

STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

International statistical co-operation



2/2017

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 December 2017

Order number: 0000024-17532-4

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		Azerbaijan
10		Mongolia
14		China
16		Kyrgyz Republic
18		Republik Korea
22		Tajikistan
24		Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
26		European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)
28		Eurostat's Trainee Programme
29		Who is Who?

Dear Readers,

2017 is a year which has seen the successful completion of projects and new beginnings in particular respects in the statistical co-operation activities of the Federal Statistical Office.

This edition of *Statistics Across Borders* provides information about the completion of the World Bank-funded Smart Government Project with the National Statistics Office of Mongolia. The Federal Statistical Office and its staff were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Mongolian partners in recognition of their contribution to project success and the long-term commitment and involvement in German-Mongolian co-operation. The consulting activities of the EU-funded twinning project with the Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan have also been completed. Information on the closing conference in Baku will be provided in the next issue of *Statistics across borders*. And this much can be revealed: it will have a new look.

The expert capacity becoming available when the projects ended has been used for co-operation activities with the Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic which started in summer 2017. The project funded by the World Bank is implemented by the Federal Statistical Office in a consortium with established partners, namely the national statistical offices of Finland, Italy and the Netherlands. The co-operation between Destatis and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) has been intensified too. Destatis welcomed GIZ delegations from Ethiopia and Cameroon after a Joint Declaration of Intent for co-operation in the area of official statistics had been signed.

The Chinese National Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Korea, which are long-standing partners in bilateral co-operation activities, have promoted the exchange of professional knowledge and experience in a wide range of statistical areas. Please see the following pages for more information provided in short reports on the relevant activities.

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



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 end of the last consulting activity in Baku was celebrated with a cake. The conclusion of the consultations on geographical information systems coincided with the successful completion of all the planned consultation activities that were organised between the Federal Statistical Office and the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SSC) in their joint twinning project. In close consultation with all parties involved the implementation period was extended by one month until November 2017 in order to provide the project partners with the time needed to implement the follow-up processes and organise the official end of the project. In addition to the Federal Statistical Office, major partners in project implementation were the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria (NSI) and Statistics Netherlands (CBS).



Study visit on tourism statistics to the Bavarian Land Office for Statistics in Schweinfurt

The twinning project's 48 consulting activities focused on quality management, geographical information systems, Community statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC), statistics of people with disabilities (social statistics) and tourism statistics. The goal of co-operation was to harmonise the Azerbaijani statistical system with the standards of the European Union in the selected areas.

The project was implemented according to plan. The defined milestones and all specified 14 mandatory project results were achieved.

The results obtained were presented to a wider audience at the closing conference on 24 November 2017. The following are regarded as the main results:

- refinement of quality reporting and conduct of a DESAP self-assessment in selected statistical areas
- publication of online maps for a number of statistical indicators
- conduct of a first EU-SILC pilot survey
- refinement of the statistics of people with disabilities and handicaps
- basic revision of the questionnaires used in tourism statistics and further development of tourism satellite accounts



Study visit on quality management in Wiesbaden

The following consulting activities have been carried out since March 2017:

March

27 Feb. – 03	Geographical information system (GIS)	Baku
13 – 17	Statistics of people with disabilities	Baku
27 – 31	EU-SILC	Baku
27 – 31	Tourism statistics	Den Haag/ Wiesbaden/ Schweinfurt

April

17 – 21	Quality management	Baku
---------	--------------------	------

May		
15 – 19	Quality management	Wiesbaden/ Berlin
22 – 26	Geographical information system (GIS)	Baku
June		
30 May – 01	6 th steering committee meeting	Baku
19 – 23	Tourism statistics	Baku
July		
04 – 07	Quality management	Baku
10 – 14	Tourism statistics	Baku
17 – 21	Geographical information system (GIS)	Baku
25 – 27	7 th steering committee meeting	Baku
August		
07 – 10	EU-SILC	Baku
21 – 25	Management meeting	Sofia/Slivek/ Pleven/Varna
September		
11 – 15	Statistics of people with disabilities	Baku
19 – 21	Quality management	Ljubljana
25 – 29	Geographical information system (GIS)	Baku

Mongolia – Smart Government Project successfully completed



On 5 September 2017, the closing workshop of the Smart Government Project Mongolia was held in Ulan Bator. The workshop was designed to provide all institutions involved and the Mongolian public with detailed information on the project results. Several Mongolian TV news channels reported on the workshop, too.

The project was funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Mongolian Cabinet Secretariat. Under the Enabling Open Data subcomponent, the National Statistics Office of Mongolia (NSO) was provided with financial resources for consulting and training activities in the areas of Data Production in the Mongolian Statistical Office and Provision of Open Data.

As the NSO's contracting partner, Destatis began to implement consulting activities in the areas of business statistics, business register, quality management, Open Data, GSBPM, metadata, and culture, science and technology statistics in September 2016. In these activities, it was supported by the statistical offices of Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, the Netherlands and Italy. On the whole, four expert missions took place in Mongolia and six study visits were hosted in Germany and in the partner offices involved. Seven Mongolian colleagues had the opportunity to attend the UNECE Conference on Dissemination in Geneva in June. In addition, two management meetings were held in Mongolia, while another management meeting took place in the framework of a study visit to Germany.



Participants in the closing workshop

In the discussion during the closing workshop, the Mongolian participants stressed that the results achieved and recommendations given by experts were helpful for the further development of Mongolian statistics towards a modern information provider. The representative of the project-implementing unit of the Mongolian Cabinet Secretariat stated that the Smart Government Project's best and most sustainable results were achieved in the statistics component.

Destatis was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Chair of the National Statistics Office (NSO) of Mongolia, Ariunzaya Ayush. This award was given in recognition of the long-term successful co-operation between the NSO and Destatis, which had started in 1993, and especially of the results achieved in the Twinning Project on Strengthening the National Statistical System of Mongolia (2010 to 2014) and the Smart Government Project. The Chairwoman praised the successful work of the Destatis experts and the other national and international partners that had contributed to the success of long-term co-operation. At the same time she presented the highest award of the Mongolian Statistics Office to project manager Jochen Arnhold for his commitment and involvement in German-Mongolian co-operation since 2004. Generally, this award is given only to Mongolian citizens. The most recent foreign recipient of the award was Paul Cheung, former Director of the United Nations Statistics Division.



Award given to the Federal Statistical Office

The following consulting activities have been carried out since March 2017:

March		
27 – 31	Business register	Heerlen
27 – 31	GSBPM	Helsinki
April		
03 – 07	Quality management	Ulan Bator
June		
05 – 06	GSBPM	Ulan Bator
27 – 30	UNECE-Workshop on Dissemination	Geneva
July		
17 – 21	Quality management	Wiesbaden/ Berlin
17 – 21	Metadaten	Rome
August		
21 – 23	Business register	Ulan Bator
September		
05	Closing workshop	Ulan Bator

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



In the project year 2017, the Federal Statistical Office and the Chinese NBS began to implement the latest co-operation agreement signed last year. Kick-off activities were carried out in the two newly agreed subprojects of bilateral co-operation: residential property price statistics and construction statistics. Furthermore, the exchange of views and experience in the area of employment statistics was completed.



Chinese delegation with Destatis staff during the study visit on price statistics

The first activity was a study visit to Wiesbaden in April 2017. The visit, which was organised for Chinese statisticians, centred on the topic of residential property price statistics. The focus of the price statistics experts was on presenting the German and European model of residential property price statistics. In addition to their participation in the professional exchange at the Federal Statistical Office, the delegation members visited in Hannover the *Oberer Gutachterausschuss für Grundstückswerte in Niedersachsen*

(Higher committee of experts on real estate valuation in the Land of Niedersachsen). A return visit by the experts of the Federal Statistical Office to China was organised in October 2017.

The final exchange of experience and views on employment statistics between the Federal Statistical Office and the NBS took place in May 2017. Consultations in this area had been carried out since 2009. During the visit, the Chinese participants presented the NBS labour force survey which had been redesigned with German assistance. The efficiency of the consultations is reflected especially by a significant improvement of the quality of the Chinese data collected. The results were for instance used as a basis for public statements by the current Premier of the People's Republic of China, Li Keqiang.



Destatis staff during the expert mission on construction statistics at the Chinese NBS

And for the first time, staff of the Federal Statistical Office discussed aspects of construction statistics in China. This first mission in the framework of the new subproject in June 2017 provided the opportunity to discuss the relevant approaches used in construction statistics and to determine the further process of consultation activities. These were continued and deepened during a study visit to Germany in October 2017.

Beginning of the KGSTAT project



In May 2017, the Federal Statistical Office started to implement a twinning project with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC). The KGSTAT project on the Implementation of the National Strategy for Development of Statistics of the Kyrgyz Republic is funded by the World Bank. The project goals are to improve the analytical capacity of the Kyrgyz Statistical Committee and strengthen both the committee's position in the administrative hierarchy and perception by the public until project completion in December 2018. To implement these goals, the Federal Statistical Office works in a consortium with the national statistical offices of Finland, Italy and the Netherlands.

All in all, 40 activities have been planned for the project period; mainly expert missions in Kyrgyzstan, but also several study visits hosted for Kyrgyz delegations. The project activities focus on the following four areas:

- national accounts (NA)
- amending the Statistics Act
- upgrading the IT system
- establishing a business register

The current situation was analysed during the project's inception phase in May and June at the NSC in Bishkek. During this phase, the international experts gained first insights and provided consultation in Kyrgyzstan. In August, the outcome of the inception phase was analysed and the work plan for future activities discussed during a joint meeting in Bishkek. In the same month, the first high-level meeting took place in Wiesbaden. In view of the positive results achieved during the twinning partnership and in response to a request by the NSC, the World Bank was requested to prolong the project by six months until December 2018. Nonetheless, the partners have planned to continue project implementation without delay in order to use the additional time for carrying out follow-up activities and continuing the exchange of views and ideas.



Kyrgyz delegation with representatives of the Federal Statistical Office

The United Nations 2030 Agenda plays an important role in the project. To develop a national sustainability strategy along the lines of the Agenda, the Kyrgyz government has set up a separate committee chaired by the country's Prime Minister. In co-operation with other donors like GIZ, UN and Statistics Norway, KGSTAT project will support this initiative during the whole project period.



Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Head of Department, and Akylbek Sultanov, Chairman of the Kyrgyz Statistical Committee

President of the Federal Statistical Office visited the Republic of Korea



The Federal Statistical Office and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) have been partners and closely worked together for 20 years now. In 2017, the heads of the two statistical offices met once in Daejeon (Korea) and two study visits were hosted for Korean delegations in Wiesbaden.

At the invitation of then Commissioner Yoo Gyeongjoon of Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), President Dieter Sarreither and his delegation visited, within the context of long-term bilateral co-operation, Daejeon in South Korea between 26 and 30 March 2017.



Commissioner Yoo Gyeongjoon with his staff and President Dieter Sarreither with Dr. Sabine Bechtold, Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski and Bernd Störtzbach, members of the German delegation

President Sarreither presented the Office's Strategy and Programme Plan for the period 2016 – 2020 to the Korean heads of office, while the Korean side presented its Master Plan for the Development of National Statistics. Furthermore the bilateral meeting focused on current approaches to using ad-

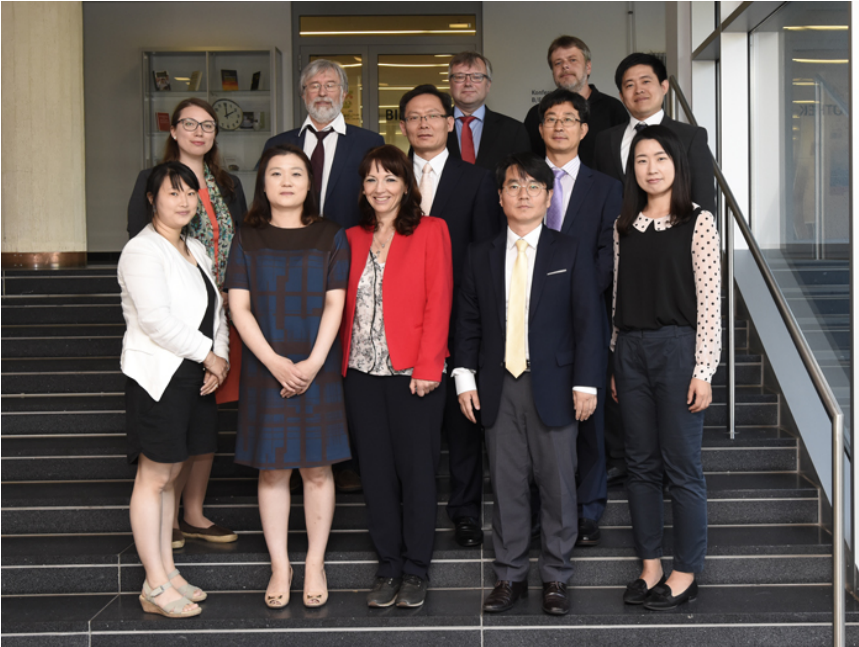
ministrative data, the strategy to measure progress towards achieving the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and an exchange of ideas on conducting population censuses in both countries. In addition, the delegation visited the German embassy.



Commissioner Yoo Gyeongjoon and President Dieter Sarreither

Delegation from the Republic of Korea provided with information on the classification of crime used in crime statistics

On 13 and 14 June 2017, a delegation of representatives of Statistics Korea, the Ministry of Justice, the Public Prosecution Office and the National Police Authority visited the Federal Statistical Office. The focus of the visit was to provide information on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) whose worldwide introduction had been endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2015. The aim of ICCS use is to improve the international comparability of statistical data on crime and criminal justice.



Delegation from the Republic of Korea with staff of the Federal Statistical Office and of the Federal Criminal Police Office

The Korean delegation was especially interested in the German experience regarding the transition from the national statistical classifications in place to the ICCS categories, using so-called correspondence tables. As there are similarities between German and Korean law, the agreed further bilateral exchange of ideas and views on ICCS application is of great interest to the German side, too. In addition to staff members of the Federal Statistical Office, experts of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) were involved in the professional discussions.

Study visit by a delegation from the Republic of Korea to discuss the topics of quality, research and new developments

Representatives of several Korean authorities like Statistics Korea, the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Patent Office and the Transport Institute visited the Federal Statistical Office on 22 August 2017.

The study visit focused on current developments in federal statistics such as using administrative data for statistical purposes, which was explained on the basis of the relevant new provisions in the Federal Statistics Act. Furthermore future-oriented research topics – like the analysis of satellite and telecommunication data – were of great interest to the visitors. Other topics discussed included the European Statistics Code of Practice and quality as a central characteristic feature of official statistics.



Delegation from the Republic of Korea with staff members of the Federal Statistical Office

Study visit by a Tajik delegation on aspects of the non-observed economy



On 15 and 16 August 2017, a delegation from Tajikistan visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden to discuss various aspects of the non-observed economy during a study visit. The delegation included a representative of the Tajik Presidential Administration, the Head of the National Accounts Department of the Tajik Agency on Statistics and two heads of regional statistical offices in Tajikistan.

During the study visit, the visitors were given a general overview of the system of national accounts in Germany before staff members of the Federal Statistical Office provided more detailed information on how so-called illegal activities are covered. The talks given focused on illegal activities like drug production and trafficking, tobacco smuggling, and prostitution (which is legal in Germany). The Tajik colleagues were especially interested in the model calculations used in Germany to cover these activities.

After the two-day visit to the Federal Statistical Office, the delegation went to the Czech Statistical Office in Prague to gain insights into the methodology used there to cover non-observed economic activities.



Tajik visitors with Destatis staff

Co-operation between Destatis and GIZ: professional discussions with delegations from Cameroon and Ethiopia

After a Joint Declaration of Intent for co-operation in the area of official statistics had been signed by the Federal Statistical Office and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on 3 March 2017, Destatis received two GIZ delegations for professional talks in Wiesbaden.

In July 2017, a delegation from Cameroon for the first time visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden to discuss aspects of registering the civil status of citizens. The Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior of Cameroon was accompanied by executives of the Ministry, the Association of Communities and the Civil Status Authority. Staff members of the Federal Statistical Office illustrated the use of civil status data in various statistical areas, presented the German census model and explained natural population changes, demographic analysis and projections in population statistics. The delegation from Cameroon in turn provided information on current reforms aimed at modernising civil status matters in the country.



Delegation from Cameroon with GIZ and Destatis staff

In September 2017, staff members of Destatis and Statistik Hessen (Land Statistical Office of Hessen) received visitors from Ethiopia for professional talks on higher education statistics. After the visitors had been given a detailed overview of the German statistics of higher education and the future evaluation systems planned for higher education statistics, the discussion focused mainly on technical aspects of data collection. The discussion covered the different data transmission channels .CORE, IDEV and printed forms as well as the application used to process the statistical data for non-monetary higher education statistics (DAHStat).



The Federal Statistical Office and GIZ have been working together since the Federal Statistical Office began to provide international consulting services on an institutionalised basis in the 1990s. 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.



Delegation from Ethiopia with GIZ, Destatis and Statistics Hessen staff

**European Statistical Training
Programme (ESTP): course on
"Administrative data and censuses"**



For the second time in 2017, the Federal Statistical Office hosted a course under the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). The participants in the ESTP course on "Administrative data and censuses, moving from traditional censuses towards register-based and combined censuses", which took place in Wiesbaden from 30 May to 1 June, came from national statistical institutes in the EU, potential EU candidate countries and Eurostat.

The course held in English was designed to provide the participants with an overview of the chances and risks involved in moving from traditional towards register-based and combined censuses. The course focused on the challenges facing the statistical offices in moving to the new census approach and on concrete forms of register use. In addition to lectures, the course comprised daily group exercises to impart knowledge about the various subjects.

The participants were given the opportunity to learn from the wealth of experience offered by the team of trainers and, at the same time, to exchange views and opinions on challenges and best practices with their European colleagues.



Participants in the ESTP course

Eurostat's Trainee Programme

Vedrana Rebic, Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS)

The EU Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) provides employees of statistical institutions of the IPA beneficiary countries (EU accession and candidate countries) with the opportunity to undergo a traineeship in a statistical authority of an EU Member State.

Since 2002, the Federal Statistical Office has provided young staff of other national statistical authorities (typically young professionals employed in the higher service) with the opportunity to do a traineeship in one of its specialised statistical or cross-sectional departments.

Vedrana Rebic, staff member of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS), has actively supported the work of the International Statistical Co-operation unit of the Federal Statistical Office between September and December 2017.

"During my traineeship I have learned a lot about official statistics in Germany, the Federal Statistical Office and its International statistical co-operation activities. During the short but intensive period, I have been given the opportunity to support, as a fully-fledged team member, various project activities. For instance, I organised study visits hosted for delegations from Croatia, Norway and Ethiopia, prepared expert missions in Kyrgyzstan and worked on reports in the framework of the EU twinning project with the Azerbaijani Statistical Committee.



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 International Relations (Wiesbaden)

Head of section

Simone Koll

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

simone.koll@destatis.de