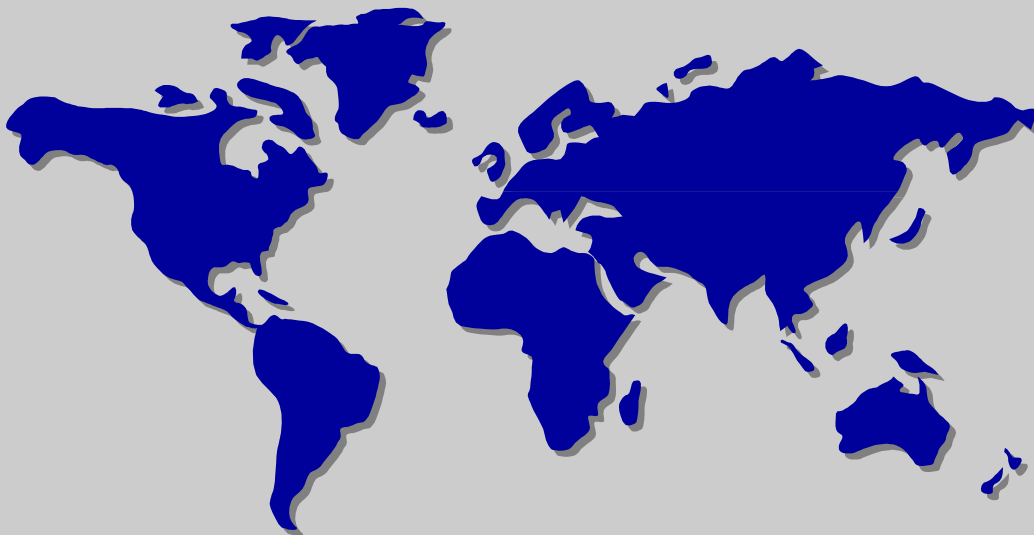


STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

Statistical Co-operation
with Transition and Developing Countries



1/2007

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

Contents

TAJSTAT Co-operation with Tajikistan	3
Twinning project with Bulgaria	3
Sector project "Statistical capacity building for improved MDG monitoring"	4
Co-operation with the Turkish Statistical Office in the field of agricultural statistics	5
European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP).....	6
Learning and getting involved: Trainee-ships at the Federal Statistical Office	7
Co-operation activities	9

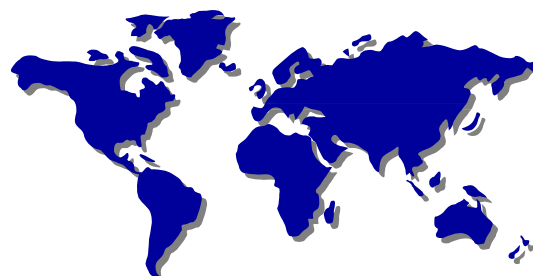
Published and edited by:
Federal Statistical Office, Bonn Dependency
Division I E; Co-operation with Other Countries,
Language Service

Published in September 2007
Order number: 0000024-07531-1

✉: Graurheindorfer Str. 198, D-53117 Bonn
E-Mail: statistik-kooperation@destatis.de
☎: +49 (0)1888 / 644 8941
Fax: +49 (0)1888 / 644 8992
Internet: <http://www.destatis.de>

© Federal Statistical Office, Wiesbaden 2007
Reproduction and dissemination permitted, also in part,
if reference is made to the source.

Copy deadline: 30 June 2007



Editorial

In this edition of "Statistics across borders" we give a report on the developments in statistical co-operation over the last twelve months (July 2006 to June 2007).

While work continued on some large projects during this period and the first phase of the USST Co-operation Project with Turkey could be terminated successfully, we were setting the course for our future activities by making bids for new, publicly tendered projects.

We are glad to note that, apart from the long-standing partner countries, our office can intensify co-operation activities also with offices, which so far have not been in the focus of our work. Thus, the Federal Statistical Office will strengthen its activities in the West Balkan in compliance with an EU-funded Twinning project with the Croatian Statistical Office.

The fact that we have been awarded a tendered co-operation project with the State Statistical Office of Tajikistan, which is funded by the World Bank and runs over five years, means that a new country comes to the fore, which so far has not been in the focus of co-operation. Under this project the Federal Statistical Office will cooperate with the Statistical Offices of Denmark, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please, feel free to write an email to:

statistik-kooperation@destatis.de

The editors:

Simone Koll

Ringo Raupach

Michael Schäfer



TAJSTAT Co-operation project with Tajikistan



A bid of the Federal Statistical Office to implement a co-operation project with the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan was accepted in December 2006. The Federal Statistical Office acts as the leader of a consortium, in which the statistical offices of countries such as Sweden, Denmark, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic are also represented. As this co-operation project has been commissioned by the World Bank, its implementation contributes to the desired goal of diversifying the donors of the Federal Statistical Office's consulting activities.

The goal of the project is to consolidate Tajikistan's statistical system in all fields of official statistics. This relates to the usual priority subjects such as business statistics, national accounts or agricultural statistics. Additional consultations dealing with common services and cross-sectional requirements are to support the office's institutional and organisational advancement. The entire time envisaged for the project covers a period, beginning with the official start in June 2007 and ending in 2011. The project has a total volume of circa 10 million

US\$, of which about 3.1 million US\$ are earmarked for consulting and training activities to be conducted by the consortium partners. On the spot, there is a Tajik project team of four people entrusted with the organisation of the co-operation project.

The work is to start with a four-month inception phase, during which the key experts give first consultations on all components of the project and have discussions with their Tajik colleagues to identify the subjects on which the main focus of the project should be placed. The inception phase will be concluded by the compilation of a work schedule, taking into account the results of the missions during the inception phase, which will be used as a basis for further implementation of the project. This is a topic the German team leader will discuss with the Tajik experts. What follows is the implementation phase, in which consultations will be held by short-term experts. As a first project activity it is planned to organise a seminar for leading officials of the Tajik statistics committee, which will be held in Germany.

Twinning project with Bulgaria



The Twinning project "Sustainable development of the national statistical system", which started in June 2005, has basically been concluded. On 5 August 2006, Dr. Bernd Richter, the German long-term advisor, having successfully completed his activity, returned to the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony. The time of secondment was limited to 14 months from the beginning. That is why the long-term adviser was unable to attend to the last project phase while on the spot in Sofia. This phase was aimed at the analysis of pilot surveys a private institute was to conduct in parallel with the Twinning project from April 2006 on. To place the order, the Bulgarian party was to make a bid invitation in early 2006.

Interlocking Twinning projects and service contracts is usual practice, which, however, can be problematic, because it is hardly possible to coordinate all of the different procedures and deadlines. That is what happened here, too. The service contracts could only be concluded in July/August and, respectively, November 2006.

Despite the delays caused by factors the project partner was unable to influence, essential parts of the project could successfully be completed by June 2007, the originally planned termination date of the project: the two pilot surveys on investments of enterprises in information and communication technologies and their uses as



well as the cross-sectional survey on income and living conditions (SILC).

The results of pilot surveys on improvements in the database for national accounts (shuttle trade, business register, and household budgets) will only be available after the end of the official pro-

ject implementation phase (June 2007). That is why the application has been made to extend the term of the project to 30 November 2007. The European Commission in Brussels is expected to take a decision in July this year.

Sector project “Statistical capacity building for improved MDG monitoring”



The focus of the Federal Statistical Office’s international co-operation activities in recent years has been on providing support to the new EU member countries and accession candidates as well as to the successor states of the ex-Soviet Union. But priorities change: Whereas some of the new EU member states in East and East-Central Europe have started providing consulting services themselves and practically ceased requesting expert missions except in a few highly specific cases, new partners are gaining in importance. The “Millennium Declaration” adopted by the UNO general assembly in September 2000 has triggered a process of moving statistics into the focus of public interest as an instrument for monitoring the worldwide fight against poverty. In order to implement the Millennium Declaration, eight concrete objectives were adopted as the so-called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2001. With these goals the UN member states commit themselves, among other things, to reduce by half the proportion of people living in poverty worldwide or suffering from hunger. Educational opportunities and health services are to be improved; the protection of the environment is to be strengthened.

In terms of official statistics, this means that reliable statistics must be provided for monitoring major goals and specified targets (MDG monitoring). Political decisions on concrete action to fight poverty must rely on trustworthy data. This implies the obligation for the Federal Statistical Office to provide support and assistance by transmitting available expertise and establishing new partnership relations to statistical offices which

so far have not been in the focus of German statistics co-operation efforts.

From this aspect, the sector project “Statistical capacity building for improved MDG monitoring”, which is financed with funds from the Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation (BMZ), is a pilot undertaking. Two expert missions took place in Zambia as the partner country in August 2006 and May 2007 with the support of *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (German Technical Co-operation) or GTZ and with the participation of *Internationale Weiterbildung und Entwicklung gGmbH* (International Training and Development) or InWEnt. The idea was to examine the specific situation in Zambia as an example, highlighting the importance of official statistics as an instrument for monitoring and evaluating the progress made in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The government of Zambia and, in particular, the Zambian statistics office were to be supported in their efforts to develop a coherent, interdepartmental information strategy. In crucial fields such as water and agriculture it was planned to put forward and conduct activities, which could contribute to improvements in the statistical information system. These two fields were chosen because of their importance for poverty reduction and economic growth. The experts discussed these topics with representatives from the Zambian departments concerned, from other national organisations and non-government organisations. Making progress in reaching the Millennium Development Goals is also a major condition for implementing Zambia’s national development plan.

To summarise the sector project's outcome, Zambia's statistics system is facing big challenges in order to meet the data requirements for MDG monitoring.

However, the infrastructural and methodological deficits cannot be expected to improve in a sus-

tainable manner, unless the country's government authorities actively pursue their interest in co-operation and partnership and are ready to accept responsibility for implementation of a project in this field.

Co-operation with the Turkish Statistical Office in the field of agricultural statistics



In the context of co-operation with the statistical office of Turkey (TURKSTAT) ten study visits took place in Germany from 2004 to 2007, of which nine were held in Berlin. The colleagues from TURKSTAT had an intensive and very useful exchange of experience and information with official statistics experts in Germany. The study visits supplemented the missions of international experts to the Turkish statistics office, which also took place in the context of the USST co-operation project (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey). This project aims to prepare Turkey's national statistics system for the requirements of the EU's "Acquis Communautaire" and the European Statistical System (ESS) and to support – especially in the agricultural sector – the development of a modern and harmonised system of agricultural information in Turkey, as stressed by Prof. Sami Güclü, Turkey's minister of agriculture, at the 12th East-West Agricultural Forum last year, which the guests visited jointly with the German experts.

Major subjects covered by the programme of the study visits to Germany were as follows:

- Essentials of agricultural statistics to be used as a basis for agricultural politics;
- Methodological and organisational approaches to structural surveys of agriculture and agricultural censuses;
- Support in preparation for the 2005 structural survey of agriculture to be used as a basis for a farm register in Turkey;
- Building and improving the database on the agricultural sector and agricultural holdings;

- Developing a network of test farms or a "Farms Accountancy Data Network (FADN)" and a system of agricultural accounts (EAA) in compliance with EU regulations.

Visits to the statistical offices of federal states such as Brandenburg and Berlin or Hessen, to the Central Market and Price Reporting Institution (ZMP) and two agricultural holdings in Brandenburg were highlights in the study visit programme. The approach applied by the federal state Berlin was used as an example to present and discuss cost-saving and quality-securing IT procedures such as MERKUR and AGRA. In addition, project management methods were discussed in preparation for the 2005 structural survey of agriculture in Turkey and German experience was expounded concerning the handling of non-response and the lack of data.

In early November 2006 a Turkish delegation paid a study visit on agricultural statistics to Germany. It was the first time that, apart from representatives of Turkey's national statistical office (TURKSTAT), Mr. Gazi Kaya, head of the agricultural statistics unit in Turkey's ministry of agriculture, was in the delegation. The other members of the delegation from the Turkish statistical office were heads of responsible divisions and teams.

During a visit to the Wiesbaden headquarters of the Central Statistical Office the guests were welcomed by Mr. Radermacher, Vice-President at that time. Experts on agricultural statistics from the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV) in Bonn were again available for discussions with the participants.



Other participants of the discussion were experts for agricultural statistics and national accounts from the Federal Statistical Office. There were also discussions with a representative from the Central Market and Price Reporting Institution (ZMP) as well as with Dr. Böse, head of the ASA Institute for Sector Analysis and Policy Advice in Rheinbach.

A sudden extension of the project term made it possible to conduct a final visit in January 2007, which was mainly used to participate in the spe-

cialised programme of the International Green Week in Berlin.

This co-operation effort was successful, because it was based on a coherent and customised programme in terms of a bundle of activities, which covered almost the whole field of agricultural statistics, taking into account the requirements of the Turkish experts. By way of rotation the Turkish coordinators made sure that a large number of senior and junior statisticians had an opportunity to exchange information with German experts.

European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP)



Last year Eurostat started advertising tenders for public service contracts under the European Statistical Training Programme from 2007 to 2010. Until 2004 an external provider took care of the training activities on the basis of framework contracts, which were common practice at that time. Between 2004 and 2006 Eurostat and various member states conducted ESTP courses in national training centres. The organisers received financial grants, which covered part of the costs incurred. As it turned out, this approach was a failure. The grant application procedure was too time-consuming and the scarce number of potential bidders and subjects prevented the system from functioning properly in the long run. That is why Eurostat decided to advertise public tenders as individual, thematically specified lots. This was done to encourage more bidders/statistical offices to apply for organising training courses individually or jointly with other public institutions or private businesses.

The training programme aims to organise training courses in the statistical field over a four-year period. The participants of the courses – statisticians from European statistics offices – are made acquainted with new methods, techniques and best practices in their respective fields of work,

which enables them to extend their knowledge and expertise.

To meet the ambitious requirements of the training programme, the Federal Statistical Office has for the first time joined forces with 18 EU statistics offices to form a consortium, which successfully applied for the tender. From mid-2007 on, the Federal Statistical Office will be integrated in the programme in such fields as data quality, nomenclatures/classifications, anonymisation /access of scientists to basic data and advanced training for lecturers.

In order to implement the Krakow action plan, which is aimed at the strategic advancement of the European Statistical System (ESS), the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) established three high-level working parties to cope with the work that needs to be done. One of the working parties deals, in particular, with the EU Statistical Training Programme's (ESTP) future substance and organisation. A major concern is to ensure that synergy effects are achieved between the future ESTP and the training courses conducted as statistical co-operation activities for statisticians in transition and developing countries.



Learning and getting involved: Traineeships at the Federal Statistical Office



The Federal Statistical Office can look back on five very successful years of its trainee programme. A European support programme gives statisticians from national statistics offices of EU accession candidates, which in most cases became EU members on 1 May 2004, the opportunity to be employed in a statistical office of one of the 15 “old” EU members during a limited period of time. Traineeships can also be served at Eurostat, the Statistical Office of the European Union.

The statisticians are delegated, as a rule, for a period of five months. During this time they are expected to be employed in their respective fields of work. They have the opportunity to look over the shoulder of a colleague in the host institution and to elaborate projects of their own. They have collected very useful experience in their national statistical offices. Quite often trainees have brought along new approaches, helping the subject-matter specialists of the Federal Statistical Office to better cope with their work.






The first two trainees, both from the statistical office of the Czech Republic, were welcomed on 7

January 2002. They were employed at the Federal Statistical Office for five and a half months to support the staff in two divisions: external trade and national accounts. In the following years more trainees came from the Czech statistical office and from the statistical offices of Hungary, Poland, Latvia and Bulgaria. Now that the support programme has expired for countries, which have already acceded to the EU, it is still possible for colleagues from Rumania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Turkey to apply for a traineeship. In the meantime this instrument has been extended to the statistical offices of the West Balkan countries. Most recently a trainee from the Bulgarian statistical office provided valuable support to the Wiesbaden-based unit for international statistical co-operation.

The positive feedback from all of the involved units of the Federal Statistical Office is proof of the fact that not only the trainees, but also the Federal Statistical Office benefit from this programme.

CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

26 June – 07 July 2006 in Ankara	USST Co-operation Project Turkey
	<p>The mission to Ankara was aimed at <u>standardising printed publications</u> and preparing a corporate design. The implementation of the standard should be facilitated by an optimised work procedure of the editing system.</p> <p>The most important result of the action was the adoption of standards for the design of printed publications. Three popular publications of TURKSTAT were used for the analysis of existing book cover elements. Then, a standard cover was developed (as the title pattern), which in its turn was adapted to and defined for several book formats.</p>
01 July – 31 October 2006 in Bonn, Lusaka	GTZ Project Zambia
	<p>Please, see a report on <i>p. 4</i>.</p>
03 – 04 July 2006 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
	<p>The goal of the preparatory mission was to brief all responsible project people on their tasks and responsibilities and to determine concrete co-operation activities for the project implementation phase on the basis of the Twinning project notified on 29 June 2006. The project leader suggested a detailed concept for the preparation, implementation, evaluation and funding of project activities, which was accepted. The European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) as the EU Commission's representation responsible for the project in Macedonia endorsed the procedure.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Macedonian project manager, EAR and the project leader from Germany agreed on the procedure to be followed in preparing and holding quarterly Steering Committee meetings. The long-term adviser (RTA), Mr. Klaus Kickner (chief of a unit at the statistical office of the federal state Thuringia), started his 18-month activity in Skopje on 3 July 2006. During this time he will be supported by an assistant, who has been hired for the project.</p>
03 – 05 July 2006 in Wiesbaden	USST Co-operation Project Turkey
	<p>The participants from the Turkish statistical office TURKSTAT and German experts discussed problems of <u>building statistics</u>. The discussions on building prices focussed on problems of data collection and weighting. The house price index was presented in detail. Formerly unanswered questions on index calculation were discussed between colleagues, who in some cases knew each other well from preceding co-operation activities, and it was pointed out that different methods of calculation were used by national statistical offices and Eurostat.</p>
05 – 07 July 2006 in Copenhagen	Twinning Project Bulgaria
	<p>To continue the consultations on the improvement of the Bulgarian <u>business register</u> as a database for national accounts, a Bulgarian delegation paid a visit to the statistical office of Denmark. The Danish experts presented the Danish business register. They described the organisation and ongoing maintenance of the register, the relations between the various data sources, the consideration of enterprise groups and the implementation of the respective legal provisions of the EU. The knowledge so obtained is to help the Bulgarian colleagues to improve the Bulgarian business register.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

18 – 21 July 2006 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>Two experts from the Hungarian statistical office, which participates in the project, held a first consultation on <u>labour force surveys</u> in Skopje under the Twinning project with the Macedonian statistical office. The Hungarian experts analysed and evaluated household budget surveys and made proposals on how to improve them. It was particularly interesting for the Macedonian colleagues to learn how the Hungarian colleagues reduce the bias effects of non-response.</p>
24 – 28 July 2006 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>At a meeting on structural business statistics the German experts gave an overview of the European System of Structural Business Statistics and the adaptation of international requirements to the German statistical system. Jointly with the Macedonian experts they discussed the state of the art of structural business statistics in Macedonia. As it turned out, the Macedonian statistical office will have to decide within a comparatively short period of time how it will make the missing variables available, either by the extension of existing surveys or by the introduction of additional surveys. The improved questionnaires are to be presented to and discussed by the next meeting. It is also planned to examine the quality of administrative data to find out whether they can be used for statistical purposes.</p>
25 – 28 July 2006 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>As a first consulting activity under the component “Furthering the ICT capacity of Macedonia’s national statistical office” experts from the statistical office of the federal state Thuringia jointly with a Swedish expert discussed the present IT infrastructure of the Macedonian statistical office and the regional statistical offices. They also analysed the needs of the statistical office and presented a first list of recommendations to improve the ICT infrastructure.</p>
31 July – 04 August 2006 in Wiesbaden 	Twinning Project Bulgaria <p>A study visit to Wiesbaden continued the consultations on the introduction of Community statistics on income and living conditions in Bulgaria. Apart from presenting German experience, topics such as data processing, imputation, weighting and pre-tests were in the focus of the discussions. The Bulgarian colleagues presented the current state of preparations for the planned pilot surveys.</p>
03 – 09 August 2006 in Riga 	Twinning Project Latvia <p>The goal of the exercise was to evaluate the Latvian statistical office’s <u>quality management</u> activities on the basis of European recommendations laid down, in particular, in the quality declaration of the European Statistical System and the Code of Practice for European statistics and to suggest possible improvements. As a result, it was recommended that the quality-securing activities undertaken by the Latvian statistical office should be bundled, systematised and, where necessary, extended. This should lead to clearly drafted goals of quality politics, which can be communicated to the entire staff and the public. The office should adopt a standard frame for quality management. The minimum standards of data quality should be laid down in a quality guideline. To begin with, some statistical surveys should be used as examples demonstrating the combined use of self-evaluation and third-party evaluation. User-oriented quality reports should be introduced in addition to producer-oriented quality reports.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES




Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

07 – 11 August 2006 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>The expert mission was the first one in a series of four planned activities in total, which will be focussed on consultations and the exchange of experience on the quarterly <u>computation of gross domestic product</u> (GDP). At present, the published data for quarterly GDP are based on the production approach only (value added by economic sector). In the course of the consultations the experts discussed a number of possible improvements in the quality of computations based on the use side of GDP. They discussed topics such as the computation of household consumption expenditure (utilisation of the annual household budget surveys, special calculations), methodological aspects of capital formation in construction, renting of apartments and changes in stocks. Other subjects discussed were the harmonisation of GDP (production approach, use approach) and the publication policy.</p>
		
14 – 17 August 2006 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>A German expert and a Czech expert jointly carried out the inception activity of the component “Statistical Capacity Building at the Statistical Office, Evaluation of the Organisational Structure and Strategic Orientation” aimed to lay the foundation for an assessment of the present situation, which was required to support the Macedonian statistical office in the <u>elaboration of a strategic plan</u>. For that goal they presented a so-called Common Assessment Framework (CAF), a self-evaluation instrument for public sector organisations, which was developed by the EU to promote the concepts and principles of “Total Quality Management” in the public sector of the member states.</p>
		
21 – 25 August 2006 in Seoul / Daejeon	Bilateral Co-operation with Korea	<p>The working meeting on <u>information technology</u> focussed on themes of current interest such as XML technology, standardisation of tools and processes, the use of SAS as a statistical evaluation system, GIS technologies, internet surveys, user authentication and availability at the computer centre as well as IT support for the census. The mutual presentations of the current situation and future plans supplemented each other and led to lively discussions on a high level.</p> <p>The exchange of experience with the Korean National Statistical Office (KNSO) was supplemented by a visit to DAEWOO Industries, a firm producing a large amount of software for the government and also for the KNSO, mainly in the field of e-business and e-government. The software development strategy and the use of web services were presented. Like the Federal Statistical Office, the firm favours component-based development on the basis of Java. The meeting was also used for preparatory talks on the joint statistics workshop to be held in Daejeon in 2007. The workshop is to deal thematically with the influence of the internet on data collection and dissemination.</p>
		
22 – 25 August 2006 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>An expert from the Swedish Statistical Office, which is involved in the project, conducted <u>SAS application training</u> for experts from the Macedonian National Statistical Office. The consultation focussed on the presentation of practical examples showing the use of SAS software at the Swedish statistical office. Numerous applications were presented and evaluated for that purpose and the user groups of the Macedonian statistical office were defined.</p>
		



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

27 August – 02 September 2006 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
	<p>Experts from the Federal Statistical Office and the Thuringian Statistical Office conducted an expert mission on <u>construction statistics</u>. They presented the system of statistics on the construction industry and on building activities in Germany. They specified the local units and enterprises obliged to report statistical data and the periodicity of the statistical surveys. The various statistical surveys were concrete described together with their variables and definitions and the questionnaires were presented. Then the experts presented Macedonia's statistics on the construction industry and on building activities and informed on the data requirements of the European Union (EUROSTAT). The data requirements of the EU were compared with the statistical surveys of Macedonia. A work plan and a timetable were elaborated for the planned extension of statistical surveys of the construction industry and for the introduction of a new statistical survey of building permits.</p>
27 August – 05 September 2006 in Wiesbaden	Bilateral Co-operation with China
	<p>In the course of the consultations the Chinese experts were informed of <u>legal provisions</u> in the statistical field, administrative rules, sanctions and statistical confidentiality. In addition, they were also made acquainted with the distribution of tasks and the coordination of work between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the federal states.</p>
28 – 29 August 2006 in Riga	Twinning Project Latvia
	<p>A German project team visited Riga to prepare and hold the first <u>meeting of the Project Steering Committee</u>. On the Latvian side, the meeting was also attended by Mrs. Aija Zigure, President of the Latvian Statistical Office. The meeting of the Project Steering Committee on Twinning took note of and discussed the current state of project implementation together with an outlook on future consulting activities. Despite slight delays in project execution, the implementation of the project is in accordance with the contractual stipulations and it was assessed positively.</p> <p>The long-term adviser and the Latvian project team discussed the further course of the project, specifying the operations and activities required for successful project implementation. A discussion at the Latvian project-funding authority made it possible to finally clarify some questions concerning possibilities to redistribute the project budget.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

**28 August – 01 September 2006
in Skopje**



Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The goal of the expert mission on “Training for the organisation of conferences and seminars” was to elaborate new concepts and tools improving public relations in general (in particular, design and contents of press releases and compilation of press reviews) as well as to improve the organisation of activities, which are to strengthen the relations between the statistical office and scientists and also the most import user groups. The colleagues in the “Dissemination” division were imparted practical knowledge on how to organise meetings and other events, which could serve quasi as a case study with a view to the forthcoming start of organisational arrangements for the concluding activity of the Twinning project in spring 2008.

In the field of “Public Relations” Macedonian colleagues are to elaborate a new concept on the formal layout and the content structure of press releases, which will be given to the subject-matter divisions as a guideline on how to write press releases. The newly designed press releases are to be published from 1 January 2007 on. At the same time, a new press section (Media Corner) will be opened on the internet website. The experts also elaborated suggestions on how to compile and handle simple press reviews, which satisfy the requirements of the Macedonian Statistical Office taking into account the media landscape and available funds.

**28 August – 01 September 2006
in Vilnius**



PHARE Programme 2004

With the expert mission to Lithuania, the Federal Statistical Office takes part in the implementation of an EU-funded consulting project. In the discussions with Lithuanian experts responsible for agricultural statistics it was clarified which of the existing data sources were suitable for the tables and reports on IAHS (Income Agricultural Household Sector) requested by the EU. The experts also examined a possible need to use other data sources in order to improve the quality of the present results. Unlike the Federal Republic, Lithuania has detailed basic data on the various types of income of a farmer’s household. Such data is provided by the “Household Budget Survey”, a survey comparable with the sample survey of household income and expenditure. The planned inclusion of other data sources (accounting firms, finance and taxation data, harvest and production results, results of the population census etc.) is to improve the quality of the data in the present sample covering more than 500 agricultural households.

**04 – 07 September 2006
in Skopje**






Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

During a second consultation on labour force surveys at the Macedonian Statistical Office, Hungarian experts made an assessment of the labour force survey in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The questionnaires of the labour force survey (underemployment, unemployed households, discouraged employees) were evaluated in compliance with EU standards and ad hoc modules were examined taking into account, in particular, accidents at work.



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

05 September 2006 in Sofia	Twinning Project Bulgaria
	<p>The 5th meeting of the Project Steering Committee on Twinning discussed the progress achieved in project implementation. The concluding project phase (evaluation of the statistical surveys) depends, in terms of time and substance, on the six pilot surveys, which will be awarded to bidders in public tenders. A partner (BBSS Gallup International) has already been found for the surveys of information and communication technologies (ICT) and of income and living conditions (SILC); the tender for national accounts could not yet been terminated for formal reasons. Preparations for and implementation of pilot surveys on ICT and SILC have already started. GALLUP representatives were present to give an overview of the current situation. Project managers from Bulgaria, Germany and Denmark attended the meeting.</p>
06 – 08 September 2006 in Wiesbaden	USST Co-operation Project Turkey
	<p>A study visit of Turkish statisticians to Germany dealt with “Employment data in <u>national accounts</u>”. The guests were made familiar with the relevance of persons in employment to national accounts, with the computing pattern to determine total economic activity and with the calculation of working hours. In addition, they were informed of a monthly survey by telephone, which is used to collect data on the activity status from a sample of the population.</p>
11 – 15 September 2006 in Moscow	EU Grant Project Russian Federation
	<p>At the beginning of their first visit to the Statistical Office of the Russian Federation (ROSSTAT) under the project component <u>Business Register</u>, experts from Germany and Finland, who were involved in the project, tried to get an overview of official Russian statistics, in particular, with respect to thematic complexes such as statistical units, business registers and groups of enterprises. Another major item was the consulting of Russian statisticians on how to build and update a database of groups of enterprises, which is to be linked with the business register. Thematic concepts are elaborated in a central manner by ROSSTAT, whereas surveys are decentralised and conducted by regional offices. There is a similar division of work regarding the business register, which is divided into an administrative part and a statistical part in Russia.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

**11 – 22 September
2006
in Bonn, Bad Ems and
Düsseldorf**

**09 – 20 October 2006
in Bonn, Bad Ems and
Düsseldorf**



World Bank Project Russian Federation

The third and fourth workshops for leading executives from regional statistical offices in Russia made the participants acquainted with the basics of official statistics in Germany and the European Statistical System. This also included information about the role of statistics in a democratic society. The organisational structure of the Federal Statistical Office was explained; the way in which the Bonn dependency cooperates with the central office in Wiesbaden was expounded and the internal decision-making bodies and processes were described. The foundations of human resource development were discussed on the basis of the Federal Statistical Office's human resource development concept. Participants were particularly interested in the discussion of the experience collected in Germany during the transformation process of statistics in the new federal states. Another interesting topic was the use of administrative data for the business register and social statistics. Lectures newly included in the programme presented subjects such as the basics of gross domestic product (GDP) calculation and the methods commonly used in the EU to cover the shadow economy in national accounts. Visits to the Statistical Office of the Federal State Rhineland-Palatinate in Bad Ems and to the Data Processing and Statistics Office of North Rhine-Westphalia in Düsseldorf gave insight into the regional distribution of responsibilities for official statistics, as seen from the perspective of the federal states. The city of Bonn was used as an example to present the foundations of municipal statistics, which do not belong to official statistics.

**18 – 23 September
2006
in Moscow**



EU Grant Project Russian Federation

The Dutch experts were informed in general terms on the measurement of productivity by the Statistical Office of the Russian Federation (ROSSTAT) and on the problems involved: insufficient separation between input and output in the measurement of productivity in Russia, assignment of gross output to regions, labour productivity of non-profit organisations, unregistered economic activities. The experts compared the methodologies for the measurement of productivity, which are applied by ROSSTAT and the Dutch Statistical Office, and made first proposals for the solution of problems. It will be necessary to change ROSSTAT's methodology to improve the quality of the measurements of productivity at national and regional levels. It is planned to create the conditions for measuring the productivity of all economic sectors in Russia. As ROSSTAT, in the long term, is also interested in the measurement of multi-factor productivity, the Russian participants were given a theoretic introduction to the subject. However, a necessary condition is that the measurement of productivity must generally be improved.

**26 September 2006
in Wiesbaden**







Bilateral Co-operation with China

The study visit took place at a request of the Chinese Embassy's commercial section in Berlin. The members of the delegation were informed about the system of federal statistics, on commission trade statistics and on the publication and use of market-relevant statistics.



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

05 – 06 October 2006 in Warsaw	PHARE Programme 2004
	<p>The consultation on <u>external trade statistics</u> (intra- and extra-trade statistics) dealt, first of all, with subjects such as the so-called special goods and transactions (electricity, natural gas, sea fishing, other sea products, acquisition/sale of sea-going ships and air vehicles, military goods, fabrication facilities, waste) and with other methodological problems (the obligation to provide Intrastat information, for example, on triangular transactions, the revision or consideration of credit notes, discounts, returns of goods, warehouse transactions and intrafirm trade). The experts also discussed problems caused by the implementation of national rules which oblige respondents to provide the requested information, if these respondents are domiciled abroad, and by the collation of Intrastat and turnover tax data.</p> <p>Studies conducted in Germany on the response burden of intratrade statistics were also presented. In this connection the experts briefly mentioned that it is planned to introduce the so-called single flow system. In addition, they made a first rough mirror comparison between Polish and German external trade results based on data for 2005 and discussed the way in which further work should proceed.</p>
09 – 13 October 2006 in Ankara	USST Co-operation Project Turkey
	<p>The main goal of the expert mission was to supplement the <u>server of nomenclatures</u>, which was set up in the course of the USST project at TURKSTAT, with classifications of education. In this context it was necessary, first of all, to find out to what extent the national Turkish programmes of education were compatible with the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED97). The Turkish colleagues were trained to safely assign controversial cases to the system of international classifications of education.</p>
10 – 13 October 2006 in Bonn and Wiesbaden	PHARE Programme 2004
	<p>The study visit on <u>agricultural statistics</u> resumed the subjects discussed during an expert mission to Vilnius in August, such as the income of the agricultural households sector. The goal of the study visit was to acquaint the guests with German experience in the field of data collection, legal provisions and the use of different data sources to have a basis for possible improvements in the quality of Lithuanian databases. The study visit took place not only at the Federal Statistical Office in Bonn and Wiesbaden, but also at the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection in Bonn and at the Statistical Office of Hesse.</p>
20 – 28 October 2006 in Beijing	Bilateral Co-operation with China
	<p>During the consultation the Chinese participants pointed out that the respective ministry, and not the Chinese Statistical Office, was responsible for the collection and processing of <u>statistics on public health and education</u>. The Chinese Statistical Office is responsible for coordination and for the methodological basis of these statistics. That is why future co-operation activities should mainly concentrate on topics such as methodology, calculation of indicators, development of databases and the collection and publication of data on education and public health.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

23 – 27 October 2006 in Wiesbaden and Bonn 	GTZ Project Mongolia <p>The study visit gave the participants a comprehensive overview of the general legal frame for the partially register-based <u>population census</u> in 2010/2011 and the progress of the related preparatory work. Participants were particularly interested in the experience which the Federal Statistical Office had collected during the latest population census. Information on Germany and the system of official statistics in Germany completed the programme.</p>
24 – 26 October 2006 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>The first draft quarterly report submitted by the project leaders was adopted without restrictions by the Project Steering Committee. All activities planned in the quarter were conducted and the interim goals were achieved. The time schedule and the financial specifications were observed. The Committee also endorsed an application requesting the EU Commission to nominate the new director-general of the Macedonian Statistical Office as the beneficiary country's project leader.</p>
26 – 27 October 2006 in Riga 	Twinning Project Latvia <p>Three experts from Finland, Italy and Germany conducted this mission. All experts gave lectures on subjects such as "European history of <u>quality management</u>", "Code of Practice" and "Theoretical and practical aspects of selecting and using quality indicators". The discussions were used to answer specific questions of participants and to compile draft reports for social (household budget survey and EU-SILC) and economic statistics (production index) in working groups, which submitted their results afterwards in small presentations. The working groups were attended to by the experts. It was recommended that the large amount of available information on the quality of statistical products should better be documented by the CBS and that a standardised and individual strategy should be elaborated for the publication and dissemination of Latvian product information.</p>
30 October – 02 November 2006 in Ankara 	USST Co-operation Project Turkey <p>A further mission of experts from the Federal Statistical Office greatly advanced the implementation of a corporate design concept at the Statistical Office of Turkey. At the beginning of the consultations, the Turkish colleagues presented a nearly completed booklet on the practical implementation of a corporate design approach to the TURKSTAT publications. The booklet described detailed rules for the use of fonts, colours and designs. If the office leadership agrees with this draft booklet, the recommendations made can be implemented at once. Some publications, by way of example, were already produced using the new corporate design. Further discussions dealt, first of all, with the need to make sure that these rules are effectively applied by the TURKSTAT staff in everyday work.</p>
30 October – 02 November 2006 in Vilnius 	PHARE Programme 2004 <p>A Tourism Satellite Account is developed for Lithuania under the directive 95/57/EC and based on the Tourism Satellite Account (TSA) Manual. To fill the satellite system with data, existing data sources shall be used without introducing a specific, new survey. Statistics Lithuania has a comprehensive system of <u>tourism statistics</u>. The most important indicators are published and delivered to Eurostat. A large amount of detailed information is available in addition, which can also be used for analytical purposes. In the course of the mission the experts identified the types of additional information that could be used for the satellite system.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

30 October – 03 November 2006 in Ankara	USST Co-operation Project Turkey	<p>The participants from Turkey's Statistical Office were given an overview of the Federal Statistical Office's experience with the <u>Twinning concept</u>. The focus of the explanations was on the differences between close partnerships of national authorities and those of publicly posted projects. The experts from the Federal Statistical Office presented various rules relating to project implementation, the Resident Twinning Adviser or the budget. With a view to future pre-accession programmes of statistical co-operation TURKSTAT will have to decide, whether it will use the Twinning concept in the same way other fields of public administration do. This expert mission was associated with participation in the sixth Steering Committee meeting for the USST project.</p>
		
31 October – 02 November 2006 in Wiesbaden	Twinning Project Latvia	<p>Prior to their visit the Latvian colleagues had sent a list of topics they would like to discuss with German experts. The management of <u>data quality</u> was in the focus of the discussions. Numerous contributions informed the guests of strategic and programme planning, methodological approaches and the results of process analysis, the evaluation of the EFQM model, the design and test of questionnaires, the wide range of the Research Data Centre's activities, staff surveys and data quality assessments.</p>
		
02 – 03 November 2006 in Wiesbaden	EU Grant Project Russian Federation	<p>Russian statisticians were given an introduction into the <u>labour cost system</u> in primary statistics of the EU. The strong relationship was discussed, which exists between EU definitions of labour cost in primary statistics and the treatment of employees in national accounts. The most important sources of the international labour cost comparison were presented (Eurostat, ILO), major results of the EU labour cost survey were shown and the way was described, in which the European Central Bank determines labour use costs of producers on the basis of a quarterly labour cost index and other indicators. Output approaches and labour force statistics were dealt with as part of the system of national accounts.</p>
		
06 – 09 November 2006 in Ankara	USST Co-operation Project Turkey	<p>Turkey's Statistical Office TURKSTAT works on the introduction of production statistics in compliance with the <u>PRODCOM survey</u>, which is governed by EU guidelines. An important instrument of this survey is the list of goods and services predefined by Eurostat (PRODCOM list), which is also available as a nationally adapted variant (in Turkey PRODTR 2005). Turkey's first pilot survey using the PRODCOM list related to the reference year 2004. The evaluation of this survey was to be terminated by late 2006. The first real survey followed in summer 2006 for the reference year 2005. The data items collected are presently being processed. It is planned to deliver them to Eurostat by June 2007. This expert mission was used, in particular, to discuss the methodology of the Turkish PRODCOM survey. The focus of the discussions was on the underlying business concept and the required delimitations. Other topics were the contents and the structure of the PRODCOM questionnaire and possible ways to improve data collection (for example, via e-mail).</p>
		
06 – 10 November 2006 in Wiesbaden	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>The Macedonian experts received detailed information on <u>structural business statistics</u>. German experts presented the data sources for structural business statistics and made recommendations on how to improve the questionnaires.</p>
		

CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

06 – 10 November 2006 in Voorburg	EU Grant Project Russian Federation	<p>While visiting the Dutch Statistical Office, which is involved in the project, Russian statisticians were given an overview of the <u>measurement of productivity</u> and its components, including possible difficulties that may occur in the measurement of productivity. The focus was on regional accounts and on integrating labour costs in national accounts, which can be regarded as the best basis for high-quality measurements of productivity. In the course of the consultation the labour market accounts of Dutch statistics were presented, in which all available sources of labour data (register, business and household surveys) were joined together as coherent labour market data. One source of production and labour statistics is the Dutch General Business Register, which assigns all economic activities to specified fields of activity.</p>
		
06 – 10 November 2006 in Bonn and Wiesbaden	USST Co-operation Project Turkey	<p>The ninth study visit of Turkish colleagues on <u>agricultural statistics</u> was aimed at the evaluation of activities conducted so far. As many lecturers were recruited from different institutions, it was possible to impart a broad view on the field of agricultural statistics. The use of bookkeeping data of agricultural holdings (FADN) was discussed, in particular, with representatives of the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection. Other items on the agenda were agricultural accounts, the processing of structural agricultural data and IT management for data transfer at the Federal Statistical Office, the operation and the data sources of the Central Market and Price Reporting Agency (ZMP) and an exchange of views on the co-operation with the USST project partner ASA – Institute for Sector Analysis and Policy Advice.</p>
		
07 – 09 November 2006 in Wiesbaden	USST Co-operation Project Turkey	<p>This study visit was the first consultation on <u>transport statistics</u> involving the Federal Statistical Office in the context of the USST project. Apart from one representative of the Turkish Statistical Office TURKSTAT, three staff members of Turkey's Directorate General of State Airport Control were welcomed in Wiesbaden. The consultations included an introduction into the German and European system of transport statistics and a general presentation of the respective legal provisions and duties of data supply. The methodology used for the collection of air traffic statistics was discussed in detail. The delegation also visited the airport in Frankfurt, the largest German airport in terms of passengers and freight. They discussed the ways of data collection and data transfer with statisticians, who were employed there.</p>
		
07 – 09 November 2006 in Bonn and Wiesbaden	USST Co-operation Project Turkey	<p>A study visit on statistical planning activities resumed the co-operation activities with the Turkish Statistical Office TURKSTAT in the field of <u>capacity building</u>. To start with, lecturers made the Turkish colleagues acquainted with the internal annual work planning system. Afterwards they answered questions about national and international coordination. Participants met a large number of lecturers from different fields and gained broad insight into the planning activities of the Federal Statistical Office.</p>
		



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

13 – 14 November 2006 in Riga 	Twinning Project Latvia <p>The objective of the mission was to get acquainted with the <u>dissemination system</u> and the client structure of the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB). It was also planned to discuss necessary preparations for a second activity in the next year, which would envisage a catalogue of questions to be elaborated jointly with the Latvian partners, which the CBS could use for the measurement of customer satisfaction. The CBS has already collected experience with customer surveys. In the last few years two surveys have been conducted in co-operation with the Finnish Statistical Office in order to find out how popular the CBS is. The results were telling, but not good enough to be used as a guideline for action. Accordingly, the planned new customer satisfaction survey is to provide results which can be used as a basis for action and are suitable for work planning and product design at the CSB. The CSB has little documented information about its clients. Client data are registered only partially and inconsistently, there is no client management system. At present the clients of the CSB are not assigned to user groups.</p>
21 – 22 November 2006 in Wiesbaden 	USST Co-operation Project Turkey <p>At the invitation of then Vice President Walter Radermacher, a <u>delegation</u> headed by Dr. Ünal Gündogan, vice president of TURKSTAT, <u>visited</u> the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. The close relations established at management and expert levels between the two offices are mainly due to the co-operation activities under the USST project. There are contacts in a large number of statistical fields and on themes of a general character. The stay in Wiesbaden was used to show the progress of co-operation and to present the results achieved on some specific subjects. It was agreed to continue the intensive co-operation.</p>
27 – 30 November 2006 in Wiesbaden 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>Experts from both countries met in Wiesbaden to discuss problems of “<u>quarterly national accounts</u>”. Other topics of the study visit were value added calculations for the finance and government sector in quarterly national accounts. The guests were informed of the time schedule for the calculation and publication of quarterly data and of all available indicators. The implementation of the new COFOG classification in Germany was dealt with as well.</p>
04 – 05 December 2006 in Wiesbaden 	PHARE Programme 2004 <p>This study visit of Polish statisticians to the Federal Statistical Office was aimed to harmonise German and Polish <u>data on migrations flows</u> between the two countries. For that purpose a mirror comparison was made with respect to the definitions and methodologies used for the production of data on migration and foreigners in Germany and Poland.</p>
04 – 05 December 2006 in Riga 	Twinning Project Latvia <p>The <u>Project Steering Committee</u> meeting took note of the current state of project implementation and discussed the perspective of future consulting activities. A meeting held prior to the Steering Committee meeting reminded organisers that it was necessary to provide experts recruited for thematic consultations with more information at an early time.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

04 – 08 December 2006 in Wiesbaden	EU Grant Project Russian Federation	<p>Continuing the expert mission on <u>business registers</u>, which took place in Moscow in September, it was explained how the statistical register developed into a business register, which included all the variables defined by the EU register regulation. The organisation, maintenance and development of the business register in Germany were described. It was also explained how enterprise groups were covered by the business register and how the register was supposed to evolve in future, taking into account the links between legal entities in general and the statistical approach to the presentation of enterprise groups in particular. The experts also discussed the general organisation of business statistics and aspects related to enterprise groups in German business statistics. The presently used German business register <i>URS95</i> and the new system <i>URS neu</i> were presented and it was pointed out that the business register in Germany was organised along federal lines. Problems and possible solutions of a decentralised approach to business registers were discussed, for example, standardisation and networking for the business registers of statistical offices in Germany. The Statistical Office of the Federal State Hessen was visited for that purpose.</p>
11 – 13 December 2006 in Helsinki	EU Grant Project Russian Federation	<p>As one of the Federal Statistical Office's consortium partners the National Statistical Office of Finland gave a consultation on the <u>business register</u>. The two most important organisational units of business statistics at the Finnish Statistical Office, business trends and business structures, were presented. Experts from the two organisational units expounded the problems of financial interdependencies in accordance with the project description. They stressed the importance of administrative data for the statistical system of Finland, considering that 95% of data at unit level stem from different administrative sources. This requires administrations to cooperate closely. The Finnish business register was presented and emphasis was placed, in particular, on enterprise groups covered by the register and on the maintenance of the enterprise group register.</p>
11 – 13 December 2006 in Ankara	USST Co-operation Project Turkey	<p>This mission under the project component <u>Statistical Capacity Building</u> made participants from the Turkish Statistical Office TURKSTAT acquainted with background information, contents and procedures of the "Code of Practice" for European official statistics, a code of behaviour jointly adopted by all EU member states. The training course was attended by high and medium-level management executives. A special unit of the training course addressed the staff of groups responsible for strategic development and international relations. It included a self-evaluation exercise and detailed discussions on the basic institutional requirements that must be met for the Code of Practice to function properly. Experts from the law division dealt also with fundamental and strategic problems in the relations to the EU and its legislation, which were of relevance to member states and accession countries.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

16 January 2007 in Sofia	Twinning Project Bulgaria
	<p>Final advisory activities depend on the outcome of statistical surveys that were awarded in a bidding procedure to private service enterprises. The last survey contracts were signed in late November 2006, i.e. much later than originally planned. The meeting of the 6th <u>Project Steering Committee</u> on Twinning discussed the current state of the project. The co-operation of the Bulgarian Statistical Office with the enterprises in charge of the surveys is positive; first results have been obtained, which are now being evaluated. The described delays in the conclusion of contracts will lead to delays in surveys of national accounts, which will affect the advisory activities under the Twinning project. However, this does not mean that the success of the project is at risk. The 7th meeting of the Committee is planned to be held in late 2007.</p>
18 – 20 January 2007 in Berlin	USST Co-operation Project Turkey
	<p>When the USST Co-operation Project with Turkey was extended at short notice for another three months it became possible to organise one more study visit in the field of <u>agricultural statistics</u>. The stay was again linked with participation in the International Green Week exhibition in Berlin. This made it possible to participate in a round of discussions with Turkey's minister of agriculture on subjects such as farming and bio energy. The focus of the discussions, for which the responsible chief of division from Turkey's Ministry of Agriculture could be welcomed for the second time, was on the collection of land use and rural development data.</p>
24 – 25 January 2007 in Riga	Twinning Project Latvia
	<p>A workshop on general aspects of the <u>quality of statistics</u> started by quoting some examples briefly explaining the quality criteria used in the European Statistical System (ESS). Emphasis was placed, in particular, on specific data quality requirements to be met by primary statistics and administrative data. Another major item was the use of different methods of standardisation. Numerous methods were discussed in this context and a concrete proposal was made on how to introduce quality guidelines in the Latvian Statistical Office. The second part of the workshop was used to present the usual methods of evaluating data quality in the ESS and to discuss examples of the subject. This was done on the basis of results obtained in the context of the international project DatQAM (Data Quality Assessment Methods and Tools), which the Federal Statistical Office has conducted in co-operation with five other statistical offices.</p>
24 – 26 January 2007 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
	<p>At its 2nd meeting the <u>Project Steering Committee</u> noted that contracted project activities were implemented according to schedule in the quarter under review. The SAS training programme could only start in the 3rd project quarter, because the Macedonian Statistical Office (SSO) finished licence negotiations with the firm SAS as late as at the end of 2006, thus creating the legal conditions for the project activities. The contracted intermediate goals of the project were achieved. The Project Steering Committee adopted the quarterly report without important changes. The Committee decided that all future quarterly reports should be supplemented with an additional chapter in order to better document the project's progress in a general overview of all the work done and all results achieved by the SSO.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES







Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

25 – 31 January 2007 in Dushanbe 	World Bank Project Tajikistan <p>In December 2006 the Federal Statistical Office was awarded the implementation of a World Bank project with Tajikistan. This mission was aimed at <u>negotiating the contract</u> and getting acquainted with those involved in the project and with the partner country.</p>
29 January 2007 in Wiesbaden 	Bilateral Co-operation with China <p>During the visit the German and Chinese parties presented the development of mutual trade in 2006. Then they discussed the German draft of the intermediate report for the <u>Working Party on Trade Statistics</u> as well as further activities.</p>
30 January – 01 February 2007 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>The subject of the expert mission was the enlargement of knowledge on <u>total quality management</u> based on what was done in the past and the definition of further activities to be done in the context of the Common Framework. This included a presentation and discussion of total quality management and of the first quality management efforts undertaken by the SSO. Based on the Common Framework, the SSO has developed an evaluation system of its own according to the nine criteria of the European Quality Management System (EFQM), which was used as the basis for discussions during the expert mission. The proposal was made that further quality management activities should be elaborated. In this context it was suggested that already existing procedures should be recognised as part of total quality management. Knowledge should be imparted and courses should be held, which would make it easier to identify weak points and find possible ways of improvement.</p>
02 February 2007 in Sofia 	Twinning Project Bulgaria <p>In preparation for a pilot <u>survey of household budgets</u> an expert from the Federal Statistical Office conducted a training course for interviewers. Interviewers were informed of the survey's objective and methodology. The focus was on the questionnaire. In the course of discussions it was possible to clarify many questions and problems on the basis of practical examples. The training course was organised by the firm Gallup International which had been commissioned by the Bulgarian Statistical Office to conduct the pilot survey.</p>
05 – 06 February 2007 in Riga 	Twinning-light Project Latvia <p>Apart from the Twinning project, which is implemented under German leadership at the Latvian Statistical Office, a Twinning-light project entitled "Introduction of Balanced Scorecard (BSC) for Assessment of Performance in the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia" is presently being implemented as well. The Statistical Office of Denmark has the general leadership of the project. The Federal Statistical Office provides experts for this project too. The objective of the mission was to participate in the <u>first meeting</u> of all parties involved in the project and to elaborate and adapt a plan of work which would define the various missions and activities to be carried out.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

08 February 2007 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>At a symposium entitled “Expected changes in business statistics as a results of the Twinning Project” the objectives, contents and organisational arrangements of the project and the benefits to be expected for the statistical system were explained to representatives from ministries, businesses, scientific institutions and administrations of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia by the project partners. Another objective of the meeting was to sensitise users of official statistics and to initiate a permanent exchange of information between users and producers of official statistics.</p>
12 – 13 February 2007 in Riga 	Twinning Project Latvia <p>The expert mission was aimed to support the Quality Working Group of the Latvian Statistical Office in the further development of <u>quality reports</u> and to establish links between the results obtained and other metadata. Reference was made, in particular, to the Code of Practice and the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework.</p>
13 – 14 February 2007 in Zagreb 	Twinning Project Croatia <p>After a bidding procedure, the Federal Statistical Office was awarded a Twinning project with Croatia. The project is to start in September 2007. In addition, the Federal Statistical Office cooperates in a Twinning project with Croatia, which starts at the same time under Danish leadership. The <u>planning talks</u> in Zagreb were held to enable the project leaders and component managers at the CBS to compile a harmonised plan of action for the implementation of the two Twinning projects. The plan of action was discussed. All component managers were present and specified the fields which had the most urgent need for consultation. That was the basis on which the plan of action was adjusted.</p>
14 – 16 February 2007 in Wiesbaden 	USST Co-operation Project Turkey <p>A study visit of Turkish colleagues in the field of <u>national accounts</u> terminated the Federal Statistical Office’s USST Co-operation Project with Turkey, which started in 2004. The colleagues mainly discussed problems of the production approach as a data base for sector accounts, the calculation of product accounts and, in particular, consumption of fixed capital with respect to non-financial corporations.</p>
21 – 22 February 2007 in Riga 	Twinning-light Project Latvia <p>The expert mission to Latvia was related to the project component “Analysis of decision processes at the Latvian Statistical Office and implementation of guidelines for action”. During their stay the experts analysed the long- and short-term <u>planning and decision processes</u> at the statistical office and informed the Latvian colleagues of methods and instruments used or developed by the Federal Statistical Office for that purpose.</p>
26 February 2007 in Wiesbaden 	Twinning Project Latvia <p>The workshop was held in the context of Eurostat’s project “Development of a Handbook on Data Quality Assessment Methods and Tools (DatQAM)”. This project, conducted under the leadership of the Federal Statistical Office in co-operation with the statistical offices of Hungary, Norway, Portugal and Sweden as well as the Statistical Office of Berlin, has the objective to elaborate a handbook of the various <u>data quality</u> assessment methods in the European Statistical System. The handbook will play an important role in considerations concerning the future implementation of the Code of Practice for European statistics.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

<p>26 February – 02 March 2007 in Sofia</p> 	<p>Twinning Project Bulgaria</p> <p>Experts from Germany and Denmark met their Bulgarian partners to analyse the data of ICT surveys. The Bulgarian party gave an overview of how the survey was conducted. The experts evaluated the data collected by an external firm on the use of information technologies in enterprises and the financial services sector and on ICT expenditure and investment. An analytical report was elaborated.</p>
<p>26 February – 02 March 2007 in Skopje</p> 	<p>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>Under the Twinning project supporting the statistical office (SSO) of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, two experts from the Czech and the Slovak Statistical Offices conducted a mission to Skopje. The main topic was the possible use of administrative sources for updating the SSO's <u>business register</u>, above all in terms of ID numbers, registration techniques and contents. For that purpose the experts of the SSO had prepared presentations on subjects such as central register, register of pensions and insurance funds and household income register. In addition, they presented possible technological solutions for the business register. Statistical units and their interrelations, variables and methods to update the new Macedonian business register were discussed. The Czech and the Slovak experts explained the business register situation in their countries and described the expected improvements in quality. The preparations for the census of enterprises to be undertaken by the SSO in 2008 were also discussed. The experts recommend that the business register division should more closely cooperate with the other divisions in order to better understand their expectations regarding pilot surveys and to get a clear idea when and how the business register should be updated.</p>
<p>26 February – 02 March 2007 in Skopje</p> 	<p>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>A German expert and a Czech expert provided advice to the Macedonian Statistical Office (SSO) of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the subject of <u>national accounts</u>. The experience of the SSO collected with two publications on supply and use tables and on symmetrical input-output tables for 2000 was described at the beginning of the meeting. The methods and techniques applied by the Czech Statistical Office for the compilation of supply and use tables and of symmetrical tables were described. The advantages of using specialised software were stressed. The software will be presented later during a visit to the Czech Statistical Office. Other aspects of the compilation of data tables were also discussed. The German expert described the presentation of results and their utilisation for statistical and political purposes as well as the role of input-output tables for improvements in national accounts. Macedonian statisticians were particularly interested in the calculation of direct and indirect export dependencies, the impact of rising oil import prices on the Macedonian price level and the effects that changes in consumer spending have on employment.</p>
<p>26 February – 02 March 2007 in Vilnius</p> 	<p>PHARE Programme 2004</p> <p>The expert mission to Lithuania, with which the Federal Statistical Office contributed to the implementation of an EU-funded consulting project, was preceded by a first mission in August 2006 and a study visit to Germany by the colleagues in October 2006. The extent to which already existing data sources were suitable for the tables and reports on IAHS (Income Agricultural Household Sector) required by the EU was examined in discussions with the Lithuanian experts on <u>agricultural statistics</u>. Further missions are planned in the course of the year.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

<p>28 February – 02 March 2007 in Sofia</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Bulgaria</p> <p>Experts from Germany and Denmark met their Bulgarian partners to analyse the data of ICT surveys. The Bulgarian party gave an overview of how the survey was conducted. The experts evaluated the data collected by an external firm on the use of information technologies in enterprises and the financial services sector and on ICT expenditure and investment. An analytical report was elaborated.</p>
<p>28 February – 02 March 2007 in La Valetta</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">EU Multi-Country Programme</p> <p>Malta has no special survey to collect data for the labour cost index. Instead, the index is calculated on a quarterly basis using data of national accounts. The objective of the expert mission to Malta was to consult the statistical office there on possible improvements or revisions of the labour cost index. This included, in particular, data sources, data availability and the calculation of results.</p>
<p>05 – 06 March 2007 in Riga</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Latvia</p> <p>The meeting of the Project Steering Committee on Twinning took note of the current state of project implementation and discussed the preparations for the last three project activities. Mrs. Zigure, the President of the Latvian Statistical Office, was very satisfied with the implementation of the project. She appreciated the high quality of the work done, which would strongly contribute to improved quality processes at the Latvian office. For example, the elaboration of quality guidelines had greatly advanced thanks to the support of the project. At a final workshop the responsible Latvian colleagues are to present the concrete results of the project and the planned project goals that were achieved. The lectures and presentations are to be included in the final report on the project.</p>
<p>05 – 09 March 2007 in Skopje</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>The main goal of the expert mission was to discuss <u>statistics on external trade and energy prices</u>. The system of price statistics in Germany was described and used as a basis to explain the most important methodological aspects of import and export price indices as well as the requirements resulting from the EU regulation concerning short-term statistics, and to clarify the principal differences between unit value indices and price indices and all aspects of calculating price indices in external trade. The experts also discussed practical aspects of possible calculations of price indices for Macedonia's external trade, sample surveys and a survey questionnaire they had drafted. In the context of energy prices they discussed all methodological aspects of a survey of electricity and gas prices and the calculation of average prices and they drafted a questionnaire for regular price observations.</p>
<p>06 – 09 March 2007 in Skopje</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>An expert mission on an internet-based <u>statistical information system</u> took place from 6 to 9 March 2007. The presentations at this meeting gave an overview of the internet-based statistical information system in the Thuringian Statistical Office. The advantages and disadvantages of internet-based data collection were discussed and different possibilities of data collection were described. Internet applications for data collection and external applications were explained. Other themes related to raw data from enterprises' accounting systems, data transfer by e-mail taking into account the specified structure of the data records and handling of different forms of data input. The system of data dissemination, newsletters and webshops was also briefly discussed.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

**12 – 14 March 2007
in Bucharest**



CENEX Project Eurostat

The CENEX project “Quality adjustment in the context of the harmonised consumer price index” was presented and discussed. The aim of action 1 in this project is to elaborate a user-oriented handbook on the introduction of quality adjustment techniques in national statistical offices. Part 1 of this handbook explains the basic concepts and makes recommendations concerning the introduction of quality adjustment procedures. This is done by referring to other manuals and guidelines for HICP rules. General guidelines on the use of hedonic methods are also part of the handbook. Part 2 contains specific quality adjustment rules and guidelines for concrete products. Another contribution presented the Federal Statistical Office’s communication strategies such as the one to counteract “felt inflation”, which appeared after the introduction of the euro as cash money and which is above real inflation based on the official price index. The methods of price statistics were described in a transparent way and the reasons were explained why “felt inflation” was different from real inflation.

**12 – 16 March 2007
in Skopje**



Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Two Czech experts provided advice to the Statistical Office (SSO) of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on problems on national accounts. The experts of the two countries evaluated the quality and completeness of available data sources used to determine gross fixed capital formation, consumption of fixed capital, joint stock capital and other capital indicators. The related problems were discussed and possible solutions were shown. In addition, they discussed possible methodological improvements and a revision of already existing data to be used for the registration of gross fixed capital formation. Other subjects related to the classification of items in year-end accounts concerning joint stock capital, the determination of holding gains from stocks and the way they were considered in national accounts. Participants were informed of how the Czech Statistical Office was dealing with gross capital formation, consumption of fixed capital, joint stock capital, stocks and inventories as well as non-produced assets.

**13 March 2007
in Sofia**






Twinning Project Bulgaria

The 7th meeting of the Steering Committee discussed the progress of the project. It was generally agreed that despite delays in the bidding procedure for external services the Twinning project had advanced very well. Nevertheless, at the initiative of the European Commission’s representation in Sofia the meeting discussed the question of whether it was necessary to extend the project so that all components of the project could be finalised successfully. From the point of view of the Bulgarian Statistical Office it was desirable to extend the project as this would enable the EU experts to evaluate all pilot surveys as a Twinning activity. After a detailed discussion with the EU representative it was decided that a possible extension of the project by 01 June 2008 should be discussed with the responsible Bulgarian authority at the Ministry of Finance. For the Twinning contract to be extended it would also be necessary to prolong the funding agreement between Bulgaria and the EU, on which the contract is based. The German project leaders support the Bulgarian request within their possibilities. The extension would not automatically lead to more expert missions.







CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

<p>13 – 15 March 2007 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Latvia</p> <p>The objective of this expert mission was to develop a questionnaire on <u>customer satisfaction</u>. The Federal Statistical Office's questionnaire on customer satisfaction was used as a base document for that purpose. In addition, an overview of special services to major clients of the Federal Statistical Office was presented to the Latvian colleagues.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>The experts made the Macedonian participants acquainted with the <u>quality management</u> framework in the European Statistical System (ESS) and the <u>quality recommendations</u> of the Leadership Group and they also presented concepts of quality management and data quality as well as annual questionnaires on the Code of Practice. They discussed questions about the quality of statistical data and the need for quality measurement. A brief historical review of quality in the ESS was given at the start of the mission, followed by the presentation of bodies for quality measurement and definitions of quality and their importance. In addition, participants discussed the quality of statistical data of the SSO and presented a choice of EU documents on statistical quality. Other themes were the standard quality report, self-assessment working groups and the selection of surveys for a case study on quality reports.</p>
<p>19 – 23 March 2007 in Skopje</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>Experts from the Czech Statistical Office gave an overview of the regional system of <u>national accounts</u>, data sources and the publication system. The Macedonian Statistical Office has a sufficiently large amount of data in many areas such as e.g. agriculture and forestry, fisheries, mining, industry, energy statistics, construction, trade, transport and communication, financial services, real estates, public administration, education and public health. Although a base sufficiently large for the allocation of gross value added is available, reliable wholesale data should also be used. At present, households with employed persons are still being assessed as having zero gross value added. In order to open up further sources for regionalisation of gross value added, it is recommended that labour market statistics should be used to analyse and compare regional structures.</p>
<p>20 – 23 March 2007 in Sofia</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Bulgaria</p> <p>A Danish expert gave a final consultation on the "Use of administrative data for <u>statistics on income and living conditions</u> EU-SILC". The discussion covered both the current state of the Bulgarian pilot survey and possibilities for the Bulgarian colleagues to use administrative data. At present, administrative data do not yet play a major role for EU-SILC in Bulgaria.</p>

CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

26 – 30 March 2007 in Suhl and Erfurt	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>While visiting the Statistical Office of the Federal State Thuringia, the Macedonian participants were made acquainted with the structure and operation of the office and its divisions. The German experts explained the division of responsibilities between the Thuringian Statistical Office and the Federal Statistical Office, using the <u>building trade</u> as an example. They also gave a detailed description of the various operations such as preparation, collection, processing and evaluation. Furthermore, they answered questions about priority-setting and classification. Other topics of interest were the statistical system of industry and mining (the obligation of local units and enterprises to present reports), the monthly and yearly reports of industry and mining in Macedonia and, in this context, the data requirements of the European Union (Eurostat). Possible solutions were proposed to the Macedonian participants concerning the problems the SSO may have when supplying data for all of these fields.</p>
	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>This expert mission dealt with <u>human resource development</u> and CAF self-assessment for follow-up advice. The focus of the discussion was on improvements in the SSO's internal communication system. In this context the experts discussed a mentoring programme and staff satisfaction, which will be recorded by a questionnaire yet to be elaborated. A process of change can be observed at the SSO, which takes account of the importance and the transfer of social competence. In this connexion a first self-assessment exercise was made at the SSO in compliance with the rules of the Common Framework in autumn 2006 under the guidance of German experts. Finally, this expert mission was used to prepare the concluding phase, which consists in the prioritisation of areas to be improved and in concrete action of improvement to be taken.</p>
26 – 31 March 2007 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>This expert mission dealt with <u>human resource development</u> and CAF self-assessment for follow-up advice. The focus of the discussion was on improvements in the SSO's internal communication system. In this context the experts discussed a mentoring programme and staff satisfaction, which will be recorded by a questionnaire yet to be elaborated. A process of change can be observed at the SSO, which takes account of the importance and the transfer of social competence. In this connexion a first self-assessment exercise was made at the SSO in compliance with the rules of the Common Framework in autumn 2006 under the guidance of German experts. Finally, this expert mission was used to prepare the concluding phase, which consists in the prioritisation of areas to be improved and in concrete action of improvement to be taken.</p>
	Twinning-light Project Latvia	<p>This expert mission to Latvia took place under the project component "Analysis of decision processes at the Latvian Statistical Office and implementation of guidelines for action". The expert informed the Latvian colleagues of the <u>planning and steering tools</u>, which are used in the Federal Statistical Office, and discussed those tools that might possibly be transferred for use in Latvia for implementation of the planned guidelines for action. The focus of the discussions was on the definition of positive and negative priorities by the offices and the adoption of activities and milestones for target achievement.</p>
28 – 29 March 2007 in Riga	Twinning-light Project Latvia	<p>This expert mission to Latvia took place under the project component "Analysis of decision processes at the Latvian Statistical Office and implementation of guidelines for action". The expert informed the Latvian colleagues of the <u>planning and steering tools</u>, which are used in the Federal Statistical Office, and discussed those tools that might possibly be transferred for use in Latvia for implementation of the planned guidelines for action. The focus of the discussions was on the definition of positive and negative priorities by the offices and the adoption of activities and milestones for target achievement.</p>
	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>The meeting on <u>dissemination of statistical data</u> started with a discussion of the European Code of Practice and its implications for official statistics in Europe. A major theme was the SSO's data dissemination system, consisting so far of printed publications only. Even the SSO's website does not yet allow publications or data records to be downloaded, which was the reason why the experts discussed plans to create a suitable database system. The advantages and disadvantages of the various methods of data collection were shown with respect to user satisfaction. The participants discussed possible improvements in survey concepts in order to better take into account the structure of clients using the data of the SSO. They also discussed possibilities to increase the response rate. Clients using materials of the SSO's library should be encouraged with a personal request to participate in the user satisfaction survey. One outcome of this expert mission was the drafting of a user satisfaction survey.</p>
02 – 05 April 2007 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>The meeting on <u>dissemination of statistical data</u> started with a discussion of the European Code of Practice and its implications for official statistics in Europe. A major theme was the SSO's data dissemination system, consisting so far of printed publications only. Even the SSO's website does not yet allow publications or data records to be downloaded, which was the reason why the experts discussed plans to create a suitable database system. The advantages and disadvantages of the various methods of data collection were shown with respect to user satisfaction. The participants discussed possible improvements in survey concepts in order to better take into account the structure of clients using the data of the SSO. They also discussed possibilities to increase the response rate. Clients using materials of the SSO's library should be encouraged with a personal request to participate in the user satisfaction survey. One outcome of this expert mission was the drafting of a user satisfaction survey.</p>
		



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

02 – 05 April 2007 in Skopje	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>This mission of a Slovenian expert to Skopje dealt with the analysis, evaluation and improvement of the <u>labour cost survey</u> (LCS) to be used as a basis for labour cost index calculations. So far information on hours worked has only been collected by quarterly statistical surveys of employment. Accordingly, one of the discussed subjects referred to the rearrangement of questions on the survey questionnaire. The intention is to have a monthly survey of wages and salaries in 2008 and to collect more information on hours worked. In future, it is also planned to record data on times of absence because of illness, vacation and holidays.</p>
		
16 – 18 April 2007 in Ljubljana	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>Macedonian statisticians paid a study visit to the Slovenian Statistical Office under the Federal Statistical Office's Twinning project with the Macedonian Statistical Office. Themes of the study visit were improvements in the national <u>consumer price index</u> and its harmonisation with the homogenised consumer price index. Attention was paid, first of all, to the treatment of seasonal products and, in particular, agricultural goods. In the discussion of price collection approaches, the experts mainly examined the methods of quality adjustment which are used in Slovenia, first of all, with respect to cars and PCs.</p>
		
16 – 18 April 2007 in Wiesbaden 19 – 20 April 2007 in Prague	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	<p>The Federal Statistical Office, jointly with the Czech Statistical Office, organised a study visit to Wiesbaden and Prague for five executives of the Macedonian Statistical Office. The objective of the visit was to discuss improvements in the Macedonian Statistical Office's <u>strategic and programme planning</u>. German experts held presentations on the system of official statistics in Germany and annual work planning. In this context, the SSO's work planning was discussed as well. In Prague, after the stay in Wiesbaden, Czech experts made the Macedonian statisticians acquainted with the management processes of the CZSO, the sequence of activities required to compile strategic materials and with the fundamental documents for the office's financial and programme planning.</p>
		
16 – 19 April 2007 in Sofia	Twinning Project Bulgaria	<p>Czech experts made a provisional evaluation of the first results obtained in a pilot survey of <u>shuttle trade</u>. The collected data give an insight into trading transactions between private individuals across country borders. The second part of the survey will be implemented in summer 2007. The database, which will then be available, is expected to be suitable for the estimation of shuttle trade and for use in national accounts.</p>
		

CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

**20 – 29 April 2007
in Beijing, Nanjing
and Shanghai**



Bilateral Co-operation with China

A consulting mission of experts from the Federal Statistical Office took place in the context of a bilateral German-Chinese co-operation project on statistical legislation running from 2006 to 2008. The main objective of the consultation was to make the Chinese interlocutors acquainted with the contents and goals of the business register, the use of administrative data, the German legislative procedure and important provisions of the Federal Statistics Law as well as with the procedures of handling regulatory offences.

The about 80 representatives from across China attending the annual conference of regional statistical offices in Nanjing, at which the experts were present after their stay in Beijing, were very interested in the German legislative procedure, including the implications of the federalism reform, in the legal stipulations governing the Federal Statistical Office's interaction with the statistical offices of the federal states and in the detailed explanation of selected legal provisions of the Federal Statistics Law. During a visit to the Statistical Office of Shanghai the German interlocutors were informed of regional provisions of statistical legislation, the regional statistical system, the approach to publication and the penalty for the breach of reporting duties and confidentiality rules. In this context the German delegation described the most important differences to German legislation.

**23 – 24 April 2007
in Luxembourg**



Further development of the European Statistical Training Programme

Representatives from eleven national statistical offices met for their first session on further developments of the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP). The goal was to have a first exchange of ideas on the future strategy regarding the ESTP. The next meeting to be held in October 2007 is expected to elaborate a strategy for the future ESTP.

**23 – 25 April 2007
in Skopje**



Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The expert mission was aimed at the development of a concept to strengthen the SSO's coordinating function in Macedonia's statistics system on the basis of the new Macedonian statistics law and the approaches used by Germany and the Czech Republic and also to provide support for the Statistical Advisory Council to execute its counselling activities. In a concept, which was jointly elaborated with experts from the SSO, it was suggested that working groups (commissions) should be established with cross-sectional and subject-related responsibilities as follows:






1. EU standards in official statistics
2. National statistical programme
3. Optimisation and standardisation of processes
4. National accounts
5. Enterprise statistics
6. Demographic and social statistics

In view of the decentralised nature of the Macedonian statistics systems, involving a strong position of the departments as statistical producers, the Director-General of the SSO has been authorised by the new statistics law to establish such working groups helping the SSO fulfil its coordinating function. However, the proposed working groups are also expected to underpin the activities of the Statistical Advisory Council, a field which is not regulated at present. The detailed version of the concept, which specifies the terms of reference and the composition of each working group, takes into consideration the needs of producers, users and respondents in Macedonia's system of official statistics.



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

23 – 27 April 2007 in Moscow	EU Grant Project Russian Federation	<p>Two experts from the Finnish Statistical Office and the Federal Statistical Office conducted a mission on the <u>business register</u> jointly with experts from the Russian Statistical Office. They discussed ways to identify links between groups of enterprises using the presently available data as well as approaches to the determination of an enterprise's principal activity. The representatives from ROSSTAT presented recent developments in the field of business registers in Russia as well as methodological approaches and tools for the registration of financial links and mergers of enterprise groups.</p>
		
25 – 27 April 2007 in Riga	Twinning Project Latvia	<p>During the mission a proposal was made regarding the Latvian Statistical Office's future strategy for improving the <u>quality of its products and processes</u>. The various parts and elements of the respective paper will be structured in a uniform way. The chapters begin with a short description of the objectives, followed by a description of the benefits, then the progress made over the past two years is explained and the chapter is concluded with a description of the future activities in the medium term.</p>
		
30 April – 03 May 2007 in Sofia	Twinning Project Bulgaria	<p>Experts from Denmark and the Czech Republic visited the Bulgarian Statistical Office for a final evaluation of the pilot survey examining the completeness and quality of the <u>business register</u>. Unfortunately, the experts were not convinced by the data, which the institute in charge of the examination submitted. Some data items were incomplete and their composition could not be reproduced. That is why the experts were unable to make a final evaluation of the survey. The Bulgarian Statistical Office will make an effort to clarify the issues in question and request the institute to submit the disputed data records.</p>
		
03 May 2007 in Riga	Twinning Project Latvia	<p>The objective of the expert mission was to introduce the Italian information system of survey documents to Latvian colleagues attending a workshop. Participants were imparted detailed theoretical information and practical experience of documentary practice on quality aspects.</p>
		
03 – 15 May 2007 in Lusaka and Ziavonga	GTZ Project Zambia	<p>A seminar on <u>agricultural statistics</u>, simultaneously an exchange of information, on "Data harmonisation and data requirements for sector observation and statistical strategy" was held for the purpose of joining efforts to elaborate the foundations of an adequate information system in the agricultural sector to support the New Agricultural Policy (NAP) and to implement Zambia's "Fifth National Development Plan 2006-2010" and to develop a strategic concept for sustainable improvements in the existing agricultural information system of the Republic of Zambia. A major result and part of the strategy plan is the foundation of a sub-committee in the "Statistical Advisory Group (SAG)" as recommended by the experts. The terms of reference, which were defined for the sub-committee on the spot, mainly refer to the elaboration of proposals and reports for the continued improvement of the agricultural statistical information system.</p>
		



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

04 May 2007 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>The third <u>Steering Committee</u> meeting under the Twinning project to support the Statistical Office (SSO) of the Republic of Macedonia was held in Skopje on 4 May 2007. The project's intermediate goals were achieved as agreed by contract. The agreed project activities were carried out in the reference quarter according to the work schedule. Some activities of the 4th project quarter were either brought forward or moved to the following project quarter, because an agricultural census planned for June 2007 will bring about capacity bottlenecks at the SSO. Nevertheless, the work and time schedule will on the whole be observed.</p>
07 – 10 May 2007 in Sofia 	Twinning Project Bulgaria <p>A German expert visited the Bulgarian Statistical Office to make a final evaluation of the results obtained in a pilot survey on the “Use of <u>information and communication technologies</u> at enterprises of the financial services sector”. The pilot survey was finished successfully and in good quality. The support provided by Danish and German experts has enabled Bulgarian colleagues to conduct ICT surveys on their own initiative in the future.</p>
07 – 11 May 2007 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>Two Swedish experts conducted an expert mission on <u>information technology</u> in Skopje. It was aimed at the presentation and introduction of a uniform procedure to be followed by the SSO staff in the IT field and at the definition of relevant communication channels. Documentation suitable for the various stages of the statistical production process was also examined. The Swedish experts presented the model PMod used by the Swedish Statistical Office, which contains information on the stages of a project's life cycle as well as on the various steps of work. In addition, they gave participants explanations on the system development model used by the Swedish Statistical Office for the development of information technologies.</p>
08 – 09 May 2007 in Slanchev Brjag 	Twinning Project Bulgaria <p>An expert of the Federal Statistical Office participated as a lecturer in a training course on “<u>Statistics on income and living conditions EU-SILC</u>” held for staff members of regional statistical offices in Bulgaria. The goal of the seminar was to explain the survey concepts and requirements to staff members of the regional offices who will do the field work for EU-SILC from 2008 on. Apart from methodological and legislative EU requirements and German experience there was also a discussion of Bulgaria's experience with having the pilot survey conducted by an external institute.</p>
08 – 10 May 2007 in Skopje 	Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia <p>Two experts of the Federal Statistical Office conducted an expert mission on <u>seminar organisation</u> to Skopje. Major subjects of the mission were further activities of planning the concluding meeting of the Twinning project and evaluating the meeting held on 8 February 2007. The design of a new layout for press releases and publications was defined, which is to be used from early 2008 on. Some changes were also made in the media section of the SSO's website.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

<p>08 – 10 May 2007 in Skopje</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>The central topic of the consultation was social statistics, in particular, the system of social protection in Germany and its most important aspects. The system of social protection in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was also analysed and the systems of the two countries were compared. Another important agenda item was indicators for the measurement of poverty and social exclusion. In this context the experts expounded the history of social indicators and the methodology to be used for the calculation of the “Laeken Indicators”, in particular, the at-risk-of-poverty rate. As the SSO intends to include questions about disabilities in the questionnaires of the next population census, the experts discussed the methodology and the most important data of statistical surveys on disabled persons in Germany.</p>
<p>14 – 15 May 2007 in Sofia</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Bulgaria</p> <p>In early June 2007 the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance endorsed the extension of the ongoing Twinning project by end of November 2007. The agreement on the revision of the Twinning contract was signed by both project leaders. Subject to the submitted survey results, the remaining consultations will be held by end of November 2007. The progress of the project was also discussed. Prof. Dr. Stoyan Tsvetkov, Bulgaria’s new chief statistician, was temporarily present at the Project Steering Committee meeting to get first-hand information on the project. All project activities were carried out successfully, even though it was not always possible to observe the project’s time schedule due to delays caused by external factors.</p>
<p>08 – 10 May 2007 in Skopje</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</p> <p>This mission of two staff members from the Statistical Office of the Czech Republic on <u>financial statistics</u> focussed on integrated accountancy with respect to the total economy and by institutional sectors for the period from 1997 to 2003. The data sources for the state were analysed, a classification of end-of-year items (revenues and expenses) was examined, the weaknesses of the data were identified and specific recommendations were made.</p>
<p>15 – 16 May 2007 in Rome</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Latvia</p> <p>The objective of the consultation was to improve the draft technical specifications for the <u>filing of documents</u> with quality aspects in the Latvian Statistical Bureau (CSB). Design and implementation at the CSB were identified as the main problems.</p>
<p>18 – 26 May 2007 in Beijing and Xi’an</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Bilateral Co-operation with China</p> <p>The consulting mission on <u>price statistics</u> was conducted in compliance with an agreed bilateral German-Chinese co-operation project for 2006 – 2008. The mission was aimed at the transfer of knowledge on methods in fields such as price indices for real property, price indices for telecommunication services, producer price indices for capital goods, calculation of core inflation rates, communication and publication of results of price statistics. The subjects presented by experts of the Federal Statistical Office aroused much interest among the staff members of the Chinese Statistical Office. The lectures were followed by intensive discussions on the subject. The co-operation effort will be carried on in October 2007, when the respective subject-matter experts of the Chinese Statistical Office will pay a return visit to Germany.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

21 – 22 May 2007 in Riga	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Latvia</p> <p>The meeting of the <u>Project Steering Committee</u> on Twinning summarised and assessed the results of the project. The President of the Latvian Statistical Office valued that the project a success and an important stimulus for quality standards to be introduced and further developed. The representative from the Ministry of Finance (responsible for the budget of the project) appreciated the “very good project administration and co-operation with the project management” on the German side. The materials presented at the concluding seminar included a booklet on quality guidelines of the Latvian Statistical Office, a strategy paper on the improvement of the quality of products and processes at the Latvian Statistical Office and the results of the second survey of user satisfaction with products and services.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Bulgaria</p> <p>Two experts of the Federal Statistical Office visited their colleagues in Sofia for a final evaluation of the pilot survey “<u>Statistics on income and living conditions EU-SILC</u>”. The German experts were informed of the way in which the contractor, the BBSS Gallup Institute, had prepared and implemented the pilot survey. The approach to data processing and first results were presented. The Bulgarian colleagues could take account of the specific Bulgarian circumstances (in particular, income of self-employed people and income from own agricultural production), when the survey concept was prepared and implemented, which turned out to be a costly and time-consuming exercise. The survey for 2007 was not terminated yet and could not yet be analysed.</p>
22 – 23 May 2007 in Sofia	
04 – 05 June 2007 in Zagreb	<p style="text-align: center;">Twinning Project Croatia</p> <p>The mission was aimed at the further <u>preparation and harmonisation of the Twinning project</u> between the Central Statistical Bureau of Croatia and the Federal Statistical Office, which is to start in the second half of 2007. The topics in question were discussed with the Croatian Twinning project leader and open issues were finally settled. Afterwards, applicants for the tendered job of assistant to the long-term expert were interviewed for the purpose of selection.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Bilateral Co-operation with China</p> <p>A delegation from the National Statistical Office of the PR of China led by Commissioner Xie Fuzhan visited the Federal Republic of Germany for an exchange of information and opinions. The <u>visit of the head of the Statistical Office</u> started with discussions at the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. After a review of the present co-operation activities with China and an outline of future projects the guests were made acquainted in general terms with the methodological basis of national and regional accounts in Germany. Other subjects were also presented, such as the internet website of the Federal Statistical Office and the GENESIS database. The methodological basis of regional accounts was explained in more detail during visits to the statistical offices of the federal states Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. The visit to the Hessian Statistical Office was used to discuss the way in which the Federal Statistical Office was co-operating with the statistical offices of the federal states. Representatives of the European Central Bank (ECB) gave an overview of the work done by the ECB’s statistical division. At the Federal Ministry of the Interior the delegation had a discussion of general questions of statistical co-operation between Germany and China and of the extent to which fundamental statistical needs were considered by domestic politics. The discussions at the Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology focussed on the German-Chinese Working Group for Trade Statistics and on the bilateral economic relations. Then, the delegation continued their journey for a working stay in Austria.</p>
04 – 12 June 2007 in Wiesbaden, Frankfurt, Berlin, Stuttgart and Munich	



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

14 – 15 June 2007 in Sofia	Twinning Project Bulgaria
	<p>In a further Twinning project with the Bulgarian Statistical Office, the Federal Statistical Office (in a consortium with the French Statistical Office INSEE) will be supported by the statistical offices of Spain, Hungary and Poland as well as by experts from Austria and Latvia. Jointly with the planned long-term expert (RTA) the German project leader made a <u>project presentation</u>. It is expected that the tender for the project will be accepted officially by late July 2007. That means that it would be possible to start the implementation of the project at the turn of the year 2007/2008.</p>
14 – 20 June 2007 in Dushanbe	World Bank Project Tajikistan
	<p>The mission to Tajikistan on subjects such as the <u>population census 2010</u>, <u>labour force survey</u> and <u>population statistics</u> was also the first mission of a key expert under the newly launched co-operation project with the Tajik Statistical Office. The expert had detailed discussions with Tajik colleagues on the current state of the art in the mentioned areas and drafted a plan for the continued implementation of these project components. A major subject is the preparation of the population census in Tajikistan, which is planned for the year 2010.</p>
14 – 20 June 2007 in Dushanbe	World Bank Project Tajikistan
	<p>An expert mission on <u>project management</u> and a parallel mission on the <u>population census</u> (see above) were the official start of a co-operation project with Tajikistan. The objective of this mission was to consult the Tajik project team on how to effectively implement co-operation projects with particular regard to the adoption of methods and mechanisms, which would ensure unobstructed and goal-oriented implementation of the expert missions planned under the project.</p>
18 – 22 June 2007 in Geneva and Frankfurt	EU Grant Project Russian Federation
	<p>On 18 and 19 June 2007 two experts from the Statistical Office of the Russian Federation, ROSSTAT, attended a joint meeting of Eurostat, the ECE and the OECD on <u>business registers</u> in Geneva. Then they paid a study visit to Deutsche Bundesbank in Frankfurt, in which also three more statisticians from ROSSTAT participated. The statistical units of Deutsche Bundesbank closely cooperate with the Federal Statistical Office. Deutsche Bundesbank publicises monthly reports of banking statistics, capital market statistics, balance of payments, seasonally adjusted enterprise statistics, exchange rate statistics and various time series. The presentations shown at the start of the visit explained the common framework of the European currency system as well as the role and functions of the federal bank in general. This was followed by discussions on the financial links and capital flows between states and on stock market statistics in the context of foreign direct investment.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from July 2006 to June 2007

**25 – 28 June 2007
in Wiesbaden**



Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Representatives of the division for the calculation of gross domestic product from the Macedonian Statistical Office (SSO) visited division III “National Accounts, Labour Market” of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. The quarterly calculation of gross domestic product (GDP) in current and constant prices was the main subject of this study visit, resuming the activities of two former missions under the component “Harmonisation of national accounts in compliance with EU standards”. Major subjects of the discussion were the production approach and the indicators the SSO uses for quarterly calculations of GDP. The representatives of the SSO presented GDP calculation by economic sector; the methods to calculate value added were discussed in detail. Other subjects related to price and quantity measurement in quarterly national accounts, gross capital formation, household final consumption expenditure and labour market data in national accounts.

Who is Who?

in International Co-operation

Management:		Bonn
Federal Statistical Office Bonn Branch, Division I E P.O. Box 17 03 77 D - 53029 Bonn		Fax: +49 (0)1888 / 644 8992 statistik-kooperation@destatis.de
<u>Head of division</u>		
Waltraud Moore	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 8941	waltraud.moore@destatis.de
<i>Project & financial controlling:</i>		
Michael Schäfer	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 8930	michael.schaefer1@destatis.de
EU accession countries (Phare countries), South-East European countries, China and developing countries		Bonn
<u>Head of section</u>		
Wolfgang Schulze	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 8912	wolfgang.schulze@destatis.de
<i>Turkey, Tajikistan:</i>		
Ringo Raupach	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 8932	ringo.raupach@destatis.de
<i>Twinning Bulgaria:</i>		
Manfred Waschkowski	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 8914	manfred.waschkowski@destatis.de
<i>Twinning Latvia, new EU Member States and accession candidates (excl. Turkey):</i>		
Leonhard Fix	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 8936	leonhard.fix@destatis.de
<i>China and Asian developing countries:</i>		
Günter Moser	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 8934	guenter.moser@destatis.de
<i>Mongolia, Statistical Capacity Building:</i>		
Jochen Arnhold	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 8938	jochen.arnhold@destatis.de
Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) & bilateral co-operation with non-developing countries		Wiesbaden
Federal Statistical Office Division I E D – 65180 Wiesbaden		Fax: +49 (0)1888 / 644 3938
<u>Head of section</u>		
Bernd Störtzbach	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 2351	bernd.stoertzbach@destatis.de
<i>Twinning Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), advancement of the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP):</i>		
Simone Koll	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 4281	simone.koll@destatis.de
<i>Co-operation in implementation of the ESTP programme 2007-2010</i>		
Friederike Borengässer	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 4364	friederike.borengaesser@destatis.de
<i>Co-operation in projects with other countries of the CIS</i>		
Nicole Schmickler	☎ +49 (0)1888 / 644 3765	nicole.schmickler@destatis.de