

# STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

Statistical Co-operation  
with Transition and Developing Countries



2/2004

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

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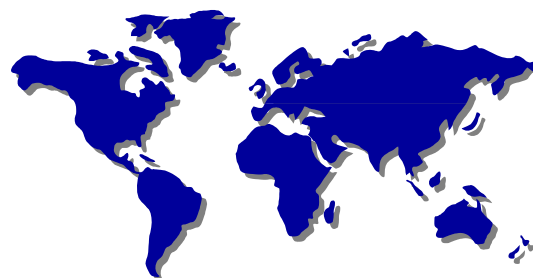
Published and edited by:  
Federal Statistical Office, Bonn Branch Office  
Division I E; Co-operation with Other Countries,  
Translation Service

Published in April 2005  
Order number: 0000024-04532-1

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Copy deadline: 31.12.2004



## Editorial

Five years ago, the Division "Statistical Co-operation" moved to Bonn in the context of the German Government moving from Bonn to Berlin. This is an occasion for us to take a look back on the results of our work: About 1 250 consultations with some 9 500 participants on our partners' side is what has been achieved and we are proud of it.

What you will also find in this issue is of course information on current and new projects of statistical co-operation. What should particularly be mentioned here is the successful conclusion of the 2-year Twinning project with Poland. Other Twinning projects involving the Federal Statistical Office have started or are going to start soon.

Other news refer to the countries supported through the Tacis programme. The statistics component of the Tacis-6 programme has successfully been concluded and, just before the editorial deadline, the consortium involving the Federal Statistical Office was awarded the contract regarding the Tacis-7 programme.

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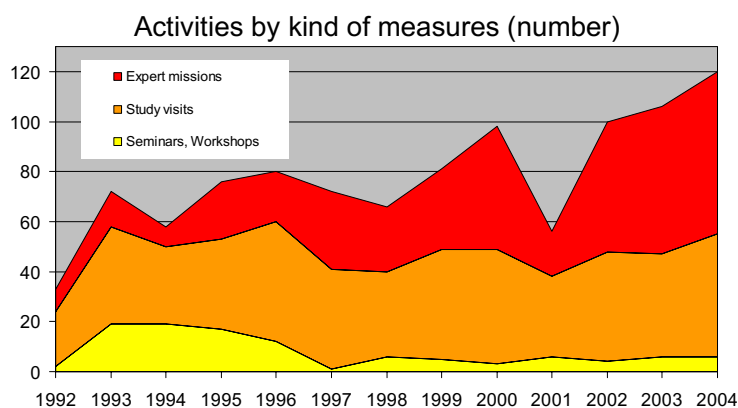
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## Statistical co-operation at the Federal Statistical Office – a look back

About 15 years ago, the European Union started launching various programmes aimed at supporting the conversion processes in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and in the New Independent States. Since about the same time, the statistical component of those programmes has been dealt with by a separate organisational unit at the Federal Statistical Office. That activity has been based not only on the numerous European partnership and co-operation agreements with those countries but also on a number of bilateral treaties and, in turn based on them, on agreements between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical partner institutions. The fact that in many cases those institutions mentioned German official statistics as their favourite partner was to a large extent due to the experience acquired in Germany in the context of German unification. Also, the experience of the federal statistical system in Germany is an important reason for many partners to look for advice from the German statistical offices. When the branch office of the Federal Statistical Office moved from Berlin to Bonn in 1999, an entirely new period started also for statistical co-operation.

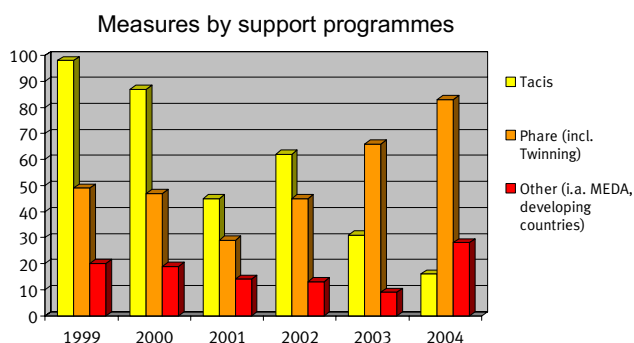


Since 1992, about 1 250 consultations with some 9 500 participants have been organised. In the initial phase the measures were usually seminars and workshops with 20 to 30 participants from several countries, whereas now bilateral work meetings with two to three experts are the most frequent form.

Especially in the context of the accession efforts of a number of states in Central and Eastern Europe, Technical Co-operation in the field of statistics played a major role because uniform statistical indicators are used to assess many criteria for accession. For that purpose, the methods and procedures to be applied have been defined in the "Acquis Communautaire", that is the common stock of statistical legal provisions of the EU.

Thus it is not surprising that the so-called Phare countries, that is the future and - now - new EU member states have been accounting for an ever larger share of consulting activities. The reason is mainly the partnership projects between the statistical offices (Twinning). For the Twinning with Poland alone, which was finished in autumn 2004, more than 80 expert missions and study visits were co-

ordinated and performed over a 2-year period between Polish statisticians on the one hand and German, Finnish and Danish statisticians on the other.





About two thirds of the consultations are covered by experts of the Federal Statistical Office, while every third consultation involves external experts from the statistical offices of the Länder, from foreign statistical institutes, federal ministries, and other federal agencies, and even free-lance experts. Altogether, German official statistics currently has some 150 experienced experts at its disposal, who can work in Germany and abroad.

## The Phare programme



The Phare programme has been the main tool of financial and technical co-operation of the European Community with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs). It was set up in 1989 to support the reform process and the economic and political change in Poland and Hungary (Poland and Hungary Action for Restructuring of the Economy). In December 1994 it was extended to form a funding tool for the pre-accession strategy aiming at the accession of the associated Central and Eastern European countries. As part of the pre-accession strategy, the candidate countries have to set up modern and efficient administrations that are able to implement the *acquis communautaire* of the European Union to the same extent as in the EU-15 member states. In order to be able to accede to the EU, the candidate countries must have a solid democratic government system and institutions ensuring constitutionality and respect of human rights. Also, they must demonstrate a well-functioning and competitive market economy.

The Phare programme is continued every year on the basis of an EU budget heading. For the programme period from 2000 to 2006, the EU provides funds to the amount of EUR 11 bn.

The general goal of the Phare programme is to support the candidate countries in preparing their accession to the European Union. This means that the programme is accession-oriented, focusing on support for priority areas, especially in the field of structural development of public administration, the single market, justice, internal affairs, as well as the social and economic union.

Assistance and support within the scope of the Phare programme focus on the following goals, especially of an institutional kind:

- Strengthening public administrations and institutions (Institution Building) to function effectively and smoothly within the EU structures.
- Supporting the convergence with the extensive legislation of the EU in order to keep the transition period to a minimum.
- Supporting social and economic conversion.

Within the scope of setting up institutions and reforming the public administration, Phare funds the following project types:

- development of management systems,
- training and equipping administrative officials, public employees, experts and relevant actors of the private sector,
- partnership projects (Twinning):
  - long-term missions of administrative experts to the target countries for an efficient implementation of the convergence process
  - short to medium-term missions of administrative experts (Twinning Light)
- support of the Commission by external organisations in achieving a sustainable reform of the public administration (General Public Administration Reform),



- also, Phare provides investment funds to strengthen the implementing organisations.

The goals of the new Phare programme are implemented through four programme types:

- National Programmes: bilateral programmes which, based on common preparation, are adopted by the national governments and the EU.
- Multi-Beneficiary Programme: Programmes from which the various candidate countries benefit within the scope of a field of measures.
- Multi-Country Programmes: Programmes designed for several candidate countries in cases where co-operation of the Commission across regions seems required.
- Cross-Border Co-operation Programme: Programmes by which measures are funded in regions of the candidate countries bordering on the EU or on other candidate countries.

The process of preparing a programme up to its final form comprises the following steps:

First, the candidate countries develop a list of priorities regarding areas worth to be supported (so-called indicative programmes). That rough definition by the national governments is followed by joint elaboration of detailed sectoral or regional programmes together with the EU. The third phase is a financing decision of the EU Commission for the jointly defined individual programmes. The last step is the public invitation to tender or the awarding of contracts for the projects. In practice, this means that the type, scope and content of the programmes differ between countries.

Since 1993, German official statistics has actively participated in performing co-operation measures under the Phare programme.

Since that time, a total of 349 individual measures (study visits, expert missions and workshops) have been performed in nearly all areas of statistics. The majority (243 individual measures) have been financed from funds of the Multi-Beneficiary Programmes. The other 106 measures have been financed from funds of the relevant National Programmes in the form of Twinning and Twinning Light projects.

Ten of the 14 candidate countries have met the EU accession requirements, have finished the accession negotiations and have been EU members since 1 May 2004. Those countries are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Cyprus. Bulgaria and Romania will presumably be able to accede in 2007. With Croatia and Turkey the candidate status is being negotiated.

The new EU member states are very much interested in continuing the international co-operation. Those countries will now be supported within the scope of the so-called Transition Facility, which has replaced the Phare programme and is expected to be terminated in 2006.



### **Twinning project with Poland**

The Polish-German Twinning project on "Statistical Information System", which started on 14 May 2002 (Phare2001-PL/IB/2001/ST/01), was concluded with a conference in Poland on 19/20 October 2004. The project partners were the Central Statistical Office of Poland and the Federal Statistical Office, supported by the statistical offices of several Länder and the Statistical Offices of Denmark and Finland. A total of 85 consultations were performed on the harmonisation of various statistics and on expanding the statistical information system of Poland. Within the scope of



the investment part of the Twinning project, the Polish Statistical Office acquired comprehensive IT equipment.

At the conference, the results of the Twinning project were presented. In his opening speech, the representative of the Polish ministry of economics underlined the importance which the German-Polish economic relations have for Poland. He emphasised the function of statistics and referred to the co-operation with Germany as the most important factor ensuring Poland's economic success. A staff member of the European Commission's representation to Warsaw described the criteria that were decisive for the success of the Twinning project: the competence of the experts, the excellent project management, and the performance of the German long-term consultant. That positive assessment of the Twinning project and of its results was shared by all project partners. What was particularly stressed by the Polish partners is the support provided by experts of the Federal Statistical Office in setting up the Polish Intrastat system. President Toczynski, Head of the Polish Statistical Office, used the conference to initiate a discussion about the future of the European Statistical System (ESS) against the background of the enlargement of the European Union. In his speech, President Hahlen presented the current situation of the ESS and explained what measures should be taken from the German point of view. The two Presidents agreed that better involvement of the member states in programme planning and priority setting of the ESS is required.

What can be given as a conclusion of the conference is that, with the support by German, Finnish and Danish experts, Polish official statistics has made a big step towards the harmonisation of statistics in various areas and towards the expansion of the statistical information system. However, the harmonisation process is not finished yet - a new Twinning project together with Sweden has already started.

### **Twinning project Poland-Sweden**



To expand its capacities, the Central Statistical Office of Poland had proposed three Twinning projects, which have been approved by the European Commission. The first Twinning project on regional statistics was carried out with France. It ended in February 2003. When that project was still running, the Twinning project between Poland and Germany on expanding the statistical information system in Poland started. The latter was finished in October 2004 (see above). Already in March 2004, the third Twinning project in a row started with Sweden as the main partner. The goal here is to improve the quality of Polish statistics. Again, experts of the Federal Statistical Office will participate in that Polish-Swedish project.

### **Twinning project with Bulgaria**



For some years already, the Federal Statistical Office has closely been co-operating with the Bulgarian Statistical Office within the scope of European programmes. In July 2004, the European Commission had invited tenders for a Twinning project on the sustainable development of the Bulgarian statistical system. The goal of the project is to set up statistics on the information society, on income and living conditions (SILC) and to improve data quality in the system of national accounts. The Federal Statistical Office has been awarded the contract by the EU to carry out the



project. In a consortium with the Danish Statistical Office, and supported by the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony as well as an expert from the Czech Statistical Office, the project is expected to start towards the end of the first quarter of 2005. It is scheduled to run for two years. In January 2005, the representation of the European Commission will invite the participants for a kick-off meeting. Then the Bulgarian Statistical Office and the Federal Statistical Office will jointly prepare the Twinning contract and submit the project work plan.



### **Twinning Light project with the Slovak Republic**

The Federal Statistical Office and the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR) have for many years maintained close co-operation relationships within the scope of the Phare programme, especially in the field of industry statistics.

The Federal Statistical Office has been commissioned by the European Commission to perform a Twinning Light Project on "Iron and Steel Statistics" as part of the Transition Facility for the new EU member states. That ten-month project will start in February 2005.

The goal of the project is to set up an information system which will provide reliable data on iron and steel production in the Slovak Republic that meet the requirements of national associations and international organisations (Eurostat, OECD, etc.).

Apart from analysing and further developing the information system, the project will deal with the development of survey documents and publication files, the conduct of pilot surveys and the training of staff. Another element of the project will be the preparation and invitation to tender for a contract regarding the required IT programming.

During the duration of the project, a total of 65 days of expert missions to Bratislava and 9 work days in Germany are planned. The main experts of the projects are the head and the senior expert of the Section "Iron and Steel Statistics" of the Federal Statistical Office.



### **Programme planning with China**

On 9 and 10 December 2004, the Head of the Department for International Co-operation at the National Bureau of Statistics of the PR of China, Mr. Du Weiqun, visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and Bonn. Items on the agenda were the evaluation of the measures performed in 2004 and the planning of activities for 2005. Focuses of future co-operation will be Environmental-Economic Accounting / Environmental Statistics and information technologies as well as the working group on statistics as part of the Mixed German-Chinese Economic Commission.



### **Conclusion of the Tacis-6 programme (statistics) and start of Tacis-7**

With the end of the year 2004, the Tacis-6 programme was successfully terminated, too. The Federal Statistical Office was a partner within the consortium that also comprised the ICON-Public consulting company, Statistics Finland and the ASA Institute.





Experts of the Federal Statistical Office performed a total of 13 measures during the one-year period of the project. With the National Statistical Office of Mongolia, co-operation was performed in the areas of business statistics, strategic planning as well as finance and resources management. Co-operation with the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan covered price statistics, with a special focus on construction prices.

What was outstanding in that compact and time-restrictive project was the excellent co-operation between all parties involved. This was also appreciated by the commissioning party, the EuropeAid Directorate-General of the European Commission.

In the new Tacis 7 programme, the successful co-operation can be continued. The Commission has awarded the contract for the programme starting at the beginning of 2005 to the consortium including the Federal Statistical Office.

### Current state of affairs in co-operation with Turkey



Since the co-operation between the State Institute of Statistics (SIS) of Turkey and the Federal Statistical Office in the USST project (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey) was launched in spring 2004, a number of co-operation measures have been carried out. The project will run until November 2006.

A planning meeting was held in Ankara in September to plan in detail the future activities in the statistics areas covered by the experts of the Federal Statistical Office. The discussions focused on expert missions in the areas of business register, business statistics, classifications, and dissemination. Agreement was reached on a number of measures also for the second part of the programme, the "Training and Travel Facility Grant", which provides for study visits to Germany.

The project team at the SIS, headed by Mr. Ullrich Eichler as EU Management Adviser, plays an important role in organising and co-ordinating the expert missions and study visits. The project team in Ankara and the Federal Statistical Office co-operate closely.

Since the project started, initial measures have been performed to establish the contact between the experts of the two offices in the various sub-areas. Based on the exchange regarding the current knowledge and the focuses of work, the future need for consultation was analysed, which will be relevant for the detailed shaping of the content of the measures to be performed over the next two years.

At the end of November 2004, a second meeting of the steering committee was held in Ankara, in which a representative of the Federal Statistical Office participated again. On that occasion, a first interim report on the progress made in the project was presented. As a conclusion of that session, it may be stated that in the initial phase of the project there were delays in some sub-areas as compared with the original programme plan, which however will not cause any problems in achieving the goal.

The measures performed so far – expert recruitment and study visits – have intensified the good contacts between the two institutions, that is the Federal Statistical Office and the Turkish Statistical Office. Exchanging experience between the experts is characterised by high expertise on both sides and the willingness to advance the integration of the Turkish statistical system into the European Statistical System.





## Czech-German Twinning project "Statistics on Renewable Energies" (Jürgen Wayand, Land Statistical Office of Bremen)

Since January 2004, German and Czech experts have been working on the implementation of the Twinning project CZ03/IB/EY/01 to improve the statistics on renewable energies in the context of the EU Directives on improving energy efficiency and their implementation in the Czech Republic.

The major goal of the project is to improve the quality of the statistics on renewable energies, i.e. regarding data collection, processing and analysis. Also, the project is intended to utilise for the Czech Republic the experience acquired by EU member states in the area of statistics on renewable energies.

A long-term expert from Germany, co-ordinating the project activities in Prague over a 12-month period, and short-term experts from three Land statistical offices (Bremen, North Rhine-Westphalia, Saxony-Anhalt) and from the Pestel Institute in Hanover co-operate with the Czech colleagues of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT), the Czech Statistical Office (CzSO) and the Czech Energy Agency (CEA). Project lead on the German side has been assigned to the Land Statistical Office of Bremen by the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour, while project management is provided by the Beratungs- und Service-Gesellschaft Umwelt mbH (Environmental Consulting and Service Company) in Berlin.

Here are some project results achieved so far:

- **Experience of the EU member states** – In a study based on a relevant survey among the old member states, the current state of affairs of the statistics on renewable energies was described and experience of the EU-15 was summarised. This showed a varied picture in terms of both the forms of organisation and the application of definitions and statistical methods regarding the survey on renewable energies.
- **Situation in the Czech Republic** – The current state of affairs of the statistics on renewable energies in the Czech Republic was analysed and assessed.
- **Activity plan on methodology and training** – Based on the studies, a detailed plan for training activities and for statistical methods development was designed and implemented jointly with the Czech colleagues. Leading practice was taught through a number of workshops, with the participation of experts from the Federal Statistical Office, the German Institute for Economic Research, the Swedish Statistical Office, the University of Klagenfurt (Austria) and the International Energy Agency (IEA), as well as through a study trip to the Finnish Statistical Office. During a study trip to Germany, the Czech colleagues visited the Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour and participated in the spring session of the Länder working group on energy balances.
- **Optimisation strategy** – A strategy on how the Czech system of the statistics on renewable energies may be adjusted and optimised has been developed and is currently being implemented. For example, practical improvements to the questionnaires in the field of biomass have been carried out. Co-ordination between the actors involved is being improved.
- **Annual statistics** – The detailed project work enabled the Czech colleagues to produce an annual statistics for the year 2003 regarding renewable energies. According to their judg-



ment, this means that first reliable data of the statistics on renewable energies for the Czech Republic are now available.

The Twinning project allows the Czech colleagues to gain considerable insight into the statistics on renewable energies of the former 15 EU member states and to perform a comparative analysis. The Czech colleagues passed on to the IEA the findings on the definitions, which in part were not uniform, and submitted them to the IEA conference in Paris in November 2004.

What is also remarkable is that during the project a proposal was developed to extend the TARIC Code (Integrated Tariff of the European Communities), aiming at correct coverage of foreign trade with biofuels. The proposal, whose implementation is required to completely cover biofuels in the member states, has been passed on to the competent bodies.

By the above and other activities – e.g. in the area of defining biodegradable waste fractions, solar thermal systems, geothermal systems, and heat pumps – the project contributed (beyond the goal fixed in the project covenant) to supporting the efforts to develop uniform definitions and methods in EU member states and at the European and international institutions.

For the German project team, the project provided deep insight into the statistical practice in the Czech Republic and in a number of other member states. The knowledge acquired here will certainly also be used to further develop and improve the statistics on renewable energies in Germany.

The project results were presented to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and to selected Czech businesses and co-operating organisations and associations in Prague from 19 to 21 January 2005 as part of the final activities.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





### Overview from August 2004 to December 2004

<b>2-6 August 2004 in Wiesbaden</b>	<p>The study visit's purpose was to provide information on the methodological, organisational, technical and legal aspects of the German <u>business register</u>. Besides, the measures taken by the <b>Mongolian</b> side in the context of the project component were to be evaluated and a programme be designed for further relevant activities. Another point of emphasis was the discussion of the legal bases of the business register and, in particular, the German law of business registers for statistical purposes.</p>
	
<b>4-13 August 2004 in Wiesbaden and Berlin</b>	<p>The head of the delegation, Mr. Peng, emphasised as particularly positive the good quality of both the preparation and the presentations given by the lecturers of the FSO's specialised departments and of the statistical offices of the Länder of Berlin and Hamburg/Schleswig-Holstein regarding the calculation of the <u>gross domestic product at the regional level</u>. On the occasion of the final evaluation, Mr. Peng stressed that the visit to Germany had been very successful and useful. He expressed his wish to continue co-operation between the National Bureau of Statistics of the <b>People's Republic of China</b> and German official statistics in that area based on a common project.</p>
	
<b>16-19 August 2004 in Wiesbaden</b>	<p>In addition to expert missions, study visits to the Federal Statistical Office of Germany are to be organised under the USST project (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey). On the occasion of a visit of the <b>Turkish</b> project team headed by Vice President Dr. Gundogan, <u>matters of content of the study visits were agreed on</u>. Study visits are planned to take place on a total of about 55 different topics by the end of 2006. Apart from content-related matters, the discussion centred on formal issues and procedures regarding the preparation and financial settlement of measures.</p>
	
<b>23-25 August 2004 in Bonn</b>	<p>During the three-day expert meeting, detailed information was given on the German system of providing information in the area of iron and steel statistics. The meeting's main objective was to discuss ways of implementing the relevant system in <b>Slovak</b> official statistics, with particular regard to the statistical requirements of the European Union (PRODCOM, EC steel regulation) which the Slovak Republic has become a full member of. Besides, major issues of workflow organisation in the Slovak steel statistics in line with European requirements were discussed, such as designing an optimum questionnaire/form, setting adequate deadlines, specifying the necessary performance characteristics of the data capture and analysis software, and designing publications in a user-friendly way. An exchange of information with experts of a major German steel company yielded valuable branch-related information, which will be of importance to both sides (enterprises/Statistical Office) particularly with regard to an efficient organisation of work to meet the European deadlines.</p> <p>Given its current equipment, the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic is not yet in a position to fulfil the European standards regarding the provision of timely high-quality data on the steel industry. For this reason, the Office will have to make investments in hardware and software in the short run. The German experts provided valuable information in this respect. Further consultations will be required in the near future to ensure the necessary and so far incomplete implementation of the European steel statistics standards in the Slovak Republic as a new EU Member State. Future meetings of experts and consultative measures should in particular focus on giving assistance in selecting, acquiring and developing adequate software for data analyses, in providing Eurostat with data in due time and publishing the relevant statistical results.</p>
	



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





### Overview from August 2004 to December 2004

<b>23-25 August 2004 in Prague</b>	<p>The goal of the expert mission was to provide information on how <u>tourism statistics</u> are produced in Germany and, if appropriate, to derive ideas for the design and conduct of the <b>Czech</b> statistics in that field. Based on the requirements raised, the mission encompassed a report on the accommodation establishments' inclusion in the register, a description of the German accommodation statistics, an evaluation of border statistics, and an outline of sample surveys to record journeys both inside the country and across the country's borders. The highly detailed information on how the surveys are conducted and the data are processed was received with great interest. Though the tourism satellite system was originally not on the list of topics, it became part of the discussions, too. In the course of the latter, it turned out that the Czech statistical programme in the area of tourism statistics was largely aimed at fulfilling EU requirements. It also became obvious that the two countries faced similar problems of implementation and that the exchange of experience was therefore valuable to all participants in the consultation. The representatives of the Czech Office stressed that they would make use of the information provided on the surveys and the processing of results by integrating it into their work. The Czech side expressed the wish for further meetings. The topics listed for further discussion include register maintenance, the implementation of Part C of the Tourism Directive, and calculations in the context of the tourism satellite system.</p>
	
<b>26-27 August 2004 in Wiesbaden</b>	<p>Members of staff of the <b>Polish</b> Statistical Office visited the Federal Statistical Office under the Twinning project. The consultations centred on presenting the <u>structure and content of the website</u> of the Federal Statistical Office. The Polish Statistical Office intends to modernise its home page to comply with the requirements of customers.</p>
	
<b>6-9 September 2004 in Ankara</b>	<p>Developing a register database is one of the central tasks to be fulfilled on the way of developing a <u>business register</u> for statistical purposes. In the course of the expert mission in <b>Turkey</b>, the major content and purposes of the business register to be developed were specified. An issue discussed in this context was to bring the methodological frame into line with the respective EU regulations.</p>
	
<b>6-9 September 2004 in Ankara</b>	<p>The subcomponent "<u>Business Register</u>" of the USST project provides for German consultations regarding methodological aspects of the register and the organisation of register maintenance incl. the use of administrative information, and also measures of register quality assurance. The aim of the visit to <b>Turkey</b> was to assess the developments during the last four months in view of achieving the goals of the project, to specify – together with the partners – the basic features of the data and function model of the business register and to define, in terms of content and time, concrete steps of preparing the programming activities.</p>
	
<b>6-10 September 2004 in Warsaw</b>	<p>Two experts of the Federal Statistical Office visited the <b>Polish</b> Central Statistical Office under the Twinning project to continue the discussions on <u>intra-Community trade statistics</u>. Since its accession to the European Union (1 May 2004), Poland has collected data on the country's intra-Community trade with other EU Member States. Both the experience gained and the problems encountered in that area were discussed with the German colleagues.</p>
	



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES




### Overview from August 2004 to December 2004

<b>6-10 September 2004 in Beijing</b> 	The consultative mission on the <u>Special Data Dissemination Standard</u> (SDDS - the data dissemination standard of the International Monetary Fund applying mainly to the developed countries) took place in a friendly atmosphere and was very successful. In particular, questions were answered on the co-operation between the Federal Statistical Office and the federal ministries, on the Office's press activities and on measures to promote acceptance of official statistics in society. The <b>Chinese</b> side mentioned that China would accede to the SDDS only when the situation of indicators in China permits to do so. The Chinese side was encouraged by the German experts to consider an accession to the SDDS only in the medium or long run. Closing the gaps in individual statistical areas, which in part are still comprehensive, should be the first priority. China acceded to the GDDS (General Data Dissemination Standard) for developing countries as early as in 2002.
<b>6-10 September 2004 in Sofia</b> 	Together with the Cologne-based ICON Institute, the Federal Statistical Office assists the National Statistical Institute of <b>Bulgaria</b> (NSI) under the national Phare project "Technical Assistance for Development of the National Statistical System". Assistance is provided, among other things, with regard to the <u>publication and dissemination of statistical information</u> . As early as in spring and summer 2004, first expert missions on the subject were conducted in Sofia. Now an expert of the Federal Statistical Office supported the Bulgarian colleagues in preparing a concept for setting up a customer database to identify the major users of statistical information. Further consultations will be required for a complete implementation of the customer database.
<b>9-17 September 2004 in Sofia</b> 	In the context of the Phare project "Technical Assistance for Development of the National Statistical System", an expert of the Federal Statistical Office advised the <b>Bulgarian</b> colleagues on the development of a <u>marketing strategy</u> . After a user satisfaction survey had jointly been prepared in April 2004, the Bulgarian marketing agency "Market Links" now carried out the survey. In the course of the consultative stay, the main results of the survey were presented and discussed. The Bulgarian colleagues were recommended to analyse the data of the user satisfaction survey in a breakdown by various user groups to obtain results for the development of a marketing strategy. At the same time, the Bulgarian colleagues were advised on the areas which are of particular importance in working out a marketing strategy (e.g. uniform and transparent pricing system, information services, corporate design, and evaluation of user feedback). To prepare the next consultative measure, the Bulgarian colleagues were asked to take stock of their products and services, to identify the user groups for which products are not yet available, to specify user-specific dissemination channels and to draft a pricing system. Based on the information collected in the aforementioned areas, a draft of a marketing strategy is planned to be developed in the context of the final action.
<b>13-14 September 2004 in Ankara</b> 	The <u>project planning discussions</u> under the USST project focussed, on the one hand, on scheduling study visits to Germany in the long run, i.e. for the whole term of the project which will last until 2006, and, on the other, on planning in a detailed way the expert missions and study visits for the next two quarters. Besides, various procedural questions of project management were settled by the German and <b>Turkish</b> project managers.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from August 2004 to December 2004

<p><b>13-15 September 2004</b> in Sofia</p> 	<p>Two German experts conducted a seminar for 50 <b>Bulgarian</b> colleagues of the National Statistical Institute and regional offices on the issue of <u>user-friendly publications and services</u>. In the course of the seminar, conceptual aspects of user-friendliness (e.g. marketing measures) were outlined and special instructions provided (e.g. on how to design graphics, charts and tables and to produce press releases). The experts underlined that any user was entitled to receive statistical information and that it was the task of the experts working in the area of official statistics to provide that information in a clear and, if required, explained form. In addition, the ways in which official statistics are compiled and processed were to be shown in a transparent and understandable manner.</p>
<p><b>13-16 September 2004</b> in Copenhagen</p> 	<p>The study visit <b>Polish</b> statisticians paid to Statistics Denmark under the Twinning project with Poland was aimed at continuing with the Danish colleges the discussions on how to advance the Polish <u>business register</u>. The technical solutions applied in Denmark were presented to the Polish colleagues. In addition, the Polish plans for advancing the business register were discussed.</p>
<p><b>20-24 September 2004</b> in Ulaanbaatar</p> 	<p>In the context of the expert mission, first the results of the previous action on <u>financial management</u> were discussed and related questions settled with the <b>Mongolian</b> colleagues. The tables so far constructed were reviewed and, where required, adjustments made. In the course of two training measures, the heads of seven District Offices and the staff responsible for financial management at the Statistical Office of Ulaanbaatar were provided with information on such issues as budgetary classification, product-based budget, cost and performance accounting, and product calculation.</p>
<p><b>23 September 2004</b> in Bonn</p> 	<p>Six statisticians working in the area of personnel/training and enterprise surveys at the Statistical Office of the Fujian province (<b>People's Republic of China</b>) visited the Branch Office of the Federal Statistical Office in Bonn to receive information about various aspects of the "<u>Organisational Structure and Functions of the Federal Statistical Office</u>".</p>
<p><b>27 September-1 October 2004</b> in Ulaanbaatar</p> 	<p>The second consultation served to conclude the project component "<u>Strategic Management</u>" in <b>Mongolia</b>. The German expert evaluated the revised and shortened strategic plan for the development of official statistics, which was to be submitted to the newly formed parliament for approval in December 2004. Besides, two lectures on "Total quality management" and "Management of international projects" were given to leading staff of all departments.</p>
<p><b>27 September-1 October 2004</b> in Ankara</p> 	<p>The discussions in Ankara centred on various aspects of the dissemination of statistical data for which training measures would be required in the course of the progressing USST project. As a result of the presentations given on the relevant areas of work in Germany and in <b>Turkey</b> and the intensive discussions waged, such issues as marketing measures, the compilation of publications and data confidentiality were identified as prior tasks. The <u>publication system</u> of the Turkish Statistical Institute has reached a high level of development. To ensure further successful development, a precisely defined publication concept should be developed. An enhancement is also intended in the areas of layouting and providing online services.</p>





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<p><b>27 September-1 October 2004</b> in Ankara</p> 	<p>The action focussed on the concepts of <u>statistical data dissemination</u> existing at the <b>Turkish</b> Statistical Institute (SIS) and their practical application. The discussions centred on workflows and responsibilities in the departments concerned the SIS products, the pricing system and existing dissemination channels. In her presentations, the expert introduced the dissemination policy of the Federal Statistical Office.</p>
<p><b>27 September-1 October 2004</b> in Warsaw and Jachranka</p> 	<p>To conclude co-operation on "Price Statistics" under the Twinning project with <b>Poland</b>, a Finnish expert provided a consultation. The focus of the discussions was both on the progress Poland had made in the methodological preparation of statistical price surveys and on their computer-assisted conduct. In a course in which Polish statisticians were trained to handle the newly acquired portable survey computers, the expert acquainted the participants with the related Finnish experience.</p>
<p><b>30 September-1 October 2004</b> in Warsaw</p> 	<p>At the last meeting of the <u>Twinning Project Steering Committee</u>, the parties involved in the project met in Warsaw to present and evaluate the progress achieved in the course of the project. Particular attention was paid not only to the preparations for the final conference, but also to the specification of deadlines for reporting and the financial settlement of the Twinning project between <b>Poland</b> and Germany.</p>
<p><b>4-8 October 2004</b> in Krakow and Warsaw</p> 	<p>In the context of the final co-operation activity to develop the <b>Polish</b> intra-Community trade statistics system under the Twinning project, two experts of the Federal Statistical Office visited the customs office in Krakow and the Central Statistical Office in Warsaw. The Polish colleagues presented their approaches in compiling and processing intra-Community trade statistics. In addition, the problems and questions encountered were discussed.</p>
<p><b>4-8 October 2004</b> in Wiesbaden and Bonn</p> 	<p>Three representatives of the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of <b>Kazakhstan</b> visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and Bonn. The following topics were discussed: integration of <u>household statistics</u> into the system of national accounts, comparison of prices in terms of place and time, methodology to record the formation and consumption of household income, advancement of household statistics in Germany and at the European level, system of indicators in household surveys and publication and dissemination of the relevant statistical data.</p>
<p><b>11-15 October 2004</b> in Sofia</p> 	<p>The goal of the expert mission was to enhance the <u>publication system</u> of the Statistical Institute of <b>Bulgaria</b>. In this context, the visualisation of results and the technical production of publications were in the centre of attention. Topics under discussion included the bases of producing statistical graphics and the possibilities provided by interactive graphics on the internet. Examples of current media were used to discuss the use of graphics in the press and the effects they produce. Based on the Corporate Design Project of the Federal Statistical Office, the bases for a uniform design of the means of communication (e.g. printed publications, website) were illustrated. Besides, the workflow in producing publications was explained. The focus was on combining MS Office-based products in the PDF format to achieve a final layout in Adobe InDesign.</p>





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<p><b>11-18 October 2004</b> in Wiesbaden, Bonn and Berlin</p> 	<p>The project "<u>International Statistics</u>" run between the National Bureau of Statistics of the <b>People's Republic of China</b> and the Federal Statistical Office so far was very successful and, as agreed, can be concluded in 2005. All topics discussed during the stay were received with great interest by the members of the delegation. As a matter of fact, they are of considerable importance for the success of the project. The final evaluation of the project, which is to be made by the relevant project managers, is scheduled for May/June 2005.</p>
<p><b>18-22 October 2004</b> in Ulaanbaatar</p> 	<p>With that second consultation in <b>Mongolia</b>, the Tacis 6 project component regarding the <u>business register</u> was brought to a successful conclusion. The logical and physical database structure developed in the framework of the project was implemented. Besides, the expert of the Federal Statistical Office provided final recommendations for designing the questionnaires which were immediately used in the enterprise census. Finally, a training course was provided to explain to multipliers both the purposes of statistical registers and register-based work.</p>
<p><b>19-20 October 2004</b> in Jachranka</p> 	<p>The successful Twinning project was concluded by a <u>conference</u> at which the results of work were presented. Assisted by German, Finnish and Danish experts, <b>Polish</b> official statistics achieved considerable success in harmonising a large number of statistics and enlarging its statistical information system. Though the harmonisation process still continues (a new Twinning project has started with Sweden), Polish official statistics made another major step forward in adopting the <i>acquis communautaire</i> in the area of official statistics (see also p. 5 f.).</p>
<p><b>25-29 October 2004</b> in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>Two statisticians from the National Statistical Institute of <b>Bulgaria</b> (NSI) visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. Before the visit, several experts of the Federal Statistical Office had assisted the Bulgarian colleagues in <u>producing and disseminating user-friendly services and products</u> in the framework of various consultative stays in Sofia. The goal of the visit to Wiesbaden was to receive detailed information on the relevant approaches taken at the Federal Statistical Office and to answer open questions. In this context, particular emphasis was put on preparing the concept and first design of a leaflet on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of official statistics in Bulgaria to be celebrated in 2005.</p>
<p><b>1-4 November 2004</b> in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>In the framework of a Phare project, the Federal Statistical Office advises the National Statistical Institute of <b>Bulgaria</b> (NSI) on enhancing its <u>publication system</u>. Part of the project component has been aimed at the further conceptual advancement of the NSI's website. Apart from explaining the processes of website production and maintenance at the Federal Statistical Office, examples of new developments, such as the integration of interactive population pyramids, were presented in the context of the visit. At the same time, proposals for the enhancement of the NSI's website were prepared and discussed with the experts. The study visit was directly followed by a five-day consultation measure in Sofia which was designed to bring the activities in the framework of that project component to an end.</p>
<p><b>8-12 November 2004</b> in Baku</p> 	<p>The final consultative stay on <u>construction price statistics</u> in <b>Azerbaijan</b> centred on concrete questions of the agreed work plan. Areas particularly worked on were the calculation of weighting schemes and the analysis of the results achieved in the first wave of the price survey carried out by the State Statistical Committee. The general aim of the measures is the regular conduct of price surveys from 2005 in order to periodically construct price indices.</p>



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<b>8-12 November 2004 in Sofia</b> 	From 8 to 12 November 2004, a final expert mission on the " <u>Publication System</u> " was conducted under the Phare project "Technical Assistance for Development of the National Statistical System" in Sofia. The objective of the action was to assist the colleagues of the National Statistical Institute of <b>Bulgaria</b> (NSI) in enhancing their website content. The emphasis was on providing the partners in the project with technical training, among other things, on constructing dynamic webpages. Dynamic webpages would facilitate the workflow in the NSI as the specialised departments would be in a position to integrate texts etc. into the Office's website content and update their contributions without requiring the support of the information department. In addition, a customer database was developed during the consultation measure in order to monitor customer data and the stock of the NSI's publications.
<b>9-10 November 2004 in Wiesbaden</b> 	During the study visit of three <b>Turkish</b> statisticians, the work plan and time schedule were determined for co-operation in the field of <u>business statistics</u> under the USST programme. The topics discussed included short-term statistics, production, cost structure statistics, energy statistics, monthly surveys in the producing sector and the PRODCOM (PRODUCTION COMMunautaire).
<b>15-19 November 2004 in Wiesbaden</b> 	Three experts of the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of <b>Kazakhstan</b> visited the Federal Statistical Office to participate in the final action on " <u>Statistics of Forestry Prices</u> ". The discussions held in the framework of the study visit focused mainly on the planned statistics of producer prices of raw timber and related services. To prepare the compilation of the statistics, the Agency on Statistics had carried out a test survey. The results were presented in the form of detailed and comprehensive tables. Besides, questions were answered in particular with regard to the ways of conducting the survey.
<b>22-23 November 2004 in Prague</b> 	In the course of the <u>planning discussions</u> , 12 actions were agreed to be carried out under the 2002 and 2003 Phare programmes. Plans were made for running another four actions which still have to be confirmed by the <b>Czech</b> side. The Czech Statistical Office will transmit a detailed list of topics for the individual actions and proposals for time scheduling. In the future, Czech experts will be actively engaged in carrying out projects of the Federal Statistical Office which are subject to external financing. The Czech colleagues received information on the following issues of project management: acquisition, planning, organisation, implementation and administration. The focus was on grant management, and the payment of daily allowances and fees to experts. The parties agreed in the future to compete together for and carry out projects based on their intensive co-operation. A Czech expert agreed to work as an expert in the Twinning project with the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria. His area of responsibility will be the "Shadow Economy" as part of national accounts. He was informed about regulatory matters of the project.
<b>25-26 November 2004 in Ankara</b> 	During the second meeting of the <u>Steering Committee of the USST project</u> (see also <i>page 8</i> ), a first intermediate report was given on the progress made until that time. Though the project lags slightly behind in terms of the original schedule, this lag will certainly not have a negative effect on achieving the final goal. Work plans have been prepared for all areas covered and contacts been established between the <b>Turkish</b> and German experts concerned.



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<b>29 November-3 December 2004</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b>	<p>Two staff members of the publication department of the <b>Turkish</b> Statistical Institute (SIS) visited the Federal Statistical Office. The action was organised under the USST project with the SIS of Turkey. The visitors from Ankara were informed about <u>public relations</u> and <u>press work</u>, the functions of the Central Information Services, the designing of internet pages and the GENESIS database.</p>
	
<b>1-3 December 2004</b> <b>in Warsaw</b>	<p>The expert mission in the <b>Polish</b> Statistical Office served to analyse the results of a feasibility study that had been conducted earlier. Based on the results of the study, the existing IT infrastructure and the information available, solutions were worked out for modernising the <u>Office's website</u> content with the help of modern technologies.</p>
	
<b>6-8 December 2004</b> <b>in Berlin</b>	<p>The first co-operation measure between the <b>Turkish</b> Statistical Institute (SIS) and the Federal Statistical Office in the area of <u>agricultural statistics</u> was designed to introduce both the concepts and the main aims of agricultural statistics in the two countries. The action focussed on the presentation of the legal and institutional bases of that statistical area and the related data requirements of users, in particular the policy community. In the framework of the study visit, the participants went to the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg in Potsdam to be provided with relevant information.</p>
	
<b>9-10 December 2004</b> <b>in Bonn and Wiesbaden</b>	<p>Please refer to <i>page 7</i> to be briefly informed about the <u>programme planning talks</u> with representatives of the National Bureau of Statistics of the <b>People's Republic of China</b>.</p>
	
<b>13-16 December 2004</b> <b>in Düsseldorf</b>	<p>Following an expert's visit to Warsaw in early December, eight experts of the <b>Polish</b> Statistical Office now visited the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of North Rhine-Westphalia in Düsseldorf. The discussions waged in the context of the consultation measure centred on the architecture, safety and management of the <u>internet portal</u>. The online declaration system w3stat applied in compiling intra-Community trade statistics was taken as an example to explain ways of using the internet for online data collection. The visitors showed particular interest in the technical implementation of the internet shop. The consultation was completed by information on the plans for the further development of the internet portal.</p>
	



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