

# STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

**Statistical Co-operation  
with Transition and Developing Countries**



**2/2003**

**Federal Statistical Office of Germany**

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## Editorial

This issue of our newsletter "Statistics across Borders" is mainly devoted to an event Germany's official statisticians have had the honour to organise for their international guests: the 54<sup>th</sup> World Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI).

From 13 to 20 August 2003, the session was held in Germany for the second time after exactly 100 years. It was a remarkable and welcome opportunity for official statistics in general and the division "Co-operation with Other Countries" in particular to introduce themselves to colleagues and partners from abroad.

As a matter of course, this issue also contains information about activities in progress and newly launched statistical co-operation projects. With two so-called "Twinning Light" projects we keep pursuing the policy of integrated action based on interrelated activities.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please, write us an e-mail addressed to:

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## Co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and Russia's GOSKOMSTAT

Since 1993, the Federal Statistical Office has co-operated with the Russian GOSKOMSTAT intensively and continuously in fields such as the conversion of Russia's statistical system in line with democracy and market economy requirements or the adaptation of statistics to international standards. This support was provided almost entirely in the context of EU-funded Tacis programmes<sup>1)</sup>.

On 24 and 25 March 2003, staff members of the division "Co-operation with Other Countries" discussed programme-related topics with representatives from the Statistics Committee of the Russian Federation, Goskomstat, in Moscow. On that occasion the experts evaluated project implementation results under Tacis 3 and Tacis 4 and examined possibilities for a continued co-operation in the context of future Tacis programmes.

Looking back on the co-operation projects already finished, the Russian interlocutors reported the progress achieved under the Tacis 3 programme "Elaboration of a Concept for Collection, Processing, Storage and Transfer of Statistical Information on the Regional Level", a project effected under the leadership of the Federal Statistical Office. This project, which had its focus on IT, was rated by the Russians as a success. Russia's statistical system relies on the interaction of 89 regional offices and their Moscow-based central headquarters. It is hoped that the newly developed pattern of electronic data processing for statistics, which is to be used by the entire statistical system, will have an enduring effect on all interested parties in terms of better co-ordination and improved workflow efficiency.

The Russian counterparts also said that the Tacis 4 consultations had been of a high practical value, particularly with regard to external trade statistics. Here it was possible to adopt the methods used by Germany for collecting external trade statistics without involving customs authorities.

Furthermore, the experts discussed possibilities for co-operation under forthcoming Tacis programmes or other EU support programmes. The Russian side expressed their interest in the close co-operation to be continued and will examine suitable funding schemes.

The stay in Moscow was also used to visit the Director General of the Moscow-based "*Bureau of Economic Analysis*" (BEA). BEA is a non-profit institution that compiles scientific business analysis and evaluation papers for Russian ministries and, in addition to that, administers a World Bank loan programme for the reform of the Russian statistics system.



## Living and Poverty Conditions in Georgia

Jointly with *German Education and Training (GET) GmbH*, the Federal Statistical Office is involved in a pilot project "Survey of Living and Poverty Conditions in the Kakheti Region" in Georgia. The project consists of two sub-projects: a survey of all households on their income and living conditions and a survey of all enterprises to update the business register. The project started on 1 June 2003 with a duration of 12 months.

<sup>1)</sup> Tacis = Technical Assistance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (EU programme in support of CIS countries and Mongolia).



The project is conducted within the frame of the poverty reduction and economic growth programme jointly initiated by Georgia, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In mid-2001, one half of Georgia's population lived below the poverty line. In order to evaluate the success of the programme reliable data on the real poverty situation in Georgia is needed. The project is to shed light not only on the income situation in families, but also on living conditions, such as e.g. medical care, the housing situation, the availability of water and electricity etc. As the labour market is closely related to the situation in the enterprise sector, one needs to be in general terms aware of the prevailing enterprise structure. With that purpose in mind it is planned to interview all enterprises in the region, which will prepare the ground for an update of the existing business register. So far, only new enterprises have been included. Other cases such as enterprises terminating their economic existence or moving headquarters to another place were not followed up by the register.

Work on the project started with a fact-finding mission, laying the basis for a plan of action and a time schedule. A lot of time was invested in the drafting of questionnaires, taking into account the specific requirements and conditions of the region. In parallel, interviewers were recruited and trained and the type and the coverage of the household sample survey were chosen. The inquiry as such is to take place before the end of 2003.

A final analysis of the results obtained and the experience collected will provide a basis for this survey to be conducted regularly on a nation-wide scale, enabling the State Department for Statistics (SDS of Georgia) to collect these figures in the future all by itself and to keep the business register up to date.

### Visit by a high-ranking Mongolian delegation



The visit paid by Mr. Pandii Byambatseren, Head of the Mongolian Statistical Office, and two staff members (Mr. Khorol Bajikhuu, chief of the administrative division, and Mrs. Munkhjargal Birvaa, chief of the group for international co-operation) to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden was aimed at the study of questions about strategic programme planning and management of statistical offices. During the one-week visit, experts of the Federal Statistical Office talked about various management topics and themes of general importance to a statistical office with ambitious goals, but relatively small resources. They gave introductions followed by lively discussions on the following items: organisation and functions of federal statistics, the new management and guidance tools of the Federal Statistical Office, the new human resources development concept, budgeting and innovation clearing house, our house's press and publication policy and the generation of a business register. A visit to the computer centre gave the guests an example of a modern IT infrastructure. The lively discussions opened up many areas for future project-related co-operation, a goal pursued by both parties. During the visit preparations were made for a co-operation agreement between the Federal Statistical Office and the Mongolian Statistical Office.

### Meeting with Representatives of the Republic of Korea



From 11 to 13 August 2003, representatives of Korea's National Statistical Office (KNSO) and Germany's Federal Statistical Office met for their annual meeting. A bilateral Co-operation



Agreement concluded in 1997 between the KNSO and the Federal Statistical Office provides for meetings alternatively in Germany or Korea for an exchange of experience and information. The ISI session in Berlin was the reason why the venue of this year's meeting was Germany. Mr. Jong Nam Oh, the new Director-General of the KNSO, who headed a delegation of four people, met President Hahlen on 13 August 2003.

Topics of current interest had been discussed at the FSO's Information Point (*i-Punkt*) in Berlin on 11 and 12 August 2003, prior to the bilateral talks between the two chief statisticians. FSO Vice-President Radermacher and experts on the respective subjects presented approaches and instruments applied by the FSO, such as process analysis, quality management, the human resources development concept as well as the new management and steering tools of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. The Korean side introduced the system of Korean official statistics and the most recent developments in human resources and quality management at the KNSO. All presentations raised much interest on both sides and were followed by a lively exchange of views. The Korean side said that they would like the exchange of experience to be continued on subjects such as technical quality management and new management and steering tools.

A conversation at a lunch between the delegation and President Hahlen on 13 August 2003 was aimed at learning more about each other and exchanging ideas on the two countries' statistical activities. A guided tour of the German Reichstag building especially arranged for this high-ranking delegation brought this visit to a worthy conclusion.



### Meeting with China's Chief Statistician

From 12 to 16 August, a delegation of five high-ranking statisticians headed by Commissioner Li Deshui, the new head of China's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), visited the Federal Republic of Germany to attend the 54<sup>th</sup> ISI session in Berlin. As a Chinese embassy representative, Mr. Zhuo Ran, economic attaché in the business division, participated in the talks as well. The conversations with the President of the Federal Statistical Office and with staff from the Division for "Co-operation with other Countries", in charge of the co-operation with the PR of China, served the purpose of getting acquainted with each other and exchanging ideas on future co-operation priorities. As requested by Mr. Li, President Hahlen gave a short statement on the current economic situation in Germany. The conversations took place in a very friendly and trustful atmosphere.

The discussions made it obvious that the Chinese side was very interested in relevant experience collected by Germany and Europe with the legislative framework both on statistics in general and on individual surveys in particular. From China's point of view, the broadly law-based nature of federal statistics is advantageous, as it enables the responsible administrative institution to enforce the centrally prescribed methodological standards, while at the same time ensuring quality and transparency standards as required for national and international purposes. On the occasion of the forthcoming revision of China's constitution, the NBS will strive for the inclusion of an article on statistics, stipulating that the supply of statistical information is a responsibility of the state on the central level.

In view of significant divergences between China's gross domestic product figures as aggregated from provincial results and the respective figures obtained as a result of central computations,



the NBS is very interested in co-operating with the FSO on GDP computations by region. The NBS announced the visit of a delegation on this subject under the bilateral programme. The FSO has already forwarded methodological documents pertaining to the subject.

Furthermore, the NBS, being the central authority for statistical standards, is prepared to join the planned working group on statistics within the German-Chinese Economic Commission and, accordingly, it has already come to terms with MOFCOM, the Ministry of Commerce, which is the leading body on the Chinese side.

### Meeting with Japan's Chief Statistician



On 15 August 2003, during the ISI session in Berlin, the President of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany met with Mr. Negi, Director-General of the Statistics Bureau of Japan, and Mr. Nakagawa, Director-General of the National Statistics Centre. During a joint lunch they exchanged experience and discussed general items pertaining to various statistical areas and, in particular, national accounts. Afterwards, Mr. Walter Radermacher, Vice-President of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, held a presentation on the management and steering tools applied by the Federal Statistical Office for the seven-member delegation. The Japanese delegation also reported on new developments in Japan in this area. The ensuing discussion gave the two parties valuable insights into the latest developments and brought the meeting to an end. Mr. Negi pointed out, in particular, that an exchange of ideas such as this one is always a stimulus to critically evaluate one's own methods and to develop new ideas.

### Meeting with Russia's Chief Statistician and with the Head of the Office for Trade and Business of the Russian Embassy



Mr. Johann Hahlen, President of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, and Mr. Vladimir Sokolin, Chairman of the Russian Federation's National Statistics Committee, used their attendance at the ISI session in Berlin to meet for a discussion on the possibilities and prospects of a continued co-operation in the future. The Russian side is presently preparing the "Taxis 9" statistics programme. Once the EU has clarified financing issues, the programme is expected to be launched as early as in 2004, according to the Russian side's assessment. The counterparts also discussed possible bilateral co-operation activities based on a Co-operation Agreement, which was concluded between Goskomstat and the Federal Statistical Office in December 1999. In this context Mr. Hahlen pointed out that there was a possibility of organising trainee-ships. Trainee-ships are designed to enable young German-speaking statisticians from abroad to spend a couple of months working at the Federal Statistical Office for the purpose of collecting practical experience that they can use in their own work later on. Mr. Sokolin said that this was a very interesting proposition.

Following his meeting with Mr. Sokolin, Mr. Hahlen met the head of the Office for Trade and Business of the Russian Embassy, Mr. Vladimir Matveyev, in November to discuss proposed topics and future priorities of bilateral co-operation.



### Meeting with Poland's Chief Statistician

On 15 August 2003, the President of the Federal Statistical Office met with Mr. Tadeusz Toczynski, President of the Polish Central Statistical Office, who was in Berlin to attend the ISI session. Apart from questions about future collaboration activities in the context of the European Statistical System, the focus of the discussion was on the progress achieved by the joint Twinning project on the "Statistical Information System". To this purpose Mr. Ullrich Eichler, long-term Twinning adviser, had also been invited to the talks. The German project leader, Mr. Wolfgang Schulze and Mr. Witkowski, Vice-President of the Polish Statistical Office, were present as well.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved, explicitly appreciating the good co-operation between all parties involved in the project, including the contributions made by statistical offices of the federal states as well as by the Finnish and Danish partners. To conclude the project, it is planned to hold a joint workshop in Warsaw, presumably in October 2004.



### Meetings with other Chief Statisticians of Acceding Countries

During the ISI session, President Hahlen also met with Mr. Fischer, President of the Czech Statistical Office, Mr. Mach, President of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Semeta, Director General of Statistics Lithuania, Mrs. Zigure, President of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia, and Mrs. Krizman, Director General of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia. The focus of the discussions was on future co-operation activities as partners in the European Statistical System. Bilateral co-operation and activities under the EU Phare programme were discussed as well. In particular, a Twinning Project on "Strategic Planning and Management" was discussed with Mr. Fisher, the President of the Czech Statistical Office.



### Luncheon Meeting at the ISI Session

On Tuesday, 19 August 2003, the Federal Statistical Office organised a luncheon meeting for all those participants of the ISI session who are active in statistical co-operation. The theme of the meeting was "Statistical Co-operation: A Partnership for Development". The meeting was attended by approximately 35 representatives of national statistical institutes from EU accession and candidate countries, developing countries and successor states of the former Soviet Union - including several heads of Statistical Offices - as well as by representatives of international organisations (in particular, Eurostat, UN Statistical Commission, the World Bank, IMF, PARIS21). President Hahlen welcomed the guests, stressing the importance of statistical co-operation and pointing out that the ISI session was a good opportunity for interested parties to come together for an exchange of experience. Then, Mrs. Moore, head of the division "Co-operation with other Countries" at the Federal Statistical Office, presented the goals and activities of the Federal Statistical Office in this area. She introduced a new training program: workshops on "Statistical Capacity Building", dealing with the administrative fields and functions of a statistical office, such as organisational and human resources planning, IT management, publication and dissemination (cf. "Statistics across borders", issue 1/2003). The lively discussion which followed showed that





the guests reacted positively to this proposal. After the presentation, representatives of the FSO exchanged views with guests on topics of bilateral co-operation.

### Visitors from the Kingdom of Thailand



From 1 to 3 September 2003, at the invitation of President Hahlen, a high-ranking delegation of 15 statisticians from the Kingdom of Thailand visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and Bonn. The delegation consisted of six experts from different statistical divisions of Thailand's National Statistics Office and nine heads of various provincial statistics offices. The delegation was headed by Mrs. Malee Wongsaroje, chief of the research and development division at the National Statistics Office of Thailand. President Hahlen welcomed the guests from Thailand.

During their stay, the delegation was informed on the organisational structure of the Federal Statistical Office and the official statistics system in Germany, the data collection methods in agricultural statistics, the most important national and international classifications, the structure of the business register, national co-ordination and statistical programme planning. In conclusion, the guests received information about public relations activities and the publication programme of the Federal Statistical Office.

Following their visit to the Federal Statistical Office, the delegation paid a visit to the Statistical Office of the Federal State of Baden-Wuerttemberg in Stuttgart. The President of the Office, Dr. Meister-Scheufelen, welcomed the visitors and acquainted them with the structure and the functions of this state statistical office. Other topics were publication and dissemination, processing of regional statistics (statistics on employment), collection and processing of statistics on income and expenditure as well as labour force sample surveys.

Expressing her high satisfaction with the visit, the head of the delegation expressed her wishes for a more intensive co-operation in the future.

### Delegation on GDDS from China



After Commissioner Li Deshui's visit of August 2003 this was the first visit of a working-level delegation after the SARS epidemic. From 15 to 25 September 2003, a delegation of five statisticians, headed by Mr. Wan Donghua, assistant chief of the division "Comprehensive Statistics", was informed about the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The GDDS is a data dissemination standard designated for developing countries to improve the transparency and quality of their statistics. The People's Republic of China joined this standard on 15 April 2002. Countries which introduce this data dissemination standard are committed to promoting transparency of their data collection and dissemination methods and practices, by posting them on the IMF homepage. Here they also expound and describe their plans for short-term and medium-term improvements in statistical data collection and dissemination methods.

The Federal Statistical Office has made a decisive contribution to the introduction and implementation of the IMF's "Special Data Dissemination Standard", conceived for economically developed countries, and it serves as a co-ordinator for all participating institutions in Germany. Apart from



the Federal Statistical Office, the Deutsche Bundesbank and the Federal Ministry of Finance are involved in the GDDS-work. The Chinese delegation was particularly interested in the experience with the co-ordination and monitoring of deadlines. During the study mission to the Federal Republic of Germany, the delegation had discussions on this subject at the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and Bonn and at the Deutsche Bundesbank in Frankfurt. The delegation's visit to the Deutsche Bundesbank was prepared methodologically and thematically by Dr. Steger, head of the balance of payments statistics division, and one of her colleagues. The delegation continued the discussions at a lunch on invitation by Mr. Glaab, Director of the Department of Statistics at the Deutsche Bundesbank.

In addition to discussing technical questions, the delegation visited the cities of Berlin and Heidelberg as part of the cultural programme. When staying in Wiesbaden, the delegation by chance met Mr. Hans Eichel, Federal Minister of Finance, who was residing in the same hotel.

In his concluding evaluation Mr. Wan, head of the delegation, rated the study visit as very successful and useful for GDDS implementation in the People's Republic of China. Nevertheless, the delegation would like the exchange of experience and information to be continued in some thematic areas.



### **Twinning Light Project with Bulgaria**

Bulgaria is one of the countries whose accession to the European Union is envisaged for the year 2007. The Federal Statistical Office has been supporting the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria (NSI) for some time, helping to build the country's national statistics in compliance with the information needs of the European Union. In this connection, the European Commission has entrusted the Federal Statistical Office with a Twinning Light project on "External Migration". This eight-month project runs from September 2003 to April 2004.

#### ***Twinning Light***

In 1998 the European Commission created Twinning (administration partnership) as a comprehensive instrument to help accession countries adopt complex areas of the Community law. In 2001 "Twinning Light" was introduced to make it possible to provide adequate help also in areas of limited scope. The duration of "Twinning Light" projects is limited to 6 months and includes a budget of maximally 150,000 Euro. There is no long-term adviser. The implementation procedure is essentially the same as that of an ordinary Twinning project. But instead of an extensive and detailed partnership agreement (covenant), a more simplified Twinning Light agreement is concluded between the funding authority (CFCU) and the administration of the Member State concerned.

The goal of the project is to build an information system that will provide reliable data on Bulgaria's external migration. The work will be based on those files of Bulgarian authorities that contain information of relevance to external migration. It is hoped that the identification, combination and evaluation of the respective data sources will lead to external migration statistics which



meet EU requirements. In addition to a flow-chart description of data contents, denominating data sources, data transfer channels and data evaluation techniques, advice will be given on how to technically implement these tools.

Another concern of the project is the estimation of the impact external migration has on Bulgaria's demographic development and labour market. Issues of interest are the migration flows of Bulgarian citizens into countries of Western Europe and, on the other hand, the immigration flows from third countries by individuals who wish to settle in Bulgaria or regard this country as a temporary residence before they continue their migration to Western Europe.

A workshop in Germany will give Bulgarian experts a possibility to study on the spot the problems connected with the provision and harmonisation of EU data.

The project makes provision for 100 expert mission days in Sofia and for 40-50 days in Germany. The key expert for this project is a statistician from the Statistical Office of the Federal State of Saxony.

### **Twinning Light Project with the Czech Republic**



Under the Phare programme, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the Czech Statistical Office (CZSO) have maintained close relationships of mutual co-operation in different statistical fields for many years. Thus, for instance, the Czech Republic is the Federal Statistical Office's second largest co-operation partner after Poland. Many co-operation activities rely strongly on experts coming from statistical offices of Germany's federal states.

In September 2003, the Federal Statistical Office obtained the contract from the European Commission for implementation of the afore mentioned Twinning Light project on "Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities" under the 2002 National Phare Programme for the Czech Republic. The start of this six-month project with a budget of maximally 130,000 Euro was November 2003, a first co-ordination visit took place in Prague already in October 2003.

The project will not only analyse and improve the strategic planning system of the CZSO and the orientation of its statistical programme, but also deal with the principles of technical quality management (TQM). Furthermore, it provides for several seminars to train the executive level of the Czech Statistical Office in how to cope with strategic and action planning and with change management.







The Vice-President of the Federal Statistical Office and the President of Department "Questions of Principle of Federal and International Statistics, Dissemination of Information" are the key experts for this Twinning light project, which both offices regard as very important. Apart from the two main experts mentioned above, all other experts engaged in the project are highly skilled staff members with many years' experience in fields such as organisation, quality management and controlling or experts that come from the Institute for Research and Development in Federal Statistics.

A total of 95 expert mission days in Prague are planned for the duration of the project. The average duration of an expert's stay on the spot will range from three to five working days, depending on the concrete field of activity.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<b>03-07 February 2003</b> <b>in Copenhagen</b> 	<p>In the context of the Twinning project, a delegation of <b>Polish</b> transport statisticians visited the Statistical Office of Denmark. The discussions focussed on the organisation and dissemination of transport statistics on road traffic, for which the Danish office presented various IT applications of interest to the guests from Poland.</p>
<b>10-14 February 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b> 	<p>In the context of the Twinning project, statisticians from the <b>Polish</b> Statistical Office visited the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. The discussions dealt with <u>Prodcom statistics</u> (in particular, EU production statistics on manufacturing industries). On this occasion, the experts discussed subjects related to surveys (questionnaires), classifications, processing and dissemination of these statistics.</p>
<b>17-19 February 2003</b> <b>in Bonn</b> 	<p>The colleagues from the <b>Czech</b> Statistical Office were informed about the system of <u>services statistics</u> in Germany, in particular, regarding organisational and methodological preparations for surveys and data collections and about the European requirements. It was pointed out that the existing conditions for data collection in the Czech Republic gave rise to difficulties. For that reason, there was a first discussion on the steps needed for adaptation to European requirements. The priorities for further action were also discussed, for instance, work on registers, plausibility checks and continued co-operation.</p>
<b>17-19 February 2003</b> <b>in Chisinau</b> 	<p>Under the Tacis 5 contract of the European Union, the Statistical Office of <b>Moldova</b> received advice on <u>investment statistics</u>. A three-day mission of a German expert to the Statistical Office of Moldova in Chisinau was devoted primarily to the discussion of investment surveys and building statistics. Thus, the Statistical Office of Moldova plans to test a framework for extended investment surveys and building statistics in a pilot survey to be taken in the Chisinau area in the second quarter of 2003. This survey is to be taken partly by oral interviews and partly by answering questions in writing. The basic guidelines and conceptual approaches needed for this purpose were imparted and elaborated during the mission.</p>
<b>17-21 February 2003</b> <b>in Oberhausen and Berlin</b> 	<p>In the context of the Twinning project, a <b>Polish</b> delegation, accompanied by Ullrich Eichler, the German long-term adviser, visited the 15<sup>th</sup> DUVA expert meeting on networks in a municipal environment. The Polish guests were particularly interested in possible uses of <u>meta databases</u> in the statistical field. Various workshops were held to discuss questions of possible uses, which were of much interest to the Polish Statistical Office planning to extend its metadata system. After the meeting, the Polish IT experts visited the Berlin State Statistical Office, where they were informed about the MARS system, developed by the Berlin statistical office for a metadata-driven system of evaluation running as a client-server application on a workplace PC.</p>
<b>24-28 February 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden and Kamenz</b> 	<p>A project on the subject of "<u>Regional Indicators</u>" is to support <b>Kyrgyzstan</b> in building up a system of regional statistics. The Statistical Office of Saxony leads the project. This first study visit of three Kyrgyz statisticians from the three administrative levels (national, "<i>Oblast</i>" and "<i>Rayon</i>") was devoted, first of all, to the discussion of the following themes: division of labour in a federal system of official statistics; regional statistics as a part of the statistical information system; structure and use of regional indicators and the use of administrative data for official statistics. Besides imparting factual knowledge, the action is to develop a common comprehension among Kyrgyz statisticians working on the various administrative levels that it is important to have a system of regional statistics and that it is desirable to co-operate more closely, so that sustainable effect will be achieved.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<p><b>10-14 March 2003</b> <b>in Kamenz and Hanover</b></p> 	<p>This study mission, organised in the context of Twinning, gave <b>Polish</b> IT experts, who were accompanied by long-term adviser Ullrich Eichler, the possibility to visit the CeBIT computer fair in Hanover. The Twinning Project makes provision also for the procurement of <u>IT equipment</u>. Thus, Polish experts could use the CeBIT exhibition to get broadly informed of the latest developments and products offered in the field of information technologies. In addition, the experts visited the State Statistical Office of Saxony to study the IT infrastructure of the statistical office in this federal state.</p>
<p><b>17-21 March 2003</b> <b>in Cottbus and Kamenz</b></p> 	<p>In the context of Twinning, a <b>Polish</b> delegation visited the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg as well as the State Statistical Office of Saxony to continue the consultations on the <u>labour force survey</u>. The Polish experts examined specific problems related to the preparation, implementation, electronic processing and evaluation of labour force surveys. The German AGRA-Online programme used, for example, to process labour force data in agriculture was another topic with which the guests were made familiar during their visit to Kamenz.</p>
<p><b>24-25 March 2003</b> <b>in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>The parties involved in Twinning met in Warsaw at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the <u>Twinning Project Steering Committee</u> to discuss the current situation and evaluate the progress achieved by the project. Apart from describing the co-operation activities, which are still to be implemented, the discussions were mainly centred on the progress of preparing technical specifications for the tenders that will be made to procure IT equipment for the <b>Polish</b> Statistical Office.</p>
<p><b>26-28 March 2003</b> <b>in Kamenz</b></p> 	<p>A first study visit under the GTZ project "Improvements in the System of <u>Statistical Indicators on the People's Living Standard</u>" took place at the Free State of Saxony's Statistical Office in Kamenz to achieve improvements in the system of variables collected in household budget surveys for the evaluation of the living standard of people in <b>Kazakhstan</b>. The experts discussed the methodology used to assess the income and the consumption of private households as well as the methods used to adjust the data in cases where the wealthiest households refused to participate in the survey, including the sampling methods used for household budget surveys. The Kazakh statisticians were also informed about the way in which household sample survey results and indicators on the living standard are published (frequency, size of publication).</p>
<p><b>26-28 March 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>The first study visit of experts from the <b>Czech</b> Statistical Office, on the topic of publication and dissemination of statistics, gave both parties an opportunity to exchange information in great detail. At the request of the Czech colleagues, an in-depth report was given on the publication programme - print and electronic publications, the Internet, publicly accessible statistical databases, the customer information service and the pricing policy for statistical products as well as the marketing concept of the Federal Statistical Office. The Czech experts said that they would find it very useful to install a statistics shop on the website of the Czech Statistical Office, as this would make it easier for them to disseminate electronic publications. For the future, the Czech Statistical Office plans to build a publicly accessible statistical database. The guests consider the information about the German time-series service and the GENESIS-online database to be very useful to Czech experts in charge of designing the Czech database.</p>



# CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

## Overview from February 2003 to September 2003






<p><b>31 March-01 April 2003 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>The general goal of the visit was to improve the contact between the <u>Consumer Price Index</u> units at the <b>Hungarian</b> and German Statistics Offices. The more specific goal was to study the German practice and to exchange views on some problems. There were intensive discussions on the methodological and practical problems of statistics on telecommunication prices in Germany and Hungary (telephoning via the conventional network, mobile phones, the Internet). Numerous examples were given to illustrate the practical operation of the German system of telecommunication statistics. Both parties started by describing their practices, and then the questions of the Hungarian expert were answered (e.g. the treatment of shelters exclusively in COICOP section 09, the treatment of social transfers in money and in kind in the Harmonised Consumer Price Index (HCPi), the general social insurance area in the HCPi).</p>
<p><b>01-03 April 2003 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>Following a first visit by two German <u>external trade statisticians</u> to the Statistics Office of <b>Turkmenistan</b> in Ashgabat in October 2002, three Turkmenian statisticians visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden during a three-day study visit. First of all, they discussed topics such as the adoption of a harmonised list of commodities, various forecasting models and the publication and dissemination of external trade data. In addition, a mirror comparison was made between Germany and Turkmenistan, which was required to correctly analyse and compare the respective external trade data.</p>
<p><b>01-04 April 2003 in Almaty</b></p> 	<p>The Statistics Agency of the Republic of <b>Kazakhstan</b> plans to build a modern and efficient <u>statistics system</u> that will be in line with international requirements and include the new functions that the statistical system will have to cope with. For this expert mission, the Kazakh party submitted the following working papers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– a new description of the functions of official statistics on the three levels and the co-operation between the statistical offices on the three levels;</li> <li>– possible ways to optimise data transfer on all levels;</li> <li>– first draft recommendations on the new regional structure in the organisation of official statistics.</li> </ul> <p>In June 2003, a concluding meeting is to be held to finish the recommendations, so that they can be submitted to the government.</p>
<p><b>07-11 April 2003 in Almaty</b></p> 	<p>During a seminar for assistant directors of the 16 regional statistical offices of the Republic of <b>Kazakhstan</b> and the publication division chiefs, experts from the Federal Statistical Office gave an overview on how <u>statistical publication and dissemination services</u> and co-operation activities with specific user groups are functioning in Germany or planned to work in the near future. The main themes covered by the seminar were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– the publications programme of the Federal Statistical Office</li> <li>– the marketing, pricing and licensing concept</li> <li>– public relations activities of the Federal Statistical Office</li> <li>– the dissemination of statistics via the Internet</li> <li>– co-operation with the press, compilation of press releases</li> <li>– the sales and dissemination concept of the Federal Statistical Office.</li> </ul> <p>In their turn, participants from the regions reported on their publication activities, which include the compilation of printed publications, press releases and the design of websites.</p>





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES









### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<b>09-10 April 2003</b> <b>in Prague</b> 	<p>This consultation of <b>Czech</b> specialists with their partners from the Statistical Office of Saxony was mainly devoted to the discussion on how to implement a <u>multilingual, border-crossing statistical database on the Internet</u>. In particular, the following topics were discussed: work progress, implementation of multilingual texts on the user interface and methods of computerised exchange of information on regional units. During the presentation of the progress report, the experts had a lively exchange of views on the technological strategy to be chosen. The clarification of a number of open questions and problems on technical details laid the basis for further work to progress smoothly as planned. Progress was achieved, in particular, regarding the elaboration of a conceptual framework for content-related maintenance (multilingual nature of user interface and exchange of regional descriptions).</p>
<b>21-25 April 2003</b> <b>in Vilnius</b> 	<p>Experts gave presentations <u>on price collection and price reporting in the agricultural sector</u> to introduce and describe the methods used to collect input and output prices in absolute terms. The particular interest of the <b>Lithuanian</b> Office was raised by a method which is no longer used in Germany, the so-called "Reports on the Business and Market Situation". The overall legal conditions and the EU requirements in terms of data transfer and the submission of prices and price indices as well as the methods used to calculate input-output price indices were described as well. Questionnaires and statistical forms were handed out to the National Statistical Office of Lithuania. Questionnaires for the collection of data on manpower in the census and structural survey of agriculture were made available in English on a CD-ROM in a form suitable for further processing. These documents, which are of use also to regional offices, were received with much interest.</p>
<b>23-25 April 2003</b> <b>in Warsaw</b> 	<p>While visiting the <b>Polish</b> Statistical Office in the context of Twinning, a Danish expert discussed the extension and operation of a statistical <u>data warehouse</u>. Both parties exchanged experience and discussed suggestions and proposals made by the Danish expert on how to extend the Polish data warehouse.</p>
<b>05 May 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b> 	<p>In the context of a project managed by the Spanish Agency (IDOM), two <b>Turkmenian</b> statisticians visited the Federal Statistical Office, the Spanish and the Dutch Statistics Offices as well as Eurostat for an exchange of experience. The one-day stay at the Federal Statistical Office was devoted to "Sample Surveys in the Field of Household Statistics". The following themes were of particular interest: distribution of the sample size by stratum, rotation, sample size and quota sample versus random sample. Thus, for example, the Turkmenian statisticians wish to shift from monthly to quarterly surveys, but they are still facing many methodological problems.</p>
<b>05-07 May 2003</b> <b>in Bonn</b> 	<p>The <b>Slovak</b> experts were particular interested in the legal provisions and the questionnaires used for building a system of <u>iron and steel statistics</u>. Thus they discussed the following questions: the legal basis of iron and steel statistics in Germany, the design and distribution of survey questionnaires, special publications, production and dissemination of publications, keeping addresses of businesses and customers permanently up to date, comparing steel statistics with general statistics on industry and construction, data supply for European PRODCOM statistics and the new regulation on the Community's annual steel statistics production. The main obstacle to rapidly building a new system of steel statistics seems to be a shortage of (financial and human) resources, particularly regarding European PRODCOM statistics and the Community's annual steel statistics.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003






<p><b>05-09 May 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>The meeting was aimed, in particular, at making preparations for <u>Intrastat data collection</u> in the <b>Czech Republic</b>. The final decision on who will be responsible for Intrastat data collection has not been taken yet. Originally, it was planned that Intrastat data should be collected in a VAT context, but now government considers to put the Czech Customs Administration in charge of data collection. Whatever the final decision will be, the Statistics Office has already made provision for a large number of activities, which had to be evaluated in the course of the consultation. Apart from evaluating Intrastat preparations and discussing methodological questions, the experts also resumed the mirror comparisons of the previous years, based on the latest external trade figures for 2002.</p>
<p><b>12-14 May 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>The goal of this meeting was to help the <b>Romanian</b> Statistical Institute build a well-functioning <u>human resources management</u> system in line with institutional strategic needs. The Romanian delegation was informed about important components of the human resources management system and their strategic orientation. The focus was on the human resources information system EPOS, the newly developed concept of human resources development, the presentation of a module designated to evaluate the performance of superiors, on the legal basis for the training of civil servants and on the general and advanced training scheme. The importance of personnel representatives and equal rights representatives was discussed as well.</p>
<p><b>12-14 May 2003</b> <b>in Helsinki</b></p> 	<p><b>Polish</b> statisticians paid a visit to the Finnish Statistical Office in order to conclude the "<u>Data Warehouse</u>" Twinning project component. The discussions were devoted to the introduction of data warehouse systems. Both parties analysed and compared their concepts and discussed technical details.</p>
<p><b>12-16 May 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>The visit paid by Mr. Pandii Byambatseren, Head of the <b>Mongolian</b> Statistical Office, and two staff members to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden was aimed at the study of questions about <u>strategic programme planning and management</u> of statistical offices. In addition, preparation were made for a co-operation agreement (see <i>page 4</i>).</p>
<p><b>12-16 May 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>The concluding study visit devoted to the subject of <u>Intrastat</u> under the <b>Polish</b> Twinning project served to improve the Polish colleagues' knowledge about the structure and implementation of Intrastat surveys. Attention was paid, in particular, to the discussion of methodological and organisational questions that had been raised in building the Polish Intrastat system. In addition, the contents of the training courses to be held by German experts in Poland were discussed.</p>
<p><b>19-22 May 2003</b> <b>in Tashkent</b></p>   	<p>The last mission under the Tacis "<u>Investment Statistics</u>" component evaluated new results of pilot surveys conducted by beneficiary countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– enterprises with foreign investment (<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>)</li> <li>– investment activities of enterprises (<b>Kazakhstan</b>)</li> <li>– unfinished investment activity (<i>work in progress</i>) (<b>Uzbekistan</b>)</li> <li>– cost of construction activity (<b>Uzbekistan</b>).</li> </ul> <p>Experts from the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan reported on their experience with the work of qualified interviewers.</p> <p>The experts also discussed the draft final reports of the Tacis "Investment Statistics" component as well as further steps needed to transform investment statistics in countries such as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.</p>





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES







### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<p><b>19-23 May 2003 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>In the context of a GTZ project on "<u>Price Statistics of Agriculture and Forestry</u>", <b>Kazakh</b> statisticians paid a visit to discuss, in particular, the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Delimitation of the product sector for the sales price index for agricultural products according to the latest revision of the system of agricultural accounts;</li> <li>– Collection of purchase (instead of sales) prices for agricultural products;</li> <li>– The plans to recalculate producer price indices;</li> <li>– The plans to recalculate price indices for farm supplies;</li> <li>– Preparatory work on a price index for forestry products (for raw wood);</li> <li>– Problems with seasonal adjustment of agricultural price data series.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, a colleague from the Bavarian Office for Statistics and Data Processing talked about the functions of a state statistical office in the field of collecting price statistics for federal purposes, including statistics on agriculture and forestry.</p>
<p><b>19-23 May 2003 in Sofia</b></p> 	<p>The activities of the <b>Bulgarian</b> office are aimed at comprehensively examining the implications of the <u>information society</u>. The German experience was presented by experts from the Statistical Office of Saxony and served as stimulus for further activities in the Bulgarian office.</p>
<p><b>20-23 May 2003 in Bishkek</b></p> 	<p>The four-day workshop on the subject of "<u>Regional Indicators</u>" in the <b>Kyrgyz</b> capital was attended by statisticians from the central statistical office and by several representatives of regional (<i>oblast</i>) statistical offices. The workshop was chaired by an expert from the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony which had a leadership function in this project. Whereas the first study mission to Germany in February 2003 had imparted the basics of regional statistics, the 27 participants of this workshop discussed the following themes: regional statistics as part of the national and European statistical information systems, general trends in regional data needs, organisational and technological aspects to raise the efficiency of regional statistics and the building and use of regional indicators. After this action, another three-day workshop, designated mainly for statisticians from municipal statistics offices, was held at one of the regional offices in Kyrgyzstan.</p>
<p><b>21-23 May 2003 in Prague</b></p> 	<p>After a comparative examination of the similarly structured IT departments of the statistics offices of the <b>Czech Republic</b> and Germany, the experts discussed the legal basis, methods, work instruments and available experience in the fields of <u>IT security</u> and <u>IT administration</u> with a goal of establishing and optimising an IT security process with an IT security officer for safer IT operation at the Czech Office.</p>
<p><b>26-28 May 2003 in Talas oblast</b></p> 	<p>An expert from the Statistical Office of Saxony conducted a three-day workshop on "<u>Regional Indicators</u>" in Talas Oblast (<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>) for statisticians from the subordinated <i>oblast</i> and <i>rayon</i> levels. This action, which was based on the results of prior consultations, included the following topics: small area data as a part of the information society; improving the local partners' awareness of regional statistics; explanation of organisational and technological aspects related to the introduction and operation of an effective system of regional statistics.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<p><b>02-05 June 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>This co-operation activity was aimed at an extensive consultation with the Statistical Office of the <b>Slovak Republic</b> (SOSR) about the fulfilment of EU regulations concerning <u>economic statistics</u>. In addition to a general overview, the Slovak delegation received information and advice on a number of specific problems related to the regulations on short-term business and structural statistics. The SOSR gave a comprehensive overview of ongoing activities and the progress achieved in converting Slovak industrial and construction statistics in line with EU needs. Participants from the Federal Statistical Office gave a detailed description of the German system of short-term and structural statistics. The focus was, in particular, on the implementation of annex A (industry) and annex B (construction) of the regulation on short-term business statistics, including index calculations and PRODCOM deliveries. Slovakia has the administrative structures needed to implement the "acquis communautaire" in the statistical field. In view of the importance of the iron and steel sector to the Slovak economy, the Slovak party is interested in detailed consultations on iron and steel statistics.</p>
<p><b>02-06 June 2003</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>In the context of Twinning, <b>Polish</b> statisticians visited the Federal Statistical Office of Germany to continue the discussion on short-term business statistics. The discussion focussed on <u>producer prices</u>. The experts discussed methodological, organisational and operational problems raised by surveys in this area. The goal is to adapt the Polish methods and procedures of collecting data on producer prices to EU standards.</p>
<p><b>09-13 June 2003</b> <b>in Tbilisi</b></p> 	<p>Please, see a report on the project on <i>page 3f</i>.</p>
<p><b>10-13 June 2003</b> <b>in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>In the context of the Twinning project, the <b>Polish</b> Statistical Office was visited by environmental statisticians from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. The Polish side presented the Polish system of <u>environmental statistics</u>. The focus of the discussions was on the new EU regulation on waste statistics and on its practical implementation in Poland. The joint questionnaires of the EU and the OECD were also discussed.</p>
<p><b>11-13 June 2003</b> <b>in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>The German experts introduced to their <b>Polish</b> colleagues various aspects of <u>agricultural price statistics</u>. They also gave an overview of German fodder statistics. The experts talked about the legal and institutional framework on national and EU levels. They also discussed the division of labour between the German Ministry of Agriculture and the Statistical Office regarding prices and fodder and price data quality. The Polish experts expressed their interest in getting more information about German experience with different data sources and price observation points. The suggestion was made that sample surveys should be conducted to close gaps in data availability and to improve data quality.</p>
<p><b>23-25 June 2003</b> <b>in Caen and Paris</b></p> 	<p>In connection with the <u>product statistics</u> database under construction, <b>Polish</b> experts, in the context of Twinning, visited the French Statistics Office of the Ministry of Industry (SESSI) in Caen and the Statistics Office (INSEE) in Paris. The main theme was data collection with electronic questionnaires to be used in <u>industrial output</u> surveys. The experts discussed both technical aspects and problems of statistical confidentiality and data safety.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<p><b>23-27 June 2003</b> <b>in Almaty and Astana</b></p> 	<p>The revised draft recommendations adopted by the April meeting on a new <u>regional structure</u> in the organisation of official statistics in the Republic of <b>Kazakhstan</b> were discussed again. Then they were submitted to and reviewed by the Analytical Group of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. The Chancellery of the Prime Minister basically endorsed the draft recommendations. In the future, the Statistics Agency and its territorial institutions, which are public institutions, as well as a subordinated information and computing centre with its territorial institutions, which are state enterprises, will be represented on all three levels (central level, oblast/region, district). The planned reorganisation of official statistics in the Republic of Kazakhstan will simplify its organisational structure. In future it will be possible to separate the functions, which are incumbent on public institutions, more clearly from the functions, which are incumbent on other public organisations, which do not have the character of a state authority. This will also make sure that they can co-operate effectively.</p>
<p><b>23-27 June 2003</b> <b>in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>A Finnish expert met <b>Polish</b> experts in Warsaw to discuss problems of <u>public finance statistics</u>. The expert recommended to intensify the exchange of information with government agencies involved in the production of statistics (above all, with the Ministry of Finance and the National Bank). In the meantime, deficit and debt reporting has become one of the functions of the Polish Statistics Office. The wish was expressed to intensify the exchange of experience with EU experts in this area.</p>
<p><b>25-26 June 2003</b> <b>in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Twinning <u>project steering committee</u> the parties involved in the project discussed the current situation in implementing the Twinning project as well as the co-operation activities envisaged for the forthcoming weeks. Another major topic was again the preparations for tenders to procure IT equipment under the capital spending component of Twinning. Here it was possible to make good headway.</p>
<p><b>30 June - 03 July 2003</b> <b>in Ashgabat</b></p> 	<p>Between 30 June and 3 July 2003, an expert mission on <u>investment statistics</u>, including one expert from the Statistical Office of Saxony-Anhalt, took place at the Statistical Office of <b>Turkmenistan</b>. Whereas prior consultations had been devoted to the preparation for and implementation of a pilot survey to collect certain variables for 2002 as a reference year, this consultation was to evaluate and assess the results of the pilot survey conducted in Turkmenistan in order to lay the basis for a regular survey in conformity with international standards. At a specific request by the NISSI of Turkmenistan, the planned agenda was supplemented by a description of the data obtained from the statistical survey on construction activities in Germany and of the most important distinctions between the investment concept applicable to businesses and that applicable to the national economy.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

**30 June -04 July 2003  
in Prague**



The meeting with **Czech** colleagues gave an overview of the progress made in implementing the EU regulations in the field of economic statistics (PRODCOM regulation, regulations on short-term and structural statistics). In addition, the experts discussed questions about the organisation of official statistics, the legislative procedure and the legal basis in the two countries as well as the problems encountered by the Czech Statistical Office after last year's flooding. Then, the functions and the operation of a regional office were demonstrated on the spot at a unit in Plzen, which is responsible for industrial statistics. The most important goal of the visit by the German delegation was to give advice on questions about short-term and structural statistics on industry and construction, on trade and services. The concepts used for sampling and the variables derived from production, short-term and structural surveys for national accounts as well as the basic features of keeping a register and assigning businesses to concrete branches were also discussed. The Czech experts gave an overview of ongoing activities and the progress reached in restructuring Czech statistics on industry, construction and trade in line with EU needs for harmonised statistics.

**30 June - 04 July 2003  
in Tbilissi and Kakheti  
Region**



Please, see a report on the project on *page 3f*.

**01-03 July 2003  
in Hradec Kralove**







The visit was aimed at discussing in principle **Czech** suggestions on co-operation activities to make arrangements for a medium-term and user-oriented plan. Information was given on the progress of work in various subject matter areas in order to prepare for further missions by specialised divisions of the Federal Statistical Office and the Statistical Offices of the Federal States. Under the current Phare programme the FSO will organise a total of 32 activities with candidate countries, of which as many as 17 activities are destined for the co-operation with the Czech Statistical Office. The forthcoming Phare programme provides for six activities in the field of regional statistics and five activities in fields such as human resource management, external trade, commerce and tourism, social and price statistics. The EU has invited tenders for a Twinning Light Project, supporting the Czech Statistical Office on the subject of "Strategic Planning and Management of Statistical Activities" and the FSO plans to submit a respective proposal. Since 1990, the Czech Statistical Office (CSO) has co-operated closely with the Statistical Office of Saxony in the field of regional statistics. Ever since the two offices have collected, evaluated and published regional statistics on the Euroregion "Neisse" in the context of various co-operation activities. Based on that experience, the two institutions are pursuing the goal to build, together with the Polish Statistics Office, a border-crossing harmonised statistical database on a regionalised level. The common goal is to overcome the problems caused by a lack of comparability between German, Czech and Polish statistics. In addition to that, it is envisaged to examine the role played by regional statistics in the EU Member States for measuring and overcoming regional divergences, to study the relationships between statistical and municipal bodies and to analyse regional data sources. First results of the regional database are supposed to be published on the Internet at the end of the year.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<p><b>01-03 July 2003</b> <b>in Hradec Kralove</b></p> 	<p>All participants discussed ways to provide users in Saxony, the <b>Czech Republic</b> and <b>Poland</b> with <u>regional statistics via the Internet</u>. However, it was noted once again that the intended goal of multilingualism could only be achieved in co-ordinated steps. As a first step, users could seek orientation in their respective national languages. Comparative information, however, would be available in English only. Even this compromise seemed to exceed the capacities of some countries. Further activities in the forthcoming months would have to focus on finding suitable solutions. The workshop introduced and evaluated the results achieved by implementing the border-crossing database project. The most important themes of the discussion were the harmonisation and structure of metadata, descriptions of territorial divisions, agreements on data supply, the technological state of the database and the publication strategy regarding border-crossing harmonised data until the end of 2003.</p>
<p><b>01-03 July 2003</b> <b>in Hradec Kralove</b></p> 	<p>This action was devoted to the presentation of the <u>Statistical Metainformation System DUVA</u> that had been developed by KOSIS, a joint working party in Germany, since 1988. This project and its technical implementation were used as an example to explain the basic structures and requirements for the generation and the use of metadata systems in a statistical environment. Emphasis was laid, in particular, on the necessity of standardising data structures and processes as a condition for a rewarding utilisation of metainformation systems, thus increasing the efficiency and flexibility of statistical production. The intention was to help the <b>Czech</b> colleagues push ahead the use of such systems under their specific conditions.</p>
<p><b>02-04 July 2003</b> <b>in Budapest</b></p> 	<p>The main goal of the mission was to discover the causes of the divergences revealed by a mirror comparison of <u>external trade</u> results between Germany and <b>Hungary</b> and to abolish these divergences as far as possible. It was also planned to exchange experience on the implementation of the Intrastat system and the dissemination of results. Germany uses quite often the practice of registering commodities in a simplified way, by assigning them a collective code. Hungary does not have this possibility. Further investigation is envisaged both in Germany and in Hungary by direct questioning of large enterprises, mainly contributing to the divergences. A detailed description was given of the form (press releases, yearbook, CD-ROM, Internet), the extent (detail of breakdown) and the time schedule of external trade results being published in Germany. Data presentation on the Internet was described in great detail. As for the time of delivery, the dates of data supply fixed by the EU were particularly stressed. The Hungarian party reported the progress of preparatory work on the introduction of Intrastat.</p>
<p><b>07-09 July 2003</b> <b>in Bratislava</b></p> 	<p>The visit to the <b>Slovak</b> Statistical Office was aimed at discussing the outline of a medium-term <u>plan of action</u> in accordance with existing needs on the basis of co-operation proposals made by the Slovak party and to get some first methodological insight into the state of work as a preparation to co-ordinate future missions with subject-matter divisions of the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of federal states.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003





<p><b>07-09 July 2003 in Bratislava</b></p> 	<p>The goal of the mission was to support the Statistical Office of the <b>Slovak</b> Republic in complying with the standards of the European Union in certain fields of <u>external trade statistics</u>, the focus being on Intrastat. The following methodological themes were discussed: "value thresholds in Intratrade statistics", "customs clearance of goods under way", "reminders and warnings used by the Federal Statistical Office", "regional data of Intratrade statistics", "data editing", "non-response estimation procedures in German Intratrade statistics" and "privacy and confidentiality". The German participants proposed additional activities for a smooth transformation of the Intrastat system of Slovakia. It seems to be essential to accomplish a more intensive co-operation between the Customs Administration and the Statistical Office. In addition, the Slovak side should seek to get in touch with the most important export businesses to inform them about the modifications in the Intrastat system as compared with customs-based external trade statistics. One of the priorities should be the introduction of electronic registration.</p>
<p><b>07-11 July 2003 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>During the first three missions in the context of the Tacis 5 programme it became apparent that the <b>Kazakh</b> party was interested in more details about user-oriented publication design. Thus, the experts discussed the layout of printed publications and, in particular, the most suitable forms of statistical charts in statistical publications. As the Statistical Yearbook for Kazakhstan 2003 was supposed to be published also on CD-ROM, the production of CD-ROMs was discussed as well. Besides, Kazakhstan lately joined the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) of the IMF and expressed a request for information about the FSO experience with this standard. The library of the Statistics Agency, which had been opened a year ago, was still under development. For that reason, the experts from the Statistics Agency were also interested in an exchange of experience and information with their counterparts from the library of the FSO. As Kazakhstan attaches much importance to the co-operation with statistical offices on the regional level, the publication system of the statistical office of one of the federal States (Baden-Wuerttemberg) was presented as well.</p>
<p><b>07-11 July 2003 in Kamenz</b></p> 	<p>To conclude the Tacis project component "<u>Regional Indicators of Kyrgyzstan</u>", four Kyrgyz statisticians from the central office and one regional office paid a last study visit to the Statistical Office of Saxony in Kamenz. Major subjects of this mission were the presentation and discussion of publications on "Regional Indicators", newly compiled in the context of this project, as well as the presentation of the various possibilities to generate and form a system of regional indicators. Other aspects included the joint elaboration of guidelines for the building of a modern regional database and the presentation of the regional register used by the Saxon Statistical Office in Kamenz as well as possible uses of geographic information. Finally, recommendations and proposals were made on how regional statistics could best be established in Kyrgyzstan.</p>
<p><b>07-11 July 2003 in Warsaw</b></p> 	<p>In the context of Twinning, the <b>Polish</b> Statistics Office was visited by <u>external trade statisticians</u> from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. The consultations were devoted to further work on the Polish Intrastat system and preparations for training courses. The Polish government's decision to have Intratrade statistics collected by the customs authorities made it necessary to change the composition of the participants in the courses. Most of the future participants will be members of the Customs Administration.</p>





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<p><b>14-16 July 2003 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>Russia is presently elaborating techniques and methods for the <u>informal economy</u> to be included in national accounts. During the study visit, the methods applied by the two countries were introduced and discussed. As a result, the Russian party was given the following recommendation: to examine the possibility of recording illegal and criminal activities in an experimental study and to find out whether available information on suppliers can be used to estimate private consumption expenditure.</p>
<p><b>14-16 July 2003 in Wiesbaden</b></p> 	<p>The <b>Hungarian</b> statisticians were given detailed information on various topics of <u>human resources management and development</u> in the Federal Statistical Office. The modular structure of the human resources development concept makes provision for a flexible use of the various tools. So the Hungarian colleagues have a possibility to examine each tool from the point of view of its relevance and usefulness to the Hungarian office and to adopt it completely, to modify it or to add other tools. The delegation was also informed about the human resources information system applied by the Federal Statistical Office which allows to depict human resources and job positions as well as the organisational structure in the form of an overall system. Another subject of the discussion was the system used for the evaluation of civil servants. The Central Statistical Office in Hungary recently began to elaborate an evaluation method. Thus, it was possible to make important observations on the effect that such an evaluation would have on the salary, on staff motivation etc. Apart from that, the various job categories applied in Germany were explained in some detail and the possibility of switching from one to another was discussed. The Hungarian colleagues explained their concepts, which they had already elaborated and put into practice.</p>
<p><b>21-23 July 2003 in Prague</b></p> 	<p>The main theme of the expert mission to the <b>Czech</b> Statistical Office was the use of <u>NUTS classifications</u> (Nomenclature des Unités Territoriales Statistiques). The discussions focussed on the following items: overview of NUTS, evolution of the EU structural subsidies, interdependencies between NUTS and regions eligible for subsidies, simulations and scenarios used to optimise regional classifications as well as guidelines and recommendations on transformation. A recommendation given directly to the Czech Republic was that the NUTS 1 level should be subdivided into two or three analytical regions. The Czech Central Statistical Office will modify the NUTS 1 level in line with the requirements of EUROSTAT as suggested by the discussions, the exchange of experience and the recommendations.</p>
<p><b>04-05 August 2003 in Prague</b></p> 	<p>In the discussions with the <b>Czech</b> experts, information was given on the annual structural survey and the quarterly short-term business survey in the <u>services sector</u> in Germany as well as on pilot surveys conducted in co-operation with Eurostat. Furthermore, the various procedures and operations were described for subjects such as the business register, sample survey planning, verification of data plausibility and meeting the requirements of Eurostat. The initial situation of services statistics in Germany was different from the present situation in the Czech Republic. The German experts used Germany as an example to explain how the regulations on structural and short-term business statistics were put into practice. The representatives of the Czech Statistical Office pointed out that they need more information on practical survey implementation, in particular, in the short-term business area as well as on the co-operation of national statistical offices with Eurostat.</p>





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

04-06 August 2003  
in Wiesbaden



The subject of the discussions was the legal framework, the methodological basis and the results of migration statistics in Germany and **Hungary**. Besides, the statistical surveys on foreigners and migrants were described, which are used by the two countries. Another subject of discussions were the problems related to the comparability of national migration data collected by EUROS-TAT's questionnaire on international migration, using the results for Germany and Hungary as an example. Information was imparted on the following points: the legal framework for the registration of migrants; the recording of registration procedures; the interaction of registers and their links to migration statistics; the registration channels between the various authorities concerned with population processes in Germany; the legal basis of migration statistics; statistical surveys on migration as a decentralised data collection on federal level; important data sources for statistics on international migration; the function of migration statistics within the system of current population estimation. During the mission, the Hungarian counterparts presented information on the following topics: data sources and data collection regarding international migration movements in Hungary; the role of the Home Office for migration statistics in Hungary; the structure of an own migration survey undertaken by the Hungarian Central Statistical Office; types of registration regarding inhabitants of Hungary; results of external migration statistics and data on the number of foreigners; Hungarians home immigrating from neighbouring countries. A direct comparison of mutual migration flows between Germany and Hungary revealed considerable discrepancies, indicating a possible incompleteness of registration of migration flows from Hungary caused by the present situation of migration statistics in Hungary. The discussion about the questionnaire of EUROSTAT regarding statistics on international migration, based on the case of German and Hungarian statistics, showed that the comparability of international migration statistics depend to a decisive extent on the quality of the national database.

11-20 August 2003  
in Berlin



During the ISI session President Hahlen met Mr. Fischer, Head of the Statistical Office of the **Czech Republic**, Mr. Mach, Head of the Statistical Office of **Slovakia**, Mr. Semeta, Head of the Statistical Office of **Lithuania**, Mrs. Zigure; Head of the Statistical Office of **Latvia**, and Mrs. Krizman, Head of the Statistical Office of **Slovenia** for bilateral talks. The talks focussed on the future co-operation as partners in the European statistical system. The participants also discussed bilateral co-operation issues and the co-operation activities under the EU Phare programme. In addition, on 15 August 2003, the President of the Federal Statistical Office had a bilateral meeting with Mr. Tadeusz Toczyński, the President of the **Polish** Central Statistical Office. Apart from future co-operation within the European statistical system, emphasis was on the progress achieved in the joint Twinning Project "Statistical Information System". (For more details, please, refer to *page 7*.)



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<b>12-17 August 2003 in Berlin</b>		<p>The study mission by <b>Lithuanian</b> statisticians focussed on topics such as <u>statistics on meat and cereals</u> at national and regional levels. The German expert introduced the approaches used in Germany in conformity with the EU for the collection of data on the production of meat and cereals and on reliable harvest forecasts. Taking into account the results of prior consultations and the high degree of harmonisation already achieved, it was pointed out that the improvement of the primary statistical database should be the focus of future action. The Statistical Office of Lithuania has achieved good progress in harmonising its statistical system according to EU standards. However, the discussion also revealed that there was still room for further improvement. Thus, the non-response rate was still high, particularly in respect of small farms and of businesses using agricultural lands for non-agricultural purposes. Existing gaps in the data can be attributed to the incompleteness of the farm register in Lithuania. The proposal was made to the experts that farmers should be given more response incentives.</p>
<b>18-22 August 2003 in Warsaw</b>		<p>A Danish expert visited the <b>Polish</b> Statistics Office to continue consultations on tourism statistics in the context of the Twinning project. The discussions focussed on the implementation of the EU regulation on tourism statistics. Polish statisticians presented the results of their activities on this subject. The Danish expert ascertained that, apart from a few minor exceptions, Polish statisticians are able to fulfil the EU standards from the beginning of 2004.</p>
<b>18-22 August 2003 in Kamenz</b>		<p>The meeting at the Statistical Office of Saxony resumed the co-operation with <b>Czech</b> colleagues on establishing a <u>border-crossing harmonised database</u> and on the elaboration of an Internet presentation. The discussion focussed on topics such as the structure of statistical information to be published on the Internet and the regional and content-related structure of the data and their retrieval. The meeting elaborated the structure of a website, and the design of the interface for the planned Internet publication. Finally, the meeting produced an organisational concept for the compilation and maintenance of multilingual websites needed for the planned Internet publication. The start of the publication is envisaged for early 2004. The meeting provided a useful exchange of experience on the compilation, operation and utilisation of Internet presentations for the publication of statistical data. This experience was taken into account when drafting the concept of the planned Internet publication.</p>
<b>01-03 September 2003 in Wiesbaden and Bonn</b>		<p>At the invitation of President Hahlen, a high-ranking delegation from the Kingdom of <b>Thailand</b> paid a visit to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and Bonn. (For more details, please, refer to <i>page 8</i>.)</p>
<b>15-25 September 2003 in Wiesbaden, Berlin and Bonn</b>		<p>The visit took place in the context of the bilateral co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and the National Bureau of Statistics of the <b>PR of China</b>, based on a bilateral agreement concluded on 4 November 1993. The themes of the delegation's visit was the "General Data Dissemination System" (GDDS) of the International Monetary Fund, which the PR of China had joined on 15 April 2002. (For more details, please, refer to <i>page 8f</i>.)</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from February 2003 to September 2003

<b>17-23 September 2003 in Kiel and Copenhagen</b> 	In the context of Twinning, a delegation of <b>Polish agricultural statisticians</b> visited the State Statistical Office of Schleswig-Holstein and the Statistics Office of Denmark. While in Germany, the guests informed themselves about the legal basis of agricultural statistics and various computer programs used for data processing. Apart from the agricultural farm register, the Agra-Online program and the POSEIDON program were also presented. In Copenhagen, the Polish guests were informed about agricultural surveys conducted in Denmark. They were also shown the processing of results. In this connection, the Polish experts were also informed about the Eurofarm system and the obligations and technical channels of reporting to Eurostat.
<b>22-26 September 2003 in Wroclaw and Warsaw</b> 	In the context of Twinning, an expert from the Berlin State Statistical Office visited the <b>Polish</b> Statistics Office and the regional office in Wroclaw. The discussions focussed on problems of <u>shipping statistics</u> . Polish statisticians presented their surveys and methods in this area, informed themselves about the implementation of the corresponding EU regulations in Germany and discussed the progress achieved and the activities still required in Poland.
<b>25-26 September 2003 in Warsaw</b> 	During the 5 <sup>th</sup> Twinning Project Steering Committee meeting the <b>Polish</b> project leaders informed the other parties involved in the project of the provisional date, at which the call for tenders will be published for the procurement of IT components. The first call for bids is to be made as early as in October. Furthermore, the experts discussed pending project activities and fixed concrete dates, wherever this was possible. During the meeting the Polish and German project leaders also agreed on the basic arrangements for the seminar to be held in October in conclusion of the project.
<b>29 September-02 October 2003 in Lodz</b> 	Having finished the discussions about the <u>labour force survey</u> , the expert from the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg visited the <b>Polish</b> regional office in Lodz. There, the statisticians discussed the organisational, methodological and technological arrangements needed for a labour force survey.
<b>29 September-03 October 2003 in Jachranka</b> 	In the context of the Twinning project, experts from the Federal Statistical Office held the first one of four advanced training courses for <b>Polish</b> administration staff dealing with <u>Intratrade</u> . Owing to the Polish government's decision to have the data collected by the Polish customs authorities, the majority of participants came from the Polish Customs Administration. The experts provided information about the legal and methodological basis of Intratrade, about survey documents and possible checks in Intratrade statistics. Participants were given concrete examples so that they could study the respective problems intensively.





