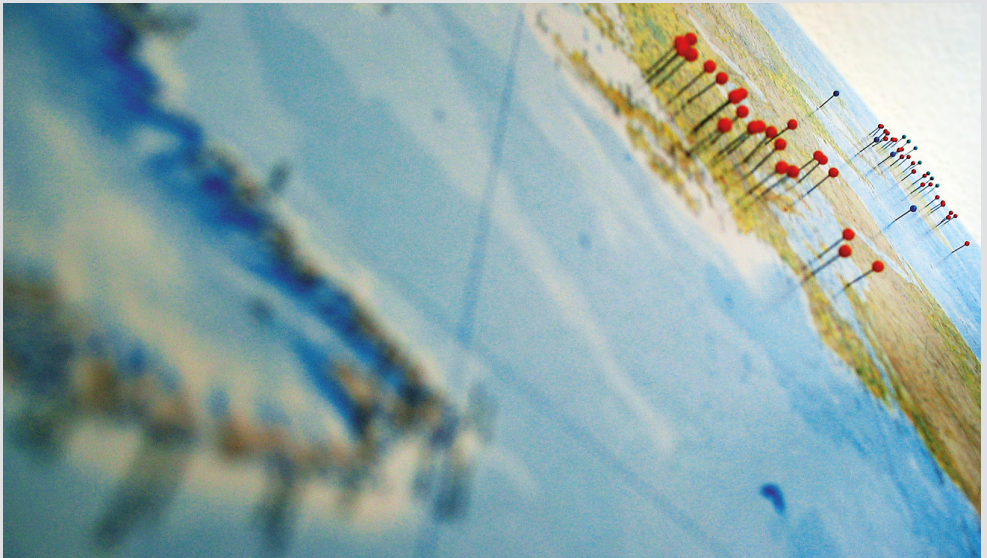


# STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

International statistical co-operation



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Dear readers,

The outstanding event in the second half of 2011 was the visibility conference of our EU-funded Twinning project with the Azerbaijani statistical office. Five heads of statistical offices from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany and Lithuania came together in Baku, as did many of those involved in the project, representatives of the European Union, national and international experts and guests. The aim of the conference was to present the progress made in the various statistical fields dealt with by the project to all interested participants. The conference ended with a reception at the residence of the German ambassador in Azerbaijan, for which we would like to reiterate our thanks. More information on the visibility conference and the project results is provided on the following pages.

In the sphere of statistical co-operation there have been important internal changes, too. The Head of Statistical Co-operation, Ms Waltraud Moore, retired after several decades on the international stage. We do hope that she will retain her close connections with our Office, that our international partners will get the chance to meet her now and then as an expert and wish her all the best for the future.

The editorial team hopes that you will enjoy reading this issue of the co-operation newsletter, which supplies you with most recent information on our activities in the last six months of 2011.

The editors

If you would like to receive the electronic version of our publication on a regular basis and have not received it directly from the below mentioned address, just send an e-mail to: [international-cooperation@destatis.de](mailto:international-cooperation@destatis.de).

## Azerbaijan



### Visibility Conference from 10 to 11 November 2011

Since November 2009, the Federal Statistical Office and the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan have closely co-operated under a joint Twinning project. The co-operation is funded by the European Union. Other project participants are the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria as junior partner and the statistical offices of the Czech Republic and Lithuania. The project deals with the enhancement of statistical methods applied in national accounts, in measuring the non-observed economy, business statistics and price statistics.



First day of the Visibility Conference at the SSC, 10 November 2011

As this was the first Twinning project of the State Statistical Committee (SSC) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Twinning partners decided to present and discuss the Twinning experience and achievements at a conference before the official end of the project. The Visibility Conference on Enhancing the Statistical Capacity of Azerbaijan took place on 10 to 11 November 2011 in Baku, Azerbaijan. It offered the opportunity to disseminate the project results amongst a broader audience outside the SSC.

The conference's first day focused on the detailed presentation of project results and discussions on each of the four project components. It was held at the premises of SSC for nearly 60 participants from various state bodies, member state (MS) short-term experts and SSC staff. For the official part (second day), high-level representatives of the line ministries, ambassadors of the participating countries and main users of statistical information were brought together. The project achievements, results and experiences were presented and highlighted by the top management and representatives of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Statistical Offices of Germany, Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Lithuania. Moreover, the experience gained during the project's implementation was shared; follow-up activities and assurance of sustainability of the results were discussed. Like that, the conference drew increased attention to the partner's institutions and statistical data users, highlighting on the improvements resulting from the project. The participants were provided with information material including a CD with key project documents.



Second day of the Visibility Conference at the Park Inn Hotel in Baku, 11 November 2011



Meeting of high-ranking statisticians (from left to right: Ms Iva Ritschelova, President of the Czech Statistical Office; Mr Arif Valiyev, Chairman of the SSC, Azerbaijan; Ms Mariana Kotzeva, President of the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria; Mr Roderich Egeler, President of Destatis, Germany; Ms Vilja Lapeniene, Director General of Statistics Lithuania; Ms Claudia Junker, Head of Unit, Eurostat)

In their statements, the Heads of the Statistical Offices expressed their satisfaction about the project implementation and its results. They called it a benefit for all parties – both the Beneficiary and the MS experts.

### Extension of the project

Upon the recommendation of the Project Steering Committee, the project partners drafted a contract amendment to enable an extension of the project beyond its end, which had initially been scheduled for November 2011. On 15 November 2011, the Head of the EU Delegation in Azerbaijan signed that draft amendment extending the project to the end of February 2012. In accordance with the amendment, the benchmarks of three

components initially due by project month 24 have to be achieved only after the additional missions scheduled for the end of February 2012, i.e. at the end of project month 27. The project extension offers a good opportunity to deal with the results of the individual project components in more detail.

### Overview of the project activities

		July
6 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting	Baku	30 June–1
Business statistics	Varna	11–15
		August
National accounts	Baku	23–26
		October
7 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting	Baku	5–6
		November
8 <sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting	Baku	9
Business statistics	Baku	9–11
Visibility Conference	Baku	9–11



## China



### **Bilateral projects between Destatis and China's National Bureau of Statistics completed successfully in 2011**

With as many as 12 individual measures carried out, 2011 was one of the most intensive years of co-operation between the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Federal Statistical Office. The German-Chinese statistical co-operation projects running until 2011 could be completed successfully last year. In November 2011 there was an evaluation visit at the NBS. During that visit, participants from the Federal Statistical Office had talks with all statistics units involved in the subprojects and the international co-ordinating unit. During the individual evaluations, the Chinese experts appreciated the fact that all project goals set had been attained and praised the expert knowledge of the German colleagues. The friendly atmosphere and mutual cultural understanding have also contributed to the success of the projects.

### **Statistical legislation**

The project began in May 2006 and was completed in September 2011 after having been prolonged once.

The goal was to support the NBS in amending the Chinese Statistics Law of 1995 to meet the requirements made on a modern statistics law. This refers in particular to statistical confidentiality and the users' right to access official statistical information. The Chinese statistical office was also interested in information on other legislation relevant to statistics in order to make better use of the existing data sources for statistical purposes.

Under the project, guidelines were to be prepared for implementing the amended Statistics Law which strengthen the authority of the Chinese statistical office in the sphere of statistical methodology and supervision vis-à-vis the other statistics-producing authorities. There is a backlog in some fields with regard to the ministries and regional statistical offices. The Commissioner of the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics therefore always

Commissioner of the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics therefore always stressed in the bilateral consultations that the project had a high priority for the Chinese statistical office.



Ms Engelter (5<sup>th</sup> from the left) and Mr Sommer (7<sup>th</sup> from the left) with the partners

In the course of the project there were six advisory missions in China and six study visits in Germany with about 50 Chinese and German legal experts participating. The revised Statistics Law was adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on 27 June 2009 and entered into force on 1 January 2010.

### **Data dissemination via the internet and statistical information services**

The National Bureau of Statistics aims to develop further the dissemination of data via the internet and the statistical information services, so it asked the German side for expert support. The Chinese statistical office also intends to develop further and implement its own strategic information policy vis-à-vis the ministries and other authorities.

The project started in April 2009 with a study visit of Chinese experts to Germany. Data dissemination via the internet and statistical information services were discussed under the project and there were other important topics on the agenda such as the press and public relations work of the two national statistical institutes.



Ms Hänsel, Ms Stärk and Ms Hartmann (from the right) during the talks in Peking

At the final consultations, which took place in China in November 2011, the Chinese partner authority was of the opinion that all goals have been attained.

The Chinese side thanked the colleagues from Destatis for the support they had provided and hoped that they would continue to receive advice from the German experts. An occasion for such counselling will be provided, for instance, by a workshop on public relations work to be held by the NBS in Nanjing, China, in May 2012 with two experts from the Federal Statistical Office participating.

Six German experts were involved in the two advisory missions in China, and sixteen Chinese experts took part in the three study visits to Germany.

### **Earnings and labour costs**

Before the start of the project, which ran from 2009 to 2011, German experts assessed the current situation on the spot at the end of 2008, which revealed some need for development in the sphere of earnings statistics. The Chinese side was interested to receive support from Destatis especially in the fields of sample survey methodology, questionnaire design and survey data analysis by means of informative and comparable indicators.

By introducing new methods and surveys, the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics intended to attain international standards as they are common in Germany and the EU.

They also asked that experts from Destatis came to China for the purpose of preparing and evaluating a pilot survey.

The project started in June 2009 with the visit of Chinese experts to Germany and ended in September 2011 with a consultation of German earnings statistics experts in China. The bilateral activities comprised three advisory missions of altogether seven experts from Destatis in China and three study visits to Germany involving fifteen Chinese experts.

During the last consultation the Chinese co-operation partners emphasized that the project had fully met the expectations and provided valuable ideas and suggestions for the further development of Chinese earnings statistics.

### **Employment statistics**

Chinese labour market statistics consists of several sets of statistics compiled at regular intervals by the Chinese national statistical institute, the ministries and other national agencies. Its core is the Labour Force Survey (0.1% sample) conducted twice a year by the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics. The Chinese side was very interested in evaluating statistics from different sources and combining them, and in how to deal with coherence problems arising from the use of different statistics, so the Chinese partner office asked Destatis for expert support on account of the latter's varied and long-term experience in these fields.

The project, which began in 2009, dealt in particular with the methods and procedures of labour market and employment statistics applied in Germany and internationally and with employment accounts. The population censuses which were to be conducted in China and Germany in 2010 and 2011, respectively, were also in the focus of the discussions held in the course of the consultations. The initial activity was a study visit of Chinese experts to Germany in July 2009.

The project was implemented by three study visits of fifteen Chinese experts to Germany and during two consultations of five German experts in China.

As urgent work has to be completed by both parties, the project evaluation to take place in China has been scheduled for April 2012. Even before the last consultation has been carried out, those involved in the project on the Chinese side expect that the project goals will be attained. Representatives from the Chinese partner office said during the bilateral planning discussions that they would like to extend the project beyond that period.

### **Outlook**

The National Bureau of Statistics of China announced that they will request support from the German experts in other fields in addition to the above-mentioned extension of the employment statistics project. These projects have been scheduled for the period 2012 to 2014.

Presently, topics are being specified for ad-hoc visits of delegations to be made when advice is needed at short notice. In the context of the co-operation between the international Chinese centre for advanced training and the United Nations Statistics Division, the Chinese partner office is also interested in a participation of German experts in international advanced training activities.

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**Overview of the project activities**

		<b>July</b>
Statistical legislation	Wiesbaden	18–22

		<b>September</b>
Statistics of earnings and labour costs	Beijing	13–16
Statistical legislation	Beijing, Kunming	19–23

		<b>October</b>
Evaluation and planning discussions	Beijing	29–2 November

		<b>December</b>
Data dissemination and statistical information services	Beijing, Shanghai	1–6

## Mongolia



### **Additional themes in the World Bank funded project on Strengthening the National Statistical System of Mongolia**

In December 2011, representatives of the Destatis and Statistics Korea consortium met the project team of the Mongolian statistical office and the local representative of the World Bank in Ulan Bator to discuss the results achieved so far in the five-year project on Strengthening the National Statistical System of Mongolia, which had started in 2010, and the further planning of actions. Such meetings are held every six months at Destatis in Wiesbaden or at the seat of the Mongolian statistical office. In Ulan Bator, the participants discussed the progress made in project implementation and agreed on the time schedule and on the contents of the actions planned for 2012.

Additional funds granted by the World Bank for project implementation had a major impact on action planning. As requested by the Mongolian colleagues, this will allow carrying out additional actions in statistical areas which so far have not been covered by the project. In 2012 and 2013, another eight expert missions will be held in Ulan Bator and four study visits in Germany. Those actions will focus on the informal economy, the investment survey, employment and wage statistics, migration, gender statistics and education statistics. The funds will also be used to finance required surveys and other activities. Another focus of the activities in 2012 will be the implementation of the IT plan which has been developed jointly with the Korean experts.

During the meeting in Ulan Bator, the Mongolian side presented the results achieved, and progress made through the 29 actions carried out so far. The Mongolian partners were highly satisfied with the work undertaken by the experts of the Federal Statistical Office, supported by Korean and Finnish colleagues. Also, they explained how the knowledge imparted had already been put into practice and how that process would be continued in the future.

### Interview with Kerstin Hänsel and Gabriele Bentele, experts in practical publication and dissemination at Destatis

**Kerstin Hänsel** is an Assistant Head of Section responsible for press and public relations at Destatis and, in the last ten years, has been working in various publication areas (print and online editing, graphics and design, press). For almost the same period, she has acquired experience in international co-operation, including the leading of consulting missions to many countries, most recently to China and Tajikistan.



Ms Bentele and Ms Hänsel (from left) during the mission to Ulan Bator

**Gabriele Bentele** is responsible, in the graphics and design unit, for the design of Destatis print media and of statistical charts and for the further development of the corporate design. She has carried out many consulting missions for the statistical offices of Turkey and Tajikistan on corporate design implementation.



From 13 to 19 May 2011, the two experts did their first mission to Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, as part of the Twinning project on „Strengthening the National Statistical System of Mongolia (MONSTAT)“. The action focused on developing the concept of a customer survey and a dissemination strategy for the Mongolian statistical office.

### **How did you prepare for the mission in terms of content?**

To get an impression in advance, we sent a questionnaire to the colleagues in Ulan Bator, which we had developed on the basis of our experience from other co-operation projects. It comprises basic questions on the publication system, the organisation and the staff, the workflows and the technical equipment. This allowed us to adequately prepare the content of the workshop.

In addition, we had a look at the publications and analysed the websites. But no matter how well you are prepared, there will always be surprises. This is what makes the missions fascinating. You never really know what to expect. Well, and of course we ploughed through a few tourist guides.

### **What was the situation in the Mongolian statistical office (MNSO) when you arrived?**

The Mongolian statistical office has a really comfortable situation as regards publications. It has modern technical equipment and the staff is young, qualified and motivated. There are a database, professionally printed publications and a website. In addition, the office offers its customers an info service. A particularly positive thing we noticed is that the colleagues have many good ideas of their own and they implement them. For example, prior to the census, the MNSO had co-operated with mobile phone providers, so that every citizen was informed by SMS. The reason is that, in Mongolia, information sent by post does not always get to the addresses because many people there still live as nomads. But everyone has a mobile phone. That may sound like a simple solution but it shows us that the colleagues do know how to help themselves.

So our contribution to the MONSTAT project will certainly be different from what we do in less developed countries. In Mongolia, we will in particular try to contribute to systemizing and structuring the publication system. Be-

cause in countries whose economic development is as fast as in Mongolia, it often happens that several steps are made at the same time when setting up the infrastructure. Then sometimes there is a lack of experience which is needed to develop sustainable structures and solutions.

### **What did you have to pay special attention to in your work?**

The keyword here is of course “intercultural co-operation”. It means that, when we suggest some improvement, we always try to find solutions which fit the colleagues, the office and the situation. The publications must be suitable for Mongolian users, not for us. Certainly the goal is to achieve international standards. But if, for example, internet connections in Mongolia are very slow and few customers use them, you have to start by using printed or CD publications. Therefore, we generally distinguish between short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions. In the medium-term, we certainly have to pay most attention to the internet and the database. Over the long-term, the publication systems of the statistical offices will probably become quite similar.

### **Why would you recommend to colleagues that they participate in a mission to Mongolia?**

We always enjoy very much the international workshops. That is true of Mongolia and of all the other countries we have been to. You just leave daily routine behind for a few days, you meet nice colleagues and get to know other cultures. Co-operation allows us to discover countries in which we maybe wouldn't spend our holidays. And the experience and discussions with foreign colleagues have a repercussive effect: You reflect on your work and return home with new ideas.

In addition, we are ambassadors of our own culture. For example, the German band “Dschinghis Khan” of the 1970s had been completely unknown in Mongolia before our visit.

## Overview of the project activities

### August

IT: establishing registers	Ulan Bator	8–13
Price statistics	Ulan Bator	14–20

### September

Business register	Helsinki	5–9
Organisation and quality management	Wiesbaden	12–13
Institutional framework conditions	Ulan Bator	12–16
IT infrastructure	Ulan Bator	25–30

### October

Institutional framework conditions	Ulan Bator	14–16
Human resources development	Wiesbaden	30–5 November
IT: network development and involvement of regional offices	Daejeon	30–5 November

### November

Human resources development	Wiesbaden	13–19
Population statistics	Ulan Bator	14–18
National accounts	Ulan Bator	21–25
Human resources development: e-learning	Daejeon	30–2 December

### December

Project planning discussions	Ulan Bator	5–7
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### Turkey



#### German-Turkish planning meeting in Ankara

The long-term co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and TurkStat, the Turkish statistical office, was discussed at a meeting between representatives of the two offices in July 2011. Staff members of the organisational units responsible for international co-operation in the two offices exchanged experience from previous projects, especially the EU-funded programmes on Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey (USST). Through service contracts and training grants from EU funding instruments, in the projects USST I and II, Destatis has contributed since 2002 to developing the Turkish system of official statistics. Also, the two offices discussed current co-operation activities and presented their work in international statistical co-operation.



TurkStat and Destatis representatives at the planning meeting in Ankara

The main issue of the meeting, however, was the further extension of collaboration in future projects and other forms of co-operation. Collaboration is not limited to co-operation projects; for example, Destatis welcomed three staff members of the Turkish statistical office for an EU-funded traineeship in Germany of a minimum of three months (s. page 30).

All parties involved emphasised their intention to maintain and strengthen the close partnership in the future.

### Study visit on training

At the end of the year, Turkish statisticians paid a study visit to Destatis in Wiesbaden on the issue of training. From 19 to 21 December 2011, three staff members of the TurkStat training centre visited Destatis to exchange views with Destatis representatives on the theory and practice of shaping different training approaches.



German and Turkish experts at work

A major focus here was the strategic and annual planning of training programs. The participants were also very interested in the discussion on challenges faced by the training units now and in the future. This includes e-learning and enhanced databases for training. Also, Destatis presented the new version of the Human Resources Development Concept. The goals and activities mentioned there cannot be achieved without an efficient training program. Beyond conceptual and planning aspects, the Turkish colleagues got insight into the organizational implementation of training activities and programs. This included a visit to the training rooms and the Destatis library.

The study visit illustrated the importance of exchanging information between the relevant organizational units across countries. As it turned out, the situation is similar in terms of challenges and progress made, while from many other aspects, the participants got new ideas for their own work from the presentation of different approaches.

### Overview of the project activities

		July
Planning meeting	Ankara	5
		December
Training	Wiesbaden	19–21

## European Union



### **A week of Europe – A report from the European Statistical Week at Eurostat**

Experiencing Europe first-hand – that is what I did from 23 to 27 May 2011 at the European Statistical Week at Eurostat in Luxembourg. The study week is organized as part of the European Statistical Training Program (ESTP) and was held for the third time already. The goal of the event is to establish direct contacts with counterpart colleagues at Eurostat and to exchange views personally.

As I work in the National ESTP Contact Point at Destatis, I applied to get to know the Eurostat unit A3 “Strategic planning; learning and development”. It is responsible for implementing and developing the ESTP at the European level. In my daily work, I had already been in contact with the colleagues at the Eurostat working level.



Participants in the Eurostat study week in May 2011

I experienced day-to-day work, from participating in team meetings to solving current strategic and organizational issues. Also, I contributed my experience from the ESTP Contact Point at the Federal Statistical Office as

one of the main actors in the ESTP. This allowed both sides to learn from each other.

I appreciated the openness and friendliness of the colleagues and was surprised especially about how many parallels there are in the content of daily work between Eurostat and Destatis. From those parallels, I have developed ideas for our own work unit at Destatis.

All in all, I have very good memories of the European Statistical Week also because of the special multicultural atmosphere at Eurostat, which arises from the most different nationalities among the total of 850 staff working together. So the week was a unique opportunity to get to know that European institution from the inside and to feel like a part of Europe.

Christine Kronz

Bilateral and International Co-operation



## Staff News

### Waltraud Moore retires

After so many years in which the Head of Division of the Co-operation Unit shaped the image of the Federal Statistical Office's statistical co-operation both internally and externally, the last twelve years operating from Bonn, Waltraud Moore retired in November 2011. During that time she met countless contacts from all over the world, travelled four continents, kept initiating new projects and initiatives and passed on her knowledge in numerous seminars, consultations and training courses. We very much hope that we will collaborate with her as an expert in new co-operation projects so that our partners can continue to profit from her specialist knowledge and inventiveness.

In the following, some of her fellow statisticians look back on their co-operation:

#### *Formal and informal co-operation*



Hilikka Vihavainen  
Deputy Director General of  
Statistics Production –  
Statistics Finland

I met Waltraud Moore for the first time in autumn 1997 in Voorburg, at a seminar on good practices in technical co-operation. From the very start, our co-operation was characterized by ease of dialogue and a straightforward manner of dealing with things. It did not take long before Waltraud contacted me to ask whether Statistics Finland could accommodate two Chinese IT trainees for a month. Their traineeship was part of a statistical co-operation project financed from Germany's development co-operation budget. This marked the beginning of co-operation in which Destatis has often been the actual project leader and administrator, and Statistics Finland the provider of varying amounts of expert input. We have implemented together a number of projects funded by the European Union.

One of the biggest advantages of international co-operation is the possibility to meet and become acquainted – and in the best case friends – with the colleagues. This is what happened with Waltraud and me. Over the years, our conversations have branched out to many other areas besides work: family, hobbies and interests in general.

Conversations with Waltraud have always been interesting, regardless of whether they have concerned professional or human interest issues. We never run out of things to talk about when we meet. I sincerely hope that our meetings will continue even though we – Waltraud first and myself, too, in a short while – exit the active working life. And if meeting face-to-face is not always possible, we can still use Skype or simply email each other.

At all events, on my own behalf and on behalf of Statistics Finland I want to thank Waltraud warmly for our long and fruitful co-operation and wish her many rich and rewarding years, as well as good health, in retirement.

Şennur Onur,  
Head of Department,  
Foreign Relations  
TURKSTAT –  
Turkish Statistical Institute

Visiting Ankara

*Dear Waltraud,*



It has been a great pleasure for us working with you over several years in which we have established close relations and strong partnership particularly in the context of implementing our projects. We benefited very much from your knowledge and experience while dealing with challenging works in the field of statistical cooperation.

You have always cooperated with us in a very professional and also friendly manner even at times when we faced difficulties and you have always adopted a problem-solving approach in all cases. We will surely remember all of your efforts.

And your personality...your high spirits and initiative...friendly and enjoyable manner...lots of things to say about a person of high qualities...

It is always difficult to say goodbye to friends; but we all know that every end marks a new and fresh beginning as well. I and my colleagues wish you all the best both in your personal and professional life, and we would like to express how lucky we are to have known such a kind of wonderful person...

Stefan Schweinfest,  
Assistant Director, United Nations Statistics Division

*Waltraud Moore* was a very welcome guest to the annual sessions of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York. I was always impressed by the way she did not only eloquently represent the interests of German statistics but also always contributed to strengthening the entire international statistical system. She will really be missed as an active member of the global statistical family!

Mustafa Dinç  
Development Economics  
Data Group  
The Worldbank

Visit of a Mongolian  
delegation to Wiesbaden



I have known Waltraud for a long time. Initially, it was just email exchanges regarding statistical capacity building issues; then we finally met and put pictures next to the names. Perhaps familiarity from earlier emails helped, we had a strong bond from the very beginning. She has been a great colleague; I have always admired her integrity, hard work and creativity. I learned from her how to be firm by being flexible in meeting varying demands. She was also a dear friend. I had the honor

and privilege of meeting with her family and (I should admit) enjoyed delicious dinners prepared by the great chef Waltraud. She also introduced me historic Germany; so now I enjoy my stays in Germany even more.

Dear Waltraud, I wish you all the best and hope we will see each other in coming years.

Claudia Junker

Head of unit A6 “Statistical cooperation”, Eurostat, European Commission

*Dear Waltraud,*

Waltraud Moore – a legend of international statistical co-operation is leaving ... I have known the name of Waltraud Moore for many years, first she was only someone who worked in international co-operation in Wiesbaden and, one way or other, had something to do with us at the former DEO-C Department of the Federal Statistical Office’s Berlin Branch.

When I went to Eurostat in Luxemburg, the distance diminished both geographically and with regard to the work. We co-operated more closely than as I worked at Eurostat in the unit dealing with the „Co-operation with Phare and Tacis countries“. The Federal Statistical Office was a very active, reliable and appreciated partner of the co-operation at the time, insistent (the negotiations about the fee rates for experts were hard but fair) but also always ready to try new things and push the co-operation forward.

During the last two years in which I have been heading the Unit „Statistical cooperation with European and Mediterranean countries“, the co-operation became even closer. I have to thank Waltraud for many interesting and sometimes uncommon ideas which prompted me to consider new perspectives of co-operation; some of them have meanwhile been implemented as specific activities.

With her long-term experience and a clear notion of how to integrate statistical co-operation into general political developments, Waltraud Moore has greatly contributed to this co-operation and we will hopefully meet her again somehow in some country or other. There are a lot of things to say about you, Waltraud, but failing to choose the best of the best, I wish you long and healthy years.

Dr. Ünal Gündogan  
Former Vice-President  
TURKSTAT - Statistisches Amt Türkei

Besichtigung des Rheintals



*Liebe Waltraud,*

a friendly “friend of mine,” a really enthusiastic German in her job, a teenager in herself with all brightness, purity and clarity, and and and...

We have always shared experience and worked with you in a friendly and professional way; managed so many crucial works and maintained strong partnership in international cooperation.

There are a lot of things to say about you, Waltraud, but failing to choose the best of the best, I wish you long and healthy years.

### Statisticians abroad

#### Eurostat Trainees at Destatis

In the framework of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), Eurostat finances traineeships of members of staff from statistical offices of candidate and potential candidate countries in statistical offices in the European Union. The program usually features two rounds of traineeships for the duration of three to five months each. Since the traineeship program started in 2002, Destatis has hosted 18 trainees out of which six worked in the International Co-operation division. In 2011, two members of staff of TurkStat participated in the program at the International co-operation section in Bonn. We have asked Betül Tasdemir and Didem Yeter-Güler about their motives and experiences regarding the traineeship:

#### Why have you chosen Destatis for your traineeship?

**Didem Yeter-Güler:** The solid and productive co-operation between the International Co-operation Units of TurkStat and Destatis prompted me to grab the opportunity to benefit from the significant experience of Destatis in relation to international organizations and countries from their perspective.

**Betül Tasdemir:** I have been working in the field of project management and international co-operation, so I believe that doing traineeship in a statistical office that has wide knowledge and experience in these areas is really important for my professional and personal development. For several years now, our offices – Destatis and TurkStat – have been in close co-operation and performing substantial partnership. I know German colleagues closely and trust their professionalism. Therefore, when I learned that Destatis was offering a traineeship on this subject, I thought that it would be a good opportunity for me to get experience in the working environment of Destatis.

#### What is your professional background?

**Betül Tasdemir:** I have been working in the TurkStat's Foreign Relations Department since 2006. I have become an expert in 2010 by completing my expertise thesis on "Monitoring and Evaluation of EU funded Projects held by TurkStat".

Currently, I am responsible for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of EU funded projects. I specifically dealt with PHARE 2005 and MBP 2006 Programs and now with upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey (USST) Program Phase III and IPA MBP 2011 Program.

**Didem Yeter-Güler:** I began working as assistant expert at the Social Statistics Department of TurkStat in 2006 and started at the Foreign Relations Department in 2007. Thereafter, I have been qualified as an expert in 2010 following the approval of my expertise thesis “Analysis of Approaches of Individuals in the Province of Ankara towards EU Membership of Turkey Using Field Research”.

At my work in TurkStat, I am involved in the organization of international co-operation studies, bilateral and multilateral statistical cooperation projects and technical assistance programs.

**Which experiences during your traineeship do you consider to be the most important ones?**

**Didem Yeter-Güler:** It was a great experience to observe diplomatic and professional approaches of my colleagues dealing with the international co-operation projects. It has further enhanced my understanding of international co-operation projects from a different perspective. My traineeship period helped me strengthen my professional understanding and personal skills.

Additionally, working with the colleagues at Destatis, owing to their great understanding of cultural differences, has given me an impression of well-defined working manners in projects from an international approach.

**Betül Tasdemir:** My traineeship period added a lot both to my personal and professional understanding. Getting the view of a member state country offering assistance extended my knowledge and understanding of project preparation and implementation.

I strengthened my professional skills through the practices in managing meetings, study visits and consultancy services. I have got the opportunity of gaining experience in the well-working processes in Destatis and have

benefited from my colleagues knowledge on EU affairs, institutions, project management process, budgetary issues and organizational aspects. Moreover, I got detailed information about different types of technical assistance instruments and their implementation procedures.

**Which importance do you ascribe to the Eurostat trainee program itself and how do you think it is perceived by the participating institutions?**

**Betül Tasdemir:** Traineeship programs have to be perceived both as an important part of career planning and crucial life experience. They contribute to the personal development and make people gain confidence. They give the opportunity to experience working conditions of a different business environment and to develop foreign language skills by living abroad.

On the other side, statistical offices also benefit from the inputs of trainees who will give different point of views and contribute to work by their knowledge and experience gathered in their home offices. Trainees also have the opportunity to represent their countries in the international area and increase co-operation and strengthen contact networks between statistical offices.

The Eurostat trainee program thus provides the opportunity to the participants of the participating institutions to get extensive knowledge and experience both in technical and social fields.

**Didem Yeter-Güler:** The Eurostat trainee program offers participating trainees the opportunity to understand and compare the differences in practices between two countries.

Furthermore, the most important feature of the program is to make international co-operation projects more efficient thanks to the mutual understanding gained from the perspective of Eurostat, participating institutions and participating trainees.



### **In which way do you think structure or content of the traineeships could be improved?**

**Betül Tasdemir:** First of all, the aim of the traineeships could be defined more clearly and in detail. If the participants have not participated in any other traineeship program before, they must be informed generally about the conditions and requirements of a traineeship.

Regularly, the trainee should be able to give feedback to the hosting office about the working process and her/his responsibilities via reporting or negotiation. Trainees could also be given the opportunity to participate in international meetings and training facilities.

After the end of a traineeship, it should be demanded from the trainee to share experiences by reporting or presentations in order to examine if the goals of the traineeship have been reached and for future traineeship program planning.

### **What are your impressions of life and work in Germany? Have aspects of your perception of the aforementioned topics changed due to your stay?**

**Betül Tasdemir:** Germany is a country that is well-disciplined, productive and open to change. This discipline and order increases the quality of life in Germany. There are many people from different cultures living in harmony and working together in different fields. In general, people are open, friendly, and respectful to the rights of each other and have a life style based on rules.

One of the most attractive things in social life is the cultural and sporting activities that are widespread and encouraging. You have many options in your leisure time in the context of learning the culture there and enjoying time. Besides, the beautiful nature makes you feel relaxed and you appreciate people for their effort to preserve it.

The colleagues are considerate, helpful and patient. They give you the opportunity to take part both in internal and international meetings, to express your opinions and to share your suggestions. We have always worked in harmony and cooperation not only in a disciplined way but also in

an enjoyable manner. I believe that I'm lucky to have done my traineeship at Destatis with the German colleagues.

**Didem Yeter-Güler:** It has been an excellent opportunity to be in day-to day work of International Co-operation at Destatis. The understanding of cultural and social differences between the two countries and the respectable professional approaches of my German colleagues has left a great impression on me.

Furthermore, the most impressive feature is how the people are optimistic, hardworking and giving importance to both work and social life. Details of the tasks, sharing of information and discussions have got a lot of importance for me.

## News in brief



### Twinning project in Bosnia and Herzegovina started

On 1 December 2011, the kick-off event for the EU-funded Twinning project on Support to the State and Entity Statistical Institutions took place in Sarajevo. The partners are the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS) at the state level and, in the entities, the Institute for Statistics of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FIS) and the Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska (RSIS).

The statistical office of Denmark, as an EU partner country, was awarded the project implementation contract already in October 2010. The Federal Statistical Office participates as a junior partner in carrying out the project. Other institutions involved in the implementation are the statistical offices of Finland, Italy and Lithuania.

The goal of the project, apart from improving some specialised sets of statistics (business statistics, household surveys), is to further develop the management capacities in the Bosnian statistical agencies, including the co-operation between the institutions at state and entity levels. The experience of German official statistics in national co-ordination is therefore of great interest to Bosnia and Herzegovina. In terms of specialized statistics, Destatis supports the statistical agencies there especially by activities in tourism statistics.

On the occasion of the kick-off event, a workshop was held in Sarajevo for high-level staff members of the statistical institutions and representatives of major ministries producing or using the data. In addition, the EU delegation organized an event at which the project background was presented to the participants. Numerous representatives of the media also attended the event.

The project implementation phase is now running until September 2013.

### **Destatis at the International Forum on Monitoring National Development in Beijing**



The purpose of the “International Forum on Monitoring National Development”, which was held in Beijing from 27 to 29 September 2011, was to discuss and prepare a conceptual statistical framework and to discuss worldwide training activities regarding statistical capacity building. Destatis chaired the panel discussion on monitoring developments in the social and environmental spheres.

The forum was held in the context of the UN conference on measuring aid effectiveness, which took place in Busan/KR two months later. Both events illustrated the task of official statistics at the national and international levels to provide statistical information bases which can be used to assess the results of the worldwide aid programs carried out to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

### **Training course in the northern part of Cyprus**



The European Union provides substantial support to promote the economic development of the Turkish-Cypriot community and to prepare the administration for the future application of the *acquis communautaire*. Within the scope of the EU support program TAIEX (demand-driven EU instrument for short-term technical assistance with regard to the approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation and for exchange of information), staff members of the Federal Statistical Office carried out a management training course in Nicosia. The course was attended by representatives of the Statistical Service and other services of the Turkish-Cypriot community. The EU has supported the Statistical Service for some time especially with regard to the required revision of the statistics act, involving an upgrading of the Statistical Service’s role. Taking recent examples from official statistics in Germany and other EU countries, the lecturers discussed with the participants the functioning and the tasks of

statistical offices. Because of the coming reorganization of the Statistical Service, presenting the organization of statistical systems was one of the focuses of the training course.

### **ENPI conference of the Polish EU Presidency in Krakow**



Co-operation within the scope of Eastern neighbourhood policy is not only a focus of statistical co-operation but was also a major issue of the Polish EU Presidency. That was reflected by the conference on “Development of the European Statistical System within Eastern Partnership – directions and strategy” held in Krakow on 18/19 October 2011.

The main topic of the conference, which was also attended by two representatives of the Destatis international co-operation unit, was a stocktaking of the co-operation between the EU/EFTA countries and Eastern European partner countries on strengthening the statistical systems. At the meetings, the participants presented and discussed country-specific reports of the Eastern European partner countries on the current state of development of their statistical systems and strategic papers on the further development of statistical co-operation at the international and bilateral levels. At the same time, the conference was a welcome opportunity to meet well-known and new contact persons.

### **World Bank Twinning with Tajikistan successfully finished**



In June 2011, the World Bank Twinning project between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical office of Tajikistan was successfully finished. However, the Tajik colleagues still need support. Even after the end of the project, Tajikistan will need support for the further strengthening and far-reaching modernization of its statistical system. This is why the World Bank has funded the preparation of a new National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and has provided an external adviser. The strategy is based on the results of the Twinning project. The draft National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2012-2016 was presented and discussed at a workshop in Dushanbe on 14 October 2011. The event was

attended by representatives of the World Bank, the Tajik statistical office, other Tajik ministries and authorities, international development aid organizations and the Tajik media. The strategy program shows the need for technical and financial support. It can thus be the basis for a new project for whose co-ordination and funding the Tajik colleagues are searching partners.

### Traineeships

Trainees regularly support the international statistical co-operation unit in its work. We are pleased to be able to print their responses.

*Alice Gumienny, August/September 2011 in Bonn*



During the two months of my internship in the section of International Co-operation in Bonn, I could gain in-depth insights and valuable experiences in project management. Right from the start I have been integrated into current project work. Thus, for instance, I could contribute to the application procedure and consortium-building process for the Twinning project in Macedonia.

Furthermore, I had the chance to meet a trainee from TurkStat who at that time worked in the same section. I could learn a lot from her about the work in the Turkish Statistical Office. Together we visited the headquarters in Wiesbaden and met the international co-operation staff situated there.

Constantly, interesting personalities have been visiting our section. I had the chance to meet colleagues from Wiesbaden in Bonn and I could attend a meeting of our section with a consulting company.

Apart from this, I had the occasion to join the section's staff excursion to the ZDF TV studios in Mainz.

Thanks to the internship I could further develop my personality. Working with various countries enabled me to strengthen my intercultural compe-

tence. Thus, I want to thank the whole team in Bonn for this great time I had. I have felt comfortable during the entire time due to the support of the team, which shared valuable experiences and knowledge with me and has always been available for questions.

*Guli Babadjanova, October/November 2011 in Bonn*



The first day at the Destatis office in Bonn, full of expectations, questions and anxiousness, is still fresh in my memory. During these two months I was delighted to work with such highly qualified and very warm colleagues at the International Co-operation Unit. While assisting the team with the preparation of the visibility conference of the EU Twinning Project with Azerbaijan, participating in the study visit of the Mongolian Delegation in Wiesbaden, and researching for the Kazakhstan project, I realized how important this co-operation is for both sides and how much effort and attention to even smallest detail it takes to make a project effective. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and experience with me, hints for exploring Bonn and surroundings, as well as professional development tips!

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