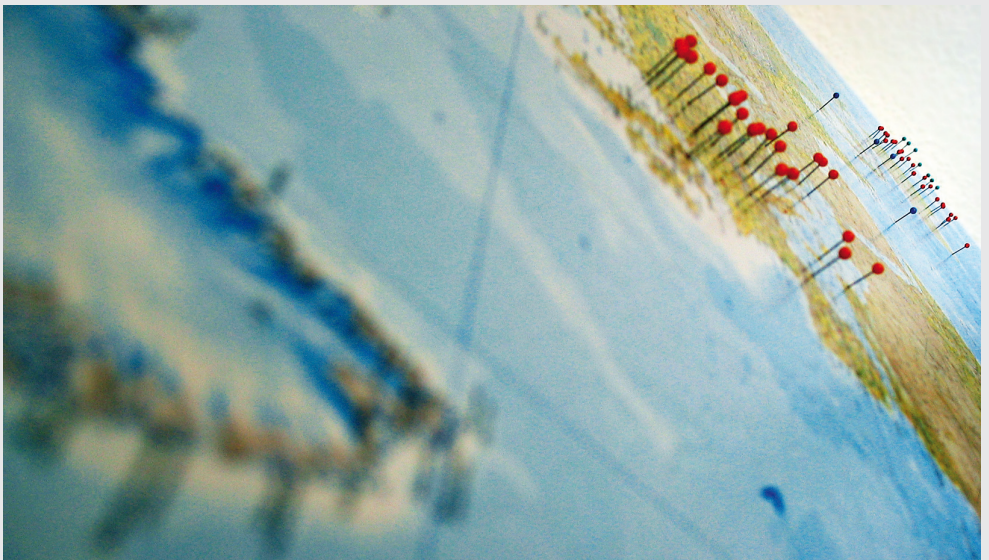


# STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

International statistical co-operation



1/2010

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

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**Federal Statistical Office of Germany**

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Dear reader,

Mid-April 2010: The preparation work for all co-operation missions has been completed for some time. The presentations are ready, the material has been compiled. Flights and accommodation have been booked. As it is, the consultations to take place under the statistics co-operation projects could start right away. But just before the weekend as experts are preparing for the trip to their mission destinations of the following week, there is disturbing news from Iceland: the Eyjafjallajökull is spewing a giant ash cloud. It is clearly visible only above the volcano's crater, but a few days later its effects are felt worldwide, even at places as far from Iceland as Azerbaijan, Tajikistan or Namibia. As a consequence the ash cloud, which brings European air traffic to a complete halt in no time, also affects statistics co-operation. It is fortunate for the experts who have prepared for departure that one thing becomes clear in the course of that April weekend: it is not worthwhile even to get to the airport. Better postpone the missions to make sure the colleagues do not strand at some airport.

Study delegations from Croatia and China who intended to come to Germany have to cancel their trips. The hotel rooms already booked in Bonn for 20 Russian statisticians also remain empty.

The situation is more difficult for those who already are in the partner countries, have accomplished their missions and are now waiting to return. The colleague in Kyrgyzstan has completed the consultations on the forthcoming population census. He gets back to Germany according to schedule with one of the last planes. The return flight of the social statisticians from Tajikistan leaves via Istanbul some days later. Until then, all goes according to plan in spite of the ash cloud – but then there are no connecting flights. In the end, a flight to Vienna can be found to which they are rebooked. This official trip ends only after an unplanned overnight stay in the Austrian capital and a long train ride to Bonn.

The colleague in Windhoek in Namibia does not even manage to leave the partner country. The return flight he has been booked on is cancelled. When at last permission is given for planes to start, they are all booked out so that it takes some days until he can eventually get onto a flight.

And then there is the colleague from Tajikistan who also gets as far as Istanbul. Two days pass without a message from her until she finally and surprisingly gets into contact – from Frankfurt. After two day's delay, at least that study visit can begin.

We are glad to report on the following pages that not all actions of the past half year took place under adverse circumstances.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please send an e-mail to:

[international-cooperation@destatis.de](mailto:international-cooperation@destatis.de)

The editors

### **Strengthening co-operation with the Azerbaijani statistical office**



Co-operation with the colleagues of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan was characterised by two highlights in the first half of 2010:

In January, the implementation phase of the German-Azerbaijani Twinning project designed to give “Support to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SSC) to reach European standards in national accounts, the non-observed economy, business statistics and the producer price index” began with a number of initial expert missions. In the context of this project, Destatis has been supported by experts from the EU Member States of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Lithuania.

The EU Twinning project is aimed at developing the statistical system in Azerbaijan by introducing new statistical methods in substantial accordance with the standards applied throughout the European Union. The project has a scheduled duration of 24 months. Its budget is funded from both European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and EU Eastern Partnership resources.

Statistics form a focus of the ENP agenda for Azerbaijan. International standards relating to the economic statistics covered by the project are subject to continuous development. Using the assistance provided in the context of the co-operation project, the SSC is enhancing its capacity to keep abreast of the developments and comply with the EU “acquis communautaire” in this area.

The project goals are to improve comparability of the Azerbaijani national accounts with the European system, enhance the accuracy of estimates of the non-observed economy, increase the information value of economic statistics by adopting proven methods of the EU Member States and expand the producer price index in a way that data on the intermediate consumption of enterprises will be covered more adequately in the individual sectors of the economy.

Another highlight of co-operation was a meeting of the heads of the statistical offices of Azerbaijan, Germany and Bulgaria in Baku in April of the year. Mr Roderich Egeler, President of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, and Ms Mariana Kotzeva, President of the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria, met their Azerbaijani counterpart Mr Arif Valiyev. On that occasion, the heads of office signed a Joint Declaration of Intent to strengthen co-operation between the German and the Azerbaijani statistical offices.

## **Overview of the project activities**

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 25 to 28 January 2010**

Consultation on business statistics – initial activity

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 1 to 4 February 2010**

Consultation on national accounts – initial activity

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 8 to 11 February 2010**

Consultation on the non-observed economy – initial activity

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 9 to 12 February 2010**

Consultation on the producer price index – initial activity

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 15 to 18 February 2010**

Consultation on structural business statistics

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 22 to 25 February 2010**

Consultation on the business register

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 29 to 30 March 2010**

1st meeting of the Project Steering Committee

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 12 to 16 April 2010**

Consultation on national accounts

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 3 to 6 May 2010**

Consultation on national accounts



## Azerbaijan

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### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 17 to 20 May 2010**

Consultation on national accounts

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 17 to 21 May 2010**

Consultation on short-term economic statistics

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 24 to 27 May 2010**

Consultation on the non-observed economy

### **Study visit to Prague/Czech Republic, 31 May to 4 June 2010**

Consultation on the business register

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 8 to 11 June 2010**

Consultation on the non-observed economy

### **Expert mission to Baku/Azerbaijan, 22 to 24 June 2010**

2nd meeting of the Project Steering Committee

## Chinese Statistics Law amended with German assistance



Since 2006, the Federal Statistical Office and the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China have carried out a project on Statistical Legislation.

The goal of the project has been to provide the National Bureau of Statistics with assistance in amending the 1995 Chinese Statistics Law to meet the requirements of a modern statistical act, not least with respect to statistical confidentiality and the users' right to access official statistical information.

As regards the overall system of Chinese official statistics, the new Statistics Law has also reinforced the standing of the National Bureau of Statistics vis à vis the other statistics producing authorities at the national level and the statistical offices at the regional level.

The focus of the first project phase lasting until 2008 was on the content of the Federal Statistics Law and, in particular, on the provisions relating to statistical confidentiality, the obligation to provide information and the initiation of non-compliance procedures. In addition, the European legal acts relating to statistics and the content and application of examples of statistical legislation, such as the Microcensus Law and the Law on Using Administrative Data, were discussed in the context of the bilateral consultations. At the close of the first project phase, the German and Chinese legal experts discussed the draft of the new Chinese Statistics Law. After the end of consultation, the draft was submitted for approval to the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China approved the amended Statistics Law on 27 June 2009. The Law came into force on 1 January 2010.

Complying with the request of the Federal Ministry of Justice and the Legislative Affairs Office under the Chinese State Council, the two national statistical offices have continued their bilateral dialogue on statistical legislation matters after the first project phase was successfully implemented and completed.

The focus of the consultation activities during the second project phase, which will end in 2011, is on the preparation of implementing provisions and their application at the regional level.

### **Overview of the project activities**

#### **Study visit to Wiesbaden/Germany, 16 to 22 May 2010**

Continuation of the project on Statistical Legislation

#### **Study visit to Wiesbaden and Bonn/Germany, 6 to 12 June 2010**

Continuation of the project on Employment Statistics

#### **Seminar of three countries in Xiamen/People's Republic of China, 24 to 25 June 2010**

Continuation of the project on Employment Statistics

## Third statistics seminar of the statistical offices of China, Germany and Korea

Following the 2005 and 2007 seminars, the heads of the national statistical offices of China (NBS), Germany (Destatis) and Korea (KOSTAT), Mr Ma Jiantang, Mr Roderich Egeler and Ms Yi InSill, for the third time met for an exchange of information and experience in China's south-eastern city of Xiamen on 24 and 25 June 2010.

The host of the seminar, namely the National Bureau of Statistics of China, was supported in its organisational activities by the regional statistical offices of both the Fujian province and the city of Xiamen.



From left to right: Commissioner Ma Jiantang (NBS), President Roderich Egeler (Destatis), Commissioner InSill Yi (KOSTAT)

More than 30 delegates from the three national statistical offices participated in the seminar. The German delegation was headed by President Roderich Egeler. The delegation included Ms Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski,

Head of the Department of Strategy and Planning, International Relations, Research and Communication, Ms Stephanie Hirner (Census Division) and Mr Günter Moser (Division of International Co-operation).

The seminar focused on censuses conducted in or planned for areas such as economy, population and agriculture.

The speeches given by Chinese, German and Korean representatives in the course of the four work sessions dealt with the role and function of censuses in official statistics, the planning and conduct of censuses and the use of census data.

The German contribution focused on the population census which will take place in 2011.

On the whole, it became clear that there is a need for more extensive use of register data in all three countries and that this trend is irreversible. Particularly against the background of both the citizens' declining acceptance and readiness to provide information and cuts in the budgets of official statistics, the statistical offices must develop strategies to address these challenges.

On 26 June 2010, after the end of the seminar, the German delegation went to Shanghai where it was received by the German Consul General for a discussion in the late morning. In the evening, the delegation visited the EXPO world exhibition.

## **TAJIKISTAN – many study visits by Tajik colleagues in the context of the TAJSTAT project**



Led by Destatis, the statistical offices of Denmark, Sweden, Slovakia and the Czech Republic have worked together in a consortium to carry out a large-scale project funded by the World Bank that is aimed at strengthening the

Tajik statistical system.

In accordance with the agreed work schedule, Tajik statisticians participated in a whole range of study visits to the consortium countries in the first half of 2010. During the first two and a half years of the TAJSTAT co-operation project, which had been initiated in 2007, the project activities focused on missions undertaken by international experts to Tajikistan. In the course of those missions, consultation was provided with respect to statistical surveys either conducted at the time or additionally agreed in the project context. In the period under review, when surveys had been completed in most of the areas, Tajik colleagues from central specialised units visited their colleagues in Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Sweden to gain deep insight into the work processes at the given statistical offices.

The implementation phase of the TAJSTAT project will end in June 2011.



Mr Ulf-Karsten Keil (Destatis), Ms Tatiana Gukasova from the Tajik statistical office and Ms Kerstin Hänsel (Destatis) during a discussion about the distribution of statistical data in Wiesbaden

## Overview of the project activities

### **Meeting of the consortium in Bonn/Germany, 19 January 2010**

Consultation on the project progress

### **Study visit to Prague/Czech Republic and Bratislava/Slovakia, 26 to 29 January 2010**

Consultation on the co-operation with ministries and other important users of official statistics

### **Study visit to Bonn/Germany, 9 to 12 January 2010**

Training course for junior staff of the Tajik statistical office

### **Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 15 to 24 February 2010**

Consultation on poverty statistics

**Study visit to Örebro/Sweden, 22 to 26 February 2010**

Training course on sampling methodology

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 22 to 27 February 2010**

Consultation on transport statistics

**Study visit to Örebro/Sweden, 1 to 5 March 2010**

Training course on seasonal adjustment

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 8 to 13 March 2010**

Consultation on national accounts

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 15 to 20 March 2010**

Consultation on trade statistics

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 15 to 20 March 2010**

Consultation on labour force statistics

**Study visit to Wiesbaden/Germany, 16 to 19 March 2010**

Consultation on human resources management

**Study visit to Halle/Germany, 22 to 25 March 2010**

Consultation on construction price statistics

**Study visit to Bratislava/Slovakia, 23 to 26 March 2010**

Consultation on transport statistics

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 12 to 17 April 2010**

Consultation on social statistics

**Study visit to Wiesbaden/Germany, 22 to 23 April 2010**

Consultation on the dissemination of statistical data

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 26 to 30 April 2010**

Consultation on financial statistics

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 28 April to 11 May 2010**

Consultation on income and expenditure statistics



**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 29 April to 5 May 2010**

Consultation on poverty statistics

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 20 to 26 May 2010**

Consultation on the dissemination of statistical data

**Study visit to Wiesbaden/Germany, 25 to 28 May 2010**

Consultation on the reorganisation of the Tajik statistical office

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 14 to 19 June 2010**

Consultation on the project progress

**Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 14 to 23 June 2010**

Consultation on national accounts

**Study visit to Bratislava/Slovakia, 15 to 18 June 2010**

Consultation on poverty statistics



## Tacis 11 – Co-operation with Turkmenistan

In the context of the EU funded TACIS-Statistics 11 programme, the Federal Statistical Office has provided consultation to the statistical offices of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. While this office has had close co-operation relations with the two first mentioned offices in the past few years, collaboration with the Turkmen office was only resumed after a break of several years. Between 1993 and 2003, Turkmen statisticians undertook a number of study visits to Germany, and some expert missions were organised to take place in Turkmenistan. Those activities focused mainly on foreign trade and price statistics, national accounts and various economic statistics. After a break due to political reasons, the European Union's project-related assistance for Turkmenistan, too, was continued in the context of the TACIS-11 programme. Destatis has been engaged in the co-operation activities with Turkmenistan in the project components on "Quality management in official statistics" and "Environment statistics".

Generally, co-operation with Turkmenistan is characterised by serious formal obstacles that emerge right from the beginning when a visa is to be obtained. Currently, for instance, it is not sure whether a planned study visit to Germany can take place as it is not clear whether the Turkmen colleagues will receive permission to travel. Also, having a discussion with representatives of other institutions engaged in the statistical production process is especially difficult in Turkmenistan as the competent authorities must be notified of the intention one month before the scheduled date of the discussion and the questions must be submitted in advance.

In the Turkmen capital of Ashgabat, our expert Mr Oswald Angermann led, among other things, a seminar on Quality Management in Official Statistics and assessed the status quo regarding the standards applied in selected statistical areas.

In the following, Mr Angermann outlines that, despite all the bureaucratic obstacles, Ashgabat is a city with a modern face, too.

### **Turkmenistan – quite an adventure**

Turkmenistan is situated in southern Central Asia. It is bordered by the Caspian Sea to the west, Iran to the south, Afghanistan to the southeast, and Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to the north. About 5 million people live in an area of 500,000 square kilometres. Thus the number of inhabitants per square kilometre amounts to 10. The capital of Ashgabat is located in the very south of the country, i.e. only 20 kilometres away from the border with Iran which is situated behind a range of mountains that are still covered with snow in May.

Actually, I only visited the new district of Ashgabat where all old single-storey houses had been demolished to make room for new buildings and parks. However, the city centre has some very few old though properly restored residential and administrative buildings that are equipped with huge satellite dishes.

The cityscape is dominated by magnificent new buildings, all of them covered with white marble from Iran and capped with white, green or golden cupolas, by golden monuments dedicated to Turkmenbashi, the Turkmen state leader who died in late 2006, and by a range of other gigantic monuments. What is particularly striking are the numerous fountain installations in this city surrounded by steppe. And there are spacious and in most cases new parks with young trees. Huge numbers of female workers are busy hoeing and planting in flowerbeds. The statistical office, too, is covered with marble. Its entrance is guarded by soldiers, as are the entrances of all other government buildings.

Splendid avenues with two to four lanes on either side and splashing fountains over distances of several kilometres lead out of the city centre. There are five-metre wide pavements and wide green verges on either side of the roadways. The avenues are lined by 12-storey buildings, all of them covered with white marble. Probably, only the rich can afford to live there. The streets are spotlessly clean as, every few hundred metres, you will notice veiled women busily sweeping away the dirt with their besoms.

You do not see many cars in the streets. It is only during the rush hour that the traffic temporarily gets a bit heavy. As many Turkmen citizens cannot afford to buy a car of their own, they use the low-priced bus system which is very well developed. Or they just stand on the roadside waving for a car to stop. Car drivers often give them a lift for a few dinars.

The hotels are clean and tidy. While the European dishes served in hotels and restaurants are expensive, ordinary local restaurants offer reasonably priced regional dishes such as pasties filled with meat or vegetables, beef shashlik, lamb or chicken, various soups and marvellous cakes.

Oswald Angermann

## **Overview of the project activities**

### **Component 3: Labour migration and population statistics**

#### **Expert mission to Bishkek/Kyrgyz Republic, 5 to 15 April 2010**

Preparation of a pilot survey – sample design, questionnaires

### **Component 5: Quality management in official statistics**

#### **Expert mission to Ashgabat/Turkmenistan, 11 to 15 January 2010**

Assessment of the status quo incl. a structural analysis and description of tasks

#### **Expert mission to Ashgabat/Turkmenistan, 9 to 19 March 2010**

Continued assessment of the status quo incl. a structural analysis and description of tasks and conduct of a seminar on Quality Management

### **Component 12: Environment statistics**

#### **Expert mission to Ashgabat/Turkmenistan, 11 to 15 January 2010**

Assessment of the status quo incl. a presentation of environmental-economic accounts, preparation of a pilot survey and revision of questionnaires

#### **Expert mission to Dushanbe/Tajikistan, 17 to 21 May 2010**

Conduct of a seminar on European Standards in the Statistics on Water Resources for Tajik and Kyrgyz experts

#### **Expert mission to Bishkek/Kyrgyz Republic, 13 to 19 June 2010**

Conduct of a seminar on European Standards in the Statistics on Air Pollution for Tajik and Kyrgyz experts

## Lasting contacts with Eurostat established during the European Statistical Week 2010 at Eurostat



As reported in the previous edition, this year again two staff members of the Federal Statistical Office had the opportunity to become familiar with the structure of the European Statistical System and to meet colleagues of their own work unit at Eurostat during the practical part of the course, thus establishing contacts at working level (so-called “shadowing”).





*Ms Mareike Schiffko*

Member of Academic Staff in the Section “Supranational and International Co-ordination”

“My highlight was to get a deep insight into the Eurostat activities. Especially visiting individual work units and shadowing the staff members made the week a special experience by which I learned a lot about the work of Eurostat. What was particularly interesting for me was to meet personally the Eurostat staff members with whom I usually have just e-mail contact. Moreover, through the exchange with statisticians from various member states I learned much about the activities of the other statistical offices and statistical systems in Europe.”



*Mr Ingo Planz*

Member of Academic Staff in the Section “Statistical Databases, Data Warehouse”

“To me, the highlights of the week were the insight I got into the structures and functioning of Eurostat and, in particular, the opportunity to shadow colleagues in the Eurostat unit “Statistical Information Technologies”. The colleagues gave me insight into their work, which has enhanced my knowledge of the European Statistical System. With the European Statistical Week, Eurostat has created a training course which provides a good insight into Eurostat and hopefully will have many participants also in the future.”

## News in brief

### Meeting of the ESS-LDF Task Force in Wiesbaden

From 29 to 30 June 2010, the Federal Statistical Office hosted the meeting of the ESS-LDF Task Force (“European Statistical System – Learning Development Framework”) in Wiesbaden. In addition to Destatis, eight other national statistical institutes of EU countries are represented in the Task Force under the chairmanship of Eurostat. Its strategic objective is preparing proposals for the further development of the European Statistical Training Programme.



From left to right: Ms Molcuti (Romania), Mr Stoppoloni (Italy), Ms Koll (Destatis), Mr Gamez (EFTA), Ms Hlavackova (Czech Republic), Mr Ottaiano (Italy), Ms Moore (Destatis), Ms Filip (Eurostat), Mr Claus (Destatis), Ms Köhler (Destatis), Ms Fransen, Mr van Muiswinkel (both from the Netherlands), Ms Radermacher (Eurostat), Ms Kronz (Destatis), Mr Frankenberg (Sweden), Ms Jopek (Poland), Ms Miles (Great Britain), Ms Oberhausen (Eurostat), Mr Trognon (France)

At the meeting, the participants of the Task Force discussed the use of new technologies for self-study and for the advanced training of interviewers (e-learning), the establishment of a portal for advanced statistical training at European level and the development of a competence profile for European



statisticians. The presentation of the e-learning program for interviewers used in the context of the Microcensus met with great interest on the part of the foreign participants. The preliminary work and findings presented at the meeting will be submitted as proposals to the Eurostat Working Group on ESTP and Human Resources Management in October 2010.



### High-level delegation from Brunei

On 18 May 2010 President Egeler welcomed the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Economic Planning and Development from Brunei, Mr Murni, and his delegation. The visit of the group headed by Prof. Dr. Reiner Stäglin was part of a project implemented by the Consulting Company of the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW econ). The purpose of the visit was getting to know the structure and organisation of the Federal Statistical Office and the structure and working practice of official statistics.



From left to right: Ms Kerstin Dietzel, Ms Simone Koll, President Roderich Egeler (all Destatis), Permanent Secretary Haji Murni Haji Mohamed, Prof. Dr. Reiner Stäglin (DIW econ), Ms Hjh Zureidah Hj Abit, Ms Nur Edzalina Hj Idris, Mr Hasmiron Hj Mohd Taib

## **Co-operation with the Russian Federation – seminar series for the top management of the regional statistics agencies and Rosstat**



As reported in Statistics across Borders 2/2009, the Federal Statistical Office is running four courses on the subject of TQM for Russian statistics experts. The third course was held from 28 February to 13 March 2010 in Bonn. The fourth course scheduled for April had to be postponed due to the cloud of volcano ash mentioned in the editorial and the resulting flight restrictions in Europe. That final course will now be held in November.

## **EU support to the State Statistical Office of the FYR of Macedonia**



On 1 February 2010, the EU-funded project to support the process of accession to the EU in the field of statistics was launched, which has a duration of 24 months. The project partners of the State Statistical Office of Macedonia are ASA Institut für Sektoranalyse und Politikberatung GmbH in consortium with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the Czech Statistical Office. In the years 2006 to 2008, the Federal Statistical Office already successfully completed an EU Twinning project as partner of the Macedonian State Statistical Office. The good co-operation of the two Offices is to be continued under the new EU project. The objectives are the development of a quality system for all processes in the production of statistics, the further harmonisation of national accounts and other economic statistics, and the improvement of business statistics and social statistics. With the support of an expert from the Land Statistical Office of Sachsen-Anhalt, the Federal Statistical Office will initially deal with construction price statistics. The first consultation on price indices in construction was held in Skopje from 25 to 28 May 2010.

## **12th meeting of the Management Group on Statistical Cooperation (MGSC) in Luxembourg on 18/19 March 2010**



Since April 1999, the MGSC has been convened once a year under the chairmanship of Eurostat. It is responsible for the practical implementation of the transition facilities and IPA statistics programmes (Instrument for Pre-Accession replacing Phare and Cards) and deals with accession-related issues in the sphere of statistics.

As in recent years, the meeting was characterised by lectures and presentations of participants. One of the main subjects was the exchange of information on recently launched Twinning projects with countries of the European Neighbourhood, that is mainly Mediterranean and South Caucasian countries. The participants from the Federal Statistical Office took the chance to report on first experiences with the Twinning project with Azerbaijan.

## Internal changes

Organisational and personnel changes in Statistical Co-operation:

With effect from 1 July 2010, a new organisational structure has been set up at the Federal Statistical Office, which has markedly reduced the number of Divisions. Together with the Sections responsible for National and International Co-ordination, the two Sections of Statistical Co-operation are now part of one Division. So project-related and institution-related international co-operation are now united in one organisational unit. With those organisational changes, our unit e-mail address has changed, too:

[international-cooperation@destatis.de](mailto:international-cooperation@destatis.de)

Mr Wolfgang Schulze, who was Head of Section at our Bonn location from the year 2000, has been seconded to the Federal Ministry of the Interior for two years since May 2010, where he is entrusted with international tasks, too. During his first few years in Statistical Co-operation, he launched the Office's first Twinning project with the Polish statistical office as project leader and, in addition, he was project leader of many other successful Twinning projects.

We wish him good luck in his new job.



Since the beginning of this year, Ms Kronz has been Assistant Head of Section in the Wiesbaden-based Section of Statistical Co-operation.

“To me, working together with people of other cultural backgrounds is a multifaceted and fascinating activity and an enriching experience.”

We wish Ms Kronz every success.

## Trainees' statement

The International Statistical Co-operation activities are regularly supported by trainees.

*Ms Sylvia Hribik - January and February 2010 in Bonn:*



„The traineeship was characterised by multifaceted tasks, which gave me an insight into various themes and procedures of the International Statistical Co-operation unit and of the entire Federal Statistical Office. From the very beginning, I was involved in the events as I participated in the current projects; I was able to work independently and to use my personal skills. We welcomed interesting guests, for example, from European statistical offices, from the World Bank or from statistical offices of the former Soviet Union. I always felt

at ease and well taken care of and got much food for thought and many impulses for my further personal development.”

The Statistical Co-operation unit at the Federal Statistical Office is permanently looking for candidates willing to serve as long-term experts in the various projects. The Federal Statistical Office is setting up a pool of interested persons who can be contacted when such a long-term expert position is to be filled. Candidates should have a strong relation to statistics and be employed in an authority of an EU Member State.

### **Long-term expert for EU Twinning projects International Statistical Co-operation**

#### **General**

The Federal Statistical Office is one of Germany's largest information providers. We offer figures, analyses and advice, using state-of-the-art information and communication technology.

The Federal Statistical Office is strongly committed to international co-operation. Its staff members perform consulting missions in Germany and abroad for staff of foreign statistical offices, thus supporting our partner countries in statistical capacity building.

#### **Tasks**

For international statistical co-operation projects we are looking for long-term experts to work direct in the partner country over the entire project duration. In Twinning projects of the European Union they fill the position of Resident Twinning Adviser (RTA). Long-term experts are responsible for implementing co-operation missions of short-term experts to the partner country. They manage the individual project components both in technical and financial terms and maintain contacts with those responsible in the partner organisation.

They closely co-operate with the project leader in the Federal Statistical Office. Their tasks also include monitoring the project progress and participating in project reporting.

Major partners in this Office's international co-operation activities include the statistical offices of the EU candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey, Macedonia) and of the succession states of the former Soviet Union (i. a. Russia, Caucasus countries). The long-term experts are trained for their assignment by the EU Commission.

For questions on a possible assignment please contact:  
Mr Ringo Raupach, tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 89 32

**The period covered by an assignment generally is about two years.**

### **Requirements** For an assignment as a long-term expert:

- Academic degree in a field of study related to statistics
- At least five years of relevant work experience and current employment in public administration, ideally in a statistical office. Pensioners who retired not more than three years ago can also be assigned as long-term experts.
- Readiness for long-term stay abroad
- Experience in project/team management
- Knowledge of the binding statistical standards of the EU (Acquis Communautaire)
- Very good command of oral and written English; knowledge of other languages an asset

**Duty station****In the partner country****Application**

- The Federal Statistical Office is permanently looking for candidates who are willing to serve as long-term experts.
- Interested persons will be included in our database and be contacted for project applications.
- Please send any letters of interest, ideally including a CV, to:

Mr Ringo Raupach, e-mail: [ringo.raupach@destatis.de](mailto:ringo.raupach@destatis.de)  
tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 89 32

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