



# INFORMATION

Statistisches Bundesamt

## ★ Statistical Cooperation with Transition and Developing Countries ★

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### New general agreement signed with GTZ

On 15 February 2001, the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Mr. Johann Hahlen, and the Managing Director of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH (German Agency for Technical Cooperation), Dr. Bernd Eisenblätter, signed an agreement on the continuation of technical cooperation in the field of official statistics. The new agreement is another step on the path towards establishing efficient systems of statistics in developing countries - a path that the two agencies have been following since 1995. The most important component of the agreement is that the Federal Statistical Office as the major provider of statistical training and consultation services is granted a preemptive right in the allocation of GTZ statistics projects. In cooperation with the GTZ, the Federal Statistical Office is currently carrying out projects, among others, with China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

#### Information exchange on future cooperation with the Czech Statistical Office

Mr. Zdenek Vesely, Head of the Department "European Integration and International Coordination" of the Czech Statistical Office, and Mrs. Jarmila Povolná, Head of the Section "International Relations", visited the Federal Statistical Office's Branch Office in Bonn for talks on future statistical cooperation. The consultations with representatives of Division IX D ("Statistical Cooperation") were used for an exchange of information on current developments in Czech and German official statistics and for planning the cooperation activities of the year 2001.

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## International Coordination

### **Project planning talks with the Czech Statistical Office**

*continued*

On 12 January 2001, the Czech guests visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden for talks on the Office's public relations work and on German population census practice. On account of the Czech population census scheduled to be taken in spring 2001, the visitors were particularly interested in the population census experience gathered by German statisticians.

### **GTZ project on modernising the statistical system of Croatia**

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH was commissioned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to carry out a project on modernising the statistical system of Croatia as part of the Stability Pact for south-east Europe. The GTZ's cooperation partner is the Croatian Central Bureau of Statistics in Zagreb. The project is to be completed by June 2003. One of the major project components is agricultural statistics. A project planning seminar was held in Zagreb at the end of January 2001, part of which was attended by a representative of the Federal Statistical Office.

### **Phare Management Group**

The 3rd meeting of the Phare Management Group was held in Luxembourg on 29/30 March 2001. With Eurostat presiding over the meeting, the participants discussed current

questions concerning the cooperation with the accession candidate countries. They also talked about the effects of externalising the administration of the Community programmes and the establishment of the Europe Aid executive agency, which has been responsible for the execution of statistical programmes (Phare, Tacis, CARDS) since 1 January 2001.

### **Brochure Poland and Germany in brief**

Together with the Polish Central Statistical Office, the Federal Statistical Office has published the brochure "Poland and Germany in brief". The brochure provides economic, social, demographic and ecological comparative data on Poland and Germany. To quote from the preface by the heads of the two Offices: "This publication is the contribution of our countries' official statistics to strengthening the neighbourly relations between Germany and Poland. It aims at arousing the citizens' interest in and their comprehension of the respective other country. On the basis of important statistical figures and information, our citizens may get a realistic picture of their neighbouring country and compare it to their own country". Since there has been a brisk demand for the brochure, it is currently being reprinted.

### **Brochure Russia and Germany in brief**

As part of the cooperation between the Federal Statistical Office and the State Statistics Committee (Goskomstat) of the Russian Federation, a second edition of the brochure "Russia and Germany in brief" has



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been drawn up as a joint bilingual publication. In April, the brochure was presented to the general public at the Hanover fair in Germany. In condensed form, the brochure presents and compares the populations' composition and structure, employment, living conditions, income, major production data, economic relations as well as indicators from the areas of education, housing supply, health and environment in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Russian Federation. The data selected from the official statistics of the two countries are intended to enhance the citizens' comprehension of the social and economic trends and to help them to get to know each other better.

### Russian-language publications






The Russian-language compendium "New Ways of Agricultural Statistics" was published

as Volume 10 of the series "Statistical Contributions" in March 2001. The publication was compiled as a result of a lecture event in Berlin and contains the Russian translations of the contributions published by the Federal Statistical Office in Volume 33 of its publication series "Forum der Bundesstatistik" in 1999. The contributions cover, among others, the following subjects: demands on agricultural statistics, their further development within the EU, the production and structural surveys taken at agricultural and forestry holdings, and the programme and organisation of an agricultural census. The publication designed for agricultural specialists and statisticians in Russian-language countries was edited by the Federal Statistical Office and financed through the Tacis programme of the EU.



## Cooperation Activities

### Summary for January to April 2001

<b>11.-12.01.2001 in Bonn and Wiesbaden</b>	<u>Information exchange on future cooperation activities with the Czech Statistical Office (for details cf. p. 1)</u>
	
<b>15.-19.01.2001 in Vilnius</b>	<p>As part of the World Bank project "Improving the system of agricultural statistics in Lithuania", an expert commissioned by the Federal Statistical Office paid a visit to the Statistical Office of Lithuania. Various details of executing an agricultural census were discussed. Both parties agreed that, first of all, a pilot survey should be conducted in a clearly defined regional area.</p>
	
<b>18.-19.01.2001 in Paris</b>	<p>Under the project "Regional statistics", a study visit was made by experts of the State Committee on Statistics of the Russian Federation and of the Federal Statistical Office. The visit's goal was to examine the use of information technology (IT) and EDP programs in French official statistics, to put the findings to use in the project and to prepare for improvements to be made in the IT sector of Russian official statistics. The overall project is aimed at developing a concept that will meet the need for official statistical information at both federal and regional levels in Russia and take into account the given international statistical standards.</p>
	
<b>22.-26.01.2001 in Wiesbaden</b>	<p>Jointly with a delegation of the State Statistical Agency at the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, a concept was drawn up for a publication on the results of the national population census taken in 2000. The experts of the Federal Statistical Office made some recommendations on the contents, layout, graphical design, cover design and colouring of the brochure planned to be published in autumn 2001. Furthermore, a timetable for the brochure's completion was set up. The guests from Tajikistan were also introduced to the Federal Statistical Office's press service. During a seminar on the user-friendly graphical design of statistical publications, concrete examples were used to illustrate the advantages and disadvantages of the various types of graphics and to discuss suitable applications.</p>
	
<b>25.-26.01.2001 in Bonn</b>	<p>During a study visit on household budget surveys, statisticians from the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan were informed in detail about the continuous household budget surveys and the methodology, legal bases and survey documents for the sample survey of income and expenditure (EVS). Particular emphasis was on food, beverages and tobacco products as covered by the EVS. Furthermore, the guests were given an overview of the system of federal statistics, the publication system and the marketing and price concept that the Federal Statistical Office applies to statistical publications and other information products and services.</p>
	



## Cooperation Activities

### Summary for January to April 2001

**29.01.-02.02.2001  
in Wiesbaden and  
Munich**



Within the framework of the cooperation with the State Committee on Statistics of the Russian Federation, its representatives made a study visit to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and to the Bavarian Land Office for Statistics and Data Processing in Munich. The participants were provided with methodological information on the catalogue of regional statistical indicators (RegioStat) from national and regional viewpoints, focussing on the catalogue's structure, development and data sources. An in-depth account was also given of how federal and Land agencies collaborate in keeping the catalogue up to date. Further items of discussion were the data processing techniques applied and the publication of results.

**04.-24.02.2001  
in Munich**



As part of the GTZ project on "Reorganising the industrial and transport statistics in the People's Republic of China", a seminar on "Seasonal adjustment and time series analysis in industry" was organised together with the Training Centre of the Carl-Duisberg-Society in Munich. Apart from the conceptual definitions, the 21 Chinese statisticians were familiarised with the methods of time series analysis, component analysis and seasonal adjustment of time series. A particularly detailed account was given of the BV 4 (Berlin method) and X 12 Arima seasonal adjustment methods. Furthermore, various questions concerning the implementation of seasonal adjustment procedures in the field of production statistics, short-term economic indicators and national accounts and a number of regional aspects were discussed.

**04.-24.02.2001  
in Brühl, Co-  
logne, Flensburg**



Another training seminar was held to give Chinese statisticians an overview of and detailed methodological information on all aspects involved with road traffic statistics. The training seminar organised as part of the GTZ project on "Reorganising the industrial and transport statistics in the People's Republic of China" met with lively interest from the Chinese representatives. They expressed a substantial need for a more profound and intensive cooperation with German authorities and institutions in establishing a system of road traffic statistics according to international standards, especially with a view to the environmental impact of road traffic and to the contribution of road traffic statistics to national accounts.

**12.-16.02.2001  
in Wiesbaden,  
Munich**



Russian statisticians made a study visit concerning regional statistics, which was aimed at improving the collection, processing, storage and transmission of statistical information at regional and national levels. The visiting experts were provided with an overview of the data processing technology used at the Federal Statistical Office. Various areas of data acquisition, optical document reading, interactive processing and automatic data processing were demonstrated in practice. During a visit to the Bavarian Land Office for Statistics and Data Processing, the data processing technology used for different stages of work at Land level was presented, also with regard to the cooperation between federal and Land agencies.



## Cooperation Activities

### Summary for January to April 2001

**26.02.-07.03.2001  
in Baku, Tbilisi**



Experts of the Land Statistical Office Berlin visited the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan to discuss the pilot survey of the structure of the construction industry. On that occasion, the Azerbaijani statisticians explained the methodology and results of a survey of rural second homes, which had been conducted to collect data on the informal economy. Furthermore, a concept for an economic sentiment survey in the construction industry was presented. Two meetings were held with representatives of the Ministry of Economics, the Committee on Construction and Architecture and four heads of rayon offices to consider the user requirements and the division of labour between the Azerbaijani Central Office and the offices of the rayons (regional territorial units) in the production of the statistics.

During their ensuing visit to the Regional Statistical Office of Mtskheta, Georgia, the experts talked about the working methods and conditions of a regional statistical office when conducting surveys of construction and investment. At the Statistical Office of Georgia in Tbilisi, a report on the 1998 test survey of investment was discussed. During consultations, in which the head of the Statistical Office of the Autonomous Republic of Adzharia and representatives of the regional statistical offices of Rustavi and Gori participated, questions concerning the use of the register of business units in Georgia were examined on the basis of the survey of construction and investment, and the problems involved with business units (enterprises, local units, new enterprise concept) were considered.

**28.02-02.03.2001  
in Bonn**



Within the framework of German-Polish cooperation in the field of agricultural statistics, representatives of the Central Statistical Office, the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural-Economic Institute visited the German Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture and the Federal Statistical Office. The meetings focussed on the supply balance sheets for fodder, oil-bearing seeds, oils, pulses and pork. In addition, questions concerning the Economic Accounts for Agriculture (EAA) were addressed. The complex procedure to calculate the quantities of self-produced or mixed and directly purchased fodder, while taking foreign trade into account, revealed to the Polish experts that not all data can be collected directly but that additional information from business and research as well as supplementary data are included in the results. The same applies to tabulating the use of fodder in a breakdown by kinds of animals, which is not yet required by the EU. As far as the under-coverage affecting intra-Community trade operations was concerned, approaches to solving the problem (mirror statistics) were worked out. Apart from that, the Polish participants were interested in the coefficients for calculating the use of raw materials in processed farm products.





## Cooperation Activities







### Summary for January to April 2001

<b>12.-16.03.2001</b> <b>in Skopje</b>	<p>At the joint ECE/Eurostat working group meeting on statistical confidentiality, the Federal Statistical Office's representative delivered a speech on "New instruments for cell encoding" and gave a training course on the theory and practice of statistical confidentiality for transition countries, especially for Tacis and Balkan countries.</p>
	
<b>14.-15.03.2001</b> <b>in Lvov</b>	<p>Experts of the Land Statistical Office of Baden-Württemberg visited the Regional Statistical Office in Lvov, Ukraine. Consultations were held on setting up regional statistical data bases in the Ukraine. Current projects of regional statistics, such as "Baden-Württemberg Monitor", regional forecasts (population, housing requirement and passenger car projections) were discussed. Further emphasis was laid on regional economic accounts. Also, a concept for calculating the value added in the rayons of Lvov oblast on the basis of NACE Rev. 1, and the requirements, preconditions and calculation possibilities of further macroeconomic indicators for the rayons were examined.</p>
	
<b>19.-23.03.2001</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b>	<p>As part of the Tacis-2/3-Agreement, final consultations on "investment statistics" were held with statisticians from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The talks focussed on the assessment of a survey document for "statistics on building permits", which had been prepared by the Statistical Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Besides, a draft report was drawn up for the "investment statistics" component of the Tacis-2/3-Agreement. The cooperation is to be continued in future.</p>
	
	
	
<b>21.-23.03.2001</b> <b>in Hanover</b>	<p>At the beginning of a study visit by Ukrainian statisticians, the Land Statistical Office of Lower Saxony presented its publication system and public relations work. The different domains of public relations work by the Federal Statistical Office, on the one hand, and the statistical offices of the Länder, on the other, were also explained. Afterwards, the guests paid a visit to the joint stand of the Statistical Offices of the Federation and the Länder at the CeBIT fair in Hanover as well as to the Federal Statistical Office's stand in the thematic pavilion "Modern State" on the fairgrounds, and attended the event "eGovernment - Possibilities of enhancing acceptance by citizens and business". The Ukrainian statisticians informed themselves about the new electronic media that the Federal Statistical Office uses in disseminating statistical information, with a view to an improved application of such media in the dissemination of statistical data by the State Statistics Committee of the Ukraine.</p>
	



## Cooperation Activities

### Summary for January to April 2001

<b>25.-30.03.2001 in Berlin</b>	<p>Under the World Bank project on "Improving the system of agricultural statistics in Lithuania", Lithuanian agricultural statisticians and experts of the Federal Statistical Office, the Federal Ministry for Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, the Land Statistical Office of Berlin and the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg talked about issues concerning agricultural statistics and the Economic Accounts for Agriculture. At the Land Office Berlin, the AGRA online system was demonstrated.</p>
	
<b>26.-28.03.2001 in Kiev</b>	<p>On the occasion of a "construction statistics" seminar held for staff members of the Ukrainian regional statistical offices, the Federal Statistical Office's experts dealt with the following subjects: significance and relevance of the methodological approaches to indices of production and orders received; methodology of calculating indices of construction output and orders received; revision of monthly construction output indices on the basis of annual exhaustive surveys in the building industry proper; time series analysis of indices of production and orders received, and data supplied by indices of construction output and orders received (data processing and publication).</p>
	
<b>26.-29.03.2001 in Wiesbaden</b>	<p>During a study visit on foreign trade statistics on the subject "Statistics without customs borders (intra-Community trade)", Russian and Belarusian statisticians were introduced to the methods and principles of the Intrastat system. The consultations focussed on the variables covered by the Intrastat reports, the channels of reporting in consideration of new technology (Internet), monitoring mechanisms, classifications, publication and automatic data processing. The German experts inquired about the survey systems and current problems concerning data collection. Afterwards, they discussed possible improvements with their Russian and Belarusian colleagues.</p>
	
	
<b>28.-30.03.2001 in Wiesbaden</b>	<p>On the occasion of a visit to the Federal Statistical Office, Ukrainian statisticians informed themselves about new developments in German and EU regional statistics and the process of statistical production in Germany. The visit continued with presentations and consultations on the subject "construction of harmonised sets of federal and Länder data for the GENESIS information system". The "Statistik regional" information system of regional statistics and the "Atlas of Regional Statistics" were also presented.</p>
	
<b>29.-30.03.2001 in Kiev</b>	<p>During a mission on construction statistics, the experts involved discussed questions concerning the data exchange between the Ukraine and the EU. Besides, the definition and structure of the variable "turnover" as well as its calculation were considered. The Federal Statistical Office's experts also assessed a draft prepared by the Ukrainian statisticians on the calculation methods for the production index in construction.</p>
	





## Cooperation Activities

### Summary for January to April 2001

**18.-27.04.2001  
in Bonn, Berlin,  
Wiesbaden and  
Potsdam**



A delegation of the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics and German statisticians discussed issues relating to the coordination of the statistical programme. On the basis of services statistics, experts of the Federal Statistical Office and the Federal Ministry of Finance described the planning and preparation of statistics in Germany to their Chinese guests. To become acquainted with the coordination required between federal and Länder agencies, the guests visited the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg. At the Federal Ministry of the Interior, the Chinese statisticians were informed about the cooperation within the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Statistics. Finally, staff members of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden gave an account of European cooperation in official statistics.

**23.-27.04.2001  
in Bonn**



During a study visit made by Ukrainian statisticians specialising in services statistics to the Branch Office of the Federal Statistical Office, the following subjects were presented and discussed: surveys in the field of posts and telecommunications; audiovisual services; statistics of waste management, water supply and waste-water disposal; statistical health monitoring; surveys in the social sphere and the cost structure survey in the sphere of medicine.

**23.-27.04.2001  
in Vilnius**



As part of the World Bank project "Improving the system of agricultural statistics in Lithuania", German experts visited the Statistical Office of Lithuania. They held 3 seminars of equal contents for 65 staff members of the regional statistical offices and the Lithuanian National Office. These seminars focussed on the transition process, the German agricultural census, the legal and institutional bases for statistics in Germany, the cooperation with Eurostat and the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), as well as the electronic AGRA online processing system. After the seminars, the future schedule of the project was arranged and talks about the project as such were held with representatives of the German Embassy in Vilnius.



## Cooperation Activities

### Summary for January to April 2001

**24.-27.04.2001**  
**Wiesbaden**



As part of the Phare pilot project on foreign trade statistics, the Federal Statistical Office organised a seminar for experts from Bulgaria, Estonia, Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary. The seminar was aimed at supporting statisticians from these countries in introducing intra-Community trade statistics, which will be required upon the countries' accession to the European Union, and to prepare them for the specific rules governing the EU single market. Hence, the guests were given a complete overview of intra-Community trade statistics from data collection via processing to the publication of results. Particular attention was attached to a realistic description of the problems involved and to the preparations required for introducing intra-Community trade statistics.