

STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

Information on
international statistical co-operation



2/2008

Federal Statistical Office



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Editorial

Dear readers,

In this edition of our newsletter “Statistics across Borders” we take a look back at the successful year 2008, in the course of which the Office’s unit of international statistical co-operation faced a workload as challenging as never before. Besides, we provide information on current developments and on the goals jointly achieved during the second half of 2008.

Our review of the year 2008 shows that co-operation with both the new EU Member States and the candidates for EU accession is a main pillar of our work. This is above all reflected in the Twinning projects. During the period under review, we completed our large-scale Twinning project with the Macedonian statistical office. In this edition of “Statistics across Borders”, you can read an interview with the Resident Twinning Adviser (long-term expert) Mr. Klaus Kickner, who takes a look back at both the project activities and his exciting and informative stay abroad.

In addition, we provide you with information on the Twinning projects with the Bulgarian and the Croatian statistical offices, both of which will be completed in the course of 2009. However, we will continue our intensive co-operation with the Croatian statistical office in the context of another project which was awarded to a consortium of several institutions including the Federal Statistical Office.

The second important target region of our work continues to be Asia, as has been reflected by the reports on the TAJSTAT project in Tajikistan and our long-term co-operation with the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). We will further strengthen our commitment in this region in the context of the TACIS-11 project with the statistical offices of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, which will be launched in 2009.

What else was important to us last year? Co-operation activities in the context of the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) and the co-ordination of ESTP courses have been important areas of our work. Among other things, a large number of colleagues working in various statistical units of our Office attended ESTP courses last year.

The new Heads of the Federal Statistical Office have continued to be deeply involved in the Office’s international activities. Together with some representatives of his Office, the Head of the Czech statistical office paid a visit to the Federal Statistical Office in November last year. The meeting was designed as a follow-up seminar on the project on Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities.

We wish all readers of our newsletter all the best for the year 2009 and look forward to our co-operation in the future!

The editors

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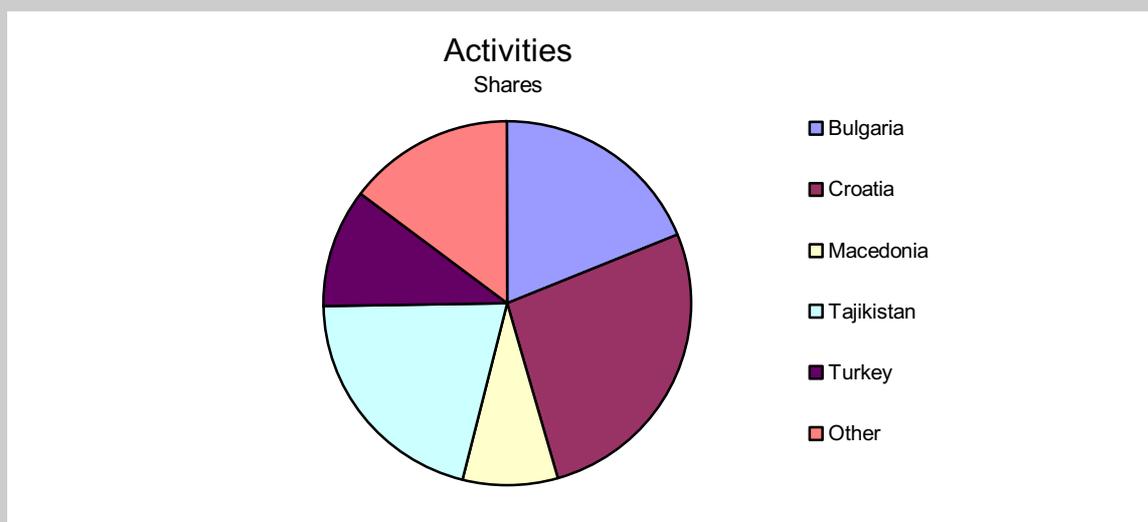
Editor’s note

We appreciate in particular the many good ideas and proposals raised by Sebastian Schüssler and Jasmin Jonietz, trainees at the Wiesbaden Office, who helped us a lot in redesigning the “Statistics across Borders” newsletter.



Review of the year 2008

All in all, 124 statistical activities were undertaken in 2008. Hence we carried out more individual actions than ever before in the course of a year. A total of 94 of these activities were expert missions to the countries covered by the projects. They were organised in the form of workshops, seminars or expert meetings. Besides, 30 study visits took place in Germany or in the countries of the consortium partners. All in all, 19 project-related activities, such as Steering Committee meetings, were organised as well.



Not less than 77 - that is more than half - of all activities concerned three European Twinning projects with Bulgaria, Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. If you add the Twinning project with Tajikistan, which is funded by the World Bank, not less than three quarters of all activities related to four major Twinning projects. This underlines the important role of the Twinning instrument in establishing modern administrative structures.

Two important Twinning projects with Macedonia and Russia were successfully concluded in 2008. In the context of the final audit conducted by external auditors, we again received the top grade "Without complaints" which, as a matter of fact, is rarely awarded. Two major Twinning projects, namely with Bulgaria and Croatia, were launched or largely implemented last year. Both projects are characterised by multi-domain institutional components. As has become apparent, the improvement of the organisational structure and process organisation of statistical systems poses an even greater challenge to the statistical offices than adopting statistical methods and standards which most of the EU-funded Twinning projects have so far focused on. Both the experience we have gained and our good contacts in the area of building statistical infrastructure (statistical capacity building) have been an advantage at the international level. We are satisfied to note that what we have stipulated for many years has now become an internationally accepted philosophy: – namely that training and consultations in statistical subject matters will only have a sustainable effect if they are accompanied by substantial reforms of structures and working processes of recipient institutions and their statistical system.



In this respect, the TAJSTAT project to strengthen official statistics in Tajikistan, which is financed by the World Bank, is a particular challenge to us. It covers the topics of institution building and organization as well as a large scope of statistical subject matters. As the lead institution of an international consortium, we have decided to furnish proof that the Twinning instrument, which is highly ambitious in administrative terms, is suited to turn the statistical system of one of the poorest countries in the world into a system that will provide reliable statistics. Though tackling this challenge involves certain risks, we will be successful.

Worth mentioning are also our project activities in the frame of service contracts. Examples are the large-scale EU project on Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey (USST) with the Turkish statistical office (TurkStat) and another EU project with the Romanian statistical office. In these areas, the inputs from our experts contribute substantially to the excellent reputation of German official statistics. Especially with regard to the USST project, these inputs are designed to further deepen the close partnership with TurkStat, which has been successful for years.

Another main pillar of statistical co-operation are bilateral partnerships, in particular, with China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Korea and soon also Azerbaijan. After the Federal Statistical Office made a decisive contribution to clarifying the strong discrepancies in the bilateral trade statistics as a member of the Working group on economic statistics of the German-Chinese Joint Economic and Trade Committee, plans have been made for the Office's participation in analysing the bilateral trade in services in the context of this working group soon. These activities are being conducted under the auspices of the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and its Chinese counterpart MOFCOM.

We have also contributed substantially to efforts within the European Statistical System to advancing the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). The goal we are actively pursuing now is to win more staff of the Federal Statistical Office as lecturers for the next ESTP. Only in this way can the Federal Statistical Office make an adequate contribution to promoting statistical competence at the European level.

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Interview with Mr Klaus Kickner, Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA) in the Twinning project with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



Since 1993, Mr Klaus Kickner, who is a Graduate Statistician, has worked as Head of Section in the areas of energy, environment and crafts statistics and also of industry indices at the Thuringian Land Statistical Office. In mid-2006, he was sent on secondment as long-term adviser to the Macedonian statistical office in Skopje for a period of 18 months. Commissioned by the Federal Statistical Office, his assignment was to co-ordinate the international consultation activities in the context of the Twinning project on Support to the State Statistical Office (SSO) of Macedonia.



From a present-day perspective, how do you judge your stay in Skopje?

I am grateful that I was given the opportunity to carry out such a project. It took me only a little time to accept the offer to work abroad for a longer period, and I have never regretted my decision.

What was the co-operation with the Macedonian statistical office like?

As a matter of fact, statistics is an adequate area of co-operation between authorities at the international level. Although, of course, there are differences in methodology, the list of variables or organisational structure, the similarities weigh more heavily. Considering the given financial situation, the Macedonian office was equipped with modern technical facilities when I arrived there. Each workplace had its own personal computer, and the eight branch offices were linked by a network. I had the chance to work with excellently qualified and motivated colleagues, some of whom I today refer to as my friends. However, the strictly hierarchical structures and, as I see it, the insufficient extent of delegating decision-making powers and responsibility to lower levels were something unfamiliar to me.

What was new to you?

Definitely the country. Macedonia had more and higher mountains than I had expected when studying the maps initially. There, you can experience unspoilt nature without a hint of mass tourism up to a height of 2,700 metres. Skopje's local mountain is 1,060 metres high, and the Tetovo skiing region is only half an hour's drive away. The country has a range of cultural and tourism jewels to offer, such as Ohrid which is situated on the shores of the gorgeous lake of the same name. The short-term experts and I were impressed by the region's markets, bazaars, food services and, in particular, hospitality.

What was your experience of working there?

Co-operating with international and Macedonian authorities and firms, attending work meetings or receptions hosted by the German ambassador, but also managing everyday life in a foreign country have, of course, influenced the way I now act on official occasions. For me, as a specialised statistician, it was also instructive to look at the requirements, decision-making processes and structures of an authority from the perspective of the top management level and to track the results of analyses and advancements made with international support.



What would you recommend to colleagues who show an interest in working as a Resident Twinning Adviser?

I would recommend to have character traits such as curiosity and interest in the relevant subject plus the ability to communicate easily with people as well as openness. Without the close work relations with the Macedonian colleagues, potential weaknesses and also wishes regarding the individual activities could not have been identified. Intensive discussions with the international short-term experts were designed to convey their impressions and show possible solutions to certain problems. In my view, preparing a joint agenda, filtering out issues to focus on and assessing thoroughly the outcome of a mission as a basis for subsequent activities contribute a lot to the success of a project or, in other words, to getting the message across.

How to prepare for working abroad?

You should brush up your English and talk to colleagues who already worked abroad. Besides, it is a sign of respect to know at least some words of the national language spoken in the country you will go to.

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TAJSTAT Tajikistan – a model for Twinning partnerships with developing countries



In mid-2006, co-operation of the World Bank with the Tajik statistical office Goskomstat was launched in the context of the TAJSTAT Twinning project (Strengthening the National Statistical System of the Republic of Tajikistan). In June of the following year, when the tendering procedure had been completed and the contract signed, the project consortium, under the lead of the Federal Statistical Office, started to implement the agreed co-operation activities of a total of 30 different components. In accordance with the time schedule, the implementation of the agreed activities will be concluded by mid-2011.

At the end of 2008, the mid-term of the five-year period of financial support was reached so that the partners involved in the project carried out what is called a Mid-term review. In November, representatives of the donors, i.e. the World Bank, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the British Department for International Development (DFID), met in Dushanbe with representatives of the consortium, the Tajik statistical office GOSKOMSTAT and international organisations seated in Dushanbe whose fields of activity touch on statistics. Commissioned by the donors, an external adviser analysed the progress of the project and presented the results of his work.

Due to the approach selected, the TAJSTAT project is of outstanding importance. The long-term and large-scale project promotes close co-operation between the partners involved – the joint consortium of the statistical authorities of Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, on the one hand, and the Tajik statistical office, on the other. It is a good example of the opportunities opened up by an advanced financial support policy of the international donors. The TAJSTAT project focuses on improving the statistical system as an integrated whole rather than on a wide range of individual ad hoc activities. Accompanying consultations in areas such as human resources development or the improvement of the legal bases of statistics are designed to ensure sustainability of the co-operation effects in the long term.



A lot of aspects coincide with those covered by the Twinning concept of the European Union. The initial goal of the Twinning projects funded by the European Union was to help candidate countries achieve the legal standards of the European Union. Today, European neighbourhood projects are financed, too. Contributing its long-term experience with EU Twinning projects, the Federal Statistical Office seeks to actively participate in shaping the World Bank's approach and to show that close partnership between public authorities is an efficient instrument of co-operating with developing countries.

Flexibility is a particular advantage in this respect. While the project goals as such are specified, the partners meet at the end of each year to both analyse the results of co-operation during that year and adjust the activities planned for the remaining period of the project in a way to achieve the agreed objectives. By focusing the discussion on the subject areas with the greatest possible efficiency gains, the funds available can be used as effectively as possible.

What conclusions can be drawn around the mid-term of the project? Progress has been made, in particular, in revising the Tajik statistics law as a basis for any statistical activity. Preparations for the population census are well on the way. In areas such as household statistics and national accounts, the partners have worked closely together, too. As regards agricultural statistics, which play a key role in the context of the national strategy to combat poverty, sample surveys for the first time replace the exhaustive surveys conducted in the past to cover small agricultural holdings.

But there are still challenges ahead. One of the main tasks of further co-operation is to integrate the Tajik Project Co-ordination Team (PCT), whose members were taken on to implement the project, into the structures of the Tajik statistical office. This is the only way to make sure that the input of the consortium experts will meet the consultation requirements of the Tajik colleagues in the best possible manner. Improving this co-ordination is to be achieved by the appointment of a Change Manger who has worked for the office and will co-operate closely with the PCT. In addition, Goskomstat must continue to work on an improved documentation of the project results and, in particular, of the implementation of the activities agreed between the technical experts.

The following overview of the project activities carried out in the past six months gives an idea of the wide range of themes covered by the project:

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 24 to 30 July 2008

Consultation on the dissemination of statistical data

Expert mission to Dushanbe/Rogun, 18 to 30 August 2008

Consultation on population census issues

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 1 to 6 September 2008

Consultation on business register issues

Meeting of the consortium in Bonn, 9 September 2008

Discussion of topical issues regarding the World Bank project with Tajikistan

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 22 to 27 September 2008

Consultation on the labour force survey

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 20 to 24 October 2008

Consultation on environmental statistics



Expert mission to Dushanbe, 23 to 29 October 2008

Consultation on industrial statistics

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 23 to 29 October 2008

Consultation on poverty statistics

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 27 October to 1 November 2008

Consultation on how to cover the hidden economy

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 30 October to 8 November 2008

Consultation on national accounting issues

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 3 to 15 November 2008

Further development of the Tajik legal bases for statistics

Steering Committee meeting in Dushanbe, 6 to 13 November 2008

Evaluation of the project's progress and adjustment of the work plan

Study visit to Prague, Czech Republic, 18 to 21 November 2008

Consultation on price statistics

Study visit to Prague, Czech Republic, 25 to 28 November 2008

Consultation on health and education statistics

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 8 to 13 December 2008

Consultation on population census issues

Expert mission to Dushanbe, 15 to 20 December 2008

Consultation on agricultural statistics

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Strengthened co-operation with Kazakhstan – inception mission in November 2008



Due to their strategic significance, the countries of Central Asia have increasingly been in the focus of European and international politics. For this reason, the European Union is highly interested in strengthening its partnership with the countries in Central Asia. Against this background, the German federal government, in the context of its EU Council Presidency, launched an EU strategy for Central Asia in the first half of 2007. This strategy provides for an enhanced European commitment in Central Asia. ¹⁾

For many years, the Federal Statistical Office has co-operated with the Kazakh statistical office in various statistical fields. The Kazakh statistical office expects this co-operation with German official statistics to provide an important impetus to the further development of Kazakh official statistics in respect of the

1) Please see the homepage of the Federal Foreign Office (index word: Central Asia strategy) for more information on the federal government's strategy for Central Asia.



information requirements in a free market economy. The German office has enjoyed a good expertise-based reputation in the Central Asian region for years. Bilateral co-operation between the two offices has largely included activities financed in a project context. Since 2007, Kazakhstan has not received international funding due to the fact that it is regarded as one of the richest countries in the world in terms of its raw material resources.

In the context of the federal government's strategy for Central Asia, the Federal Ministry of Economics has now held out the prospect of funding activities via the TRANSFORM programme of the federal government for the year 2009. As part of the above plans aimed at strengthening co-operation, a fact-finding mission took place at the Kazakh statistical office in Astana on 24 and 25 November 2008. However, the final decision regarding bilateral co-operation still depends on the options for financing the activities planned. The Kazakh partners have announced their preparedness to bear their own costs.

As a result of the increasing importance of the trade dimension and the related necessity to eliminate discrepancies between the foreign trade data of the two countries, foreign trade is a particular focus of bilateral co-operation. The related activities are primarily designed to promote the foreign trade relations and hence to improve the competitive conditions and to strengthen the market position of German businesses in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Service statistics were determined as another area of co-operation with the Kazakh statistical office. Developing service statistics is of great importance to the statistical system of a future threshold country that is characterised by international trade relations and rich natural resources. The focus will not only be on the traditional service industries such as trade, tourism and transport, but also on modern business services relating, for instance, to the advancement of the Kazakh energy sector or on information and communication services (ICT) for the growing number of middle class households in the country. Providing reliable and internationally comparable statistics on the service sector of the country will essentially supplement the areas of competence of official Kazakh statistics. In addition, German investors will thus be provided with information that is important to their decision-making processes regarding their commitment in Kazakhstan in the context of bilateral economic agreements.

Overview of the project activities carried out in the past six months:

[Expert mission to Astana, Kazakhstan, 24 to 25 November 2008](#)
Specification of statistical areas for bilateral co-operation in 2009

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Twinning project with Croatia on the 'home straight'



The Twinning project on Restructuring and Development of the Organisational Structure of the CBS and its Regional Offices and the Adoption of the *Acquis communautaire* in the Selected Statistical Areas (SILC, HBS and Business Statistics), which was designed for a total period of 17 months, is now on the 'home straight'.

Owing to the assistance provided by our partners from the Swedish, Finnish and Danish statistical offices, a considerable number of activities could be carried out and major key goals of the project be achieved in the second half of 2008.

A very good final result was achieved for **Component 1 (Improving the organisational capacity of the CBS)** regarding the reorganisation of the regional structure. Based on the interviews conducted at the individual regional offices, the appointed experts (Twinning and parallel service contract) prepared three alternative options for reorganisation. The option of closing all regional offices within an adequate period of time (definitely several years) is favoured currently.

The consultations on a human resources development scheme and advanced training programme were also concluded successfully in the context of the Twinning project. Based on the results of a staff opinion survey, recommendations for working out their own human resources development scheme were submitted to the managing executives of the Croatian statistical office. The recommendations regarding the advanced training programme were largely implemented by the CBS. In the context of that programme, plans were made for a first training course for new employees in January 2009. Experienced staff/experts of the CBS will be selected to work as lecturers in the course.

The emphasis of **Component 2 (Improving the system of business statistics)** is on identifying the current state of the sample survey and the methods used in the area of short-term statistics. In addition, a pilot survey is to be carried out in the area of business statistics. The software required for this purpose is prepared within the scope of a service contract concluded with the private consultancy firm Human Dynamics. The Twinning consultation activities included in this component were highly satisfactory. The key objectives set for the Twinning project were achieved. Also, the CBS experts made use of the opportunity to visit their counterparts in Sweden, Finland and Ireland in order to exchange experience and views and to familiarise themselves with the systems of business statistics in those countries.

As regards the consultation activities in the context of **Component 3 (Improving the key household based surveys (SILC, HBS))**, very good results were obtained, too.

A pilot survey each was prepared and carried out for the Statistics of Income and Living Conditions (SILC statistics) and the Household Budget Surveys (HBS). The results of the pilot surveys are now analysed and assessed. Many consultation activities were undertaken prior to the pilot surveys. They concentrated, on the one hand, on issues such as questionnaire and table designs and, on the other, on providing in-depth training to staff, interviewers and supervisors. In the context of study visits to the countries concerned, the CBS experts will have the opportunity to exchange their experience and views with their Austrian and German colleagues during the first quarter of 2009.

Service contract for rendering technical support to Croatia

An EU-funded project on the Major Revision of Classifications and Upgrading of Subject-Matter Statistics is expected to be launched in January 2009. The project will be carried out by an international consortium headed by ICON Public Institute Köln. As a member of the consortium, Destatis will also participate in the project whose overall term will be 18 months.



The project comprises five components to achieve the following objectives:

- Component 1 – Ensuring comparability of statistical data of the Republic of Croatia by introducing revised major classifications (Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community – NACE Rev. 2 and Classification of Products by Activity – CPA 2007)
- Component 2 – Migration statistics and population projections, improving coverage and quality of migration data, population projections and production of some demographic indicators
- Component 3 – Time use survey, developing a methodology and carrying out a pilot data collection for the time use survey to be conducted in Croatia for the first time, providing background information and data for the time use study
- Component 4 – Introducing statistics on human resources in science and technology, patent processes, technology balance of payments, high technology products and industries, and launching new surveys including regional aspects
- Component 5 – Procurement of hardware and software (a subcontract will be awarded)

Participating in this project, Destatis will have the opportunity to continue its co-operation with the CBS, which has been successful in the course of the Twinning project, and to build on the objectives that have been achieved together. Destatis will appoint experts for component 3. When need arises, Destatis experts can be involved in the activities of other components, too.

Overview of the project activities carried out in the past six months:

Study visit to Helsinki/Finland, 8 to 11 July 2008

Observation visit regarding the organisational structure of a national statistical office, personnel structure, IT structure, system of official statistics

Expert mission to Zagreb, 14 to 16 July 2008

Consultation in the context of the component "Improving the key household based surveys (SILC, HBS)", SILC: Preparation of interviewer training

Steering Committee meeting in Zagreb, 9 to 10 September 2008

Discussion of the project's progress, preparation of the quarterly report, evaluation of the activities undertaken, planning of activities in the near future, and settling of general issues regarding the Twinning project

Study visit to Cork/Ireland, 15 to 17 September 2008

Observation visit regarding the organisational structure of a national statistical office, personnel structure, IT structure, system of official statistics

Expert mission to Zagreb, 22 to 24 September 2008

Consultation in the context of the component "Improving the key household based surveys (SILC, HBS)", SILC: Interviewer training

Expert mission to Zagreb, 29 September to 1 October 2008

Short-term adviser's mission in the context of the component "Improving the system of business statistics", preparation of the survey

Expert mission to Zagreb, 30 September to 3 October 2008

Consultation in the context of the component "Improving the organisational capacity of the CBS"; second activity to go into the issue of reorganising the CBS and the Croatian statistical system

**Expert mission to Zagreb, 1 to 3 October 2008**

Short-term adviser's mission designed to develop a methodology for STS surveys in the context of the component "Improving the system of business statistics"

Expert mission to Zagreb, 7 to 9 October 2008

Consultation in the context of the component "Improving the organisational capacity of the CBS", first activity to deal with the development of a training programme (basic and advanced training), goal: defining a new human resources development scheme

Expert mission to Zagreb, 18 to 20 November 2008

Continued consultation in the context of the component "Improving the key household based surveys (SILC, HBS)" and processing of data after the EU-SILC pilot survey, in addition evaluation of the pilot survey (data collection, data checks)

Steering Committee meeting in Zagreb, 18 to 20 November 2008

Discussion of the project's progress, co-ordination of the quarterly report, evaluation of the activities undertaken, planning of activities in the near future, and settling of general issues regarding the Twinning project

Expert mission to Zagreb, 24 to 27 November 2008

Consultation in the context of the component "Improving the organisational capacity of the CBS", second activity to go into the issue of a human resources development scheme

Study visit to Cork, 26 to 27 November 2008

Observation visit regarding the organisational and process structure of business statistics and, in particular, short-term statistics (STS) at the Irish statistical office

Expert mission to Zagreb, 28 to 29 November 2008

Consultation in the context of the component "Improving the organisational capacity of the CBS", third activity to deal with the development of a training programme (basic and advanced training)

Expert mission to Zagreb, 1 to 2 December 2008

Short-term adviser's mission designed to specify and co-ordinate the future key themes and focuses of discussion (Adjusting the action plan II) in the context of the component "Improving the system of business statistics"

Expert mission to Zagreb, 1 to 4 December 2008

Seminar on the European Statistics Code of Practice, familiarising the participants with the content and the implementation of the Code of Practice and with the application of the self-assessment questionnaire

Expert mission to Zagreb, 15 to 17 December 2008

Consultation activity on financial management, introducing the budgetary and financial system (planning, controlling, administering, managing financial resources, estimating, calculating, etc.)

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Twinning II with Bulgaria – advanced training in the context of the Twinning project on Reorganising the Regional Structure of the Statistical Office



Providing comprehensive training on selected topics to Bulgarian statisticians from both the regional offices and the central office has been a focus of the Twinning project with Bulgaria. In autumn 2008, experts from Germany, France, Denmark, Finland and Hungary met with their Bulgarian colleagues in Sofia to identify the demand for advanced training and develop tailor-made curricula. The objective was to offer a total of 20 training courses in Bulgaria by August 2009. The following themes and topics were specified for the training courses:

1. Sampling methods

The Bulgarian statisticians have a demand for training regarding both the sampling theory and concrete issues of sampling surveys in selected areas of statistics. For this reason, the training courses comprise a theoretical component (three days) and a practical component (two days). The three five-day courses are designed for staff working in the areas of social and population statistics, business statistics and at the regional statistical offices.

2. Seasonal adjustment

Seasonal adjustment procedures are not yet widely used at the Bulgarian statistical office. The method applied there is TRAMO/SEATS (e.g. Labour Cost Index). Three training courses are therefore designed to focus on basic methodological and technical issues of seasonal adjustment. In addition, examples of time series of selected Bulgarian statistics are to be studied in order to consider the real work of the participants in the courses in the best possible way. Presumably, the courses will only be attended by staff from the central office as seasonal adjustments are not made at the regional level.

3. Data security and statistical confidentiality

The Bulgarian statistical office has a concrete demand for training in the area of data security and statistical confidentiality. Information is required on the relevant legal provisions, technical solutions and their application or implementation in practical circumstances. The three training courses on this subject are designed to cover the legal and ethical principles of data protection, methods of statistical confidentiality and the protection of both tabulated data and microdata.

4. Using administrative data

One of the outstanding objectives of the Twinning project is to provide information on the extended use of administrative data with the aim of reducing the burden on respondents. In the context of two training courses, the staff engaged in social and population statistics and in economic and business statistics are to be familiarised with the methods applied in using those data. The courses are especially designed for staff working in areas where, due to new legal stipulations, administrative data will be made accessible for statistical purposes for the first time. The courses are aimed at both imparting the basic methodological knowledge and training its practical application in the statistical fields concerned.

5. Management training

The courses, which are designed for executive staff of both the central office and the regional offices, comprise the following four modules: overall management and effective management techniques, working with teams, strategic management and initiation of changes, administrative and process management. The



groups of participants are trained by visiting lecturers in two of the four modules. The training in the remaining modules is to be provided by Bulgarian trainers who are to be trained by the lecturers for this purpose.

Plans have also been made to carry out another four IT training courses after the relevant technical equipment will have been supplied and licences been assigned.

Overview of the agreed advanced training activities:

Subject	Number of courses	Course duration (days)	Number of participants
Sample surveys	3	5	16/13/20
Seasonal adjustment	3	3	10/10/10
Data security	3	3	18/17/28
Administrative data	2	3	15/15
Management courses	5	3	5/20/20/20/20
Total	16	54	257

Time schedule:

Subject	Time schedule for 2009						
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.
Sample surveys							
Seasonal adjustment							
Data security							
Administrative data							
Management courses							

Overview of the project activities carried out in the past six months:

Expert mission to Sofia, 29 July 2008

Discussion of the Action plan for reorganisation

Project Steering Committee meeting in Sofia, 30 July 2008

Discussion of the project's progress

Expert mission to Sofia, 23 to 25 September 2008

Identification of the demand for advanced training in the area of using administrative data



Expert mission to Sofia, 6 to 10 October 2008

Consultation on using administrative data

Expert mission to Sofia, 8 to 10 October 2008

Consultation on reorganising the work-sharing process between the central office and the regional offices

Expert mission to Sofia, 8 to 10 October 2008

Identification of the demand for advanced training in the area of seasonal adjustment

Expert mission to Sofia, 13 to 17 October 2008

Identification of the demand in the area of management training

Expert mission to Sofia, 13 to 17 October 2008

Consultation on the dissemination of regional data

Expert mission to Sofia, 22 to 24 October 2008

Identification of the demand for advanced training in the area of sampling procedures

Expert mission to Sofia, 28 to 30 October 2008

Identification of the demand for advanced training in the area of data protection and data security

Project Steering Committee meeting in Sofia, 4 November 2008

Discussion of the project's progress

Study visit to Copenhagen, 10 to 12 November 2008

Cost and performance accounting in Denmark

Study visit to Paris and Toulouse, 1 to 5 December 2008

Work-sharing processes between the central office and the regional offices in France

Expert mission to Sofia, 8 to 12 December 2008

Consultation on modern methods of data collection and processing

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The Federal Statistical Office is involved in the German-Chinese Rule of Law Dialogue



Following the proposal of the Chinese partners, the Federal Statistical Office and the National Bureau of Statistics of China carried out a bilateral legal project on Statistical Legislation between April 2006 and August 2008. The goal of the project was to amend, with German assistance, the 1995 Chinese Statistics Law in order to meet the requirements of a modern statistical system.



In their evaluation, both parties judged the project to have been highly successful and announced their interest to continue co-operation in this area. The parties agreed to shift the focus of future co-operation to implementing the relevant legal regulations.

The Federal Statistical Office's project manager responsible for the German-Chinese project provided Ministerial Counsellor Josef Brink, Head of Division at the Federal Ministry of Justice and Co-ordinator of the German-Chinese Rule of Law Dialogue, with information about the project and the co-operation with the National Bureau of Statistics of China. At the suggestion of the Federal Ministry of Justice, the issue of Statistical legislation was incorporated into the German-Chinese Rule of Law Dialogue. Also, the Federal Statistical Office was asked to report on this project in the context of a big round-table discussion at the Federal Ministry of Justice on 11 November 2008. Following an invitation by Brigitte Zypries, Federal Minister of Justice and German Co-ordinator, Marion Engelter, Head of the FSO Legal Questions Division, and Günter Moser, Project Manager for China, attended the discussion as representatives of the Federal Statistical Office.

Federal Minister Brigitte Zypries and Günter Nooke, the Federal government's Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office, provided information on the progress of the Rule of Law Dialogue in 2008 and the 2008 Human Rights dialogues.

Subsequently, representatives from various institutions gave information on their current legal projects with China. On this occasion, Mrs. Engelter presented the German-Chinese project on Statistical Legislation.

Director-General Dr. Schmitt-Wellbrock, Head of the Judicial System Directorate-General at the Federal Ministry of Justice, and Ministerial Counsellor Josef Brink regarded the discussion as a successful event which would be continued next year. As was emphasised, the exchange of information and views between the German institutions engaged in the German-Chinese Rule of Law Dialogue was of great importance to the further development and the success of the project. And the experience gained in this way was very useful, in particular, for the communication with Chinese authorities and institutions.

All German institutions should therefore continue their projects with the Chinese partner organisations as this would be the only way to make sure that the legal situation in China would improve in a sustainable manner in the long run.

Ministerial Counsellor Josef Brink underlined the importance of the Federal Statistical Office's project on Statistical Legislation in a bilateral discussion at the end of the meeting. He recommended maintaining the Rule of Law Dialogue by a continuation of the project.

Overview of the project activities carried out in the past six months:

[Expert mission to Beijing, 16 to 23 August 2008](#)

Third consultation in the context of the project on Statistical Legislation, more detailed information on statistical confidentiality and discussion of the draft of a Chinese Statistics Law

[Expert mission to Beijing, 16 to 23 August 2008](#)

Planning and preparation of the project on Employment Statistics



Expert mission to Beijing, 15 to 21 November 2008

Consultation on the Price Statistics project, planning of co-operation activities from the beginning of 2009, exchange of information and experience with representatives of the Chinese Trade Ministry and the German embassy on the activities of the Working groups on trade statistics and the international trade in services

Expert mission to Beijing, 15 to 21 November 2008

Planning of the project on Earnings and Labour Cost Statistics

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Sevket KIRICI – Trainee from Turkish Statistical Institute



Sevket Kirici, Trainee at Destatis

Everything started an idea in our Projects Group at TurkStat; why we do not apply for a twinning project and why we do not provide technical assistance to the national statistical offices. In parallel to these ideas, we discussed about which National Statistical Offices would be the best donor office which could help us on the structure and the procedures of the twinning projects and Technical Cooperation Activities. As a result of this discussion, we all agreed that Federal Statistical Office of Germany is one of the best countries. And we decided that the best way to know more about these topics would be send one of us as a trainee to Destatis.

After completion of some internal procedures in my Institute, we applied for two and half month traineeship in Destatis and they answered quickly and they had accepted our request. I was so happy when they informed me about the acceptance of my traineeship. Because, it was a great chance in another statistical office to meet the people whose area of work is similar to yours so that you can discuss with them and to get experience on the Twining Projects and Technical Cooperation Activities.

Following the acceptance everything progressed quickly and I boarded an aircraft from Ankara to Bonn and I arrived in Bonn on Sunday, 6 July 2008.

My flat mate picked me up from the airport and showed me how to go to the office by bicycle.

First day on the way of the office, I was a bit excited like a child going to the primary school first time. Besides this, I was going to the office by bicycle which was quite difficult for me as it was the first bicycling experience after 15 years and it made me a little nervous. But, when I arrived at the office I was feeling better and I found myself very nice and warm atmosphere.

At first, they introduced the office and the member of Division IE staff to me. One of my impression about my first day in the office that everything was well organized it was actually typical German Style.



In the first day at the office, I received a short briefing about the System of German Federal Statistics and Technical Cooperation Activities conducted by Destatis and we discussed my schedule and tasks for the following two and half months. After spending a few days in orientation and training I got familiar with the basics. During my traineeship, I travelled a lot and I also had the chance to visit Wiesbaden Office and meet the other people working for Division IE. All the people I met in Wiesbaden office were so friendly and warm just like in the Bonn office.

I feel that my traineeship was an extremely valuable opportunity for me and it was great, fun, educational, overall a great experience. I was able to develop my skills on Twinning Projects, Technical Cooperation Programmes and Project Management within a really nice working environment. Additionally, in line with the "learning on the job" concept, I directly integrated into the work processes of the division they are assigned to.

That is why, I made a real contribution to the work of the Division IE and I was involved and participated in significant projects and meetings across the Destatis. And I believe that everything that I learned has given me the confidence and a drive to succeed within in my Institute.

As long as I have been here, I enjoyed very much working with all the people. I learned a lot from them not only about technical cooperation activities etc., but also about German hospitality, German Culture, German National Team and many cuisines from the world such as Indian, German, Thai, Pakistan as a whole. Besides this, I believe that we established very good friendship. Because all the people here were always polite, outspoken, helpful and friendly. I am sure; this is one of the important tools that create the success in international cooperation activities.

I would like to thank everybody working for Division IE for their support, kindness, encouragement, positive approaches, friendship and briefly everything throughout my time at Destatis. And I am sure that I will never forget my time at Destatis and especially our canteen and corridor (Cleaning time) talks...

Es ist mir eine Ehre gewesen, mit Ihnen zu arbeiten.

Danke sehr

by Sevket Kirici

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In an overall context:

Overview of the activities relating to the Turkish statistical office



Study visit to Wiesbaden, 30 June to 4 July 2008

Consultation on health statistics

Study visit to Wiesbaden, 8 to 10 July 2008

Training on issues regarding the production survey

Study visit to Wiesbaden, 27 to 29 August 2008

Consultation on short-term economic statistics

Study visit to Wiesbaden and Berlin, 27 to 29 August 2008

Consultation on energy statistics

Study visit to Wiesbaden, 20 to 22 October 2008

Information on the system of regional statistics in Germany

3rd meeting of the Steering Committee in Ankara, 20 November 2008

Discussions were held with the parties involved in the project regarding the further progress of both the project as a whole and its individual components

Study visit to the Federal Motor Transport Authority in Flensburg, 24 to 26 November 2008

Information on road freight transport statistics

Study visit to Wiesbaden, 9 to 10 December 2008

Organisational structure of Labour Cost Index activities



Visit of the President of the Czech Statistical Office on the occasion of the second follow-up seminar on Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities



On 6 and 7 November 2008 the President of the Czech Statistical Office, Mr. Jan Fischer, visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden together with his delegation from the CZSO.



The follow-up seminars were initiated to assess the progress made and the results already implemented of the joint work of Germany and the Czech Republic as regards the application of planning and control instruments. Apart from the need for discussion related with the seminar, both Presidents welcomed the close co-operation between Destatis and the CZSO in project-funded international statistics co-operation. The two Offices are planning to apply for several projects in the near future and to work together as consortium partners.

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Trainee from the Polish government supported statistics co-operation



As part of his training, Mr. Pawel Wnuk from the Polish National School for Public Administration undertook his traineeship abroad here in Wiesbaden from 6 October to 28 November 2008.

Mr. Wnuk commenced his traineeship at the Federal Statistical Office with a two-day stay at the Bonn Branch Office, where he was made familiar with the work of the Bonn colleagues from the statistics co-operation unit. Then he came to Wiesbaden. While he was here, Mr. Wnuk sup-

ported us in preparing project applications and during visits of international guests for information purposes. On account of the knowledge he already had in the field of statistics, he worked for two weeks in the Information and knowledge management section and for one week in Foreign trade statistics. A two-day visit to the Land Statistical Office of Hessen completed Mr. Wnuk's traineeship abroad.

New Twinning light project with Latvia



As a partner of Statistics Finland, the Federal Statistical Office participates in a Twinning light project on Increasing CSB Capacity in Data Protection

and Confidentiality in Latvia. Other project partners are the Danish and the Swedish statistics institutes. The project is scheduled to last six



months and will start in January 2009. It is subdivided into three components dealing with the following tasks:

Component A – Assessment of the current situation at the Latvian Central Statistical Bureau, preparation of recommendations and of an action plan;

Component B – Training of CSB staff with regard to data protection and anonymization of data;

Component C – Improving access to individual statistical data, recommendations for creating a safe centre and a remote access facility.

In addition to the consultations taking place on the spot, the Latvian colleagues have the chance to exchange experience with other member states. To this end, the project provides for four study visits altogether. Destatis will supply an expert from the Research Data Centre for the consultations of components B and C. The Office for Statistics of Berlin-Brandenburg is ready to welcome Latvian guests for a study visit.

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Participation of the Federal Statistical Office in the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) in 2008



Fourteen staff members of the Federal Statistical Office participated in the 30 activities carried out in 2008 by experts (trainers) from Eurostat and from the statistical institutes involved in the ESTP. Four staff members of the Office had the chance to take part in the ESTP course on Quality Management in Statistical Agencies – Introductory Course held in Helsinki, which was particularly interesting. The ESTP is a training programme

funded by the EU and intended for personnel from the statistical institutes of the EU member states, the candidate countries, the EFTA countries and the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat).

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Federal Statistical Office's tender for Tacis 11 accepted



As a partner in a consortium led by the consulting firm ICON Public Institute, Destatis won the EU-wide tender for the project on Further Development of National Statistics in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan – Statistics 11. The project will presumably start in January 2009 and last 12 months.

Destatis thus continues its involvement in Central Asia, one of the priority regions of international co-operation. While there has been a close partnership with the Tajik statistical office since 2007, which is supplemented by the Tacis 11 project, we will resume co-operation with the Kyrgyz statistical office after a pause of several years.

Turkmenistan, however, has not been among the recipients of EU benefits in the sphere of statistics in recent years.

The following project components out of twelve will be carried out in co-operation with Destatis:

Component 2: Industrial statistics – Kyrgyzstan

In this component, the actual situation of economic development in the industrial sector is to be presented and reliable and internationally comparable data are to be supplied as a basis for economic analyses and decision-making processes. Destatis provides the key



expert and two short-term experts in this component.

Component 3: Labour market statistics – Kyrgyzstan

This component is about reforming labour market statistics and making them internationally comparable. Destatis provides four short-term experts in this component.

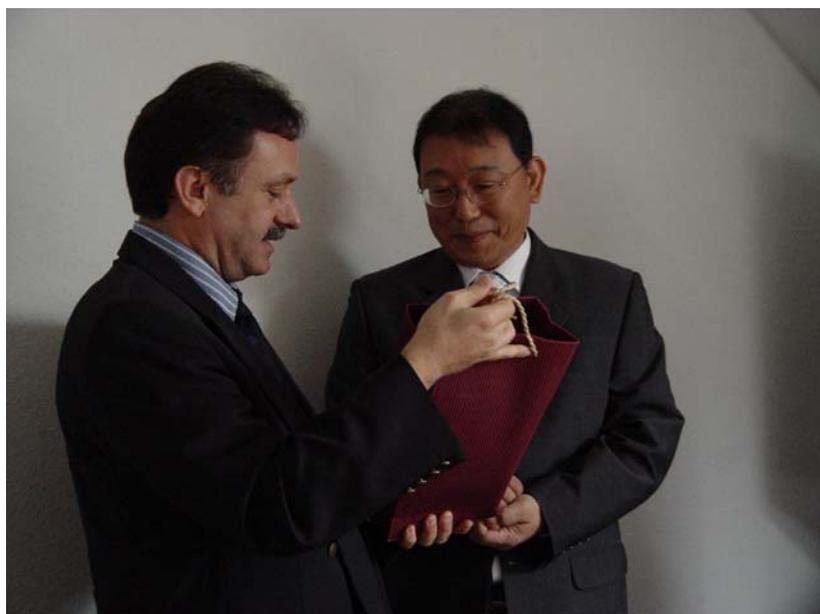
Component 12: Supporting the EC/Central Asia Strategic Co-operation Priorities 2007 – 2013 in the sphere of environment statistics – Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan.

The goal of the strategy plan is to introduce environment management in that region of Central Asia. For this purpose it is absolutely

necessary to reform the statistical capacities of the aforementioned countries and bring them up to international standards. To this end, international methods and procedures for monitoring the environment, climate protection and natural resources are to be introduced, the staff is to be trained and an effective co-operation established between the states of Central Asia in the field of environment statistics. Destatis participates in this component with two short-term experts.

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Trilateral workshop with South Korea and Kazakhstan



Mr. Jeon presenting a gift to Vice-President Weigl

On the occasion of a trilateral workshop on Statistical Training held on 26 and 27 August 2008, the Vice-President of the Kazakh statistical office, Mr. Mendybaev, the Head of the training institute at the Korean statistical office, Mr. Jeon, with his delegation, and representatives of Divisions IE, ZC and IB met in Wiesbaden. The goal of the work-

shop was an exchange of information about the national, supra- and international systems of statistical training. The representatives of Destatis and of the Korean training institute gave recommendations to Mr. Mendybaev regarding the establishment of a Regional Statistical Training Centre supported by the World Bank for the countries of Central Asia, which is presently being planned in Kazakhstan. The possibility of Destatis and the KNSO providing subject-matter assistance to that initiative was discussed. In addition, Mr. Sevket Kirici, who is responsible for EU projects at the Turkish statistical office (TURKSTAT), presented the training activities of his office.

At the beginning of the event, Vice-President Weigl welcomed the delegations. In his address he emphasized the importance of the long-



standing contacts with the statistical offices of the two partner countries.

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Information visit of a Vietnamese delegation on the subject of quality management



To obtain information on quality management at the Federal Statistical Office, a delegation from the Vietnamese Ministry for Planning and Investment, to which the statistical office belongs, visited us from 29 to 30 September 2008. In the course of these two days, experts from the Federal Statistical Office presented our quality assurance initiatives and discussed possible uses at the Vietnamese ministry with the guests.



Vietnam is presently undergoing a phase of rapid change from a centrally planned to a market-oriented economy. The European Union supports that development with the European Technical Assistance Programme for Vietnam. The EU programme focuses on the further development of the Ministry for Planning and Investment. The following goals are being pursued:

- Information, data and metadata will be regarded as the most significant resource.
- Introduction of a culture of continuous quality improvement.
- Use of international standards and best practices in the field of data quality.

In the last ten years, various initiatives were launched at the Federal Statistical Office to systemize and further develop the numerous quality assurance approaches already existing at the Office. Part of that important work was presented to the Vietnamese delegation. Based on a presentation of the German statistical system, our experts provided information on:

- methods and instruments for systematic data quality assessment and the data quality network planned,
- implementation of the EFQM Model for Excellence (European Foundation for Quality Management) at the Federal Statistical Office,
- controlling by indicators at Destatis,
- our Research Data Centre and the usefulness for quality assurance of contacts with the scientific community, and on
- the coherence issue in German labour market statistics.

After their stay at the Federal Statistical Office, the Vietnamese delegation visited Eurostat, where they were informed among others about the advantages and the setting up of a metadata system.



Participation in the Statistical Conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean



Being responsible for Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the five regional economic commissions of the UN, ECLAC every year sends out invitations to the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Statistical Conference of the Americas of ECLAC (SCA-ECLAC). Germany has been a member of that regional organisation since 2005. Representatives of 21 member states attended the meeting, among them were apart from a representative from the Federal Statistical Office, the heads of most Latin American national statistical institutes and of Spain, representatives from France, the United States of America and Canada and of the international organisations operating in the region.

The central goal of the work of SCA-ECLAC is promoting the exchange and the co-operation between the national statistical institutes, especially with a view to monitoring the millenium development goals (MDGs) of the United Nations. At the meeting, the altogether 11 working groups presented the progress made with the work falling within their mandates.

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