

# STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

Statistical Co-operation  
with Transition and Developing Countries



1/2003

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

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## Editorial

Welcome to 2003, another year with the newsletter "Statistics Across Borders": We will again provide you with news and details about co-operation activities in Germany's official statistics, enriched with background information on projects and countries. What else do we have for you? We will introduce our new project in statistics co-operation: a workshop on "Statistical Capacity Building".

There has again been a change in personnel. In January 2003, Mr. Andreas Kuhn was appointed as a new Head of Section, responsible for co-operation with CIS countries and Mongolia. He has taken over Dr. Richter's job who retired last year. In his former job in the external trade division Mr. Kuhn used to be responsible, inter alia, for international co-operation.

In addition, there has been an organizational change: As of March, 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 Statistical Co-operation belongs to the newly established Division I E "Co-operation with other Countries, Language Service" and is, as a consequence, part of the Department "Fundamental Questions of Federal and International Statistics, Dissemination". The enlarged responsibility now comprises co-operation activities with industrialized countries as well.

Furthermore, we are celebrating jubilees: Mr. Ulf-Karsten Keil has been a project manager for ten years now. The same number of years applies to Mr. Michael Schäfer, being responsible for publications and controlling.

For the current responsibilities within the Statistics Co-operation Division, please, refer to the last page of this publication, as usually. If you wish to ask questions or if you have comments and suggestions, please, send us an email to:

[statistik-kooperation@destatis.de](mailto:statistik-kooperation@destatis.de)

*The editors*



## Poland Twinning

The Polish-German twinning project "Statistical Information System" was carried on as successfully as it had been launched. At project steering committee meetings held in September and December 2002, all parties involved, including representatives from the delegation of the European Commission to Warsaw and from Eurostat, reviewed the progress achieved in project implementation. Fifteen out of a total of 44 agreed expert missions took place up to 31 January 2003. Six of 23 study visits to EU countries were conducted.<sup>1)</sup> Ten training seminars are being prepared as planned. The bidding procedure for capital investment on information technology amounting to a total of 3.5 million Euros will be started shortly. The Central Statistical Office of Poland, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the partners from Finland and Denmark assess the work done on the project so far as extremely successful. All sub-goals of the project set for the first 8 months have been achieved. Mr. Eichler, the German long-term adviser, ensures co-ordination and makes arrangements for the project management and for the EU experts on the spot in Warsaw.



## Flood havoc at Czech Office

In August last year the Czech Statistical Office was struck by a flood disaster, which also hit large regions of the Czech Republic and Eastern Germany. The first two storeys of the three-storey building, located in the old part of Prague at a narrow distance from Vltava River, were flooded. The flood caused major destruction at the computer centre and the library, but most offices were also devastated. It was not possible to enter the building for some days. Moisture caused additional damage, as electricity and ventilation had also broken down.

During the following days, the staff were temporarily accommodated at regional offices and offices of other authorities so that work could be resumed as soon as possible.

Partners in other countries were dismayed at the news of the disaster. President Hahlen spontaneously declared his readiness to help, sending a letter to Mrs. Bohata, the President of the Czech Office, in which he offered her 100 spare personal computers.

Mrs. Bohata accepted this offer with much gratitude; the Czech colleagues organised the transport in a very short time so that the PCs could still be used by October. Mrs. Bohata wrote a letter to Mr. Hahlen thanking him for this example of solidarity between EU member states and candidate countries, expressing the hope that it would soon be possible to resume the co-operation between the two offices. And, in fact, the co-operation was resumed as early as in November.



## High-ranking delegation from China

A delegation of seven people, headed by Mr. HUANG Jaochun, paid a visit to Germany from 9 to 18 October 2002. The guests, directors and vice-directors of statistical offices of large provinces and cities, were welcomed by Mr. Lützel, vice-president of the FSO at Wiesbaden. At the begin-

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<sup>1)</sup> For details on the various actions, please, refer to the individual co-operation activities, beginning on *page 9* of this issue.



ning of his talk Mr. Lützel pointed out that both partners had greatly profited from the close co-operation over many years, a co-operation which should be carried on and intensified. The Federal Statistical Office has conducted bilateral co-operation measures with the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China in all statistical fields since 1993.

Mr. Lützel emphasised that German experts together with their Chinese partners have elaborated solutions, according to China's needs and conditions and in line with international standards. This approach has also contributed to the success of the project on the "Reorganisation of Industrial and Road Traffic Statistics in China", which was implemented jointly with the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China from March 1996 until April 2002.

The visit dealt with official statistics of the Federal Republic of Germany and with the way in which the Federal Statistical Office co-operates with the statistical offices of the federal states and cities. Furthermore, there were talks on fields such as "Current Population Statistics" and "Population Censuses".

After the stay at Wiesbaden, the delegation paid a visit to the i-Punkt in Berlin, where a presentation was made on the service provided by the i-Punkt to parliament, ministries and other institutions. Representatives from the Berlin State Statistical Office informed the members of the delegation on the tasks of a large German city in the field of municipal statistics. Then, the guests visited the German congress of towns where they discussed the role and function of municipal statistics in Germany and China. In Frankfurt they visited the Frankfurt Book Fair, where they were welcomed by Mr. Hahlen, President of the FSO. At the State Statistical Office of Hesse, Mr. Hohmann, the President of the Hessian Office, welcomed the delegation and explained the tasks and the organisation of his office. Afterwards, the delegation visited the Hessian Parliament.

## Seminar on "Management Information Systems"



A pilot seminar on the subject "*Management Information Systems*" was held at TES Institute<sup>2)</sup> in Luxembourg from 11 to 15 November 2002 (please also refer to page 8). The seminar was organised jointly with TES for 25 statistical experts from the Russian Federation. About one half of the participants came from the State Statistics Committee of the Russian Federation (Goskomstat) in Moscow, the rest came from different regions of Russia. The goal of the seminar was to impart basic knowledge about modern information systems, their structure and possible uses as well as on new steering instruments.

At first, a short overview was given of the structural set-up of the Federal Statistical Office and of official statistics in Germany, then the thematic complex "*Controlling*" was dealt with. Controlling means both financial and time-schedule control and is the basis for efficient financial planning and time scheduling. Subsequently, the book-keeping system was discussed. The methods of financial and fixed-asset accounting were described, including their links with governmental accounting of the federal budget. The basic features of the software used for this purpose were explained. Much time was devoted to the presentation of information and knowledge management. The hard- and software usually applied for this purpose was explained, as was the informa-

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<sup>2)</sup> TES - Training for European Statisticians

tion provided by the Federal Statistical Office on the Intranet and Internet. The thematic complex "IT Cost Center" dealt with problems of IT-based cost estimation and accounting, billing and invoicing and supervising incoming payments. Here again, the general approach and the required hard- and software means were presented. The particular interest of participants was roused by the programme item "Personnel Management" and here, in particular, by the "Electronic Personnel Organisation System EPOS" applied by the federal administration, a system, which allows a comprehensive IT-based approach to human resources management. A "Travel Management System", which is commonly applied by the various authorities, was presented, because, in particular, travel expenses are often a major cost factor. This system centrally combines homogeneous operations, which otherwise would have to be done by each authority separately. This saves a considerable amount of human resources and material cost. Owing to the bundling of demand it is possible to negotiate major price reductions with the service providers. The workshop was concluded by presenting the eGovernment initiative "BundOnline 2005" of the federal government, according to which all services suitable for the Internet are to be offered online by 2005.

The participants assessed the seminar very positively. Above all, they stressed the possibility of active co-operation, the fixed time devoted to discussions and the committed work of the lecturers. Several times the wish was expressed that reinforcement courses should be held on some thematic complexes.



### Visit of a Vietnamese delegation

A high-ranking delegation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam visited the Federal Statistical Office at Wiesbaden for the first time on 26 November 2002.

The delegation was headed by Mr. TRAN XUAN LICH, Vice-President of the National Office for Economic Planning, and Mr. TRAN DINH DAN, Prime Minister of the Province Ha Tinh. The visit took place at the invitation of the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development.

During the visit, the members of the delegation were made familiar, at first, with the organisation and the functions of the office. Then, a presentation was given on the system of German official statistics. In this context, the point was made that official statistics were an important instrument for economic decisions and policies in a social market economy. Furthermore, the system of publications and the budgeting approach were presented. In this context, the focus was on the function of the Federal Statistical Office as a provider of services as well as on the funding of its expenses.

In his concluding remark, Mr. TRAN XUAN LICH, the head of the delegation, said that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was still at the beginning of the economic reform process. With its economic system changing, it would also be necessary to reform the statistical system radically, adapting it to the new conditions.

The visit to the Federal Statistical Office has clearly shown the importance that is attached to official statistics in a social market economy. Mr. TRAN XUAN LICH expressed the wish that the Federal Statistical Office would support the economic reform process launched and, in particular,



that, for this important project, it would share the experience that the Federal Statistical Office gathered in its statistical co-operation with the PR of China, the most important trade partner and neighbouring country of Vietnam.

## Turkish guests at the Federal Statistical Office



From 2 to 6 December 2002, a delegation of ten statisticians from the Turkish Statistical Office (SIS), headed by Dr. Ünal Gündogan, Director of the EU Research and Assessment Section, attended a workshop at the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden on the subject "Institutions and Procedures of the European Statistical System". The decision to hold this workshop, which was organised on behalf of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), had been taken during a visit of the President of the Turkish Office, Dr. Bakir, in July 2002. This visit marked the beginning of a close collaboration between the two offices, the workshop being already the third co-operation event following of the July meeting. The workshop was aimed at meeting the information needs of the staff of the Division for International Coordination and EU Integration. Their responsibilities include the adaptation of the Turkish statistical system to the requirements of the *acquis communautaire*, i.e. the legal acts of the EU, in this case the numerous legal acts on statistics, as well as the respective co-operation activities with the Member States of the European Union.

The one-week workshop dealt, in particular, with the functioning of the various bodies on the EU level, with European legislation on statistics, with the planning of work and information policies. Another major topic of the discussions were the accession programmes for candidate countries and the formal procedures involved. The European Union has issued a comprehensive co-operation programme for Turkey to adapt its statistical system. The Federal Statistical Office is interested in participating in the three-year programme "Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey (USST)" and the Turkish office has expressed its interest in having the FSO as its co-operation partner.

## Co-operation partner Mongolia – lasting impressions are guaranteed



In the frame of the Tacis-6 programme, the European Union will help Mongolia to improve its statistical system. The Federal Statistical Office of Germany has already conducted several missions to Mongolia within the frame of the Tacis-4 programme and would be interested to continue this successful co-operation. From a European point of view, Mongolia is a country, which is interesting in many ways, and this may be an additional incentive for potential experts to participate in statistical co-operation projects.

In Mongolia, many things are quite different from things in Europe, beginning with the dimensions: According to the Statistical Yearbook of Mongolia, in 2001 just 2.4 million people lived in this Central Asian country. Mongolia covers an area of 1.6 million square kilometres, meaning, in terms of population density, just 2 persons lived per one square kilometre (Germany: about 230 persons). Considering that one third of the Mongolian people live in the capital and that just about a million Mongols live outside towns, it becomes obvious that large parts of the country are practically uninhabited. Some regions are rather hostile towards human life, although the

landscape is very impressive. The uninhabitable Altai mountains are in the west of Mongolia, the Gobi desert is in the south, whereas the rest of the country is dominated by steppes and semi-deserts.



The wide and almost deserted steppe begins directly behind the city limits of Ulan Bator, a steppe where horsemen can be seen from time to time and also the traditional yurta villages of the Mongols. Even today, a large portion of the people still live as nomadic stockbreeders and one quarter of Mongolia's gross domestic product is still produced by the agricultural

sector. Whoever, perchance, comes across a horsemanship festival will be impressed by the freedom-loving culture of the Mongols as well as by the hospitable nature of the nomads who like it very much to invite strangers into their yurtas for a glass of mare's milk. On the other hand, in the capital Ulan-Bator one cannot fail to see the socio-economic problems faced by the country: unemployment among young people, homeless children. The long communist period of the country, which lasted from 1924 till early 1990, is still clearly visible in the capital Ulan-Bator, for the central part of the city is dominated by representative Soviet-style buildings and wide squares. However, some attractive restaurants and beer gardens have now appeared in Ulan-Bator, and German experts will certainly like to test the "Khanbrew Beer", produced in Mongolia with German know-how. It is interesting to note that Ulan-Bator's few supermarkets are selling many German foodstuffs and that German products on the whole enjoy a good reputation in this Central Asian country.

Thus, a lot of work awaited the German external trade statisticians who paid a visit to the statistical office of Mongolia in July 2001 in order to discuss general issues of statistical methodology and also to undertake a so-called mirror comparison of the bilateral external trade results. Mirror comparisons are made to compare, for instance, German exports to Mongolia (on the basis of Germany's external trade statistics) with the corresponding import figures from the Mongolian side. These comparisons regularly reveal registration errors made by enterprises and methodological divergences between the respective countries.

The examination of the data for the year 2000 showed that German exports (according to German statistics) were almost identical with Mongolian imports according to the data collected by the partner country, their volume being approximately 29 million US dollars. However, imports from Mongolia as recorded by German external trade statistics (3.6 million US dollars) were much higher than the corresponding exports to Germany as shown by the Mongolian side (1.8 million US dollars). After some research it became clear that this was caused by a large number of foreign enterprises, which had manufacturing plants in Mongolia. Thus, for example, South Korean firms have textile materials processed in Mongolia; then the finished products are again exported to South Korea, from where they reach other countries. Since Mongolian exporters, as a rule, do not know the country of final destination - in some cases, Germany, these cases are recorded with "South Korea" as the country of destination in Mongolia's external trade statistics.





By the way, China and the USA are the most important markets for sales of Mongolian products abroad.

### **New product: Workshop on "Statistical Capacity Building"**



Any methodological progress in statistics can only be sustained if there is the prerequisite organizational infrastructure. Regular production of reliable statistics is not possible, unless the technical and administrative requirements are secured.

For that reason the Federal Statistical Office has elaborated a new product for statistical co-operation: the workshop on "Statistical Capacity Building". We plan to offer courses on different thematic complexes, such as e.g. strategic and annual programme planning, human resource management and development, quality management, budgeting and controlling, strategic IT planning and information management, data collection, publication and dissemination, public relations and contacts with the media.






This offer is addressed to statistical offices in candidate countries, transition countries and developing countries. The contents of the respective courses will be composed and presented according to the needs of the respective target group. An important characteristic of these courses will be practical exercises, case studies, and the exchange of experience. First and very good experience with this concept has already been gathered during the workshops on "Management Information Systems" and "Institutions and Procedures of the European Statistical Systems" (for these workshops see reports on *pages 4 and 6*). At present more modules are being planned in the field of "Statistical Capacity". Two more courses shall be offered by the end of 2003. If you have any questions about the workshops on "Statistical Capacity Building", please, contact us at personally or at [statistik-kooperation@destatis.de](mailto:statistik-kooperation@destatis.de).





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>29 July – 02 August 2002</b> <b>in Warsaw and Wrocław</b> 	In the frame of the Polish-German twinning project, a first consultation was provided by an expert of Statistics Denmark on the subject of <u>transport statistics</u> . The Danish expert discussed with the <b>Polish</b> colleagues the whole scope of EU Regulations to be implemented in the accession context and the joint questionnaire based on voluntary response.
<b>30 July – 02 August 2002</b> <b>in Kiev</b> 	Under the Tacis component " <u>Business Statistics</u> ", German experts met their <b>Ukrainian</b> colleagues in the capital of the Ukraine. The consultation focused on the EU requirements regarding statistical data on energy and water supply (NACE Section E). The discussion covered the methodology for calculating both production indices for energy and water supply and the index of orders received in the construction industry, and individual issues relating to the calculation of construction output indices.
<b>12-14 August 2002</b> <b>in Tbilisi</b> 	During an expert mission, the differences detected in the context of a <u>mirror comparison</u> of the 2001 external trade data between Germany and <b>Georgia</b> were analysed and methodological recommendations given as to how to reduce the differences. However, the difficult framework conditions in Georgia and the frequently inadequate collection of data by the customs authorities pose a problem. The total difference between Georgian imports and German exports is small. Part of the considerable differences observed for the opposite direction of trade could be explained while further research by both sides will be required.
<b>14-16 August 2002</b> <b>in Baku</b> 	The goal of this project component is to provide to the <b>Azerbaijani</b> <u>external trade statisticians</u> methodological advice on mirror comparisons and to assist them in carrying them out. The focus of the expert mission of two German statisticians was on the following issues: comparison of external trade data and the evaluation of qualitative and quantitative differences. At the same time, the two sides jointly determined the methodical and other reasons for the differences (2001 data). To this end, the methods of data collection and processing applied in the two countries were presented. It was made clear in the course of the consultation that the methodology Azerbaijan applies in producing its external trade statistics has always been in compliance with the UN concepts and definitions and, hence, also corresponds basically to the EU methodology. The particularly big difference observed between German imports and the respective Azerbaijani exports is largely restricted to crude oil. While the value Germany indicates for its imports of crude oil from Azerbaijan amounts to US \$ 227.4 mn, the Azerbaijani external trade statistics does not cover any crude oil exports to Germany since the country of destination indicated for all Azerbaijani crude oil exports is Italy, which is the result of transporting crude oil to or via Italy (Trieste).
<b>19-23 August 2002</b> <b>in Warsaw</b> 	In the context of the Polish-German twinning project, two experts of the Statistical Office of Finland visited the Central Statistical Office of <b>Poland</b> for a consultation on the subject of statistical <u>business registers</u> . The Polish Office is establishing a statistical business register on the basis of the existing national register of economic entities.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>19-23 August 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	<p>The project component "Relations with Users and User Requirements" is based on the results of the preceding project on the "<u>Publication and Distribution of Statistical Information</u>" (Statistics 2; 1997 to 2000). The goal of the previous project was to enhance the print publications in terms of their formal structure and cover design. The current project is aimed at achieving progress with regard to the distribution and user-orientation of the products and services of the Statistics Department of the Republic of <b>Uzbekistan</b> (SDS). During the study visit, two Uzbek statisticians presented the flyer "Uzbekistan in Figures 2001" produced in Russian and English. In this context, ways of further improving the user-friendliness were discussed. In relation to a customer satisfaction survey concerning "The basic indicators of social and economic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan", ideas were discussed as to how to incorporate the results of the survey in the future content and design of the publication. The guests were also informed about the Information Service of the Federal Statistical Office, the treatment of customer requests and the concept for marketing the products and services of the Federal Statistical Office. The information given on the scope and types of data offered on the Internet (Statistics Shop, GENESIS-Online database, Time Series Service) was of particular interest to the visitors. The Uzbek partners requested further information on the following issues which will be considered in subsequent actions: specific communication services offered to the general public (Intranet, Internet and other services) – structures, functions, aims, approaches, history of their development and organisational instruments. In addition, they requested assistance in constructing a database to register the users of their statistical publications and to classify them to different user groups.</p>
<b>20-22 August 2002 in Erevan</b> 	<p>In the context of a <u>mirror comparison</u> of the external trade data between <b>Armenia</b> and Germany, two German experts together with their Armenian colleagues analysed the qualitative and quantitative differences between the data. At the same time, methodological and other reasons for the deviations were elaborated. To harmonise the methodology applied in the German and the Armenian external trade statistics and to conduct a mirror comparison of the transactions of goods between the two countries, each side explained the survey and data processing methods it uses in compiling its external trade statistics as well as the whole process of collecting data, subjecting them to plausibility checks and publishing them. At the same time, the results of the mirror comparison were analysed which was performed during the previous consultation in Wiesbaden. In this context, it was stated that the Armenian external trade statisticians had taken into consideration the recommendations of the German experts. The major differences observed during the previous study visit to Wiesbaden were due to the fact that the trading country had been considered instead of the country of destination/country of origin, which was not in compliance with the relevant EU and UN regulations. Now that the country of destination/country of origin is considered, the differences observed between the German and Armenian external trade statistics are minor. To further reduce the differences, the Armenian and German data are to be regularly compared by an exchange of e-mails.</p>
<b>26-30 August 2002 in Warsaw</b> 	<p>In the context of the <b>Polish</b>-German twinning project, an expert of the Federal Statistical Office visited the Central Statistical Office in Warsaw to discuss questions of <u>environmental statistics</u>. The discussion focused on waste statistics and statistics of environmental protection expenditure, and also on a customer-oriented presentation of the results.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES


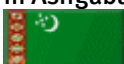
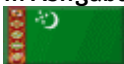

### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<p><b>01 September – 30 November 2002 in Ulan-Bator</b></p> 	<p>The current <b>Mongolian Statistics Law</b> dates from 1997 and covers only part of the major rights and duties of a modern and independently working statistical office. Mongolia, therefore, asked for assistance in preparing a respective draft bill. A German expert analysed the presently relevant situation in the country, talked to the competent staff in the respective government agencies and prepared together with Mongolian statisticians the draft of a new Statistics Law.</p>
<p><b>02-06 September 2002 in Almaty</b></p> 	<p>The aim of the seminar held on the <u>publication and distribution of statistical information</u> in <b>Kazakhstan</b> was to provide an overview of how statistical information is published and distributed in Germany. The discussion covered the following points of emphasis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general bases of official statistics in the Federal Republic of Germany</li> <li>• the programme of publications of the Federal Statistical Office</li> <li>• the distribution system of the Federal Statistical Office and plans for reorganising the system in the future</li> <li>• co-operation with the press as an important medium for distributing information</li> <li>• the marketing concept of the Federal Statistical Office</li> <li>• information services at the Federal Statistical Office and, in particular, the activities of the Berlin Information Point</li> </ul>
<p><b>09-13 September 2002 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>In the frame of the Polish-German twinning project, a delegation of <b>Polish</b> IT specialists visited the Federal Statistical Office to obtain information about the <u>IT processes</u> and the data processing programmes used in the German external trade statistics. The visit focused on processes in the field of intra-Community trade statistics. Among other things, automated processing in intra-Community trade statistics, the online transmission of data, the database for reminding procedures and the intra-Community trade register of the Federal Statistical Office were presented and discussed.</p>
<p><b>09-13 September 2002 in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>In the context of the <b>Polish</b>-German twinning project, an expert of the Brandenburg State Establishment for Data Processing and Statistics provided an initial consultation on the <u>labour force survey</u> (LFS). The discussion was focused on the implementation of the relevant EU Council Regulation and a comprehensive analysis of the organisation and methodology of the Polish labour force survey. Besides, the use of handheld computers or laptops in future surveys was discussed.</p>
<p><b>19-20 September 2002 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>During a two-day study visit, a <b>Lithuanian</b> delegation was provided with practical information on the compilation of <u>trade statistics</u> in Germany. Apart from the sampling methodology, estimation procedures and quality analyses, the following topics were on the agenda: data collection, data checks and data output, treatment of non-response, updating the main activities of enterprises, and data dissemination. The Lithuanian delegation judged the wide range of practical and methodical recommendations of the German experts on organising the monthly and annual trade statistics in accordance with the EU provisions and regulations both as particularly helpful and useful.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<p><b>24-27 September 2002</b> <b>in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>The task of the first meeting of the <u>Project Steering Committee</u> of the <b>Polish-German</b> twinning project was to check the progress made in implementing the work plan and schedule and, if required, to specify changes. The meeting, which was chaired by the Polish project manager, was attended by the German project manager of the Federal Statistical Office, the long-term adviser, leading staff of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, representatives of the delegation of the European Commission to Warsaw and of the Polish Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU), and a Eurostat representative. The two project managers called the progress made and the co-operation in the context of the project very successful. Finally, the German project manager visited the Warsaw Regional Office and was provided with information about the progress achieved in evaluating the results of the combined population and agricultural census. Analysing the results of the agricultural census is an essential component of the twinning project.</p>
<p><b>30 September – 03 October 2002</b> <b>in Ashgabad</b></p> 	<p>The aim of the expert mission was to analyse the current system of <u>investment statistics</u> in <b>Turkmenistan</b> as a basis for working out the new Tacis project component "Investment Statistics". Furthermore, both the German and the European investment statistics and the German methodology for calculating fixed capital were described and explained. In a next step, the Turkmen experts will prepare a draft questionnaire on investment statistics (incl. explanatory notes) in line with international requirements while at the same time considering the specific conditions prevailing in the country.</p>
<p><b>07-09 October 2002</b> <b>in Ashgabad</b></p> 	<p>Two experts of the Federal Statistical Office participated in a first consultation on external <u>trade statistics</u> in the framework of the EU Tacis 5 contract. The goal of this project is to assist the official statistics of <b>Turkmenistan</b> in bringing its national statistics into line with international standards. The expert mission was primarily aimed at a mutual exchange of information about the national systems of external trade statistics and the preparation of future projects, in particular a mirror comparison and a planned sample survey.</p>
<p><b>14-17 October 2002</b> <b>in Kiev</b></p> 	<p>For the time being, the last action under the Tacis component "<u>Publications and Public Relations</u>" focused on a presentation of the information and dissemination policy (potential, conditions, aims) presently pursued by the State Statistics Committee of <b>Ukraine</b>. In addition, the representatives from the Federal Statistical Office described and explained the supply of electronic information by the Federal Statistical Office and the user-orientation of the Office's products and services. The Internet as a platform for distributing information and distribution concept of the Federal Statistical Office were explained and demonstrated with GENESIS-online as an example. Finally, an assessment was made of the seven-year co-operation in the area of publications and public relations, and recommendations were given as to the future public relations activities of the Statistical Office of Ukraine.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES







### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>14-18 October 2002 in Wiesbaden and Kamenz</b> 	In the context of the Tacis component " <u>Regional Structure</u> ", <b>Kazakh</b> statisticians visited the Federal Statistical Office and the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony where the structure and organisation of the official statistics of the federal State, its resources in terms of staff, technology and finance, and the statistical framework conditions incl. the co-operation between the statistical offices at the different levels were explained. Among other things, the consultation placed special emphasis on statistical registers. During a visit to the Communal Statistical Agency in Bautzen, the system of communal statistics in Saxony was explained. Furthermore, various forms of data collection and, in particular, the work of interviewers and also data editing procedures were described and discussed.
<b>17-18 October 2002 in Lviv and Kiev</b> 	During a seminar for statisticians of the <b>Ukrainian</b> regional offices in Lviv, two German experts gave a lecture on the development of <u>services statistics</u> in Germany. Since the federal structure is similar in the two countries, the first focus of the lecture was on the division of labour between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the federal states. Another point of emphasis of the seminar concerned the European requirements in the area of services statistics. The third issue of central importance was the production and dissemination of results. Apart from a critical stocktaking of the methodological bases prepared for a survey in the services sector, strategic considerations were discussed in relation to the advancement of services statistics in Europe. In this context, a distinction was made between structural statistics and short-term statistics. In addition, methodological and organisational aspects of sample surveys were discussed. Mention was also made of surveys via the Internet.
<b>21-22 October 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	During a consultation on <u>financial services</u> with <b>Ukrainian</b> statisticians, the details both of a classification of the sector of financial services and of reporting procedures were discussed. Special emphasis was put on the methodology applied in calculating the output and value added for individual financial services providers and subsectors. In the end, experience was exchanged on covering services by subsectors and on obtaining regional results in the area of services statistics.
<b>21-25 October 2002 in Helsinki</b> 	The visit by <b>Polish</b> statisticians to the Statistical Office of Finland focused on the statistics of <u>public budgets</u> . The related discussions were a continuation of the expert discussions launched in Warsaw in July 2002 as part of the Polish-German twinning project.
<b>23-25 October 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	A <b>Lithuanian</b> delegation visited the Federal Statistical Office to obtain information for developing a method to calculate the <u>construction price index</u> . During the three-day study visit, the Lithuanian delegation familiarised itself, among other things, with the major concepts of construction price statistics, the processes of providing and processing data and the preparation of the calculation bases. The Lithuanian colleagues regarded the communicated ideas, the discussions and the experience imparted by the German side as very helpful and useful for their work.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>23-25 October 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	<p>In the course of this study visit by Ukrainian statisticians practical problems of collecting data in short-term surveys of the <u>production industries</u> in the <b>Ukraine</b> were discussed. The methods for presenting, in the context of national accounts, gross fixed capital formation in machinery and equipment and in construction at constant prices were explained. The survey documents (questionnaire, explanatory notes) worked out by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine for short-term industrial surveys and the method developed for the calculation of indexes of orders received in the construction industry were analysed. In addition, the discussion included the survey of building permits introduced by the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine and respective results.</p>
<b>28 –30 October 2002 in Wiesbaden</b>  	<p>Experts from <b>Russia</b> and <b>Belarus</b> were introduced to the ASI <u>software</u> used for automated processing in <u>intra-Community trade statistics</u>, the w3stat online declaration system, the automated scanning of declaration documents and to GENESIS (Common New Statistical Information System), i.e. the database used for issuing information and publications. All issues were discussed in detail. The experts showed particular interest in the ASI programme. In this context, the hardware Germany uses for this purpose was presented as well.</p>
<b>28-30 October 2002 in Warsaw</b> 	<p>In the frame of the twinning project, an expert of the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony met <b>Polish</b> IT specialists to give advice on <u>optimising their network</u> and security systems. In detail, the discussion covered the office network, the shielding of the internal network from the Internet, and the communication procedures applied in transmitting data to Eurostat.</p>
<b>28 October - 01 November 2002 in Helsinki</b> 	<p>A delegation of <b>Polish</b> price statisticians visited the Statistical Office of Finland in the frame of the Polish-German twinning project. Subjects of the discussion were methodological aspects of the <u>consumer price survey</u> and the use of handheld computers in statistical surveys in Poland.</p>
<b>31 October – 01 November 2002 in Kiev</b> 	<p>German trade statisticians discussed with their <b>Ukrainian</b> counterparts details of the survey documents used for <u>wholesale trade statistics</u>. It was stated in this context that not all variables required by the EU Regulation concerning structural business statistics are collected yet. Instead, a considerable number of variables of national interest are collected both on an infra-annual and annual basis (among other things, quantitative figures in the framework of the infra-annual survey). However, an infra-annual survey of wholesale on a fee or contract basis (NACE 51.1) is not yet carried out. Since clarification was needed with respect to the definition of concepts, the basic concepts were explained again (wholesale trade, wholesale on a fee or contract basis, etc.) and examples were cited. On the whole, it was stated that the State Statistics Committee of Ukraine was on the right way as regards its wholesale statistics, though, however, a number of essential changes would still have to be made to bring it in line with the EU requirements.</p>





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<p><b>04-06 November 2002</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>This co-operation measure in the context of the Tacis 4 contract focused on the preparation of an <u>agricultural census</u> in <b>Azerbaijan</b>. An expert of the State Statistical Office of Hesse demonstrated and discussed the results of the survey on livestock husbandry, on the agricultural structure and on the degree of mechanisation, which was conducted in June 2002, and the obstacles experienced. At the same time, proposals for improvement were jointly worked out. Like in the previous survey of land use, two groups of respondents were covered based on two types of questionnaires in this survey, too. The survey is to be understood as a pretest which will serve as a basis for taking a decision on the final version of the catalogue of variables for the agricultural census planned for 2005. Potential surveys in the area of fisheries and forest stands were discussed in the course of this study visit as well.</p>
<p><b>06 –08 November 2002</b> <b>in Bonn</b></p> 	<p>The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the German-<b>Polish</b> working group on <u>agricultural statistics</u> first focused on the general data and information network provided by the Federal Ministry for the Protection of Consumers, for Food and Agriculture, and its connection to FADN <sup>3)</sup> and to sectoral accounting. Apart from that, procedures were presented and discussed for acquiring information about input variables such as mineral fertilisers, animal feedstuffs and pesticides. In addition, such input variables as tractors, agricultural machinery and equipment were covered as well. In the second round of discussions, methods for producing supply balances for meat, milk and eggs were discussed. Besides, the supply balances for animal feedstuffs, fruit, vegetables and potatoes were explained and discussed. These supply balances on the basis of comparable data which Poland is required to report to the EU were considered at length because the Central Statistical Office of Poland produces the balances in that form for the first time. Both sides judged the meeting as very useful. The Polish side continues to require consulting advice to further improve the information it offers to the EU. It was agreed that further co-operation is necessary.</p>
<p><b>06-08 November 2002</b> <b>in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>An expert of the Berlin State Statistical Office visited the Central Statistical Office of <b>Poland</b> to consult with her Polish colleagues on metadata and building a statistical <u>data warehouse</u>. The Central Office presented both the concept and prototype of the Polish data warehouse. The expert gave detailed information on the experience gained with the system operated at the State Statistical Office. She also provided recommendations on how to further develop the prototype.</p>
<p><b>07-08 November 2002</b> <b>in Luxembourg</b></p> 	<p>Together with external trade experts from the participating EU member states, <b>Russian</b> experts discussed the results of the actions carried out in the field of <u>external trade statistics</u>. They also elaborated proposals for future activities in all areas of external trade statistics.</p>
<p><b>11-14 November 2002</b> <b>in Almaty</b></p>   	<p>During the consultation on "<u>Investment Statistics</u>", the draft questionnaires for the sample survey of investment activities of enterprises, the survey of construction firms, and the collection of data on foreign investments, were discussed with <b>Kazakh, Kyrgyz and Uzbek</b> statisticians. Several of the questionnaires will soon be used in a pilot survey. In addition, the results of a pilot survey of building permits were discussed.</p>





<sup>3)</sup> FADN - Farm Accountancy Data Network





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>11-15 November 2002 in Luxembourg</b> 	Please refer to <i>page 4</i> for a report on the seminar on " <u>Management Information Systems</u> " for statisticians from the <b>Russian Federation</b> , which was organised by the Federal Statistical Office and held at TES Institute.
<b>11-15 November 2002 in Wiesbaden and Berlin</b> 	In November 2002, two experts of the Statistics Department of the Republic of <b>Uzbekistan</b> (SDS) paid a study visit to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and to the Berlin Information Point. The focus of the visit on the subject of " <u>Publications and Public Relations</u> " was on the aims of data dissemination, the present and planned dissemination channels, and the prices of statistical products and services in Germany. In addition, the activities concerning selected groups of users of statistical information and services were discussed. An exchange of information on the results obtained by the SDS staff in the course of the whole project and on the implementation of those results in developing user-oriented products and services covered a major part of the consultation. In this context, mention was for instance made of free information materials in the form of flyers or miscellanies. The flyer "Uzbekistan in Figures 2001" was the first free publication. Other thematic flyers are planned to be published. Based on the results of a customer satisfaction survey, the colleagues had started to adjust the content and graphics of two print publications more closely to the needs of the users. The three actions conducted in the context of the project have contributed to an improved dissemination and user-orientation of SDS products and services.
<b>12-15 November 2002 in Munich</b> 	During another consultation on " <u>Regional Statistics</u> ", experts of the Bavarian State Office for Statistics and Data Processing provided <b>Ukrainian</b> statisticians with information about the system of regional statistics in Germany from the perspective of a State Office. Furthermore, the Regiostat catalogue was introduced as the central instrument of regional statistics in the framework of German official statistics, and the concept, structure and organisation of the GENESIS project were explained and discussed. An expert of the State Office for Statistics and Data Processing of North Rhine-Westphalia presented the EASYSTAT system (conceptual approach, search system, examples relating to different databases, EASYSTAT author system, first introduction into the structure of EASYSTAT databases).
<b>18-19 November 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	German and <b>Russian</b> experts discussed the concepts of calculating a core inflation rate, which had been prepared by the State Committee of the Russian Federation on Statistics (Goskomstat). Germany itself does not calculate an inflation rate which, in official terms, is named core inflation rate. However, several inflation rates are calculated which correspond to different definitions of a core inflation. It was emphasised that the precise documentation of the content, the indication in the context of the core inflation rates of both the weights and the excluded goods and services are of particular importance. The weight of the core inflation rate, measured in terms of the consumer price index, should not be too small and the definition be kept constant over time. Goskomstat was recommended to agree with the central bank and other major users on the definition of the core inflation rates to be measured. Further questions concerned the calculation of the consumer price index on the basis of a specific base year.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>18-20 November 2002 in Kiev</b> 	Under the Tacis 4 component " <u>Regional Statistics</u> ", two experts of the State Statistical Office of Baden-Württemberg visited Kiev. First, the <b>Ukrainian</b> statisticians gave a progress report on setting up regional statistical databases and regional accounts. The consultation focused on the different uses of the databases. In addition, the progress achieved in working out the Ukrainian regional statistical data catalogue was discussed. With time, the demand for regional accounting data has become strong in the Ukraine particularly on the part of the Ministries of economics and finance and the public administration. The Ukrainian representatives reported about a user-oriented conference of official statistics where the concept for introducing regional accounts, as approved by government, was presented. Here, the emphasis is on calculating the real gross domestic product (GDP) at the level of regions (oblasts), the regionalisation of the state budget, and on preliminary and short-term GDP estimates. Based on the knowledge provided, the representatives from the State Statistics Committee in Kiev and the Regional Statistics Committee in Lviv are now in a position to develop the methodology for making preliminary and short-term GDP calculations and to carry out test computations. As regards the regionalisation of the state budget, some questions of adequate coding are still to be settled. In this context, however, the Ukraine can fall back on the German experience. Due to the difficult data situation, the measurement of disposable income and savings of households pose problems.
<b>18-20 November 2002 in Munich</b> 	The <b>Ukrainian</b> statisticians specialised in industry and construction statistics familiarised themselves with <u>short-term manufacturing statistics</u> (especially production index at NUTS 1 level), construction statistics (in particular index of orders received at NUTS 1 level), statistics of public road construction, and the Ifo short-term business indicators for industry and construction.
<b>18-22 November 2002 in Wiesbaden</b>  	In the course of the first joint study visit <b>Moldovan</b> and <b>Turkmen</b> investment statisticians paid to the Federal Statistical Office under the Tacis 5 contract, a presentation was given on calculating <u>capital formation as part of the German national accounts</u> and determining gross fixed capital formation in construction, in machinery and in equipment. Another topic was the German statistics of building activity. A visit to the German Federal Bank (Deutsche Bundesbank) in Frankfurt focused on direct investment in the framework of the balance of payments and on financial accounts as part of national accounts. In the context of the study visit to Wiesbaden, recommendations were also given with regard to the design of questionnaires and other survey documents for a test survey in the area of investment statistics, and the draft questionnaire prepared by the Turkmen Statistical Office was discussed. The Moldovan and the Turkmen offices have both planned to conduct a pilot survey in the area of investment statistics on the basis of the revised documents. The next co-operation measure is scheduled for March/April 2003.
<b>19-20 November 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	The <b>Turkish</b> guests visited the Federal Statistical Office to exchange experience on presenting the results of <u>population statistics</u> and on publishing related indicators via electronic media. The discussion was centered upon population statistics stored in the GENESIS database, population projections, and UN and EU standards for population statistics.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>20-22 November 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	<p>Since this was the first time an information technology expert of the <b>Czech</b> Statistical Office visited the Federal Statistical Office, he was first given information about the organisational structure of the Office, the legal bases of its work, the major statistics, and the work of the <u>information technology unit (IT)</u>, the involvement in the BundOnline2005 governmental measures, and the increasing importance of information technology and IT security. As a second point of emphasis, the legal bases for the work of the IT Security Officer, IT security organisation, the involvement of the IT Security Officer, co-operation with the Data Protection Commissioner and the Data Security Officer (IT revision), and the IT Security Officer's co-operation with other units of the Office and with third parties were discussed on the first day. The programme of the second day included a presentation of modern procedures of online data collection (w3stat), data dissemination (GENESIS) and document processing, plus the risks involved and the security measures taken. Apart from that, the computer centre and the attached infrastructure facilities were visited. At the end of this visit, the whole complex of "Network Security" (structures, inter-connections, control, monitoring, security of networks), and the structure and administration of NetWare Directory Services (NDS) was presented. The final discussion stressed both the results obtained and the experience gained. In this context, potential further activities were discussed as well.</p>
<b>20-22 November 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	<p>The colleagues of the <b>Czech</b> Statistical Office were informed about general and special issues of <u>structural business statistics (SBS)</u>, the main emphasis being on the SBS compliance with European standards. Some of the subjects which were presented by or discussed with several experts of the Federal Statistical Office are listed as follows: the general situation of German business statistics in the European context, the organisation of annual statistics, questions relating to data quantities and indicators, the content of questionnaires and methods of data collection, essential methodological problems of collected indicators, and the progress achieved with respect to complex individual data protection methods.</p>
<b>25-27 November 2002 in Warsaw</b> 	<p>In the frame of the twinning project, an expert of the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony visited the Central Statistical Office of <b>Poland</b> to analyse the progress made in <u>developing modern methods of data collection</u>. He was particularly interested in the progress achieved in further developing automated and metadata-based survey procedures.</p>
<b>25-29 November 2002 in Wiesbaden</b> 	<p>In the context of the twinning project, <b>Polish</b> statisticians visited the Federal Statistical Office to discuss major issues such as <u>short-term and production statistics</u>. Subjects of the discussion were the index of orders received, seasonal adjustment, the production index, short-term surveys in construction, and services and trade statistics. Another item on the agenda was a visit to the State Statistical Office of Hesse.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>25-29 November 2002</b> <b>in Almaty</b> 	A final seminar was organised for the regional statistical offices of the Republic of <b>Kazakhstan</b> in the context of the GTZ project " <u>Statistics on Wages and Salaries</u> ". The seminar was chaired by experts of the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony. At the beginning of the seminar, an overview was provided of the system of wage and salary statistics in Germany. Afterwards the German experts discussed new surveys and developments in the area of wage and salary statistics in the EU (EU regulations, quality reports, Labour Cost Index). In this context, the purpose, relevance, and the catalogue of variables of the German survey of the salary and wage structure were explained. The colleagues of the Kazakh Statistics Agency presented the results of the work performed jointly in the context of the GTZ project "Statistics on Wages and Salaries", namely the organisation of a pilot survey of the salary and wage structure in Kazakhstan (instruments, catalogue of variables in relation with the survey documents, sampling methodology and expansion of the data in Kazakhstan). At the end of the seminar, the German experts explained the various phases of the survey and answered the questions by their Kazakh colleagues. Finally, the latter explained their survey procedures.
<b>26-29 November 2002</b> <b>in Prague</b> 	The consultation focused on the documents (instructions on how to complete a questionnaire, declaration forms) so far prepared by the <b>Czech</b> Statistical Office (CSO) and on a discussion of methodological and organisational <u>Intra-stat</u> issues. Intra-Community trade statistics will have to be compiled in the Czech Republic starting 1 May 2004 when the country accedes to the European Union. In addition, fundamental methodological issues of extra-Community trade (customs procedure, commodity classification), questions of coding in the context of external trade statistics and unsolved questions relating to the recent mirror comparison based on 2001 data were finalized.
<b>28-29 November 2002</b> <b>in Kamenz</b> 	The main emphasis of the study visit <b>Czech</b> experts paid to the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony was on the exchange of experience regarding both the concepts for structuring <u>metadata</u> with the aim of a flexible publication of statistical data on the Internet and the design of user interfaces for an intuitive use of statistical information systems on the Internet. Here, the development tools required for implementing such systems were introduced to the representatives from the Czech Statistical Office, and the requirements to be met by user interfaces of that type plus ways of establishing them were pointed out. Also, the details of a jointly developed metadata model were discussed. The discussion focused on the description of international regional structures and of basic information relating to statistical surveys. Finally, the further approach to establishing a common cross-border database was discussed and specified.
<b>02-06 December 2002</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b> 	Please see <i>page 6</i> for a report on the seminar on the subject "Institutions and Procedures of the European Statistical System" attended by staff of the <b>Turkish</b> Statistical Office (SIS).



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<p><b>09-11 December 2002 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>During their three-day study visit, the <b>Bulgarian</b> delegation was provided with information about the methods applied in Germany for calculating <u>indexes of orders received, turnover and production</u> and also indexes of producer prices. In addition, the requirements of the EU regulation concerning short-term statistics as regards the methods for calculating short-term indices were discussed in detail. The talks centered, among other things, on the change-over to the new base year 2000 and the industry surveys aimed at collecting the variables required for the computation (groups of respondents, variable definitions, questionnaires and explanatory notes). Furthermore, the deficiencies in the Bulgarian short-term survey system were shown and potential solutions elaborated. The experts of the Federal Statistical Office indicated their basic preparedness to respond via e-mail to the questions or problems that might occur in the context of introducing short-term statistics in Bulgaria.</p>
<p><b>09-13 December 2002 in Bonn</b></p> 	<p>A delegation of <b>Polish</b> statisticians discussed various issues of <u>environmental statistics</u> with experts of the Federal Statistical Office. Apart from legal questions, the methods for compiling statistics in this areas were discussed. In addition, the experts from the two countries exchanged information on the methods and organisation of statistical surveys of environmental protection expenditure.</p>
<p><b>16-20 December 2002 in Halle/Saale</b></p>  	<p>At the State Statistical Office of Saxony-Anhalt, <b>Kazakh</b> and <b>Kyrgyz investment statisticians</b> discussed the revised questionnaires for a survey of foreign investments and a survey of construction and engineering services. In addition, advice was provided to the visitors regarding the work of interviewers (organisation, recruiting new interviewers, manuals, etc.). The discussion also covered ways of determining investments by foreign investors and credits as well as methods for determining financial leasing. At the end of their study visit, the guests paid a visit to the Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung (Institute for Economic Research – IWH) in Halle to discuss problems of analysing the effects of/dependency on investments.</p>
<p><b>17-19 December 2002 in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>In the course of the second meeting of the <u>Project Steering Committee</u>, the partners in the project obtained information about the progress achieved in implementing the <b>Polish</b>-German twinning project, and they discussed the next steps to be taken. The meeting was attended by representatives of the delegation of the European Commission to Warsaw and of the Polish Central Finance and Contracting Unit (CFCU), and a Eurostat representative. On the eve of the meeting, a preparatory seminar took place which was attended by the project managers from Poland and Germany and the co-ordinators from Finland and Denmark. The seminar was used by the partners directly engaged in the project to exchange views and to prepare further expert missions.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

<b>03-11 January 2003 in Beijing</b> 	<p>After the GTZ project on the "Reorganisation of Industrial and Road Traffic Statistics in the <b>People's Republic of China</b>", launched in March 1996, was completed in April 2002, the results of the project are to be presented to a wide range of users in the context of an international <u>symposium</u> to be organised together by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the People's Republic of China and the Federal Statistical Office in the People's Republic of China.</p> <p>Representatives from the policy, business and academic communities, from international organisations and the media will be invited to attend the symposium.</p> <p>The visit by the German project managers to the National Bureau of Statistics in Beijing was aimed at setting the course for the symposium in terms of its content and organisation and at clarifying questions of a content-related and financial participation of Eurostat.</p>
<b>06-10 January 2003 in Warsaw</b> 	<p>An expert commissioned by the Federal Statistical Office and a Danish expert met <b>Polish</b> statisticians specialised in agricultural statistics for a first exchange of experience on <u>agricultural statistics</u>. The discussion served to specify the demand for further consultation in the context of the twinning project.</p>
<b>13-15 January 2003 in Warsaw</b> 	<p>In the frame of the <b>Polish</b> twinning project, a Finnish IT expert met his Polish counterparts to obtain information about the progress made at the Central Statistical Office in setting up a statistical <u>data warehouse</u> and a set of meta-data and also to give recommendations for further advancing these instruments. The consultation, which supplemented the previous meeting with German experts, focused on familiarising the Polish colleagues with various approaches in this area.</p>
<b>14-17 January 2003 in Wiesbaden</b> 	<p>The consultation provided to <b>Kazakh</b> statisticians in the context of the TACIS component "<u>Publications and Public Relations</u>" focused on the press activities of a statistical office. The Kazakh colleagues were given the opportunity to attend the Federal Statistical Office's press conference on the gross domestic product. On the occasion of their visit, the organisation of a press office, the co-operation with the mass media, and the organisation of a press conference were explained. Another point of emphasis was the electronic dissemination of statistical information via the Internet. The Internet pages of the Federal Statistical Office were presented. Also, the function of the Internet as a distribution platform was explained, and the time series service and GENESIS-Online were presented.</p>





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from August 2002 to January 2003

**28-30 January 2003  
in Kamenz**



In the context of a three-day workshop, the progress achieved in the preliminary conceptual work for building a harmonised cross-border database for **Poland**, the **Czech Republic** and the Free State of Saxony was explained and assessed. The goals and the content of the project were again discussed and agreed upon in detail.

This part was followed by launching the phase of technical implementation. In this context, the next conceptual and subject-related steps for developing the content of the database were specified.

In particular, the progress was shown which was made in developing a cross-border regional coding system for Poland, the Czech Republic and the Free State of Saxony. Open questions could be settled during the workshop.

Besides, the statistical content, its reference to time and the regional breakdown were decided upon in relation to the first phase of publication after completing the database prototype. In this context, the scope of the metadata required and their structuring for version 1 of the database were discussed and approved. At the same time, a provisional agreement was reached on the procedure for the translation into the four languages Polish, Czech, German and English, which will be required for the publication of data and metadata.





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