



INFORMATION



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Center for Central and Eastern Europe



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Technical Cooperation in Statistics with Central and Eastern European Countries and the New Independent States

President Hahlen met Goskomstat's Sokolin in Moscow

From 17 to 19 February 1999, the Heads of the National Statistical Institutes of Germany and Russia discussed the present and future bilateral statistical cooperation at the State Committee on Statistics of the Russian Federation (GOSKOMSTAT) in Moscow. V. L. Sokolin, head of GOSKOMSTAT evaluated update cooperation with Germany's statistics as being useful for reforming Russia's statistics. There will be more forthcoming opportunities for the exchange of know-how and experience on different projects. A protocol on future bilateral cooperation and information exchange was signed by President Hahlen and Sokolin. A bilateral agreement will follow in time.

The Russian representatives pointed out that the new statistical surveys on trade, agriculture, and industry statistics as well as the procedures for the computation of the industrial production index and of the input-output tables are mainly based on German consulting. The Russian Federation appreciates Germany's role as partner in close statistical cooperation. The discussions were focused on the new regional project "Statistics-3" as part of the Tacis program. The restructuring of the federative and regional statistical system in Russia was identified as a precondition for the provision of information to the regional and local authorities. Russia's administrative system is subdivided into 89 territories each with its own regional government and each following different economic policies. Thus Russia is facing also a quantitative challenge. The major actions of this regional project are first to draft a catalogue of variables for the regional level, second to restructure or even establish regional statistical offices and third to coordinate the cooperation between the regional offices and the National Statistical Office in Moscow. The National Statistical Institutes of France, Finland, Spain, and Sweden will also give support to this Tacis regional project.

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Internet

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Tacis-Phare meeting on "Information Technology"

On 7 January 1999, a meeting on issues of information technology (IT) as components of the Phare and Tacis programs of the European Union was held in Luxembourg. Experts from Eurostat, the National Statistical Institutes of Sweden and Lithuania, and from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany discussed and evaluated a report on the Phare countries' equipment with modern hardware and software. The report approves, that the national statistical offices are now well equipped with compatible hardware and software. That report also recommends both a joint programming and a multinational cooperation to solve comparable problems in the Phare countries.

Such cooperation among Phare countries will be coordinated at the EU Research Center in Ispas, Italy. In spring 1999, a concept on this issue will be drafted. EU member states will also contribute to the project on "Technology Transfer". Eurostat is ready to release publications on information technology issues. That series will start with the edition of a volume on the information technology and infrastructure in the Phare countries.

The ongoing statistical cooperation between EU countries on information technology was also discussed. The „Fifth Program for Research and Technological Development“ of the EU Commission provides funds for research projects. This program includes the evaluation of the update exchange of technology and the transfer of know-how at the national statistical offices.

A high-level seminar for EU member states and Phare countries on the project "Information Technologies and Technology Transfer" is envisaged for summer 1999. Eurostat is focusing on such topics as metadata and electronic data exchange.

It is striking to note that in Tacis countries technological progress is less advanced than in Phare countries. First of all it is planned to draft strategies and basic concepts for the modernization of information technologies in

those countries lagging behind Phare countries.

Multi-country projects and accession strategy

Since 1998 the new Phare programs on multinational cooperation in statistics have been taking into account the accession to the EU. That EU accession strategy focuses on those five reform countries which have taken up accession negotiations: Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovenia, and Estonia. A major challenge is the rearrangement of those statistics which provide information on the fulfillment of the accession criteria. The current technical cooperation with those Phare countries waiting for negotiations is based, however, on the requirements of each country. In 1997/1998, evaluation studies had been drafted by experts from the FSO of Germany and the Statistical Office of Baden-Wuerttemberg. The studies contributed to the identification of substantive areas of cooperation with the Phare countries.

Phare and the role of the statistical offices of Germany's federal states

In 1999 as well as in previous years, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany is supporting and implementing various Phare activities in close cooperation with the statistical offices of the Federal States of Germany. Countries to be supported are the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Romania, and the Slovak Republic. During the latest meeting of the Agricultural Statistics Committee of the EU, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany was nominated to become Poland's accession partner in agricultural statistics, taking into consideration the terms of the Phare project on agriculture. The emphasis of the consulting activities of the statistical offices of the Federal States was put on issues of regional statistics in both the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.



Country Reports



The Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Cooperation with the Baltic states started in early 1992, when the head of the Berlin Branch of the Federal Statistical Office visited Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Experts from the Baltic states were welcomed to Berlin for the first time in spring 1992 as participants of an agricultural workshop. Those cooperation activities were followed by multilateral seminars and workshops held on labor market statistics, on the reporting system of wage statistics and on national accounts for the benefit of participants from the Baltic states. On request of the National Statistical Institute of Estonia, new cooperation activities became part of the current Phare program: the main topics are the structure and distribution of income, the index of labor cost, tourism statistics, transport statistics, service statistics, statistics on the public sector, and price statistics.

Technical cooperation with Lithuania

On 18 June 1997 the Hessian Statistical Office and the Republic of Lithuania signed a declaration on providing assistance to restructure official statistics in Lithuania. Experts from the Hessian Statistical Office visited Vilnius from 25 to 27 November 1998 following an invitation by the director-general of the "Department for Statistics" of the government of Lithuania. That information exchange between German and Lithuanian experts was financed through Phare funds and served to assist the Lithuanian experts to set up a harmonized system of consumer price indices and con-

struction cost indices and to prepare the 1999 population census, scheduled for 1 December 1999,.

Population Census in Lithuania in 1999

The consultations on the population census in Lithuania were focused by the German experts on such issues, as public relations and campaigns, identification of covered information and electronic data processing. The implementation and evaluation of pilot surveys as well as organizational and staff issues were also discussed.

The managers of the population census in Lithuania made quite early use of a common logo to support the census promotion campaigns. Posters, newspaper advertisements and radio and TV spots often do not reach all private households. The German experts recommended to mail in bulk unaddressed general information and a questionnaire as annex. Germany's experience to organize meetings for the discussion on crucial issues of a census in time was also fruitful for Lithuania's census-managers.

The questionnaire envisaged for the population census was discussed in detail. The EU proposals and recommendations on procedures to implement the census were also taken into account. Proposals were made to strengthen consensus among the population, to cover crucial items and to collect data on „specific groups“ of the population.



Country Reports



It is intended to complete the questionnaires by numerators as usual and to check the forms by senior numerators. Then the questionnaires will be prepared for electronic machine reading to perform integrated checks of plausibility and consistency as part of an interactive processing of the data on PCs. The proposed tabulation program largely meets EU standards. Additional information will be provided on user request.

Harmonized consumer price indices

During their visit to Lithuania, the German experts made a presentation on the role of the statistical offices of the Federal States for collecting and processing data on "harmonized consumer price indices". These federative offices have to comply with all technical and administrative regulations for a successful implementation of a survey: to identify and to select the reporting units, to cooperate with the interviewers, to proceed missing data on goods and services, and to manage cases of non-response as well as changes in the quality of goods. However, the FSO of Germany is

authorized also to collect data on goods and services on a national level.

It was recommended to establish national and regional statistical offices in Lithuania going in line with Germany's federative statistical system.

The experts focused both on changes in the program to check the plausibility of the results and on the evaluation of annual chain indices and indices based on long-term and constant prices. Other issues discussed regarded the presentation and publication of consumer price indices. The emphasis was on the extent of splitting up the index into smaller units and on weighting the indices for publications. Problems might arise too, if absolute data on average prices were passed and published.

An adequate calculation of construction cost indices and of construction price indices, needs two different methodological approaches. Issues also discussed on this topic were problems of plausibility checks as well as the procedures to cover data on newly set-up construction companies and to collect data on turn over in construction industry.

The Baltic States and the Federal Republic of Germany
- Comparison of selected economic and population data -

	Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania	Germany
Population ¹⁾ , in mn	1.460	2.479	3.718	82.012
Area ¹⁾ , km ²	45 100	64 600	65 200	357 021
Yield of wheat (dt) per ha ¹⁾	21.3	20.5	31.3	72.9
Gross national product per capita ¹⁾ , International US-\$	4 660	3 650	4 390	21 110
Unemployment rate ²⁾ (%)	10.5	7.0	5.9	9.7 ¹⁾
Inflation ²⁾ (%)	12.5	8.4	8.4	1.5 ¹⁾

Sources: 1) Statistisches Jahrbuch für das Ausland, Statistisches Bundesamt Wiesbaden 1998: inhabitants

2) Eurostat – Phare – Report

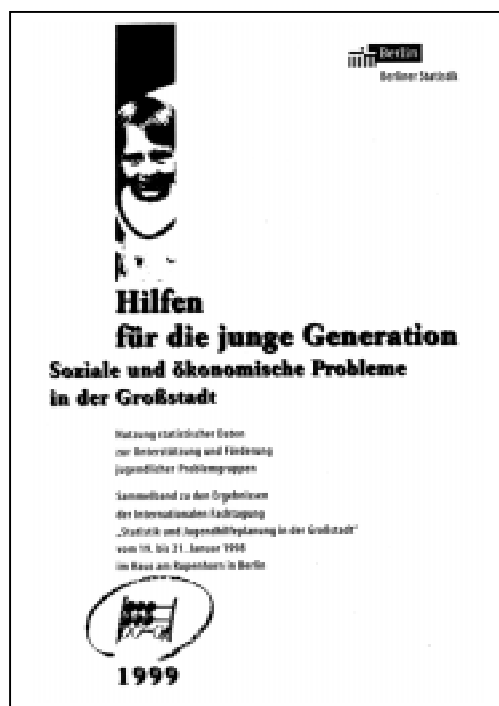


Multinational Activities



International compendium on youth support and statistics

On 24 February 1999 the recently published volume on youth support and statistics „*Hilfen für die junge Generation - soziale und ökonomische Probleme in der Großstadt*“ was presented by the Chief of Protocol of Berlin, Leopold von Bredow, in the restructured „*Wappensaal*“ of Berlin's Town Hall. Representatives of the embassies of the Russian Federation, the Slovak Republic, France, and Poland attended this presentation. This event was covered by the media, too.



Meeting of international experts in Berlin

This compendium of different contributions on youth problems includes welcoming addresses by the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Eberhard Diepgen, and by the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Johann Hahlen. The volume is the result of a three-day meeting of scientists and experts from Poland, the Russian

Federation, the Slovak Republic, Belarus, France, and Germany on the issue of statistics and youth welfare planning in a big city. The volume has been edited by the Statistical Office of Berlin, the edition was supported by the FSO of Germany and by the „*Haus am Rupenhorn*“, an institution of the Senate in Berlin.

International comparison of youth problems

During discussions it became clear that the juveniles have to face world wide similar problems in their cities. Adolescents, and young families need affordable housing. Vocational training and education are keys for an adequate future job. The situation in Berlin does not differ significantly from that in other big cities of the world. Many young people often need financial support by private or governmental institutions.

Anyone interested to buy the volume may contact the Statistical Office of Berlin by phone or mail. Statistisches Landesamt Berlin, Alt-Friedrichsfelde 60, D-10315 Berlin. Extracts can be accessed via the Internet address <http://www.statistik-berlin.de>.

Vacancy: long-term expert for agricultural statistics

The State Statistical Committee of the Azerbaijan Republic and the State Department for Statistics of Georgia announced to the Federal Statistical Office a vacancy. The long-term expert for agricultural statistics has to be a German or a citizen of another EU country. Several years of experience in implementing statistical surveys in agriculture, and good skills in the Russian language are preconditions. Anyone interested to apply for this vacancy may contact the editorial staff by telephone no. +49-30 - 2324-6350 or by mail.



Compendium on labor market statistics

The provision and dissemination of statistics on the labor market as well as on unemployment and vacancies is a crucial challenge for transformation countries. The data on the labor market required to cover the current performance of the economy have to be collected from different sources. Moreover, labor market statistics give information more or less unpleasant for many politicians. A neutral and objective reporting on labor market issues needs a high degree of technical commitment and political skill of the reporters. This volume on labor market statistics has been published by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany as a contribution to improve information on labor market issues.



Labor market statistics

Volume 8 of the statistical series edited in Russian is focusing on the utility of labor market statistics, on the implementation of surveys, and on the international comparability of statistical key data. Labor market statistics is a

politically useful tool in a modern society. For promoting employment and for cutting unemployment detailed and reliable information on current unemployment and its various causes have to be provided in time. Other contributions present the views of the employees and of the employers on labor market policies, thus emphasizing the political weight of that statistics. The papers drafted by authors from the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) report on their experience after the set up of labor market statistics. Those statistics did not fit into their former socialist system. However, for the transition of the economy to a market system labor market statistics has to be set up in time. Up to date unemployment has become a very crucial social and political problem in transformation countries.

The long-term imbalance perceived on the labor market has become a challenge for the western market economies, too. The successful cutting of unemployment at local and regional levels is a precondition for social and political consensus and economic growth on the national and international level.

Sources

The presentations on the provision of data for labor market statistics indicate different sources: data of surveys of local units, data of household surveys, and data of central registers, including social insurance registers. The microcensus was recommended to be used as an additional data source in order to estimate and to analyze the supply of manpower. This type of a census is a sample survey covering in Germany 1 % of the households of the preceding population census. The publication now available in the Berlin Branch, has been revised by the Federal Statistical Office and got support through the Tacis program.



Cooperation Activities



Summary for November 1998 to March 1999

2. - 6.11.1998 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)	⇔	The consultations focused on the implementation of the 1998 training program and on a seminar on "evaluating training actions; use of didactical methods and media for lecturers". The Kyrgyz statisticians drafted a form for the evaluation of training actions. They got information on various types of team work and they got experience in the use of modern didactic media.
2. - 6.11.1998 in Wiesbaden	⇔	Russian statisticians were advised on the German survey of enterprises in the industry conducted in 1997. Major issues were calculating the value added result of the Federal States, calculation procedures, data base, data processing, sample survey, as well as annual and quarterly computations of national accounts.
2. - 6.11.1998 in Wiesbaden	⇔	During a two-month traineeship in Germany, the director of the Statistical Research Institute at the Ministry for Statistics and Analysis of the Republic of Belarus visited the Federal Statistical Office. Consultations were on procedures of environmental accounting.
3. - 5.11.1998 in Almaty (Kazakhstan)	⇔	The expert mission was focused on technical issues of editing publications and on modern design of tables and charts. A program of actions was prepared for future cooperation on publications and on the dissemination of statistical information for the period until 2000.
3. - 6.11.1998 in Moscow	⇔	The emphasis of the consultations with Russian statisticians was on evaluating the Russian proposals for a classification of economic activities and on the collection of data for recycling as well as for energy and water supply.
6.11.1998 in Warsaw	⇔	The expert mission focused on activities for the publication of the leaflet "Germany and Poland in Brief". The draft of the Federal Statistical Office presents data on Germany as well as comparative statistics for Poland. The National Statistical Institute of Poland checked and updated the data.
10. - 12.11.1998 in Chişinău (Moldova)	⇔	Consultations between the Thuringian Statistical Office and the Department for Statistics and Sociological Analysis of the Republic of Moldova were both on procedures to provide data for the balance of energy and on issues of an international classification for energy statistics.
16. - 18.11.1998 in Kiev	⇔	With statisticians from the Ukraine and Belarus consultations were continued on procedures for the calculation of the industrial production index and on an adequate questionnaire. The focus was on the calculation of the industrial production index on a regional level and on an action plan for the transition from the old to the new classification of economic activities and of goods.



Cooperation Activities



Summary for November 1998 to March 1999

16. - 20.11.1998 in Berlin	⇒ Russian statisticians got information on up-to-date procedures to collect, process and analyze data to cover economic activities of agricultural units in the EU. Consultations were also on procedures for the collection and processing of accounting data of large and medium-sized agricultural units in Russia and on the international standards of agricultural accounting.
16. - 20.11.1998 in Berlin	⇒ At the Statistical Office of Berlin, statisticians from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan obtained information on investment statistics in construction industry, in manufacturing, domestic trade and the hotel and restaurant industry, and in environmental industries. Consultations were on methodological problems of surveys for covering investment and on integrating investment data into national accounting on the state or regional level. The discussion was on activities for the set-up and use of a business register and of an adequate classification system.
23.11. - 1.12.1998 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)	⇒ The seminar on "Classifications, Nomenclatures, and Registers" was held to improve the use of classification systems. It was recommended to set up a more flexible national classification system and to take into account international standards.
24. - 25.11.1998 in Munich	⇒ Discussions on different European funds available to support statistics were held with representatives of the Czech Statistical Office. It was agreed to intensify cross-border cooperation in the Euroregions.
25.11.1998 in Luxembourg	⇒ During the general assembly of CESD-C, a European Training and Cooperation Center for Statistics, Board elections had been held. The assembly took decisions on the new statutes, on financial operations and on current consulting and reorganization activities of CESD.
30.11. - 4.12.1998 in Berlin	⇒ Russian agriculture statisticians were given advice on the set up of an agricultural accounting system to be used in the regions of the Russian Federation. The System of National Accounts (SNA 93) was taken into consideration. At the regional level Russian up-to-date statistics seem to meet the standards of the international statistical organizations. For the improvement of Russian agricultural statistics the German estimation procedures were recommended. Consultation was focused on stocktaking on animal production.
1. - 4.12.1998 in Moscow	⇒ The project on "Statistical Surveys of the Development of Domestic Trade and Competition on the Commodity Markets", was completed by a seminar for experts of the central and regional offices of the Russian Federation. The focus of the seminar was on cooperation results, on information, and on procedures to cover activities of competition on the commodity markets.



Cooperation Activities



Summary for November 1998 to March 1999

9. - 11.12.1998 in Jachranka (Poland)	⇔ A seminar was held by UNICEF on the improvement of the situation of children by strengthening international contacts and "cross-border cooperation". The provision of adequate information on problems of children in border regions of Central and Eastern Europe, should improve all current and future support activities of eastern institutions.
14. - 15.12.1998 in Wiesbaden	⇔ German and Russian experts discussed various issues on the classification of economic activities. The Russian draft of a system for the classification of economic activities was evaluated.
14. - 18.12.1998 in Kamenz	⇔ The Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony, advised experts of the National Statistical Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the implementation of a labor market survey. The sampling frames and all procedures for a survey in Kazakhstan were defined. Consultations were on a catalogue of definitions, on the sample size and the quality of data.
18. - 20.1.1999 in Berlin	⇔ An international meeting on "Statistics and Youth Support in Cities" was attended by experts from nine countries. The contributions focused on using statistical data to support juveniles and young families. A volume will be published on that meeting which was organized by the Statistical Office of Berlin.
3. - 5.2.1999 in Wiesbaden	⇔ Statisticians of the National Statistical Office of the Czech Republic were advised in the implementation of „mirror comparisons“ of data on German-Czech trade in goods.
17. - 19.2.1999 in Moscow	⇔ In Moscow, the heads of the Federal Statistical Office and the GOSKOMSTAT of the Russian Federation agreed to continue future bilateral technical cooperation.
22. - 25.2.1999 in Almaty (Kazakhstan)	⇔ A seminar on "Foreign Trade Statistics" for the statistical institutes of the Central Asian States and Mongolia focused on relations between foreign trade statistics, national accounts, and the balance of payments. Major items were statistical concepts and methodology as well as sources for covering cross-border economic activities in national accounting.
24.2.1999 in Berlin	⇔ A compendium on youth support and statistics was published in German by the Statistical Office of Berlin in cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office. This new volume was presented by the Chief of Protocol of Berlin to the representatives of France, the Slovak Republic, and the Russian Federation as well as to representatives of the Federal Ministries, of the academic community, of Berlin's administration and of the media.



Cooperation Activities



Summary for November 1998 to March 1999

8. - 12.3.1999 in Wiesbaden	⇔	Ukrainian and Belorussian statisticians were informed both on the calculation of regional production indices and on definitions, on collections of data, and on the computation of indices of new orders. Organizational and methodological issues of „structural surveys“, a drafted questionnaire and a proposed list of variables to cover investment and activities of small enterprises were discussed.
9. - 11.3.1999 in Suhl (Thuringia)	⇔	The procedures to get data on energy statistics and the questionnaire to cover the supply of energy were issues of the consultations between experts from the Republic of Moldova and the Thuringian Statistical Office.
15. - 17.3.1999 in Wiesbaden	⇔	During a study visit of Ukrainian experts, statistical units for the reporting system in the construction sector and variables for time series were defined. Short-term statistics and surveys on the structure of the construction industry were discussed.
16. - 18.3.1999 in Berlin	⇔	Statisticians of the Czech National Statistical Office got information on the German system of agricultural statistics. The consultation was supported by Phare and assisted by an expert of the Statistical Office of Brandenburg. The discussions focused on large-scale census in agriculture, the register of agricultural units, on surveys on the structure of agriculture as well as on procedures to present harmonized data to the EU.
22. - 24.3.1999 in Wiesbaden	⇔	As part of consulting on business and enterprise statistics, statisticians from Moldova were informed on the German system of „structural surveys“.
23. - 25.3.1999 in Munich	⇔	According to an agreement of last year between the heads of office, experts of the National Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic got information about issues of EU harmonized regional statistics at the Bavarian Statistical Office.
23. - 25.3.1999 in Suhl (Thuringia)	⇔	The consultations of statisticians from Moldova on construction and investment statistics were focused on procedures for updating the stock of dwellings and housing and on sampling methods.
23. - 26.3.1999 in Wiesbaden	⇔	An overview of the German statistical system covering activities of enterprises in wholesale trade was presented to Ukrainian and Belorussian statisticians. The management of data processing as well as methodological issues on the computation of the index of wholesale prices were discussed.