

STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

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with Transition and Developing Countries



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Federal Statistical Office of Germany

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Editorial

In the latest issue we could inform you that our Office's bid for the Tacis 7 project had been accepted. In the meantime we started implementing the project, as you can deduce from the report on our cooperation activities. We already conducted a large number of missions with the participation of Kazakh and Kyrgyz statisticians.

In the first half of 2005 we witnessed the kick-off for a second large project at our office: on 2 June a Twinning Project with Bulgaria was launched, spanning a period of 27 months. After a project with Poland, which has been finished and assessed as very successful, this is the second time that the Federal Statistical Office has contracted a close administration partnership with a statistical office of one of the accession candidates.

In 2004, Germany was re-elected to be a member of the UN Statistical Commission. Germany's official statistics are actively contributing to numerous technical bodies, which prepare that body's work input. On page 7 you will find a report on this year's session.

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Twinning Project with Bulgaria

Tendering for the execution of a Twinning Project with Bulgaria, a consortium consisting of Germany's Federal Statistics Office and Statistics Denmark had filed a bid, which was accepted on 1 December 2004. In February 2005, subsequent to the official kick-off mission of the European Commission's Delegation to Bulgaria (EU Delegation), the Federal Statistics Office together with its Bulgarian and Danish counterparts drafted the Twinning Contract for a joint project on a sustainable development of Bulgaria's national statistical system. The draft contract was transferred in due time to the EU Delegation in Sofia. On 3 May 2005, the European Commission's Twinning Contract Steering Committee expressed its unrestricted approval of the contract. On 2 June 2005, the contract was signed and notified. That was the beginning of the Twinning Project's official term spanning a total of 27 months. The budget of the project amounts to 700,000 Euros. The work plan for the project makes provision for 50 missions of experts from Germany, Denmark and the Czech Republic as well as for 10 missions of the project's management. That corresponds to a total number of 365 expert days.

Twinning Bulgaria – a brief review of goals

Theme:

Sustainable development of the national statistical system of Bulgaria

Overall objective of the project:

Full integration of the National Statistical System of Bulgaria into the European Statistical System by the date of the country's accession to the EU (in respect to the chosen fields of statistics).

Project purpose:

Further development of Bulgaria's National Statistical System by providing decision-makers with data in new political areas (information society statistics, statistics on income and living conditions) as well as improvement of data quality in National Accounts.

Project components:

1. Information society statistics (ICT)
 - Statistics on capital expenditure and investment spending of enterprises on information and communication technologies,
 - Information and communication technologies used by providers of financial services
2. Statistics on income and living conditions (EU-SILC)
(including also data for the measurement of wealth, poverty and social exclusion)
3. Improvement of data quality in the System of National Accounts
 - Shuttle trade
 - Household budget surveys
 - Databases in the business register



On 6 June 2005 the Free State of Saxony's Statistical Office sent Dr. Bernd Richter in the capacity of Resident Twinning Advisor to Sofia. His mission has been to take care of and to coordinate the Twinning activities on the spot at the Bulgarian Statistics Office. A period of 14 months has been scheduled for the mission. Consultations in terms of project implementation activities started with a "kick-off meeting" held in Sofia on 7 June 2005. This meeting gathered project leaders from the countries involved, who discussed and adopted the basic principles of further cooperation and project implementation activities. The first expert mission took place on the subject of statistics on income and living conditions (EU SILC) as early as from 20 – 22 June 2005. Any further kick-off activities were completed yet before the beginning of the summer recess.

The exchange of information between the long-term advisors was supported by both the European Commission and Germany's Federal Ministry of Finance acting as the national German contact point for Twinning projects. On 7 – 8 March 2005 Dr. Richter participated in discussions at the Federal Ministry of Finance, followed by an introductory meeting of the European Commission in Brussels on 23 – 24 March 2005. The meeting discussed both the general framework of conditions faced by the accession countries and the terms of reference that long-term experts were expected to fulfil. At the same time it was a good chance to get to know the colleagues who would take care of the other Twinning projects in Sofia.

The Twinning Project is embedded in a comprehensive, EU funded support framework. Apart from technical support provided by experts from EU Member States in the context of the Twinning Project it is envisaged that pilot surveys will be conducted by a private service provider. The call for tenders is supposed to be terminated by the end of this year. In addition, it is planned to procure IT equipment.

Environmental statisticians in a dialogue with Hungary



In the first half of 2005, environmental statisticians from the Federal Statistics Office were sought after as interlocutors more than ever before. Beside statisticians from China and Kazakhstan, Hungarian specialists were as well interested in the experience collected by their German colleagues. Here, we are going to give a more detailed report just on the results of the German-Hungarian meeting of environmental statisticians, which generically stands for all of the four meetings that took place in the first half of 2005.

The aim of the meeting was a mutual exchange of information on surveys for collecting waste statistics and on their legal basis. What was of major importance in this context was an exchange of experience about national implications of the new European regulations and directives (on waste statistics, end-of-life vehicle recycling, electronic scrap) and about possible steps that need to be taken in order to comply with the new regulations. In addition, the experts exchanged ideas on national waste statistics definitions and concepts. An introduction into the German Environmental Statistics Law and into the system of environmental statistics was followed by a corresponding presentation of Hungarian legislation and surveys concerning the natural environment. In this context, the focus was mainly on themes concerning waste statistics and on the national statistical survey methodologies (interaction with the Statistical Offices of the Federal States, definition of the population of reporting units, questionnaires, series of technical publications, etc.). Another item of importance was the Waste Statistics Regulation of the EU (EU Regulation

No. 2150) and its implementation in Germany. In this context, the experts also presented the results of EU pilot studies conducted in Germany to survey wastes from agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishery as well as the import and export of wastes. At present, Hungary is making preparations for these studies as well. Furthermore, the German model of what is called Waste Balance-Sheets was introduced and traceability problems regarding the flows of waste were discussed. There was a friendly, bilateral exchange of opinions, so that the survey methods used by both participants could be put to a critical examination in a national comparison. For example, unlike Germany, where survey rules provide for a complete enumeration of wastes and where such data is collected from the waste recyclers, Hungary collects that kind of data from the waste producers. It was agreed to clarify questions about environmental statistics in direct contact via e-mail and telephone.

Both countries are having difficulty distinguishing between wastes and secondary raw materials, above all, in respect of the many types of treatment. As there are no clear legal provisions in this field yet, the experts described their national practices to approach these problems. What is particularly interesting from the German point of view is the planned establishment of a centralised environmental database and the survey system of waste statistics under development in Hungary. Moreover, in Hungary most surveys of the environment are conducted by the Ministry of the Environment, and not by the Central Statistical Office, as is the case in Germany. The Hungarian side, in its turn, was particularly interested in the German Waste Balance-Sheet Model, in experience gathered with EU pilot studies and in clarifying definition problems. The German side assesses the Hungarian survey methodology as suitable for EU reporting. Another meeting is desirable, when first sets of data will be available from surveys conducted in accordance with the EU Waste Statistics Regulation. Possible problems in implementing the EU pilot studies will be discussed bilaterally.



The Federal Statistical Office gives the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan advice on different fields of statistics via the GTZ channel

For some years now there has been a continued and good cooperation between the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan. That is supported by European aid programmes such as Tacis (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) and, in the national framework of development programmes, by Germany's Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) acting on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Since 1997, using the GTZ assistance channels, the Federal Statistical Office, relying on long-standing, good contacts, has implemented three large project stages (GTZ I-III) jointly with the Statistics Agency by way of organising several expert missions to Kazakhstan and study visits to Germany.

The main goal of the project's first stage (1997-2002) and second stage (2002-2004) was to provide economic and socio-political decision-makers with better statistics, improved in terms of both quality and quantity. Thus, the Federal Statistical Office set out at first to advise Kazakhstan's Statistics Agency in fields such as statistics on wages and salaries, statistics on building prices and on subjects such as the overall organisation of a statistical office and publications.



Apart from staff of the Federal Statistical Office, there were also experts from the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony, who took care of project implementation activities in the wage statistics field.

The goal of the second stage was to enable the Statistics Agency to undertake self-contained surveys for the collection and processing of statistics on prices for agricultural and forest products and of statistics on the standard of living. The assistance given to the Statistics Agency in the field of statistics on prices for agricultural and forest products included help and counselling on how to use what is called the component method for the calculation of building price indices, how to calculate indices of selling prices of producers of agricultural goods and of selling prices for forest products such as raw timber (in particular, by way of training the staff responsible for the survey, drafting questionnaires, assessing the data collected and making proposals for improvement).

The focus in the field of household budget statistics was on further developing the system of variables presently used for the determination of the living standard of the population in accordance with international standards (to introduce a new reporting system and to adapt an existing catalogue of variables).

In the third stage (2004-2005) consultations were held in Germany and Kazakhstan to discuss subjects of a cross-sectional nature in German official statistics (improving statistical services, innovation statistics, and regional statistics). This action supports the forthcoming reorganisation of Kazakh official statistics and helps them better adapt to the information requirements of an increasingly market-oriented society.

The Federal Statistical Office gives the Republic of Kyrgyzstan advice in the field of the agricultural census



Since the agricultural reform in 1991, an important institutional transformation has taken place in the agricultural sector of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. What is needed in that context is an agricultural census to obtain full and objective information on the agricultural sector, the kind of activity and the structure of the various economic units. This agricultural census contributes to an agricultural register being built, on the one hand, and provides a basis for the political decision-making process and the regional development of rural areas.

Since January 2000, the Federal Statistical Office, on the basis of a project funded by Germany's Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), has been advising Kyrgyzstan's National Statistics Committee (NatStatCom) on subjects related to the agricultural census, undertaken in two stages in Kyrgyzstan in 2002 and 2003.

Project implementation took place in two phases, providing both for expert missions to Bishkek and for study visits to Germany:

From January 2000 until December 2001, experts from the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony conducted first consultancies for the NatStatCom. These consultancies were aimed at making methodological and organisational arrangements for the planned 2002 agricultural census in order to enable the NatStatCom to conduct this agricultural census in compliance with internationally recognised methods and standards, taking into account the various users' interests.

When the said methodological and organisational arrangements had been made for the agricultural census, this GTZ project was carried on with the aim to build NatStatCom's agricultural reporting system in accordance with international standards and users' needs. That included subject-related expert monitoring of this large-scale agricultural census (in particular, the training of survey staff, the evaluation of survey documents, the assessment of the quality of data collected and the elaboration of proposals for improvement, the assessment of approaches to the processing and dissemination of agricultural census results) as well as a revision and modification of the Kyrgyz Agricultural Register to transform it into a tool that could be used for the preparation, implementation, processing, evaluation and publication of statistical surveys of agriculture. Another theme included the adjustment of Kyrgyz agricultural statistics. The latter one meant that a suggestion should be elaborated on how to establish a coherent system of current statistical surveys of agriculture and that a list of priorities should be compiled for a stepwise introduction of the current statistical surveys of agriculture.

The period envisaged for the project ends on 30 September 2005, a concluding action being planned to take place in Bishkek in August 2005.



36th Session of the UN Statistical Commission in New York

The United Nations Statistical Commission, the highest association of statisticians worldwide under the responsibility of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), meets annually at UN headquarters in New York. Membership rotates every four years for representatives from 24 countries; more than 100 countries and international organisations send their representatives as observers to the sessions, since 2004 Germany has again been a member of the Statistical Commission.

The Statistical Commission promotes statistical methods by ensuring worldwide comparability of the statistical results from UN member countries and making recommendations on that subject. In the context of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)¹ the Statistical Commission contributes strongly to the building of statistical capacities in developing and transformation countries in order to enable them to provide the statistical data required for regular goal achievement analyses at the national and the international levels.

Recently, the work of the Statistical Commission and its sessions has clearly improved, not least by the suggestions made by German representatives. The agenda of the 36th session of the Statistical Commission included reports or discussions on the progress of methodological work done by the respective Intersecretariat Working Groups (ISWG) and the City Groups as well as important cross-sectional themes, such as statistical capacity building, the provision of target indi-

¹ The eight Millennium Development Goals are development targets agreed to by all UN Member States during the 55th UN General Assembly meeting in 2000. These goals are in detail:

1. To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. To achieve universal primary education for all boys and girls
3. To promote gender equality and empower women
4. To reduce child mortality
5. To improve maternal health
6. To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. To ensure environmental sustainability
8. To develop a global partnership for development



cators for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the coordination of statistical programmes of international organisations.

It was the first time in the Statistical Commission's history that the report of the 36th session was adopted by the voting of a majority, as the positions of the G77+China group and, in particular, those of the U.S.A. were so different that no consensus could be reached regarding the issue of target monitoring for the MDGs.

The Statistical Commission adopted a recommendation jointly prepared by the countries of the G77+China group and the OECD to be submitted to the ECOSOC on the implementation of population and housing censuses in the context of the 2010 World Census Programme, stressing the importance of censuses to the MDGs.

The German delegation met with general approval, saying in its contribution to the discussion that cross-sectional topics such as management, program planning, strategic development and quality monitoring were as important to statistical capacity building as were subject-related, methodological topics. Several interested countries informally addressed the German delegation during the session, asking about the training courses on statistical capacity building, which were being offered by the Federal Statistical Office.

The Federal Statistical Office visited by the Bulgarian Chief Statistician



In the context of a study mission on a "Concept for modern management and steering tools, human resources development, and human resources management", Mr. Alexander Hadjiiski, President of the National Statistical Institute of the Republic of Bulgaria, and two members of his staff visited the Federal Statistical Office for a discussion of technical problems. The study mission continued the successful work done by a Total Quality Management (TQM) seminar in Bulgaria last year.

At first, the guests were given an overview of the system of official statistics in Germany and then they were made familiar with the main concepts used for management and steering, for human resources management and human resources development. The basis for that is a Human Resource Development Concept, which – to give but two examples – contains statements about target-oriented planning of training activities as well as annual talks with the personnel about forthcoming tasks and objectives. What raised a lot of interest was, in particular, the information about the approach to annual work planning and the strategic goal referred to as "fit 2008", which are components of management and steering. "fit 2008" is part of the strategy and programme plan of the Federal Statistical Office and provides the basis for long-term programming and planning of resources. The planning of the next budgets, the enlargement of the information technology, human resources development and, last but not least, the annual work plans for the years to come – they are all based on strategic and programme planning.

Another major topic of the study visit consisted in the Office's strategic programme planning and, especially, in the Master Plan for the Reform of Official Statistics in Germany. The Master Plan has two main objectives: to increase the efficiency of the statistical system and to ease the burden on respondents. The objectives are being reached by various measures, such as for instance optimised cooperation between statistical offices dealing with a specific task, increased use of the

modern information technology, for example, by introducing online surveys, improved administrative guidance by inter-departmental benchmarking and a reduced burden on respondents. That is illustrated, in particular, by the reform of enterprise statistics, by the extraction of data from a business's accountancy and by the use of administrative data and registers.

Questions about TQM and data quality were clarified in a substantive discussion, using the household budget survey EU-SILC as an example. The guests were particularly interested in what was said about the experience gathered by the Federal Statistical Office in converting the statistical system of the New Federal States from a planned economy approach to a market economy approach, as this is a task Bulgaria has still to cope with.

During the study visit it came to lively discussions, making it possible for the Bulgarian side as well to contribute their experience on various themes. The discussions were rounded off by talks about past and future cooperation activities between Germany and Bulgaria.

Beyond such intensive discussions the guest could enjoy a cultural programme. Thus, they participated in a guided tour of Eberbach Monastery in the Rheingau with subsequent wine tasting.



As a trainee in Berlin

(reported by Sanda Roze, trainee from the Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Latvia)

In April I had applied for a job in Berlin. At first, nothing happened for a long time, but then events developed at a frenzied speed. On Monday, 1 November 2004, I boarded an aircraft for the first time in my life, apprehending that I would not survive it. Against my expectations I landed intact on Tegel Airport. I rode to my new whereabouts I had booked on the Internet, but did not know yet.

The serious side of life began on Tuesday. Armed with a city map I set out for the *i-Punkt*, where I arrived without problems. I was introduced to the colleagues and made acquainted with the rooms. Then I participated in a discussion and I was given an explanation of the tasks of the Federal Statistical Office and the *i-Punkt*. After that I was so confused that I had difficulty finding the way back to my room.

During the time I spent at the *i-Punkt* I learnt all about Eurostat's databases so that I know them inside out.

A thing that struck me was the friendly attitude of all the colleagues in Berlin. Here, people are more outspoken, more helpful and smile more often than people do in my country Latvia (perhaps, that is due to the warmer climate).

Although I was here all by myself, I did not find it boring, because I had very much to investigate and people came to see me (so five times I have already been a Berlin travel guide, I know very much about Berlin, for example, why the "Alexanderplatz" is named "Alexanderplatz" and that 40 % of Berlin are underground). It was carnival or Mardi Gras, when one of the many girl friends of mine was here to see me – and we had a real adventure capturing the sweets! And how clever the Germans were, using their umbrellas turned upside down for that purpose!



Once, attending a work conference with colleagues, I was very amazed to hear a word being repeated over and over again – "yoot". Um, the dictionary didn't know the word. Today, of course, I know what it means: "yoot" is the Berlin way of pronouncing the word "good".

Another thing I will never forget, either, is the Christmas party, at which I was singing "Oh Tannenbaum" (*Oh Christmas Tree*) in Latvian with my colleagues. I couldn't help laughing so much that I hardly understood a word. If you would like to sing the carol as well, I can supply you with the text (time enough is left for practicing until Christmas and you may also ask my colleagues for help):

"Ak, eglīte, ak, eglīte,
Tu pastāvīga esi -
Tu zaļo ziemas aukstumā
Tāpat kā vasar's karstumā.
Ak, eglīte, ak, eglīte,
Tu pastāvīga esi."





While at the "*i-Punkt Berlin*", I have learnt a lot – not only how things are functioning, but also the cordial atmosphere surrounding me. Really, I've liked my job here!

COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from January 2005 to June 2005

<p>10-14 January 2005 in Ankara</p> 	<p>The State Institute of Statistics (SIS) of Turkey intends to develop a classification server (CS) as a fundamental tool to update and to disseminate information on statistical <u>classifications</u>. This necessity is motivated, in particular, by the intention to restructure the Turkish Statistics Office. At present, the 26 regional offices just collect statistical data and transfer the completed questionnaires to the central office in Ankara, where the data is processed. In future, the functions and responsibilities of regional offices are supposed to be extended so that they will also include data editing in terms of quality and plausibility checks, which is the reason why these offices need access to a database enabling them to extract any information they need with regard to classifications. During this mission the experts examined the logical design of such classification server and discussed some topics related to classifications.</p>
<p>21-27 January 2005 in Berlin</p> 	<p>The second study visit of Turkish statisticians on <u>agricultural statistics</u> focused on subjects such as the agricultural (farm) register and the 2005 Structural Survey of Agriculture as well as prices and price trends. At the Statistical Office of the Federal State of Berlin the Turkish delegation was made familiar with the Berlin Farm Register comprising the farms of Berlin. In addition, the Turkish experts had the opportunity of participating, together with their German colleagues, in the 12th East-West Agricultural Forum held in the context of the "Green Week" exhibition and to inform themselves of new aspects of the EU's agricultural policy.</p>
<p>24-26 January 2005 in Prague</p> 	<p>The two parties used a three-day consultation at the Czech Statistical Office under the Phare programme to discuss all the details of the various aspects of <u>trade, hotel and restaurant statistics</u>. It was possible to identify problems and weaknesses and to suggest solutions that will help the Czech Statistical Office ensure that its high level already achieved is raised even further to meet West-European standards. The methodology and the organisation of Germany's trade, hotel and restaurant statistics were explained in detail, sometimes covering even technological details. As it turned out, the Czech Statistics Office was confronted with essentially the same practical problems (e.g. a low reporting morale, incorrect reports, group changers, the dying-off effect, etc.) and that its approach was on the whole very similar to that of the German system. The extensions of the Short-Term Statistics Regulation, which Eurostat is planning for the future, were critically discussed from different angles. The Federal Statistical Office had prepared a lot of documentation, which served as a starting point for the discussion and which the Czech Statistical Office can use as a kind of "encyclopaedic reference". The Trade Statistics Compendium and samples of all publications were submitted as well. In addition, the Czech Statistical Office received all German survey questionnaires for the collection of trade, hotel and restaurant statistics (partly even in English). The Federal Statistical Office's Internet publications on trade, hotel and restaurant statistics, the GENESIS database and the electronic registration procedure "w3stat" were demonstrated online.</p>
<p>25-28 January 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>After a preceding consultation in Ankara, this study visit of Turkish statisticians took place in Wiesbaden on the subject of enterprise (business) registers. The terms of reference mainly included the presentation of the German system and the applied software, the assessment of a draft version of Turkey's enterprise register and the way how the Federal Statistical Office cooperates with administrative data suppliers.</p>



<p>31 January – 04 February 2005 in Ankara</p> 	<p>The mission was aimed at discussing a draft version of the national legal regulation of the <u>enterprise register</u> in Turkey. This draft version was further developed and controversial issues were clarified. Problems continue to exist regarding the confidentiality of data contained in the register. As the draft version has been elaborated by the Statistical Office, it is to be expected that it will undergo further changes owing to the respective ministries exerting their influence, before it can be translated into national legislation.</p>
<p>01-02 February 2005 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The delegation of the European Commission to Bulgaria had invited all Twinning partners of projects related to budget year 2004 to attend an introductory kick-off meeting in Sofia. The meeting was used by the delegation to inform the Twinning partners on how to draft a contract and to compile a budget. After that, the Twinning Management teams of the Federal Statistical Office and of the Statistical Offices of Denmark and Bulgaria assembled for a first meeting to discuss <u>preparations for a joint Twinning project</u> on the sustainable development of Bulgaria's national statistical system. On that occasion they also agreed on the work plan and the time schedule as well as on what further steps are needed to compile the Twinning contract (please, also refer to p. 3).</p>
<p>14-18 February 2005 in Ankara</p> 	<p>The deliberations in Turkey focussed on how two experts from the Federal Statistical Office were support the introduction of <u>PRODCOM</u> surveys as well as surveys according to the European <u>Short-Term Business Regulation</u> (STS Regulation), in particular, regarding the annexes of industry and construction. The focus of the discussions was, in particular, on the design of survey questionnaires and on topics related to the European classification of activities (NACE) and goods (Prodcom list). In addition, they agreed on how to proceed further in cooperating and specified the dates of some activities.</p>
<p>16-17 February 2005 in Prague</p> 	<p>This mission on <u>regional statistics</u> served to evaluate the existing website of the Cross-Border Friendship Database (CBFD) and to discuss and specify revisions that may be necessary, in particular, regarding guidance to users. It was the beginning of concrete planning activities to further develop the database and the website in terms of substance and technology. This was the first meeting of the Saxon and Czech colleagues after the website's activation (http://www.crossborderdatabase.org) on 7 September 2004. Accordingly, one of the goals of that mission was to evaluate the feedback during the first few months after public announcement of the Internet presence. Apart from further technological and statistical developments a major part of work to be done in the second phase of the project consists in permanently extending and updating the data contents. Further steps have been planned to supplement the database by data from the years 2000, 2001 and 2003. Finally, they agreed on what measures are needed to revise and optimise the database, in particular, user guidance.</p>
<p>16-18 February 2005 in Riga</p> 	<p>In the context of the "<u>Health Care Statistics</u>" project the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia (CSB) is supposed to establish two health-related accounting systems: National Health Accounts (NHA) and Health Labour Accounts (HLA). Both systems are to be based on the methodological concept of the OECD's "System of Health Accounts" (SHA). First activities started in Latvia in November 2004. Since then, the CBS has done an outstanding job in laying the foundations of that work and implementation has started. During the discussions in Riga German Health Accounts were presented as an example for successful implementation of this concept.</p>



16-18 February 2005 in Wiesbaden 	For details on a <u>visit of the Bulgarian Chief Statistician</u> to the Federal Statistical Office, please, refer to <i>page 8</i> .
20 February – 01 March 2005 in Bonn and Wies- baden 	In the context of the cooperation activities that have existed between the Federal Statistical Office and the National Bureau of Statistics of the PR of China ever since 1993, the Federal Statistical Office was visited by 16 Chinese experts for <u>environmental statistics and environmental accounts</u> . The delegation was headed by Mr. Zhao Yencheng, Vice-Director General. German specialists at the Bonn Branch Office made the Chinese guests familiar, in particular, with waste and water management statistics and environmental economics. While in Wiesbaden, the focus of the programme was on environmental accounts. The members of the delegation said that they were very impressed by the high professional competence and dedication of the German experts and that they wanted a continued cooperation in both areas. At a farewell meeting with the guests from the PR of China Mr. Radermacher, Vice-President of the FSO, spoke about his experience collected while setting up environmental accounts at the Federal Statistical Office.
21-23 February 2005 in Bratislava 	The first meeting of German experts with their Slovak colleagues under the "Twinning Light Project on <u>Iron and Steel Statistics</u> " served to define the strategic plan for the implementation of the project. The Slovak side was to describe the progress made in implementing the requirements of the EC Steel Regulation, so that it would be in force from reference year 2003 on. Since Slovakia has been a member of the European Union as late as from May 2004, they consider over there that the joint survey for the years 2003 and 2004, which is not terminated yet, is a test or pilot phase on a voluntary basis. Translating the explanations on the steel statistics questionnaires from German into Slovak was considered particularly important. This goal is to be achieved by the Slovak side with the support of translators until the next meeting in early March. In the short run it is planned also to elaborate draft survey materials, either as an integrated questionnaire covering all fields of the survey or (as recommended by the German side) as separate questionnaires in a modular form.
02-04 March 2005 in Bonn 	<u>Environmental statisticians</u> in a dialogue with Hungary Please, read a detailed report on this meeting on <i>page 4</i> .
07-09 March 2005 in Bratislava 	The second meeting under the "Twinning Light Project on <u>Iron and Steel Statistics</u> " served, first of all, to give advice and make suggestions on the practical implementation of plausibility checks (editing) using statistics software to be purchased yet. The colleagues from the Statistical Office of the Banská Bystrica Region, who are responsible for the collection and processing of industrial statistics and, thus, for Slovakia's iron and steel statistics as well, were made familiar with examples illustrating subject-specific editing procedures of the data collected. The experts also presented possible ways of avoiding mistakes when completing survey questionnaires by user-friendly explanations and instructions which are easy to understand. In addition, they discussed the adopted approach to taking account of the questions asked in the OECD Annual Steel Survey and they assessed the completeness and correctness of this effort.







<p>09-11 March 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>During this study visit the Polish colleagues were made familiar with the essentials of <u>quality management</u> and self assessment as specified by the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM). The management of data quality and the use of self-assessments as a tool for that purpose were another major topic of the lectures and talks. This relates also to a lecture, presenting the tools needed for sampling error calculations. The programme was rounded off by discussions on human resources development and by an overview of the experience collected by the Federal Statistical Office with staff satisfaction surveys.</p>
<p>10-11 March 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>This study visit was aimed at a discussion of data sources and the methodology of data mining, including estimates for surveying illegal activities. Here, the central question was on how these results should be included in the system of <u>national accounts</u>. Among the themes discussed, the focus was on drugs and prostitution. In this context the colleagues from the Czech Republic presented the following methods of considering illegal activities in national accounts: checking on the completeness of the GDP recorded on both the production and use sides; estimating indicators for illegal activities in the Czech Republic; estimating indicators for the drug market in Germany; comparing national data sources; double-entry bookkeeping. A general comparison was made between the two countries and first estimates were obtained on the drug market.</p>
<p>29-31 March 2005 in Bratislava</p> 	<p>Another meeting under the "Twinning Light Project on <u>Iron and Steel Statistics</u>" served to review the return flow of the questionnaires of the pilot steel statistics survey for the reference years 2003 and 2004 and to prepare for modifications in the questionnaire to be used for 2005. 267 enterprises in Slovakia had been invited to supply data for the pilot survey on the background of the EC Steel Regulation. 31 March 2005 was the date by which the questionnaires were supposed to be returned. The work continued on redrafting and enlarging the questionnaire (inclusion of OECD requirements). During an internal discussion on the subject "New Layout of the Steel Questionnaires" the head of the section "Methodology, Information Technology, Programming" said after a presentation that she agreed to the new design of the Slovak modules for steel statistics.</p>
<p>29 March -01 April 2005 in Almaty</p> 	<p>An expert mission on "<u>Enterprise Statistics</u>" took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, under the Tacis 7 "Reform of Official Statistics – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova". A major concern of the consultation was a fact-finding effort concerning the registration of small and medium-sized enterprises by Kazakhstan's economic statistics framework. Recommendations were made on how to proceed further and a first general recommendation was made on transition to European standards. Furthermore, it was examined what possibilities exist for using the business register and reducing the statistical response burden on small and medium-sized enterprises.</p>
<p>04-08 April 2005 in Almaty</p> 	<p>Almaty, Kazakhstan, was the venue of the first expert mission in the project component "<u>Environmental Statistics</u>" under Tacis 7 "Reform of Official Statistics – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova". It was a stock-taking mission on environmental statistics, analysis of current problems, agreement on further project implementation and the time schedule. The theme "Waste Statistics and the European Standards" are of particular interest to the Kazakh side. It was agreed to prepare and conduct a pilot survey of municipal waste during the project's further implementation and a first questionnaire was developed for the said purpose, while on the spot.</p>



<p>06-08 April 2005 in Bonn</p> 	<p>The Federal Statistical Office was visited by staff members from the International Cooperation Division of Turkey's Statistics Office, spending a three-day study mission in Bonn. The theme of the study mission was <u>project management</u> in international cooperation activities. A presentation dealing with event organisation, teamwork in cooperating with expert nominees and long-term project planning gave the Turkish participants an idea of how the Federal Statistical Office manages international cooperation projects. Another presentation on the approach to the funding of actions and on the budgeting of project revenues served the same purpose.</p>
<p>07-08 April 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>This study visit of statisticians from the Czech Republic was aimed at getting an overview of the progress achieved in building an empirical Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) – with a view to profiting from experience available in German official statistics. "Satellite accounts" are supplements to national accounts. A Tourism Satellite Account is compiled to make the contribution of tourism to the GDP measurable, so that it is possible to analyse the national tourism industry. The discussions focussed, in particular, on the possible practical uses of the data the <u>tourism statistics</u> unit receives from the national accounts unit of the national statistics office.</p>
<p>11-14 April 2005 in Bratislava</p> 	<p>Knowledge was imparted to the Statistical Office of Slovakia (SOSR) on the most important basics of <u>statistics on external trade prices</u>. Starting with a description of the price statistics system in Germany, the experts explained the most important methodological requirements to be met by price indices for exports and imports. In this context they emphasised, in particular, the requirements derived from the EU Short-Term Business Regulation. Furthermore, the discussions covered all detailed aspects of calculating external trade price indices. The attention was focussed on how to compile the essentials needed for calculation – the basket of goods, the weighting scheme, the sample of statistical units and the sample of price representatives. Besides, all activities were discussed, which were related to monthly index calculation from direct price collection to index calculation and the publication programme of Germany's external trade price statistics was presented. Specific problems were explained in detail, which may occur in the collection of price data (quality changes, rotation in the sample of statistical units).</p>
<p>12-15 April 2005 in Ankara</p> 	<p>The State Institute of Statistics in Turkey (SIS) intends to introduce 2005 as the base year for index calculation regarding production, sales (turnover) and new orders. A new law has been enacted, enabling Turkey to implement the guidelines laid down by the EU Council Regulation on Short-Term Statistics (EC No. 1165/98). Indices of production and new orders are components of the Principle European Economic Indicators (PEEI), which are of great importance, in particular, to the European Central Bank for the analysis of business cycles in the European Union and the Member States. That is why much endeavour is being dedicated to ensuring the correctness and punctuality of these indicators.</p>
<p>13-14 April 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>The colleagues from the National Statistics Institute of Romania got acquainted with the general and specific aspects of <u>enterprise (business) statistics</u> – in particular, with a view of meeting the requirements arising from the European Regulation on Structural and Short-Term Statistics. The themes discussed in the presence of a large number of German experts included, in particular: the general situation of enterprise statistics in Germany in relation to the European level, annual and short-term statistics, and questions about data sets and indicators, the contents of questionnaires, and data collection methods and problems.</p>



<p>18-21 April 2005 in Bratislava</p> 	<p>The visit under the ongoing Twinning Light Project with Slovakia served to make preparations for the input of data collected by the pilot <u>steel statistics</u> survey for the reference years 2003 and 2004 and to finalise the modified questionnaires for 2005.</p> <p>A major concern of this project phase was a procedure to check on the completeness of the data obtained from the 2003 and 2004 pilot survey; in particular, with a view of identifying the data (modules) supposed to be still missing at a time, when the types of modules already supplied by each enterprise will be known. The list of indicators should be revised and supplemented to make it suitable for the specification of cross-modular error conditions needed for plausibility checks (editing).</p> <p>Several internal discussions with varying participants took place to find out how the project was progressing and to set priorities for future actions. In this context, the revision of the provisional list of indicators was given high priority, as that would be necessary to turn it into a basis suitable for drafting a full list of error checking procedures, taking into account the links between the various modules.</p>
<p>18-22 April 2005 in Beijing</p> 	<p>A project on the subject "Building of an International Statistics Database" was successfully implemented and terminated as agreed. A detailed final report was compiled by the Chinese side and discussed with their German interlocutors. A possible theme for a new project is the improvement of user-oriented data dissemination, such as e.g. the online service. The Chinese colleagues will discuss this subject with the responsible subject-matter divisions at the National Bureau of Statistics and elaborate suggestions to be submitted to the Federal Statistical Office. The Chinese side welcomes, above all, Vice-President Radermacher's planned visit to China in September 2005 and expresses agreement with the proposed subjects. In addition, on 22 April a talk took place with representatives of the German embassy. The talk was aimed at briefing the new economic division chief on German-Chinese statistics cooperation efforts and on the activities planned for 2005. Other points of the discussion were problems related to the Chinese national and regional gross domestic product as well as divergences existing in external trade statistics.</p>
<p>18-22 April 2005 in Berlin</p> 	<p>For several years the Federal Statistical Office has provided advice to the National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan (NatStatCom) under a GTZ-funded project "Agricultural Census of Kyrgyzstan". This study visit focused on the processing, evaluation, analysis and publication of the results of a census of agriculture undertaken in Kyrgyzstan, on the one hand, and on providing advice on the conceptual, organisational and technical approach to establishing an agricultural register in Kyrgyzstan, on the other hand. The concluding action of this project will be an expert mission to Bishkek in autumn 2005.</p>
<p>18-22 April 2005 in Almaty</p> 	<p>Almaty, Kazakhstan, was the venue of the first expert mission in the project component "Publication and Dissemination" under Tacis 7 "Reform of Official Statistics – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova". Apart from taking stock and analysing the implementation of expert recommendations made during the Tacis 5 programme, the focus of this action was on launching the elaboration of a marketing concept, taking into account price policy requirements, and on co-operating with journalists in practical work. The themes, which the Kazakh side wants to discuss with the German side during the Tacis 7 programme, were specified and a time schedule was elaborated.</p>



<p>18-22 April 2005 in Berlin</p>  	<p>The Federal Statistical Office, supported by the Statistical Office of the Federal State of Berlin and the Statistical Office of the Federal State of <i>Sachsen-Anhalt</i>, is consulting Kyrgyz and Kazakh official statisticians on <u>tourism statistics</u> under the EU-funded Tacis 7 programme. Two experts from the Kyrgyz and two experts from the Kazakh statistics offices paid a first study visit to the Berlin Statistical Office. This study visit was used to present German experience with the observation and analysis of activities of tourism statistics and to make a first assessment of user needs in this thematic field.</p>
<p>20-22 April 2005 in Bonn and Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>This study visit on <u>project management</u> shows how close the work relations are between the National Statistics Institute of Bulgaria (NSI) and the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. Over the last few years a large number of missions have been conducted with participants coming from both offices. This study visit ties in with a seminar on "Total Quality Management" (April 2004 in Bulgaria) and a study visit on "Concept of Modern Leadership" (February 2005 in Germany). The main goals were to support the NSI in the following areas: management and coordination of statistical cooperation programmes; human resources allocation; budgeting and controlling approaches; planning of international activities. The Bulgarian experts said they were very interested in the discussed subjects.</p>
<p>21-22 April 2005 in Cologne</p> 	<p>To <u>evaluate the project's progress</u> under the USST programme a Vice-President of the Turkish Statistics Office (SIS) and three members of this office's USST project implementation team as well as a representative of the EU delegation to Ankara visited ICON, the consortium manager, in Cologne. This meeting was also attended by two representatives of the Federal Statistical Office. A large number of actions have already been conducted in the context of this comprehensive project. It is, however, necessary to speed up its implementation, if the large number of planned mission days is to be actually achieved by the end of the project's term, i.e. in November 2006.</p>
<p>24-27 April 2005 in Ankara</p> 	<p>An expert's mission on <u>dissemination</u> served to optimise the use of desktop publishing software at the statistical office of Turkey. The discussion was about disseminating statistics by publishing electronic offline products such as e.g. CD-ROMs and about possible alternatives. Other subjects of this expert's mission were the efficient use of the PDF format as well as the compilation of interactive charts on the internet by using Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG).</p>
<p>25-27 April 2005 in Bonn</p> 	<p>The study visit of statisticians from Slovakia under the Twinning light project served to present the German system of <u>Iron and Steel Statistics</u>, based on examples from practical work. The visitors were expected to gain insight into the fundamentals of the daily work routines in the centralised full-coverage "Iron and Steel Statistics" survey, based on numerous examples from practical work, which would supposedly give them useful suggestions for steel statistics of their own under construction in Slovakia. The typical routines were shown, which are to be absolved in this basically monthly survey, starting with monitoring data entry and adherence to scheduled dates over the editing of errors and ending with the publication of tables with final results. The nature and the size of the information imparted raised a lot of interest among the visitors from Slovakia. Two more study visits by other staff members of Slovakia's Statistical Office are planned under the project. These visits should proceed in a similar way.</p>









<p>25-27 April 2005 in Budapest</p> 	<p>This training course on <u>quality management</u> at the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) was to enable participants to implement the principles of quality management within the Hungarian office and their own fields of responsibility and to improve concepts that already exist. In addition, it was hoped that increased data quality would improve the HCSO's capability to compile statistics which are reliable, accurate and timely.</p>
<p>25-28 April 2005 in Wiesbaden</p>  	<p>From 25 to 28 April 2005 a chief statisticians' delegation from the National Statistics Office of Serbia and Montenegro and from the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden in the context of an EU-funded aid project on <u>Strategic Planning and Management</u>. During this first study visit the guests were informed of the various aspects of setting strategic targets and programme planning activities in the system of German official statistics. As to the future, the project provides for two more expert missions, which will take place in Belgrade until the end of December 2005.</p>
<p>25-29 April 2005 in Beijing</p> 	<p>This expert mission, a bilateral cooperation activity with China, was aimed at making the Chinese partners familiar with the concepts of German regional accounts in national accounting, in particular, with the harmonisation of results to make regional accounts match with national accounts. In Germany, harmonised results are ensured by the fact that national accounts are compiled first and regional accounts are compiled later and then the latter ones are harmonised with the former ones to make them match with the key values of national accounts. Owing to this intrinsic conceptual approach, this method prevents the risk of divergence between national results, on the one hand, and the sum of regional results, on the other hand, an idea that could successfully be imparted to the colleagues from the NBS of China. Besides, methodological and conceptual themes of regional accounts were discussed as well.</p>
<p>25-29 April 2005 in Almaty</p> 	<p>German experts provided advice to Kazakhstan's Statistics Agency on "<u>Improving Statistical Services</u>" in the context of a GTZ project "Support to the Statistics Agency of Kazakhstan". The action was caused by the Agency's forthcoming move into the new capital city Astana later this year and by the expected reorganisation of Kazakh official statistics. A regional conference, which was attended by the vice-presidents of all regional statistical offices in the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as bilateral discussions at the Statistics Agency were used to explain the structure of the system of German official statistics and the functioning of statistical offices as information providers, taking into account, in particular, the interaction between statistical offices of the Federation and the Federal States. The discussions revealed even more cognitive deficits regarding the position of official statistics within the governmental and administrative system and modern management tools being introduced at Kazakhstan's Statistics Agency. That is why the consultancies focussed on presenting decision-making processes in a situation, when statistical offices, ministries and user groups are interacting in the official statistics system of Germany, as well as on strategic and programme planning as a constituent part of the Federal Statistical Office's quality management. In addition, activities of human resources allocation and development were described. Consultancies with executives from the personnel division served to present the respective methods applied by the Federal Statistical Office and to discuss possible ways of using them in line with the needs of Kazakhstan's Statistics Agency.</p>
<p>27-29 April 2005 in Berlin</p> 	<p>By now, this has been the third study visit on <u>agricultural statistics</u> to Berlin and it was aimed at a discussion of various questions about these topics. The discussion with the guests from Turkey focussed mainly on practical aspects of implementing the farm survey in agriculture planned for 2005. This also included the design of the questionnaires needed for that purpose.</p>



06-13 May 2005 in Beijing	<p>Aspects of the <u>information technology</u> were in the focus of the consultancies with the Statistical Office of China. Lectures prepared by experts from the Federal Statistical Office on the subject raised a lot of interest among the Chinese colleagues. In their lectures, the experts described the IT management structures built by the Federal Statistical Office and the new approaches to cooperating with the Federal States' Statistics Offices (Master Plan Statistics). Many questions were asked on the subject and discussed in informal discussions outside the official meeting. The Chinese side is seeing a substantive need for action in the non-technical issues, i.e. in strategic and organisational aspects of using the IT effectively for statistical purposes. This raises open questions and particular challenges to the management, which are caused, in particular, by the principles and methods specified for a future-oriented medium- and long-term approach to IT planning and resources allocation, taking into account the needs of provincial offices and cost management aspects. Although the framework conditions for interaction between the national office in Beijing and the provincial offices, which are bound by instructions, cannot be compared with the federal system of statistics in Germany, the roads embarked and the agreements achieved here for decentralised cooperation and shared labour are considered a very interesting model, which can partly be adopted.</p>
	
09-12 May 2005 in Bratislava	<p>This mission in the context of the Twinning light project served to support the evaluation of the pilot survey collecting <u>steel statistics</u> for the reference years 2003 and 2004. The available stock of data was thoroughly examined for the plausibility of information. What had to be examined, in particular, was the question whether the reported data on production, the use of raw materials and energy consumption correctly reflected the special technological features of steel production. In order to enable the data processing staff of the Statistical Office of Slovakia to identify erroneous or incomplete data, the supporting experts had to explain all the technological details involved.</p>
	
09-13 May 2005 in Wiesbaden	<p>A study visit on "<u>Enterprise (Business) Statistics</u>" took place in Wiesbaden under Tacis 7 "Reform of Official Statistics – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova. During the study visit, the Kazakh statisticians were made familiar with the German system of enterprise statistics, which was discussed in the presence of a large number of experts from different divisions of our office. One of the consultancies was devoted to the various administrative and statistical data sources for business statistics concerning small and medium-sized enterprises as well as to the methodology and updating of the system of statistical business registers in Germany as compared to the system of statistical business registers in Kazakhstan.</p>
	
16-20 May 2005 in Almaty	<p>In the context of the current Tacis 7 programme, German experts are providing advice on <u>tourism statistics</u> to the Statistical Offices in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The first action took place in April this year; it was a study visit of Kazakh and Kyrgyz statisticians on the mentioned subject to the Berlin Statistical Office. Now, two German experts from the Federal Statistical Office and from the Statistical Office of the Federal State of <i>Sachsen-Anhalt</i> visited the Statistics Agency in Almaty from 16 to 20 May 2005. Two experts from the Kyrgyz Statistical Office also participated in this mission. The terms of reference of the expert mission provided for a mutual presentation and discussion of tourism statistics available in the two countries and for an analysis of the respective user needs. Another aspect was the organisational and conceptual preparation of a pilot study on tourism statistics.</p>
	
	



<p>17-20 May 2005 in Stuttgart and Berlin</p> 	<p>A study visit on "<u>Regional Statistics</u> – Dissemination of Regional Statistics" took place in the context of a GTZ project on "Supporting the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan". The bodies involved in the action were the Federal Statistical Office, the Statistical Office of the Federal State of <i>Hessen</i> and the German Conference of Cities (<i>Deutscher Städtetag</i>). In addition to the "Dissemination of Regional Statistics", the discussions focussed on topics such as distributed responsibilities and shared function between the Federal Statistical Office and the Statistical Offices of the Federal States. The visit is to be seen in the context of the intended organisational rearrangement, a new regulation of responsibilities and tasks shared between the central office and the regional offices in Kazakhstan.</p>
<p>23-27 May 2005 in Mannheim and Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>In the context of a GTZ project on "Supporting the Statistics Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan", Wiesbaden and Mannheim were visited during a study tour on "<u>Innovations Statistics</u>", which apart from experts of the Federal Statistical Office also included the Centre for European Economic Research. As the Statistics Agency is planning for the first to undertake a pilot survey for the collection of "innovations statistics" in this year, this visit was also used for making preparations for the survey, in addition to describing the situation of innovations statistics in Germany (the legal and conceptual basis, frequency, sample size, questionnaires, publications) and their specific features.</p>
<p>30 May – 03 June 2005 in Kamenz</p> 	<p>In the context of the ongoing, EU-funded Tacis 7 programme, experts from the Statistical Office of the Free State of <i>Sachsen</i> have provided advice on <u>regional statistics</u> to the Kyrgyz National Statistics Committee (NatStatCom). This project carries on cooperation activities from 2003. A first study visit led two Kyrgyz statisticians to Kamenz from 30 May to 3 June 2005. One subject of the consultancies was devoted to the presentation and discussion of the experience the Statistical Office of the Federal State had collected in regional statistics. Another major subject was the conceptual support to be given in preparation for a pilot study. In addition to identifying the economic sectors to be chosen and the region to be surveyed, the discussion also dealt with the concrete design of the questionnaires. In the future work on this project component it is planned to have two more expert missions on this subject in Bishkek in autumn 2005.</p>
<p>30 May – 03 June 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>The study visit to Wiesbaden on the <u>dissemination of statistics</u> was aimed at presenting the structure of a customer database at the Federal Statistical Office. The program CONSO+ was presented for that purpose. In addition, they discussed possibilities of transferring the experience collected in Germany onto the Statistical Office of Turkey.</p>
<p>30 May – 07 June 2005 in Almaty</p> 	<p>This expert mission on "<u>Investment Statistics</u>" took place in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in the context of implementing the Tacis 7 programme "Reform of Official Statistics – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova". The terms of reference included the development of a national methodology to record immaterial (intangible) assets, preparations for a pilot survey and the generation of a register of buildings and planned construction activities. Plans for follow-up measures were also discussed.</p>
<p>06-07 June 2005 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>Poland's Statistics Office plans to have an internet portal, which would enable respondents to use online questionnaires for the <u>transfer of statistics via the internet</u>. The Polish colleagues specified the progress achieved in planning the web portal and described an online questionnaire, which is already being used to collect short-term statistics. The expert from the Federal Statistical Office described the projects IDEV and eSTATISTIK as well as their software architecture. In addition, a representative of the firm the Federal Statistical Office had entrusted with writing the software programs for drafting online questionnaires reported on the approaches pursued for that purpose.</p>



<p>06-09 June 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>The focus of this study visit of statisticians from the National Statistical Office of Turkey in Ankara and the regional office in Istanbul was on the monthly and quarterly surveys in the producing sector (PRODCOM). In addition, experts from fields such as building statistics, iron and steel statistics, reports on the manufacturing industry, indices in the producing sector as well as cost-structure surveys were also invited to contribute to the discussion.</p>
<p>07 June 2005 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The <u>Twinning project</u> with Bulgaria was officially launched by a meeting of the project leaders from Bulgaria, Germany and Denmark. What was called "kick-off meeting" served to identify the basics of cooperation and project implementation. A time schedule with the dates of the first expert missions was also adopted by the meeting. The missions are to take stock of the statistics available in the various project areas.</p>
<p>07-08 June 2005 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>Plausibility checks and data processing in <u>Intratrade statistics</u> were discussed at the Polish Statistics Office in Warsaw (GUS) under the Phare programme. The focus of the discussions was on range checks of variables such as: statistical value, deadweight in kilograms and the specific unit of measurement. An exchange of the different tools used has raised a lot of interest on both sides.</p>
<p>08-10 June 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>The participants from the Statistical Office of Turkey were given an overview of <u>energy statistics</u> at the Federal Statistical Office. The legal framework, energy structure statistics and statistics on energy prices were described and the distinctions from the Turkish system were discussed. This study visit was the first one of a series of similar missions on energy statistics planned in the context of the USST programme.</p>
<p>13-21 June 2005 in Almaty</p> 	<p>Two experts of the Federal Statistical Office absolved this second advisory mission under the Tacis 7 project component "<u>Environmental Statistics</u>". This mission served to evaluate the pilot survey of municipal wastes. The survey covered selected waste collectors and staff members of the statistical offices of the region Almaty, Kazakhstan. A second pilot survey of sewage treatment plants and the structure of the questionnaire were developed by joint efforts.</p>
<p>20-22 June 2005 in Sofia</p> 	<p>A first meeting of experts from Bulgaria, Germany and Denmark entrusted with <u>statistics on income and living conditions</u> was held under the Twinning project with Bulgaria. The mission served to take stock of how the mentioned statistics were being implemented in Bulgaria, to advise the Bulgarian colleagues on harmonising Bulgaria's legal foundations with EU regulations and to plan the following missions under the Twinning project.</p>
<p>20-24 June 2005 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>In the context of Tacis 7 component <u>Publication and Dissemination</u> two Kazakh experts on statistics visited Wiesbaden on a study tour. The themes of the study visit were as follows: presentation and discussion of the basic principles, of the elements and goals of press activities, presentation of the press office at the Federal Statistical Office, analysis of press releases, workshop and background information for journalists; two press agencies were also visited (Bloomberg and DPA).</p>
<p>21 June 2005 in Sofia</p> 	<p>The European Commission agreed on providing an assistant supporting the long-term expert in Twinning projects. The assistant was chosen by the long-term adviser in the course of a selection procedure. The German project leader was present when candidates were being <u>interviewed</u> during the selection procedure in Bulgaria. A female Bulgarian law student, who had solicited for the job, was adopted.</p>



**21-23 June 2005
in Wiesbaden**



The participants of this study visit addressed the subject of the Harmonised Consumer Price Index. The statisticians from **Turkey**, who had travelled to Wiesbaden, received general information on price indices, on the distinctions between the consumer price index and the Harmonised Consumer Price Index, and on methods of how to make allowance for quality aspects (hedonic price calculation), on the drawing of samples and on different weighting schemes. Besides, an introduction was given into the price collection methods applied in German official statistics, the process of data capture and the software used for index calculation.

**22-25 June 2005
in Almaty**



The second counselling mission under Tacis 7 was held on the subject of tourism statistics in Almaty. The discussions reviewed themes such as the requirements to be met and the methods to be used for the implementation of the tourist satellite account and the introduction of a system of indicators for measuring this sector's share in the gross domestic product. The mission was conducted jointly with **Kazakh** and **Kyrgyz** expert statisticians.

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