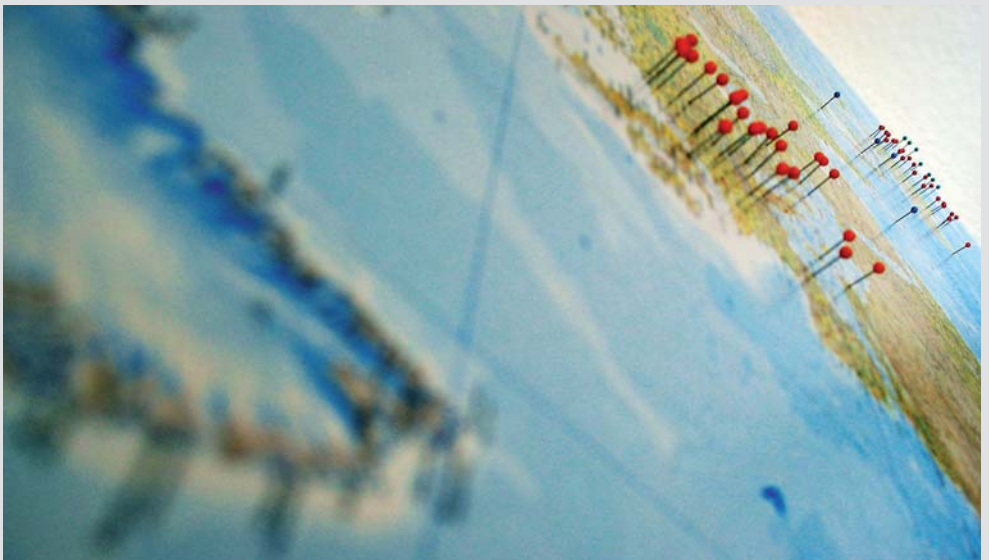


STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

International statistical co-operation



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| | | |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 4 | | Editorial |
| 6 |  | Mongolia |
| 9 |  | Azerbaijan |
| 11 |  | Tajikistan |
| 14 |  | China |
| 16 |  | Kazakhstan |
| 18 |  | Russian Federation |
| 20 | | Central Asia |
| 22 |  | European Union |
| 23 |  | Namibia |
| 25 | | News in brief |
| | 25 | Russian Federation |
| | 26 | Algeria |
| | 26 | Kosovo |
| | 27 | South Caucasus |
| | 27 | Macedonia |
| | 28 | Republic of Korea |
| | 29 | Turkey |
| | 30 | Traineeships |
| 33 | | Who is Who? |

Dear readers,

In 2010, several co-operation projects were successfully concluded. With the last of a total of four courses for Russian statisticians on a variety of quality management issues, this set of courses was finished.

In December, a closing conference was held in Cologne to complete also the TACIS-11 programme, which benefited the statistical offices of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Under that programme, Destatis experts performed a total of 262 expert mission days and organised six study visits on business statistics, population statistics, population census, statistical methods, data dissemination, and environment statistics.

At the same time, the TACIS financing instrument of the European Union was terminated, which had been set up in 1991 to strengthen the co-operation with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, the Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

The old EU assistance instruments have been replaced by new ones such as ENPI for the EU neighbourhood region. Also, other donors have become more important for statistical co-operation, such as the World Bank, which has commissioned the Federal Statistical Office to carry through projects in Tajikistan and Mongolia.

As a consequence, the tasks of co-operation have changed, too, having become more varied. Apart from supporting EU candidate countries in adopting the “*acquis communautaire*”, many projects deal with issues ranging from the countries’ adoption of generally accepted international standards to solving problems that are highly specific of developing countries. The following pages will give an impression of how varied those activities are.

However, changes have occurred not only in the organisational unit’s scope of tasks but also in its staff structure: Since September 2010, Mr Ringo Rau-

pach has been Head of the Bonn-based section of statistical co-operation. He took over that responsibility having worked for more than six years in the unit.

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

international-cooperation@destatis.de

The editors

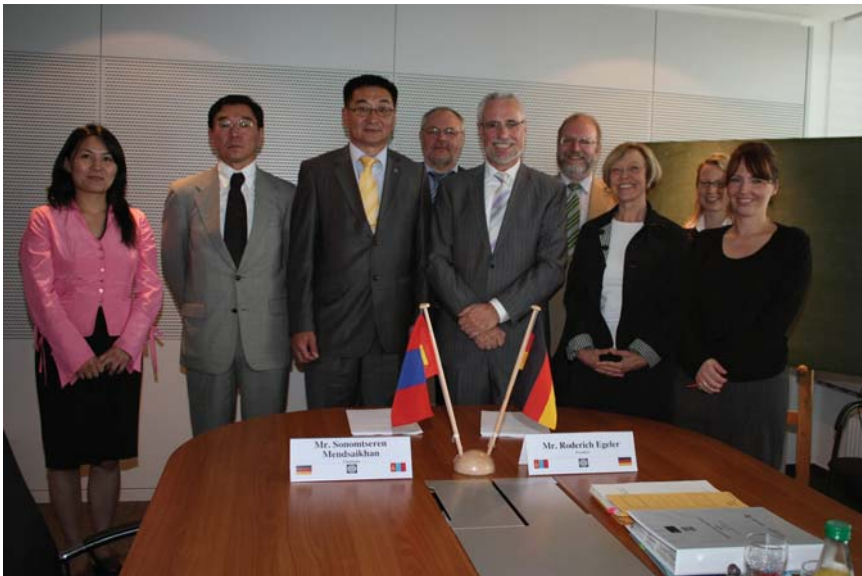


Regional office at Khatlon in the Tajik Republic

Assisting Mongolia in achieving the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations aimed at halving poverty by 2015



In 2010 the Federal Statistical Office, together with the Korean statistical office, won a tender for a World Bank Twinning project to support the National Statistical Office of Mongolia in building its statistical capacities. The objective of the project is to adjust the Mongolian statistical system to international standards in order to provide national and international users with reliable data. In this way, the project will contribute to establishing a reliable basis of information for setting the course to achieve the Millennium Development Goals aimed at halving poverty by 2015.



From left to right: Ms Ganschimeg, Mr Gerelt-Od and President Mendsaikhan from the Mongolian Office, President Egeler and colleagues from Destatis

Together with the Mongolian partners, the consortium led by Germany prepared a work schedule for their five-year co-operation. The project will focus on the following topics and activities in 2011:

- national accounts
- improving the IT infrastructure at the statistical authorities, and
- statistical cross-cutting issues, including assistance in preparing a master plan and establishing a training centre



Project planning discussions in Wiesbaden, Vice-President Weigl (5th from right) with Mr. Mendsaikhan, Chairman of the Mongolian Office (6th from right)

Together with many international experts from statistical offices, more than 90 activities will be carried out in Mongolia, Germany, Korea and Finland.

The official kick-off event in Ulan Bator on 10 December was attended by many representatives from the local media, international donor organisations and user groups. The Mongolian statisticians underlined the great importance of the project for Mongolia.

Overview of the project activities

| | | August |
|---|------------|-----------------|
| Signing of the contract | Wiesbaden | 2 |
| | | October |
| National accounts | Ulan Bator | 7–12 |
| Initial activity in the IT area | Ulan Bator | 11–15 |
| Initial activity on improving the institutional framework | Ulan Bator | 16–27 |
| | | November |
| Project planning discussions | Wiesbaden | 29–2 Dec. |
| | | December |
| Kick-off event | Ulan Bator | 10 |

Twinning project with the Azerbaijani State Statistical Committee (SSC)



First half of the project completed – interview with Mr. Alkhan Mansurov, Azerbaijani project leader

Half of the project activities have just been completed. In what way has the Twinning project tool helped you to improve the statistical methods?

The activities carried out in the context of each component are based on international standards which include EU requirements, too. As Twinning projects are aimed at achieving harmonisation in this area, our project can be judged as a good tool. Studying the statistical systems and methods applied in the EU Member States at the same time helps us to improve our methods.



What practical results have been achieved so far?

Study visits were organised in the framework of the individual components, and the SSC prepared a programme of activities based on the relevant provisions of the statistical council, which is currently put into practice. The results achieved include improvements made to several existing questionnaires and the development of new questionnaires. Furthermore, the methods applied have been partly revised.

What results do you expect in the second half of the project?

The methodological database which our SSC colleagues have developed and set up in the context of the Twinning project will permit us to use the electronic information system to a greater extent during the second half of the project, for instance, in developing an indicator system and gathering new data.

What improvements do you think could still be made?

In the context of some components, it would be helpful if the experts applied a more practical approach.

What activities do you think should be supported by consultations with foreign experts in the medium run?

In my understanding, assistance in the medium term should focus on both analysing thoroughly the surveys conducted and improving the quality of the results obtained in the surveys. In addition, we seek help to set up a metadata information system and a geographical information system – but this would go beyond the scope of this project.

Overview of the project activities

| July | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| National accounts | Prague | 19–23 |
| August | | |
| National accounts | Baku | 24–27 |
| Price statistics | Baku | 30–3 Sept. |
| September | | |
| National accounts | Baku | 13–16 |
| 4th meeting of the Steering Committee | Baku | 27–30 |
| October | | |
| Non-observed economy | Vilnius | 18–22 |
| National accounts | Baku | 26–29 |
| November | | |
| National accounts | Baku | 29–2 Dec. |
| December | | |
| Business statistics | Wiesbaden | 14–17 |

TAJIKISTAN**Training seminars in the context of the TAJSTAT project**

In the second half of 2010, a focus of co-operation in the TAJSTAT project was on carrying out training courses. The topics of the seminars which took place in Dushanbe included human resources development, questionnaire design, data quality, quality reports, seasonal adjustment, plausibility checks, and the application of the SPSS data analysis software. Another IT course was conducted in Moscow. During a single-day workshop, the ne-



Opening the seminar on human resource development by the head of the Statistical Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan, Mrs Muhammadieva

cessity and opportunities of co-operation in producing labour market statistics were discussed with representatives from the statistical office and from Tajik ministries. On the whole, more than 140 staff of the central statistical office and the regional offices attended the above courses. The trainings were tailored to the needs and requests of the Tajik partner office. The content of the courses was based on the results and recommendations of con-

sultations undertaken at an earlier time. There is further need for training courses especially on statistical methodology and the application of IT software.



Participants of the seminar on seasonal adjustment with the Swedish expert, Mr Xie (in front)

New website of the statistical office

On 26 October 2010, the Tajik statistical office conducted a press conference at which the office's new website and a CD-ROM with the Tajik indicators regarding the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were presented to representatives from press agencies, public authorities and international organisations. The Tajik statistical office and an external partner had developed a modern and well-structured website. Navigation is simple and clear, and the major publications are released online. The experts of the Federal Statistical Office who had assisted the Tajik colleagues in developing their own publication standards in the context of the TAJSTAT project attended the press conference, too.

Overview of the project activities

| | | July |
|---|------------|------------|
| Energy statistics | Dushanbe | 12–17 |
| Classifications | Dushanbe | 12–17 |
| IT scanner technology | Astana | 18–22 |
| Agricultural statistics | Astana | 27–30 |
| | | August |
| Industrial production | Bratislava | 16–18 |
| Questionnaire design/quality reports | Dushanbe | 19–25 |
| Agricultural statistics | Dushanbe | 30–4 Sept. |
| | | September |
| Agricultural statistics | Dushanbe | 13–18 |
| UNECE workshop on human resources development | Dushanbe | 14–16 |
| | | October |
| Quality reports | Dushanbe | 11–16 |
| Human resources development | Dushanbe | 11–16 |
| Industrial production | Dushanbe | 11–23 |
| Informal economy | Dushanbe | 18–23 |
| Domestic trade | Dushanbe | 18–23 |
| Seasonal adjustment | Dushanbe | 18–23 |
| Dissemination of statistical data | Dushanbe | 21–27 |
| Labour force survey | Dushanbe | 25–30 |
| IT scanner technology | Moscow | 26–28 |
| | | November |
| Sampling methodology | Dushanbe | 1–6 |
| Plausibility checks | Dushanbe | 8–13 |
| Investment and construction statistics | Dushanbe | 8–13 |
| National accounts | Dushanbe | 15–20 |
| Input-output accounts | Dushanbe | 15–20 |
| Transport statistics | Dushanbe | 15–20 |
| Project management/organisation | Dushanbe | 18–24 |
| Agricultural statistics | Dushanbe | 22–27 |
| IT training course (SPSS) | Dushanbe | 22–27 |
| Classifications | Kiev | 29–3 Dec. |

Co-operation with the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China (NBS)



Between 13 and 15 December 2010, two delegations of the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China (NBS) visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. The visit was organised in the context of the bilateral programme of co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and the NBS, which has been in place since 1993. The discussions with the colleagues of the International co-operation department focused on programme planning. The current bilateral programme includes the following projects:

- statistical legislation
- data dissemination via the internet and statistical information services
- employment statistics and
- wage statistics and labour costs

The participants from the two offices discussed the project progress achieved. The Chinese colleagues presented in detail both the results of the activities undertaken within the individual projects and the measures initiated by the NBS on the basis of the ideas and proposals of the German experts.

As far as statistical legislation is concerned, co-operation focuses on the impact of applying the new Chinese Statistics Law and its effects on the role of the NBS in the Chinese statistical system. The consultations in the area of employment and wage statistics and labour costs have progressed as scheduled. Plans have been made to continue the exchange of views in all subprojects in 2011.

At the same time with the planning discussions, an NBS delegation visited the Federal Statistical Office to discuss issues of data dissemination via the internet. The Chinese colleagues provided their counterparts at the Federal Statistical Office with information about the current status of the data dis-



From left to right: Ringo Raupach, Kerstin Hänsel, Klaus Pötzsch, Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Ralf Müller (all Destatis), Herr Zhang Jun (NBS), Waltraud Moore (Destatis), An Yuhuan, Zhao Maohong, Wang Xianming (all NBS)

semination and information system at the NBS, and they discussed open questions with them. The German colleagues in turn presented especially the central information service and the customer management system. Furthermore, the results of the most recent 2007 customer survey were of great interest to the visitors.

Overview of the co-operation activities

| September | | |
|--|-----------|-------|
| Wage statistics and labour costs | Wiesbaden | 6–10 |
| Statistical legislation | Beijing | 6–10 |
| December | | |
| Data dissemination via the internet and statistical information services | Wiesbaden | 13–16 |
| Planning discussions | Wiesbaden | 13–16 |

Strengthening the strategic partnership with Kazakhstan



The Kazakh and German national statistical offices have worked closely together for 15 years. For several years this co-operation has been supported through the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. Topics of this year's consultations were foreign trade and services statistics and also (data) production systems, data dissemination and modern information and communication technologies.

As part of this co-operation, an expert mission to the Agency of Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan (ARKS) in Astana and a study visit by Kazakh statisticians to Wiesbaden were organised to discuss various matters of foreign trade statistics. The consultations focused on a bilateral mirror exercise relating to statistical foreign trade data. In that context, imports and exports were compared between the two partner countries. While the Kazakh exports to Germany were to correspond to the German imports from Kazakhstan, an asymmetry was detected in the course of the practical exercise. The two sides agreed that indicating different partner countries was the main cause of the high discrepancies detected in the east-west direction of trade. In addition to different partner countries, methodological differences are a reason for the discrepancies, too.

A further topic of the consultations was the practical experience gained in implementing and applying the Intrastat (intra-Community trade statistics) system in Germany.

Another study visit on services statistics took place in the Bonn Branch of the Federal Statistical Office from 18 to 22 October 2010. Its purpose was to continue the exchange of experience on conducting the annual and quarterly services surveys in the two countries, which had been initiated in Astana in December 2009, and to prepare and carry out a survey of the utilisation of information and communication technologies. The discussions centred on content-related and also methodological and organisational questions regarding the preparation, conduct and evaluation of the surveys.

The participants also discussed a pilot study which had been conducted in the form of a sample survey among small enterprises in the services sector and compared the sample survey data with the results of complete enumeration. Above all, information was provided on the sample design and the specification of services for sampling purposes and tables were presented with first pilot study results, broken down by branches of economic activity and regions. The following survey-related discussion and consultation centred on various aspects of sampling theory and methodology.

Another focus of the discussion was on how to obtain high-quality results while keeping the burden on respondents as low as possible. In that context, the German colleagues indicated the advantages of reducing the response burden by conducting a sample survey and shortening the list of variables for small and medium-sized survey units, as it was done in the structural survey. Another very good example of how to reduce the response burden caused by statistical reporting obligations in Germany is the mixed model which has been used to collect short-term economic data in the services sector. The model is a combination of using administrative data and conducting a supplementary primary survey among very large survey units.

In mid-November, a high-ranking Kazakh delegation led by the ARKS Vice President Zhasser Jarkinbayev visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. During the study visit, which was designed to provide the guests with relevant assistance in reforming their statistical system, the participants discussed both subject matter-related issues and major cross-cutting themes.

The programme organised by the Federal Statistical Office included a large number of expert lectures as a basis for subsequent discussion. The topics included, for instance, quality management, IT infrastructure and processes, data dissemination and human resources development. Furthermore, experts from Wiesbaden and Bonn presented the systems of business statistics and national accounts. Together with international experts, the Kazakh government is currently preparing a programme to support the further development of statistics in Kazakhstan. The above contributions have provided the Kazakh colleagues with valuable ideas regarding the further development and advancement of official statistics in the country.

Successful TQM courses for Russian statisticians from regional statistical offices



In 2009 and 2010, the Federal Statistical Office conducted a total of four courses on the same topics each for 20 top-management participants from regional statistical offices of the Russian Federation. The last course took place in Bonn in November 2010.



President Roderich Egeler (center) and participants of the third course from different regions of the Russian Federation

In the area of Quality management in official statistics, experts of the Federal Statistical Office provided information on the Total Quality Management (TQM) concept and its implementation in German official statistics. In addition to such basic information, the programme covered specific statistical topics and the methods used to ensure the associated quality standards. Furthermore, the participants visited the Hessian Land Statistical Office in

Wiesbaden, the municipal statistical offices in Frankfurt and Mainz and also Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union, in Luxembourg. Also, the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Mr Roderich Egeler, took the time to welcome the colleagues from Russia and to discuss some topical issues with them. In that context, his responsibilities as Federal Returning Officer and the forthcoming population census were of particular interest to the visitors.

Apart from the intensive work programme, an interesting social programme was organised for the guests who went, for instance, to Cologne, Trier and Bruges over the weekends.

As the overall programme was varied and multifaceted, the participants whose questions initiated intensive subject-related discussions were highly satisfied with the events organised – despite the tight schedule. Thus, the final evaluation was very positive, too. The courses were assessed by all participants as very useful and practice-oriented. The organiser of the courses was also highly complimented on his work. The final conclusion to be drawn after the completion of the four courses is that both parties have contributed significantly to strengthening the bilateral relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Russian Federation.

Overview of the project activities

| | | November |
|---|------|----------|
| Quality management in official statistics | Bonn | 15–26 |

Successful completion of the TACIS-11 project

In 2009 and 2010, the Federal Statistical Office was involved in the EU-funded TACIS-11 project on the Further Development of National Statistics in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. In that context, the office was responsible for several project components including environment statistics. The objective of the latter project component was to improve environmental management in the Central Asian region by enhancing the systems of environment statistics.

Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan worked largely together in the environment component, while Turkmenistan preferred to conduct a pilot survey that was organised separately. Due to the protracted process of registering the project in the country, however, the actual beginning of the project activities was delayed by eleven months.

The first expert mission was designed to assess the status quo in the area of environment statistics and to make recommendations as to how to organise the planned pilot survey of water utilisation by households. During the second expert mission, the pilot survey was at the implementation stage so that an evaluation could not yet be made. Both the planned publication scheme and the tabulation programme were discussed in detail with the staff responsible. As the project work went on, the expert conducted a seminar for staff of the statistical office. In its context, he provided information on the data and methods needed for air pollution reporting and on international standards in the area of water and waste statistics.

Overview of the project activities

| | | July |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Environment statistics | Ashgabat | 26–30 |
| | | September |
| Quality management in official statistics/Turkmenistan | Wiesbaden | 7–9 |
| Publication and dissemination of statistical information/Turkmenistan | Wiesbaden | 13–15 |
| | | October |
| Industrial statistics | Bishkek | 18–29 |
| | | November |
| Labour migration and population statistics | Bishkek | 15–26 |



Positive evaluation of ESTP courses

The national ESTP contact point at the Federal Statistical Office continues to record a very high interest in the courses of the European Statistical Training Programme. In 2010, 37 staff members of the Federal Statistical Office were selected by Eurostat from those who were interested; these had the opportunity to attend one out of 28 courses on special statistics or cross-sectional topics.

The national contact point has received very positive feedback on the ESTP courses. “The knowledge I have gained from what was presented in the course and from the exercises is very important for my daily work” and “all my expectations have been fully met and I would not hesitate at all to recommend the course to my colleagues” are examples from the course evaluations.

Overall, the evaluation showed that the content of the courses is regarded as highly relevant for daily work. The technical and didactic competence of the presenters was praised as well as the organisation of the courses. The assessment also revealed that due to a deeper understanding of processes at European level, the chance to use English technical terms and last but not least the contacts established at working level participants feel more at ease when they attend meetings of European agencies or international conferences.

The ESTP forms part of the Statistical Programme of the European Union. The latter lays down the goal of the ESTP, which is to increase the overall quality of European statistics by enhancing the qualification of statisticians and their independence and by exchanging experience, exemplary procedures, know how and important methodologies.

First census of non-agricultural local units conducted in Namibia is a success



Thanks to the financial support provided by the German Government, the first census of non-agricultural local units was completed successfully in Namibia in 2010. It had been commissioned by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and supported by the Federal Statistical Office. This has not only been the first and nearly complete stocktaking since



Short-term expert Erwin Wartenberg on the occasion of the pilot survey on the port premises of Walvis Bay together with Chief Statistician Eden Shipanga (right) from the Ministry of Trade and Industry and two local colleagues (left).

Namibia's independence in 1990 but also the very first census of this kind. Supposedly for the first time, Namibia has a reliable basis for planning in this sphere.

The necessary preparations started in 2008. In the following year, the colleagues from Namibia conducted an ambitious pilot survey with the assistance of the short-term expert so that the fieldwork, the actual survey, could take place almost as scheduled from September to November/December 2009. First results were available at the end of March 2010 already, but manual corrections had to be made. Unfortunately, the final

and fully automated version according to specifications has yet to be provided. The National Bank of Namibia, which is responsible for the final report and the press releases and was strongly represented in the “Technical Committee”, stated after the completion of the project that it had technical problems.

As the data have not been released yet, results cannot be presented in detail at the time being. Just this much: overall, with a population amounting to nearly 2 million inhabitants and a territory of 824,000 square kilometres, about 61,000 local units have been covered which belong to 56,000 enterprises. Approximately 222,000 people were employed in the sectors covered (trade and industry excluding small farms and general government). This is a considerable number, which had not been expected in that form. As a matter of fact, the main problem of this survey was the resulting interconnectedness of local units and institutional units.

The results are available in detail also by four-digit items of the ISIC nomenclature. However, the go-ahead has to be given before an analysis can be made. But anyway, the results show a clear tendency towards services, which above all means tourism, suggesting that Namibia is on its way towards a service society. This is in contrast to the general notion that Namibia's main resources are raw materials and agriculture/fisheries. Nearly 90% of all local units operate in the tertiary sector (75% of those employed).

The census of non-agricultural local units covers all commercial establishments. Trade is an important factor, but also specialised sales points such as pharmacies.

The census of non-agricultural local units also considers enterprises as institutional units. This means that the criterion of legal form and nationality can be evaluated, too. It turns out that 77 of the foreign enterprises are owned by Germans as compared to 290 enterprises which are in Chinese hands. As a consequence China, whose engagement in Africa is often presented in the media, has the largest share of foreign enterprises in Namibia.

Erwin Wartenberg

News in brief

Study visit of a Russian delegation on “classifications”

Destatis continues to be a preferred co-operation partner of the Russian Federation’s Federal State Statistics Service ROSSTAT. From 6 to 8 October 2010 four statisticians from the Russian State Statistics Service sought advice regarding goods and product classifications. Subject matter statisticians of the Federal Statistical Office informed the delegation about methodological developments and the adjustment to European standards. The study visit once more helped to intensify the good co-operation between the two agencies.

TAIEX Workshop on “EU experience on conducting foreign trade statistics of Customs Union goods” in Moscow on 14 and 15 October 2010

As a customs union had been launched among the Russian Federation, Belarus and Kazakhstan in July 2010, the Russian State Statistics Service (ROSSTAT) requested that the EU’s experience with its intra-Community trade system be shared in a TAIEX seminar. This task was assumed by a colleague from the Federal Statistical Office who works in the field of foreign trade statistics and by other presenters from Hungary, Estonia, Romania, the Czech Republic and Eurostat. The team of experts trained 42 participants from ROSSTAT, its regional offices and the Russian customs authorities and explained the specific national features of the country they came from.

One result of the event is the formation of a “customs commission” by the three partners to the customs union. That body will supervise the implementation of the internal trade system’s goals. The work assigned to the commission includes establishing a goods classification, determining the survey variables and preparing a common declaration form. The next step will be to harmonise also the formats of online declarations.

Expert mission in a workshop on foreign trade statistics within the IPA 2008 co-operation programme of the European Union in Luxembourg

As part of the IPA 2008 co-operation programme, a workshop on “Asymmetries in mirror exercises” was held in Luxembourg. The participants came from the specialised units responsible for foreign trade statistics at the statistics agencies and from the customs administrations of the Western Balkans and Turkey.

In addition to fundamental insights about the causes of mirror discrepancies in foreign trade statistics, the presenters – among them a staff member from the Federal Statistical Office – showed participants ways to resolve such discrepancies and explained basic rules for conducting mirror exercises, presented individual case studies and discussed the results.

Visitors from Algeria

On 24 September 2010 a high-level government delegation from Algeria, which was accompanied by a representative of the French National Administration University (ENA), visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. The visit was part of an EU-funded co-operation project of France and Algeria. The delegation consisted of members of the Algerian National Office of Statistics, the Ministry of Economics and other government authorities. In addition to the German system of official statistics, central topics of the programme were indicator systems used to measure social progress and mathematical/statistical methods. During their stay in Germany the delegation also visited the Land Statistical Office of Berlin-Brandenburg.

Initial co-operation with the Statistical Office of Kosovo

Commissioned by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), a staff member of the Federal Statistical Office supported the Kosovar colleagues in Pristina.

The aim of the mission was to evaluate the present collection of education data in Kosovo, which covers in particular the primary and secondary levels

of education. The expert mission centred on various talks with representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Statistical Office, the municipal administration, headmasters and education experts of international organisations (e.g. World Bank, UNICEF).

An important goal of the colleagues is setting up electronic pupil databases at school level to fulfil EU data requirements completely.

Establishing tourism statistics in south Caucasus

Tourism is increasing steadily in the states of south Caucasus. Apart from pristine mountain landscape, the countries of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia offer travellers two seashores, historic sites and modern metropolises. It is thus the more important to provide reliable data on the development of tourism and its contribution to economic performance. Therefore the GIZ offices in the three countries approached the Federal Statistical Office with the request to provide support in the development of tourism statistics. In a first mission, a staff member of the Federal Statistical Office visited numerous national authorities in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia to take stock of tourism statistics. The aim of the mission was to assess the need for consultation and suggest training activities for the various countries on the basis of the results obtained. To this end, the expert had numerous talks with both data producers at the statistics agencies and data users at various ministries.

Support for the State Statistical Office of Macedonia

The project to support the EU accession process in the field of statistics under way since February 2010 was continued. The Federal Statistical Office and the Land Statistical Office of Saxony-Anhalt participated in four project activities in the fields of business statistics, construction price statistics and project management.

The Macedonian participants took many suggestions back to Skopje from the two study visits scheduled at short notice in Wiesbaden and Halle/S. in order to implement them in their own working environments.

Overview of the project activities

| | | October |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Construction price statistics | Skopje | 4–7 |
| | | November |
| Price statistics/business statistics | Wiesbaden | 22–25 |
| Construction price statistics | Halle/S. | 23–25 |
| | | December |
| Project Steering Committee | Skopje | 1 |

Exchange of experience with Statistics Korea in Wiesbaden and Munich

As part of the regular exchange of experience between Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) and the Federal Statistical Office on current topics of official sta-



From left to right: Ms Koll, Mr Ha, Ms Kim, Mr Kim, Mr Egeler, Ms Kwon, Ms Kwon, Mr Angermann, Ms Zimmermann

tistics, a Korean delegation informed themselves about the register-based Census 2011 in Germany and about the restructuring of the German statistical system in the wake of German Unification.

For the first time, the two agencies have formed a consortium in order to carry out a World Bank Twinning project together which is aimed at strengthening the Mongolian statistical system. There have been further preparatory talks of the two project partners for this purpose.

Following the talks held in Wiesbaden, the Korean delegation visited the Bavarian Land Statistical Office to obtain information on the “household generating procedure” to be applied in Germany in the Census 2011.

Turkey

Overview of ongoing co-operation activities with the Turkish Statistical Institute TURKSTAT

| | | August |
|--|--------|-----------|
| Labour cost index | Ankara | 19–20 |
| | | October |
| Business processes at the Statistical Institute | Ankara | 18–21 |
| | | November |
| Statistics of preventive health care using modern data processing technologies | Ankara | 21–4 Dec. |

Traineeships

Sarah Steiner, in Wiesbaden from 9 August to 1 October 2010



Development assistance, international delegations and European statistical training – during my traineeship I had the opportunity to get acquainted with all those issues. I was surprised at how comprehensive the contracts of the statistical consultation projects are and at the time-consuming and detailed way the projects are planned and carried through. I am even more convinced now than I was before my traineeship that supporting other countries by providing them with the know-how of German official statistics is a very important pillar of European and international co-operation.

Diana Schüler, in Bonn from 2 November 2010 to 28 February 2011



Although I was employed here longer than usual, time flew when I did my traineeship in international statistical co-operation. The reason was probably that I was never bored: From the very first day I was allowed to participate in many ongoing projects, which gave me much insight into all areas and tasks of international project management.

It started with a two-week visit of a Russian delegation where I was lucky to get the opportunity to get acquainted with all levels of official statistics, from the statistical offices of the Länder of Germany to Eurostat. I also learned much about the methods and activities in specialised statistics, not only during that study visit.

The highlight in December was the study visit of an Azerbaijani delegation to Wiesbaden as part of the Twinning project with Azerbaijan, which I was

allowed to prepare and take care of. At the same time, that project was the main project during my traineeship as I was involved in follow-up activities, too.

In January, I also assisted in organising a study visit as part of the co-operation with the People's Republic of China.

In addition, as a background activity during the four months, I prepared a brochure on the multi-annual World Bank project with Tajikistan. In other respects, too, I always had the opportunity to do interesting jobs and I have met many interesting persons and got to know their culture. That experience will be very useful for my professional future.

I would like to thank very much the friendly and nice colleagues, who always gave me their support and confidence.

Letter from Germany

Monday – 5 July 2010: My first working day as a trainee in the international statistical co-operation unit at Destatis in Bonn. A great day, I had waited for that day for about seven years. Then, at last, the time had come – and it was the first day of many days and months that involved joy, helpfulness, great professional experience and team work.

As a trainee, I was involved in some of the current projects of statistical co-operation, always accompanied and guided by my mentor, Mr Ringo Raupach, and the advice given by Ms Waltraud Moore.

I co-operated with Mr Fix in the Azerbaijan project funded by the EU, with Mr Manfred Waschkowski in the Tajikistan project supported by the World Bank, with Mr Jochen Arnhold in the co-operation project with Russia, and with Mr Michael Schäfer in the Romanian MB-2006 grant project. I would also like to mention the support I got from the other colleagues, from Mr Günter Moser and especially from Mr Heinz-Josef Richwien, who helped me to gradually adjust to my job and to social life in Bonn.

During my stay in Bonn, I was glad to meet a helpful team of colleagues at Destatis-Bonn with whom I co-operated wonderfully and who were happy to share their experience with me.

I would also like to emphasize the extremely good work experience I acquired during a study visit when my colleagues from the Romanian statistical office visited the Berlin Information Point of the Federal Statistical Office. The co-operation was very cordial and the delegation obtained very useful information during their stay.

What else could I say now at the end of my traineeship?

Just this: I wish the five months had not passed so quickly!

Ana Butunoiu, Eurostat trainee from the Romanian statistical office (INSSE) from 5 July to 26 November in Bonn

The Federal Statistical Office regularly welcomes trainees, that are staff members from statistical agencies of the new EU Member States and from current and potential candidate countries. Such traineeships available are published annually through Eurostat.

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