, and a mirror comparison. As far as intra-Community trade statistics in Bulgaria is concerned, the Bulgarian Statistical Institute is well prepared in advance for this new data collection system and its implementation. Training courses for about 2000 enterprises have been scheduled already for the year 2004.</p>
<p>10-14 May 2004 in Peking</p> 	<p>For a report on the International Symposium please refer to <i>page 8f</i>.</p>
<p>11-14 May 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>On account of the great demand on the part of Polish statisticians for information on statistical <u>indicators</u>, the expert from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony held two more seminars on the topic. At these two-day seminars, the expert again informed the participants from the Central Statistical Office and several regional offices on the system of statistical indicators in the EU, political and legal bases, calculation and use of the indicators.</p>
<p>17-19 May 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>The discussion in the context of the Twinning Poland project about how to set up and use <u>agricultural databases</u> was continued on the occasion of a Danish expert's visit at the Polish Statistical Office. The structure of the Polish register of holdings, automatic processing of agricultural statistical surveys, the typology of agricultural holdings and the submission of data to Eurostat were treated.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES







Overview from October 2003 to July 2004

<p>17-19 May 2004 in Bratislava</p> 	<p>As agreed at the preceding expert meeting in October 2003 in Slovakia, the progress was presented and discussed which had been made in preparing data collection according to the EC regulation concerning steel. The focus was on the problems which had emerged in that context and on their solutions, in particular with a view to the European time schedule. The forms of the 2003 annual survey were presented and discussed together with other recently developed forms of German <u>iron and steel statistics</u> serving as examples of standardised survey documents in German official statistics.</p>
<p>17-21 May 2004 in Ulan-Bator</p> 	<p>The topics treated during this action in Ulan-Bator were linked with the workshop on "Strategic Management of a Statistical Office" held in Wiesbaden in May 2003 with the management level of the Mongolian Office. As the Statistics Law of Mongolia was recently revised and the National Statistical Office (NSO) is responsible for the provincial offices as regards both subject matter and resource allocation, coherent strategic work planning has to be developed. The equipment with a modern IT infrastructure will be an essential prerequisite for implementing a strategy for a period of several years.</p>
<p>24-26 May 2004 in Kamenz</p> 	<p>This action continued efforts to set up a joint database of <u>regional statistics</u> with Poland. Stock was taken with the aim of defining and harmonising the work which had to be done until the starting date. There are plans to supplement the data offered by topical data after the termination of project phase 1.</p>
<p>24-28 May 2004 in Baku</p> 	<p>At the outset of the consultation in Azerbaijan, general questions of <u>price statistics</u> were discussed (definitions, classifications, sampling of price representatives and reporting units, calculation of weighting patterns, price collection and quality adjustment, computation and publication of results), in the further course of the consultation, only issues relating to construction price statistics and major theoretical bases were treated.</p>
<p>24-28 May 2004 in Wiesbaden and Bonn</p> 	<p>In continuation of the talks with the Mongolian colleagues, the basic features of the <u>product budget</u> and further detailed information on <u>cost accounting and results accounts</u> were imparted. A lecture on the structure, organisation and working practices of internal audit at the Federal Statistical Office met with special interest. At the Bonn Branch Office, financial management with the help of special software and project controlling were discussed in the context of statistics co-operation. The stay was concluded by a lecture held at the Federal University of Applied Administrative Services on the system of public financial management in Germany and on the planning and organisation of cash flow in federal administration.</p>
<p>25-28 May 2004 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The consultation aimed at assisting the Bulgarian colleagues in implementing the European regulations on <u>short-term statistics</u> (including seasonal adjustment procedures), <u>structural statistics</u> and <u>surveys of production (PRODCOM) in industry</u>. In addition to fundamental questions, the programme provided for an exchange of experience on the implementation and processing of the surveys and the delivery of data to Eurostat, and questions relating to the publication system were dealt with. The consultations provided a comprehensive picture of how far the bodies of Bulgarian statistics have already advanced preparing for the accession of their country to the European Union. The Bulgarian system of surveys for short-term, structural and PRODCOM regulations largely meets the requirements.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from October 2003 to July 2004

<p>25-28 May 2004 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The stay served to propose solutions for improving the organisation of the 2004 <u>labour cost statistics</u> in Bulgaria. The specialised Bulgarian statisticians were informed about the central aspects of employee statistics in Germany. The design of the relevant questionnaires was also discussed.</p>
<p>7-9 June 2004 in Budapest</p> 	<p>This mission of experts from the Federal Institute for Population Research continued the time-tested co-operation with the Hungarian Statistical Office. During the visit on the subject of <u>migration statistics</u>, a number of topics were dealt with: the Hungarian system for registering migration as compared with the German system, relevant sources of information in Hungary/Germany and the process and methodology of collecting data on emigrants. Another goal of the stay was informing one another about the experience gathered and the problems encountered with survey implementation and data collection, and discussing data deficits and gaps. Moreover, there were meetings with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and research institutions dealing with questions of migration.</p>
<p>8-12 June 2004 in Vilnius</p> 	<p>German experts advised the Statistical Office of Lithuania about issues concerning <u>agricultural statistics</u>. Topics dealt with were the procedures used in Germany with regard to "setting up registers" and "sample surveys" as well as the EU requirements and recommendations relating to the quality of agricultural data. This consultation mission continued the long-standing close co-operation on a partnership basis between the two national statistical offices, the regional and Land statistical offices and the Ministries of Agriculture of the two countries. The partnership promoted by the EU had been initiated in 2000 through a World Bank project.</p>
<p>14-18 June 2004 in Prague</p> 	<p>At the close of the Czech-German Twinning Light project "<u>Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities</u>", three seminars were conducted on the subject of "personnel development and participation in various phases of strategic planning". The goal of these seminars held in the form of workshops was to sensitise the staff members of the Czech Statistical Office for these topics, to motivate and integrate them into the various planning processes of the Office. The group of participants was limited to personnel from upper and middle management, who will act as multipliers. A total of 45 staff members of the Czech Statistical Office attended the three seminars.</p>
<p>15-18 June 2004 in Copenhagen</p> 	<p>Two IT experts from the Polish Statistical Office attended the international SAS Conference in Copenhagen and visited the Danish Statistical Office. The Polish experts were informed about new features of the <u>SAS program</u> and exchanged experience with users from other countries. A new <u>XML input system</u> was shown to them at the Danish Statistical Office. This information can be used by the Polish side for developing their internet portal further.</p>
<p>21-25 June 2004 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>In order to hold a workshop on <u>quality management</u> and to attend the 8th session of the <u>Project Steering Committee</u> of Twinning Poland, the former long-term adviser and the German project manager from the Federal Statistical Office travelled to Poland. The introduction into quality management also served to prepare the follow-up Twinning project, which the Polish Statistical Office will undertake with the Swedish Office. At the session of the Project Steering Committee, the last project activities were specified which remain to be performed until the project officially ends in October 2004.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from October 2003 to July 2004

<p>28 June –2 July 2004 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The aim of the expert mission was to analyse the internet pages of the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria in order to develop joint suggestions for improving the design. For that purpose, the <u>internet pages</u> of the Bulgarian Statistical Office were compared in detail with the websites of other statistical offices and analysed. In addition to numerous strong points (e.g. being in two languages), some aspects were identified which should be improved. It was recommended to carry out an online user survey to be able to adjust better to user requirements.</p>
<p>13-15 July 2004 in Prague</p> 	<p>The meeting was another step in the process of setting up a <u>cross-border harmonised database</u> for Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland. It centred on the work which still has to be done in order to complete the contents and realise the internet presentation technically. Numerous problems of detail could be solved here. Furthermore, the experts from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony talked with the participants about the focus of work and the time schedule of the next project phase. The result was a work plan for the stages of work to be completed until internet presence starts. Additionally, a concept was designed for evaluating and marking the comparability of data.</p>
<p>15-16 July 2004 in Prague</p> 	<p>During the final conference under the Twinning Light project "<u>Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities</u>" at the Czech Statistical Office, the entire project was evaluated and the draft of the final report was agreed upon with the Czech partners. In that context, recommendations were given for future steps to introduce strategic planning and monitoring mechanisms at the Czech Statistical Office. On the second day of the meeting, the preliminary final report was discussed with a representative of the European Commission delegation in the Czech Republic during a Steering Committee meeting. The project was regarded as a great success by all parties involved. The experience gathered in the course of the project will be of great value in arranging similar projects with other statistical offices.</p>
<p>26-30 July 2004 in Berlin and Frankfurt/O.</p> 	<p>The study visit of Kyrgyz statisticians under the GTZ project "<u>Census of Agriculture</u>" served to impart the experience with the processing and publishing of agricultural census results in Kyrgyzstan with a view to establishing an agricultural register. During this study visit, the Kyrgyz experts had the opportunity to get to know practical register maintenance work at the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg.</p>
<p>26-30 July 2004 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>During the working visit of Azerbaijani experts on issues of <u>construction price statistics</u>, the following topics were treated: selection of representative construction operations and calculation of the weighting patterns, survey documents of construction price statistics, sampling of reporting units and price collection, computation and publication of results, technical programme implementation. The German side reported in detail on the respective theoretical principles and practical solutions in German construction price statistics.</p>
<p>26-30 July 2004 in Tbilisi</p> 	<p>This expert mission in Georgia was to terminate the action. The results of the <u>household survey</u> were analysed and the tabulation programme was finally discussed. Problems which had arisen during the survey were treated as were the publications planned and the conclusions drawn for the Kakheti region, which had been examined.</p>

