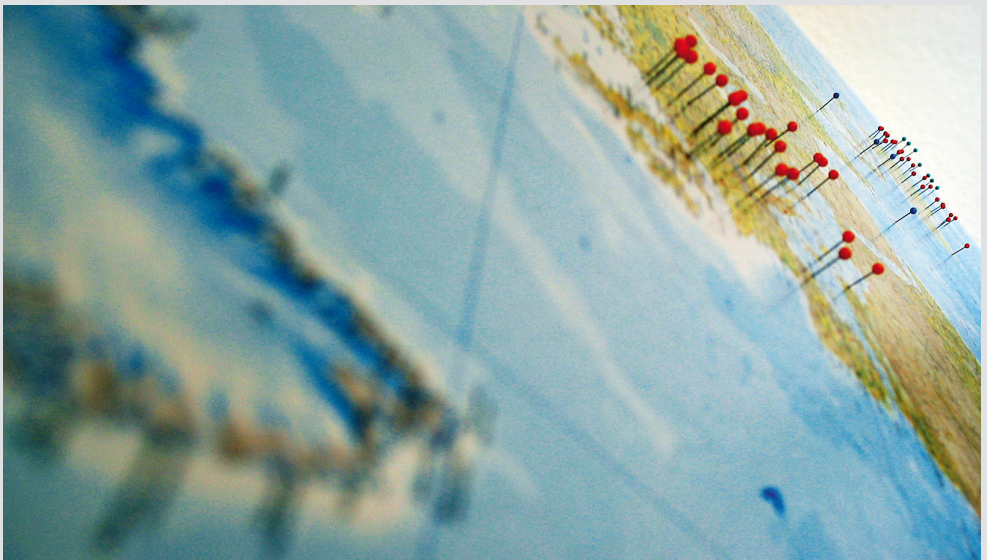


STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

International statistical co-operation



1/2017

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

Published by: Statistisches Bundesamt (Federal Statistical Office),
Wiesbaden

Homepage: www.destatis.de

You may contact us at:
www.destatis.de/kontakt

Central Information Service
Phone: +49 (0) 611 / 75 24 05

Periodicity: semi-annually
Published in July 2017
Order number: 0000024-17531-4

Photo copyright: Cover image: © designer 111/photocase.de
Flags: © liotru - Fotolia.com

© Statistisches Bundesamt (Destatis), 2017

Reproduction and distribution, also in parts, are permitted
provided that the source is mentioned.

4		Editorial
6		25 years of international statistical co-operation
9		Azerbaijan
13		Russian Federation
17		Kazakhstan
19		China
21		Mongolia
24		European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)
26		Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
28		Ukraine
29		Staff news
31		Who is Who?

Dear Readers,

Providing foreign statistical offices with support is an area of responsibility that is subject to continuous change. Especially new co-operation projects are related to shifts in the regional focus of our work. Generally, the number of activities aimed at supporting EU candidate countries has declined, while co-operation with countries in other regions, where statistical offices take the EU standards as a reference without being obliged to adopt them, has increased. The topics of interest change constantly, too. While there are consulting activities that refer to the 'traditional areas' of statistics, the interest has grown in topics such as Open Data, the use of alternative data sources or tasks resulting from the measurement of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (Agenda 2030)¹. To reflect these changing trends, we have adjusted the strategic basis of the Federal Statistical Office's co-operation activities. The new strategy paper forms the basis for shaping the future direction of our work and continuing co-operation with our international partners.

For many years, the National Statistical Office of Mongolia has been a partner of the Federal Statistical Office. This edition of Statistics across borders provides information about our co-operation under the new Smart Government project. And, in the past few years, we have regularly described the progress made in the World Bank twinning project with the Kazakh Committee on Statistics. The closing conference in November 2016 was an excellent opportunity to present the results achieved to a wider public. While the project was nearing completion, a Global Assessment of the Kazakh Committee on Statistics was carried out by Eurostat, EFTA and UNECE. The results will help to determine the direction of future developments. The fact that Azerbaijan as another major partner country of the Federal Statistical Office was also subject to a Global Assessment was pure coincidence, but it fitted right into the schedule of our co-operation activities. The current twinning project with Azerbaijan is to be completed in October 2017.

¹ Cf. UN Resolution 69/315 "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."

We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

The editors

Ringo Raupach

Denis Kaschuba

Vladislava Karmanova

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

25 years of international statistical co-operation: a success story

The Federal Statistical Office has been involved in imparting specialist statistical knowledge and providing training to foreign project partners for 25 years. The staff of the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder as well as many partners at home and abroad support their colleagues in the partner offices in implementing the standards of the European Statistical System and contribute to improving the comparability of the statistical data collected in the individual countries.

Within the last 25 years, the statistical co-operation unit has co-ordinated and managed more than 2,800 consulting missions of short-term experts, study visits and workshops with more than 35 partner countries.

German co-operation has a particular strength in imparting modern and well-proven methodological standards. Knowledge is disseminated on all stages of the statistical production process. The aim of the German commitment is to enable the partners to complete tasks independently and to implement methodology at the national level. To ensure that national statistical institutes provide reliable data and are able to react to quickly changing requirements it is essential not only to impart methodological knowledge but also to continuously improve the management capacities and the quality awareness of staff members. In the co-operation projects, the Federal Statistical Office always seeks to include subcomponents aimed at strengthening the cross-cutting and management areas of its partners. Modular courses on statistical capacity building, which are tailored to the needs of the beneficiary country, are an important element also of non-project co-operation activities. These courses comprise all aspects of Total Quality Management that are relevant to the management of statistical institutions.

When institutionalised statistical co-operation started, the focus was on the political and economic changes in the transition countries of Central and Eastern Europe and in the succession states of the Soviet Union. The German official statistics agencies became sought-after international partners because of the experience they had acquired during the process of German unification and the adoption of the western German statistical system in the east of Germany.

The European Union's eastern enlargement generated additional needs for support. Before a total of 13 states acceded to the EU between 2004 and 2013, they had to undertake comprehensive preparations in the field of statistics, too. Statistics are part of the *acquis communautaire* and had to be fully transposed into the accession countries' national legislation. At the same time, statistical data provided the information basis for negotiations in other policy areas (for example free movement of goods, agriculture, taxes).

Great demand for the expertise of German statisticians exists even further to the east. EU-funded twinning projects such as currently in Azerbaijan are part of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Large-scale projects that are financed by the World Bank, as for instance in Kazakhstan and Mongolia, are geared at strengthening and refining the countries' statistical systems. Close bilateral co-operation has been maintained with the Chinese Bureau of Statistics.

The present seven states with a prospect of EU accession, the European Neighbourhood Policy target countries and the statistical offices in Central and Eastern Asia continue to be the focus of the Federal Statistical Office's international co-operation activities. New and additional challenges have been raised by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations. Building statistical capacity in the national administrations of developing countries is an important prerequisite for monitoring the development goals.

For several years, conducting complex large-scale projects with longer time horizons has been the core of the statistical co-operation activities. In addition to imparting specialist statistical knowledge, the Federal Statistical Office has established a close and trusting partnership and communication with partner offices and co-operation partners even after project completion and maintained a broad and dense network of international statistical expertise.

Today, the Federal Statistical Office, together with the statistical offices of the Länder, is a recognised partner worldwide.



Support to the State Statistical Committee in harmonisation of the National Statistics System of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with EU standards

Twinning project with the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan



The twinning project between the Federal Statistical Office and the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SSC) runs over a period of two years. The implementation phase began in October 2015. The project activities focus on quality management, geographical information systems (GIS), Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), statistics of people with disabilities (social statistics) and tourism statistics.



Study visit on quality management, Bulgaria

So far the project has been implemented in line with what has been planned. Until February 2017 more than 60 % of the planned consulting activities (31 of the total of 48) have been carried out across all project components. The focus of the consultations in the second half of 2016 has been on undertaking study visits (to the project partner offices in Bulgaria, Slovenia and the Netherlands) and preparing and conducting an EU-SILC pilot

survey. The milestones defined for that period could be reached without larger delays. In addition to those milestones, three of the specified 14 mandatory project results were achieved; these concerned the GIS, EU-SILC and social statistics components.

Commissioned by the EU, a ROM mission (Results-oriented Monitoring Mission) was conducted in July 2016. In the framework of that mission, all project partners and supervisory bodies and several experts were asked about the progress achieved in the co-operation activities. The EU evaluation report identified good to very good results of project implementation. The project partners have readily put into practice the report's recommendation to involve to a greater extent the Azerbaijani ministries (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population in the social statistics component and Ministry of Culture and Tourism in the tourism statistics component) and to prepare a list with results aimed at measuring the project's progress.



Study visit on ESSPROS, the Netherlands

The EU delegation's positive opinion regarding the progress achieved has been reflected in its discussions with other twinning project partners in Azerbaijan, where it described the implementation, reporting and outside image of the project as examples of best practice.

Parallel to project implementation phase Eurostat and UNECE carried out the Global Assessment (GA) of the Azerbaijani statistical system. The recommendations of the report will have an important impact on the further course of project implementation.

The following consulting activities have been carried out since July 2016:

July		
4 – 8	Tourism statistics	Sofia/Varna
19 – 20	EU-SILC	Ljubljana
19 – 22	Statistics of people with disabilities/ (ESSPROS methodology)	Den Haag/ Heerlen
26 – 27	3rd steering committee meeting	Baku
September		
19 – 23	EU-SILC	Baku
26 – 29	EU-SILC	Baku
27 – 30	Tourism statistics	Baku
October		
17 – 21	European Health and Social Integration Survey (EHSIS)	Sofia/ Varna
17 – 21	Tourism statistics (Tourism Satellite Account, TSA)	Baku
24 – 28	Quality management	Sofia/ Burgas/ Plovdiv
25 – 27	Geographical information system (GIS)	Ljubljana

November		
31 Oct. – 4	Generic statistical Business Prozess Model (GSBPM)	Baku
7 – 8	4th steering committee meeting	Baku
21 – 25	Geographical information system (GIS)	Baku
28 – 1 Dec.	Tourism statistics	Baku
December		
5 – 9	Training on sampling error measurement	Baku
January 2017		
16 – 17	5th steering committee meeting	Baku
16 – 19	Quality management	Baku
February		
13 – 16	EU-SILC	Baku
13 – 16	Quality management	Baku
20 – 23	Tourism statistics	Baku
27 – 3 Mar.	Geographical information system (GIS)	Baku

Delegation from Moscow and St. Petersburg visited the Federal Statistical Office



In September 2016 a delegation from Moscow and St. Petersburg visited the Federal Statistical Office to discuss various aspects of administrative data. The delegation included Heads of Division of the State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) and was headed by Mr. Nikiforov, President of the Regional Office of the State Statistics Service in St. Petersburg.



Guests from the Russian Federation with the Staff of the Federal Statistical Office

Destatis experts gave presentations on the use of administrative data in business statistics and the business register, in tax statistics and the population census. Other topics discussed included Big Data, regional statistics, the legal framework and the system of official statistics in Germany.

The study visit was organised under the World Bank funded project on Strengthening Statistical Expertise in the Russian Federation. It was the first of four activities undertaken by Destatis in the framework of the project with Statistics Denmark as consortium leader.



The Russian delegation (from left to right): Galina Sazonova, Elena Savochkina, Oleg Nikiforov, Natalia Karpova, Pavel Mkhitarian and Anna Moruga

Data sources and modern data collection methods in price statistics

In November 2016, Destatis received a delegation of staff from the State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat) for a study visit on data sources and modern data collection methods in price statistics.

Destatis experts of the consumer prices unit were responsible for the specialist matters discussed during the study visit. In addition to providing an overview of the German systems of price and consumer price statistics, the staff of the Prices Division gave talks on the following topics:

- data sources of consumer price statistics
- Big Data
- acquiring and using scanner data
- collecting prices for consumer price statistics on the internet
- collecting prices through web scraping
- substituting and updating in consumer price statistics
- calculating the consumer price index

- IT system for the German consumer price statistics
- price comparisons at regional level, and average prices at European level

The specialist lectures were preceded by presentations introducing both the system of official statistics in Germany and the European Statistical System and a talk on managing data quality at the Federal Statistical Office. The Russian colleagues in turn provided information on the Russian statistical system and the system of price statistics.



Russian delegation with staff members of the Federal Statistical Office

This study visit conducted under the World Bank funded project Second Development of the State Statistical System of the Russian Federation Project (STASYS II) was based on long-term co-operation between Destatis and Rosstat.



From left to right: Michael Kuhn (Destatis, Head of Prices Division), Larisa Kobrinskaya (Rosstat, Head of Department of Price and Finance Statistics), Bernd Störtzbach (Destatis, Head of Division of Planning and Co-ordination, International Co-operation, Legal Matters Concerning Statistics)

Completion of the KAZSTAT project



The KAZSTAT twinning project between the Federal Statistical Office and the Kazakh Committee on Statistics (CS) was completed after four years of intensive work. A closing conference was held on that occasion in the Kazakh capital of Astana on 3 November 2016. Kazakh and international experts presented the results and achievements of the project to the wider public and the institutions involved.

The conference involving the Federal Statistical Office, the Finnish, Korean, Russian, Slovak and Czech consortium partners, the World Bank, other national statistical offices engaged in the project and representatives of the German embassy attracted significant media interest. The results were presented to the audience during a press conference and the following meeting. Between the launch of the KAZSTAT project in October 2012 and the closing conference in November 2016, a total of 262 consulting missions were undertaken by international experts and 129 study visits organised for Kazakh delegations. In addition, 36 CS staff attended international conferences. During the project period, training was given to roughly 2,000 employees of the Kazakh public service.

The assessments by all institutions involved in the project are very positive. The World Bank has drawn attention to the exemplary character of the KAZSTAT project and pointed out that the project is the most successful of all current World Bank projects in Kazakhstan. The project partners involved and especially the CS as beneficiary implemented the project effectively and according to schedule.

Essential progress was achieved in relation to the IT infrastructure and in refining the statistical standards and methods, improving the image of Kazakh official statistics and reducing the burden on respondents. Furthermore, strengthening the 16 Kazakh regional statistical offices was a special and major component of success.

The availability of results from the current Global Assessment of the Kazakh statistical system and the completion of the national 2017-2025 Master Plan for official statistics in Kazakhstan are scheduled for mid-2017.

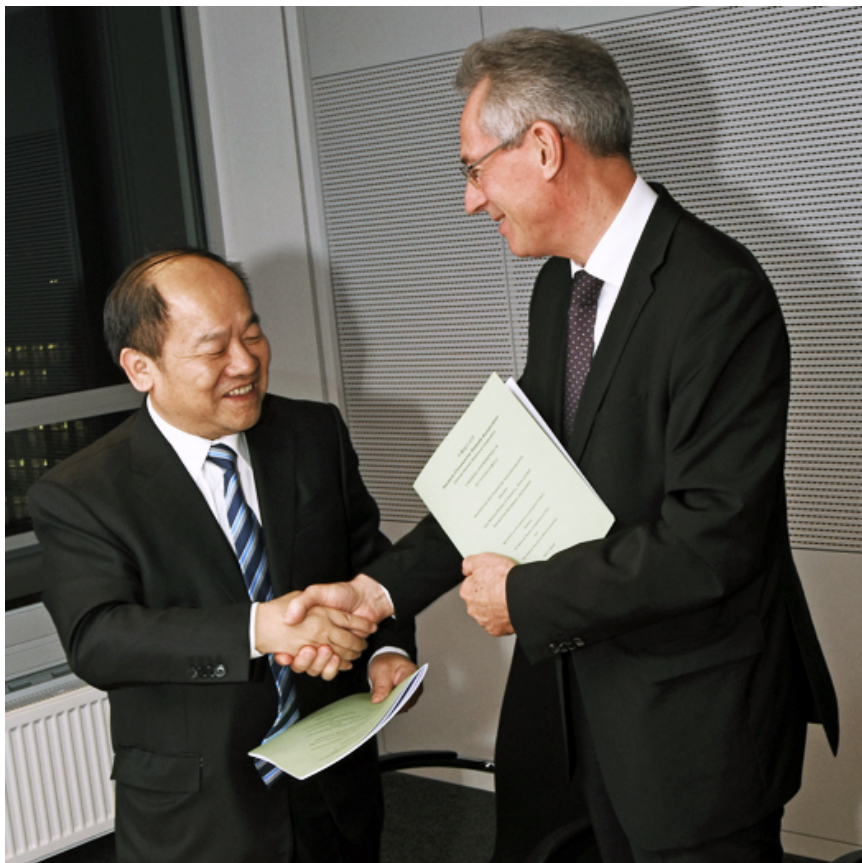


Group photo taken at the closing conference in Astana on 3 November 2016

Bilateral co-operation with the Chinese Bureau of Statistics (NBS)



In November 2016, the Federal Statistical Office and its Chinese co-operation partner, the National Bureau of Statistics of China, signed new project agreements for their co-operation over the next three years (2017 to 2019).



Commissioner Ning Jizhe (NBS) together with President Dieter Sarreither exchanging project agreements

During a ceremonial event, NBS Commissioner Ning Jizhe and Destatis President Dieter Sarreither signed the agreements in Wiesbaden. The topics of the current period of co-operation comprise both residential property price statistics and construction statistics. According to the plan for implementing the individual subprojects in these new areas of co-operation, consulting missions of German experts will be carried out in China and study visits to Germany be organised for Chinese statisticians in the period until 2019.

The kick-off activity will be a study visit (subproject on residential property statistics) in April 2017, followed by a mission of a group of experts on construction statistics of the Federal Statistical Office in Beijing. In addition to the activities of the new subprojects, a last remaining NBS study visit on employment statistics will take place in Germany.

Mongolia - Smart Government project in full swing



The Federal Statistical Office and the National Statistics Office of Mongolia are co-operating in the framework of the Smart Government twinning project financed by the World Bank until September 2017. In its activities, the Federal Statistical Office is supported by experts of European partner offices. So far co-operation has included a mission on industrial statistics (strengthening the methodology, applying methods of seasonal adjustment and identifying indicators for short-term statistics) undertaken by an expert of Statistics Lithuania and a study visit on culture, science and technology statistics hosted by Statistics Finland. There the Mongolian participants were provided with information about various methodology and data collection aspects.

A highlight of co-operation was the visit by Mrs. Ariunzaya Ayush, new Chair of the National Statistics Office of Mongolia (NSO), to the Bonn Branch of the Federal Statistical Office on 21 and 22 November 2016. In addition to representatives of the Mongolian statistical office, the delegation comprised five deputies of the State Great Khural, that is, the Mongolian parliament. The key topics discussed during the visit were strategies for free access to public data (Open Data) and the use of administrative data for statistical purposes.

Vice-President Dr. Georg Thiel welcomed the visitors in Bonn and, together with representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, explained the goals and elements of the e-government initiative of the German Federal Government. The initiative is aimed at using electronic information technologies to make administrative services easily and quickly accessible to everyone irrespective of their location. Intending to set up its own data portal with the support of the World Bank, the Mongolian Government seeks to discuss relevant views and experiences with international partners.

Another issue discussed during the visit was the use of data available in other public authorities in order to reduce the response burden on households and businesses. Tax and agricultural statistics and the population census were used as examples in this context. The Mongolian delegation took a special interest in the information provided on the relevant legal basis. Together with the representative responsible for statistical matters of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, experts of agricultural statistics outlined the collaboration between various authorities in the area of these statistics. The visit to the Branch Office of the Federal Statistical Office was rounded off by presentations on tax statistics and the population census and also a lecture on acquiring information for statistics from large data volumes (Big Data) which was met with considerable interest.

The visit to Bonn was the beginning of a one-week journey during which the guests were to visit the statistical offices of Estonia and Finland, too.



Vice-President Dr. Georg Thiel (centre) and Mrs. Ariunzaya Ayush (Chair of the National Statistics Office of Mongolia) with Destatis representatives and the delegation members

The following consulting activities have been carried out since October 2016:

October		
3 – 7	Industrial statistics	Ulaanbaatar
November		
14 – 18	Culture, science and technology statistics	Helsinki
21 – 25	Open Data, exchange of data, use of administrative data	Bonn/ Tallinn/ Helsinki

European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP): course on knowledge transfer and presentations to international audiences ("Train the Trainers")



Between 31 January and 2 February 2017, the Federal Statistical Office hosted the ESTP course "Presentation, facilitation and consultation skills for statistical trainers" or briefly "Train the Trainers" for the ninth time in Wiesbaden. The course was to teach the total of 15 participants various presentation techniques and didactic skills, thus enabling them to effectively impart knowledge to international audiences in the future.



Participants in the ESTP course "Train the Trainers"

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

The European Statistical Training Programme is a project offering staff of the national statistical institutes in the EU, EFTA, Eurostat and potential EU candidate countries a wide range of statistical training courses. These are designed to impart knowledge and skills regarding new methods and techniques in line with European standards and current developments.

Joint declaration between the Federal Statistical Office and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

On 3 March, Dieter Sarreither, President of the Federal Statistical Office, Dr. Christoph Beier, Vice-Chair of the Management Board of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, and Joachim Fritz, Director of Division Governance and Conflict, signed a Joint declaration of intent for co-operation in the area of official statistics.



From left to right: Joachim Fritz, Director of Division Governance and Conflict (GIZ), Dr. Christoph Beier, Vice-Chair of the Management Board (GIZ) and President Dieter Sarreither (Destatis) signing the Declaration of intent.

The Federal Statistical Office and GIZ as organisation carrying out projects for the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and for other contract-awarding public authorities have been collaborating since the Federal Statistical Office began to provide international consulting services on an institutionalised basis in the 1990s. GIZ has its own Country Offices in many of the partner countries of the Federal Statistical Office's unit for statistical co-operation. The new co-operation agreement has replaced the agreement concluded in 2001.

Intensified co-operation is the result of the growing importance of statistical data for measuring the achievement of goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the aforementioned meeting, both partners underlined the added value created by close co-operation, and many overlapping areas of work became apparent in the course of the discussion.

Information visit by a Ukrainian government commission



In October 2016 representatives of the Ukrainian government visited the Federal Statistical Office. The visit organised as part of a wider information journey to Germany to discuss aspects of "Agenda 2030 – supporting the ecological modernisation of the Ukrainian economy" was commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The information journey was aimed at providing the visitors with insights into the development and management of sustainable development strategies at both the federal and the Länder level in Germany. The visit to the Federal Statistical Office marked the end of the journey in the country.

Destatis experts outlined the role of German official statistics in the process of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The presentation on measuring, at both global and national level, the achievement of the 17 goals and 169 targets of the Agenda 2030 using indicators and integrating these into the national sustainability strategy was received with great interest by the Ukrainian visitors.



© United Nations Department of Public Information

Internship reports

Interns regularly provide valuable support for our international statistical co-operation activities. Here is their feedback:

Meike Oltmanns

August to September 2016 in Bonn

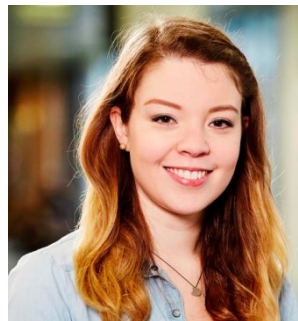
As a student of social sciences and intercultural relations I am interested in a future professional career in the international sphere. The daily and partly foreign language correspondence with colleagues at home and abroad turned my work into an exciting experience.



Franziska Kern

September to November 2016 in Bonn

I was really lucky to meet a Kazakh delegation, the Commissioner of the Chinese Bureau of Statistics and the President of the Mongolian Statistics Office. Furthermore I supported various project management activities in the most different phases of projects. The internship was very useful for my professional and my personal future.



Jana Lipps

October to December 2016 in Wiesbaden

Many different tasks made my internship very interesting. I learned quite a lot, especially in relation to managing international projects. I would like to thank all wholeheartedly for giving me a lot of interesting insights and welcoming me warmly into the team.



Hans Pieper

November to December 2016 in Bonn

Immediately at the beginning of my internship, I was involved in the activities relating to a study visit by a Mongolian delegation. In this way, I gained some information about Mongolia and, in particular, knowledge about the methods and challenges of producing statistics in Germany.



Who is Who?

in International Co-operation

Management, Wiesbaden

Statistisches Bundesamt

Planning and Co-ordination, International Co-operation

D – 65180 Wiesbaden

Fax: +49 (0) 611 / 75 89 92

cooperation@destatis.de

Head of division

Bernd Störtzbach

Tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 23 51

bernd.stoertzbach@destatis.de

Project and financial controlling

Michael Schäfer

Tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 89 30

michael.schaefer1@destatis.de

International Co-operation Projects (Bonn)

Head of section

Ringo Raupach

Tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 89 32

ringo.raupach@destatis.de

Bilateral Co-operation, European Training Programmes (Wiesbaden)

Head of section

Simone Koll

Tel: +49 (0) 611 / 75 42 81

simone.koll@destatis.de