

# STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

Statistical Co-operation  
with Transition and Developing Countries



2/2007

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

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## Editorial

Dear readers,

An eventful year is drawing to a close. In this edition of “Statistics across borders” we give reports on the completion of a project with the Russian statistical office, on new projects, on the progress made in projects, and on our numerous project activities. The reporting period covers the months from July to December 2007.

Many of you have considerably supported the work of the statistics co-operation unit and, by your activities, have contributed to continuing the successful project work in Division IE. We would like to thank you here for the work you have done.

We wish you and your families all the best for 2008!

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

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## Co-operation with the Russian Statistical Office - EU grant project with Russia terminated



In the context of an EU project, the Federal Statistical Office supported the Statistical Office of the Russian Federation (ROSSTAT) for nearly two years in statistical areas such as business register and productivity measurement. Cooperating with experts from Statistics Netherlands and Statistics Finland and colleagues from the Statistical Office of the Federal State of Saxony and Deutsche Bundesbank we were able to continue the traditionally good co-operation. The functions, which the EU delegation in Moscow had assigned to the Federal Statistical Office apart from overall organisation and coordination, also included project management.

Eleven consulting activities and one pilot survey on measuring labour productivity at regional level were performed. In close co-operation with the Russian experts, consulting measures were held in Moscow and study visits on technical subjects were paid to Wiesbaden, Helsinki, The

Hague/Voorburg, Geneva and Deutsche Bundesbank in Frankfurt on the issue of “measuring foreign direct investment”. The Federal Statistical Office entrusted the Russian Research Institute for Statistics (NII Statistics) in Moscow with the task of conducting the pilot survey. As a result of the pilot survey and after consultations with Dutch experts it was possible to substantially improve Russia's methodology of productivity measurement by economic sector and region and to enhance the accuracy of calculation methods.

At the end of the project, the results of the pilot survey were discussed at a regional conference, which was attended by representatives from participating regional statistical offices in Russia.

Besides, in the final phase of project activities on business registers, the Russian colleagues presented first results regarding the formation of enterprise groups.

## Co-operation with the Turkish Statistical Office - Start of USST II



After the first phase of the USST co-operation project with Turkey (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey) was successfully completed in early 2006, the consortium including the Federal Statistical Office in the course of the year was awarded the contract to implement the second project phase. It started in September 2007. According to current plans, the envisaged duration of the project is 18 months. The consortium has been extended by numerous national statistical offices to ensure that the Turkish colleagues can have discussions with leading representatives of the European Statistical System on the various technical components. The coming months will be characterised – even more strongly than in the first project phase – by the accession negotiations with the European Union which have started now. Statistics is one of a total of 33 chapters of negotiation, in which Turkey must show that the

acquis communautaire of the European Union has been implemented.

The content of the second project phase is based on what has been achieved before. The discussions continue especially on economic and agricultural statistics. A new focus is added in terms of social statistics. The Federal Statistical Office is particularly involved in the project component on “improving the administrative structure”.

TURKSTAT remains one of the most important partner offices of the Federal Statistical Office. This is shown, in particular, by the fact that – as in the past – Germany will be the host country for many study visits of Turkish statisticians, which are performed within the scope of a Training Grant. First visits were already held in 2007 in such areas as classifications and document management.



## Twinning project with Croatia – Project start



On 17 January 2007, the Federal Statistical Office was awarded the contract to carry through an EU funded Twinning project with Croatia. The Twinning contract prepared jointly with the Croatian partners was transmitted to the EU delegation in Zagreb within the set time limits. On 22 June 2007, the Twinning Steering Committee of the European Commission in Brussels gave its full approval to the contract. On 15 October 2007, the contract was signed and notified, and the official implementation phase of the Twinning project, designed for a period of 17 months, started on 22 October 2007. The project budget amounts to approximately 1.27 million euro. The project work plan envisages 61 missions of experts from Germany, Sweden, Finland and Denmark as well as 7 missions of the project management. This corresponds to a total of 734 expert days.

### Brief overview of contents

#### Topic:

Organisational restructuring of the Croatian statistical office and introduction of the acquis communautaire for the areas of household surveys (SILC, HBS) and business statistics

#### General goal of the project:

Supporting the accession process by providing adequate statistical information to the Croatian government and the EU (with regard to the selected statistical fields).

#### Purpose of the project:

Improving the organisational capacity of the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia by setting up a new structure and improving business and household surveys.

#### Project components:

1. Improving the organisational capacity of the CBS
2. Improving the system of business statistics
3. Improving the key household based surveys (Household Budget Surveys – HBS, Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – SILC)

On 21 October 2007 Dr. Gisela Kröger, the Resident Twinning Advisor, was seconded to Zagreb for 17 months by the Office for Statistics of Berlin-Brandenburg. Her task is to assist and coordinate the Twinning activities directly at the Croatian Statistical Office. The consultations on project implementation began with a kick-off meeting held in Zagreb on 23 October 2007. That meeting, which was attended by the project managers of the partners involved, discussed and defined the principles of further co-operation and project implementation. The first expert mission held as early as from 24 to 26 October 2007 dealt with the issue of “Revising the Feasibility Study (FS) regarding the level of decentralisation”. All the other initial measures are planned to be held in 2007 as well.

On 27-28 September 2007 Dr. Kröger participated in the introductory event for long-term advisors of the European Commission in Brussels. Both the framework conditions in the accession countries and the tasks of the long-term experts were discussed there.

Parallel to the Twinning project described above, the Croatian Statistical Office is supported by another Twinning project and by a service project.

## Prolonging the co-operation with the Bulgarian Statistical Office



### Bulgaria Twinning I – Further development of statistics

The Twinning project with Bulgaria was successfully completed on 30 November 2007. Due to delays in awarding the contract for surveys, which a private company was to conduct at the same time, the Twinning project had to be prolonged by 3 months. Thanks to that prolongation, all goals of the project were achieved. The Bulgarian Statistical Office supplied Eurostat with harmonised data on the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in enterprises of the financial services sector, on enterprise expenditure on, and investments in ICT and on the income and living conditions of the Bulgarian population (EU SILC). Furthermore, improvements in the data bases needed to enhance the completeness of the gross national product were achieved by way of pilot surveys on suitcase trade, businessmen not registered in the business register, and household budget surveys. The Bulgarian Statistical Office will be busy evaluating and implementing the results of the Twinning project also in the year to come.

### Bulgaria Twinning II – Reorganising the regional structure of the statistical office

The European Commission has adopted another Twinning project for the Bulgarian Statistical Office. The goal of the project is to improve the regional structure of the Bulgarian statistical office and of the statistics production with regard to providing the regional data required for the EU structural funds. On 16 July 2007 the Federal Statistical Office in a consortium with the French Statistical Office (INSEE) was awarded the contract to carry through the project. The envisaged duration of the Twinning project is 27 months. The EU grants funds for a budget of 1.8 million euro. The long-term advisor will be seconded by the Statistical Office of the Federal State of Bremen. Missions will be conducted not only by German and French experts, but also by short-term experts from Austria, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Poland and Spain. After preparation and approval of the work plan by the beginning of 2008, the project is scheduled to start in February 2008.

## Co-operation with the Tajik Statistical Office – Progress report



The starting phase of the co-operation project “Strengthening the National Statistical System of the Republic of Tajikistan” (TAJSTAT), which is funded by the World Bank, started in June 2007. In the following months, the key experts took stock of the situation in the Tajik statistical office Goskomstat and in some regional offices. This included an analysis of the state of implementation for the 33 project components and the development of a catalogue of measures for the implementation phase. About 150 co-operation activities are planned before the project will end in 2011. An important pillar of the project is the consultations in the various statistical areas. Other focuses of the project are related to assist-

ing the improvement of the organisational structure, the interaction with ministries and user groups and the enhancement of data quality.

In the meantime, a contract has been awarded for IT services as well. The national statistical offices of Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Sweden and Denmark, which are involved in the TAJSTAT project, seek to ensure utmost coordination in their activities concerning the TAJSTAT project, the concurrent IT project and other internationally financed projects in order to ensure that all parties make efficient use of funds and benefit from synergy effects.



## Co-operation with the Macedonian Statistical Office – Progress report



The successful and timely project implementation within the scope of the Twinning Macedonia project was continued in the 6-month period examined here. The consulting activities of this reporting period focused on the following issues:

In component 1 “Building institutional capacities of the statistical office of Macedonia”: The Strategic Planning System, further capacity building in budget management, and the improvement of the communication structure.

In component 2 “Harmonising national accounts with EU standards”: Introduction or enhancement of regional, quarterly and annual national accounts.

In component 3 “Enhancing the statistical programme with a focus on business and social statistics”: Enhancement or setting up of the register, structural business statistics, short-term sta-

tistics, the household budget survey, and the labour force survey.

In component 4 “Improving the IT concept of the Macedonian Statistical Office”: Improvement of network security, software development, and of setting up a metadata system.

In component 5 “Improving the methods of assessing the quality of the work of the Macedonian statistical office”: Producing quality reports.

Mr. Klaus Kickner, who was seconded under the project as long-term adviser to the State Statistical Office (SSO) in Skopje in early July 2006, will return to the Statistical Office of the Federal State of Thuringia at the beginning of January 2008. We thank Mr. Kickner for his commitment. He has made a major contribution to the smooth implementation of the project.

## European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) and statistical capacity building in transformation and developing countries








High-quality training of statisticians is a guarantee for sustainable further development of the statistics systems in all countries. Consequently, the Eurostat initiative for a European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP) has enthusiastically been welcomed by the national statistical offices. The goal is to have a training programme designed for the long term and tailored to the training demand of statisticians in the member states, which is based on the national training programmes and is now implemented in various Eurostat bodies at the expert and management levels. At the same time, the experience acquired with the current ESTP was critically analysed. In the meantime, national co-ordinating units have been set up for the current ESTP, serving as internal and external contact points for ESTP matters. Division IE has taken over the tasks of the national coordinating unit.

Statistical capacity building and the relevant training activities are an important issue for the statistical offices in transformation and developing countries and international institutions. The objective of a current initiative of the UN Statistics Division is to enhance the coordination of such activities, to create a better overview of the supply and demand situation in the various regions of the world, and to improve the contact between beneficiaries, providers, and donor institutions. Joint efforts should be made to enhance demand orientation and the sustainability of the training and consulting activities for statistical capacity building. The Federal Statistical Office takes an active part in both initiatives within the scope of the European Statistical System and the UN Statistics Commission, and we will report here about the progress made.



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from July 2007 to December 2007

<b>25 June - 07 July 2007 in Dushanbe</b>	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>
	<p>The expert mission on the project components “statistics production and use” and “data quality / data management” was performed as part of the initial phase of the co-operation project with the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan. The goal of the mission, which was to assess the current state of progress in the project components and to evaluate the project goals, was achieved. On that basis, the expert discussed with the Tajik colleagues his proposals for further implementation and organised a seminar in which ways of further developing the national statistical system were openly discussed.</p>
<b>02 – 06 July 2007 in Vilnius</b>	<b>PHARE Programme 2004</b>
	<p>This joint mission of a German and a Swedish expert on agricultural statistics dealt with the income of persons working in the agricultural sector. Both vice-presidents of the statistical office of Lithuania and representatives of the ministry of agriculture and other authorities participated in the consultation. The result obtained is that, although the data available in the statistical office are sufficient to provide politically relevant information on the income of the persons working in the agricultural sector, further efforts must be made to improve the data quality.</p>
<b>02 – 07 July 2007 in Dushanbe</b>	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>
	<p>The goal of this mission was to assess the current situation in the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan in the areas of health and education statistics with a view to implementing further co-operation measures in those project components. For that purpose, the expert from the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony also held discussions with representatives of the national ministries of education and health.</p>
<b>02 – 11 July 2007 in Dushanbe</b>	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>
	<p>The expert from the Danish statistical office analysed the current state of agricultural and environmental statistics at the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan and, jointly with the Tajik colleagues, developed a work plan for the further consultations in those project components. Due to the economic structure in Tajikistan, agricultural statistics is one of the central work areas in the statistical office with great importance also for the provision of indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals. International standards are largely applied at the Tajik statistical office. Challenges are the implementation of efficient and less costly sampling methods and an increased use of information technology.</p>
<b>07 – 10 July 2007 in Skopje</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>
	<p>The goal of the measure was to present the methods of budgeting and the relevant methods of cost estimation and of cost and performance accounting to the management of the Macedonian statistical office (SSO). The methods and procedures presented were discussed in detail with the participants. The SSO intends to set up a cost estimation method, based on the method presented and adjusted to Macedonian purposes, at the end of the year within the scope of this Twinning project. It also plans to start a trial run of the intranet-based cost and performance accounting system. It is planned for this purpose to revise and render more concise the present draft catalogue of activities and to sensitise the office’s staff to the tasks of the new internal audit unit.</p>



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### Overview from July 2007 to December 2007

<b>08 – 17 July 2007</b> <b>in Wiesbaden, Bonn</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b></p> <p>Within the scope of the project on “statistical legislation”, a delegation of the Chinese National Statistical Office visited the Federal Republic of Germany. The goal of the joint project is to amend the statistics law of 1995 with German support. Questions regarding statistical provisions at the federal, Land and municipal levels were discussed with representatives of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, the Hessian Land Statistical Office and the statistical unit of the city of Bonn.</p>
	
<b>09 – 20 July 2007</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>The two experts from the Slovak statistical office held discussions with representatives of the departments of the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan responsible for household budget surveys, population statistics, and surveys on income and living conditions. In view of the less developed economy in Tajikistan, the statistical areas subsumed under “poverty statistics” will be a focus of the consultations in the co-operation project.</p>
	
<b>12 July 2007</b> <b>in Skopje</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p> <p>On the occasion of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the steering committee, the project partners discussed the results of the fourth project quarter. The project activities agreed upon for the reference quarter were performed according to schedule. The agricultural census conducted in June led to capacity problems, so that some measures had to be postponed to the next project quarter. The project goals agreed upon in the contract, however, were achieved. The quarterly report was adopted by the steering committee without major changes.</p>
	
<b>23 July – 03 August 2007</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>The goal of this expert mission was to analyse the state of progress in the various sub-areas of business statistics and to develop a catalogue of measures for the further implementation of those project components. The project goal is to set up a system of business statistics which, on the one hand, reflects the trends in the various economic branches and, on the other, can be used as a basis for setting up national accounts. To achieve that, the Tajik system should get as close as possible to the methods of statistics production applied within the European Union.</p>
	
<b>23 July – 03 August 2007</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>Within the series of expert missions on assessing the current state of implementation in various statistical areas, this mission to the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan focused on national accounts, shadow economy, and finance statistics. In agreement with the Tajik colleagues, focuses of further activities within the co-operation project were defined. An important issue of the discussions was the identification of areas in which the results achieved so far have been unsatisfactory.</p>
	



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from July 2007 to December 2007

<p><b>25 – 26 July 2007 in Daejong</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bilateral Co-operation with South Korea and China</b></p> <p>Within the scope of the bilateral co-operations between the statistical offices of South Korea, China and Germany, and following the first joint statistics seminar held in Bonn in July 2005, the seminar on “The Impact of the Internet on Data Collection and Data Dissemination Procedures in Official Statistics” was held in Daejong under the chairmanship of the Head of the South Korean National Statistical Office (KNSO), Commissioner Dae You Kim. The current use of the internet as a medium for collecting data and disseminating statistical information as well as prospects of future internet use in the transition process from the information society to the knowledge society were topics of lectures held by experts from the three national statistical agencies. The German delegation was headed by President Radermacher.</p>
<p>    </p>	
<p><b>06 – 15 August 2007 in Dushanbe</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>Within that initial measure on “institutional development”, the experts examined the legal framework conditions and the organisational structure of the Tajik statistical system. That was done on the basis of the Multi-annual Integrated Strategy Plan (MISP), the Tajik statistics law and other relevant documents as well as in personal interviews with representatives of the Tajik statistical office and various ministries which play a major role as statistics users and producers. One of the major results that are integrated into the further shaping of the programme is that the organisational structure of the statistical office still corresponds largely to the requirements of the centrally planned economic system and, consequently, does not meet the requirements arising from the trend towards a market economy. A number of consulting and training measures have been proposed.</p>
<p><b>19 – 29 August 2007 in Dushanbe</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>This mission focused on issues of human resources development in the Tajik statistical office. That area is of crucial importance for the further development of the Tajik statistical system because only qualified and motivated staff members can initiate the processes of change that are required for an implementation of the goals defined in the strategy plan (MISP). However, the office faces big challenges here, such as high staff turnover among younger staff. Issues discussed by the experts with the management of the statistical office included the CAF model (Common Assessment Framework) for a self-assessment of the efficiency of the statistical office. Self-assessment according to the CAF model was recommended, so that the results can be used as a basis for better defining the areas in which there is priority demand for development.</p>
<p><b>20 – 31 August 2007 in Johannesburg</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>South African Development Community Project</b></p> <p>During the two-week, EU-financed seminar the participants from the 14 states of the South African Development Community (SADC) were given a comprehensive overview by two German experts on the system of agricultural statistics in Germany and the EU, taking account of the FAO recommendations for Africa. One of the results of the discussions was that the introduction of a harmonised and standardised information system is necessary in every country and at SADC level in order to monitor trends and poverty reduction and to permit international comparisons of the agricultural sector of the region. The experts recommended to continue that kind of co-operation within the SADC region and with the EU and to intensify it within the region.</p>
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### Overview from July 2007 to December 2007

<b>22 – 29 August 2007 in Lisbon</b>	<b>56<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI)</b>
	<p>By organising these sessions every two years, the International Statistical Institute intends to provide a forum for a continuous exchange of scientific/technical information in the field of statistics. The papers and presentations of the ten staff members of the Federal Statistical Office participating in the event focused on issues of official statistics. They ranged from the coverage of marginal employment, questions of statistical confidentiality and the burden placed on businesses by statistical surveys in the field of environment statistics to issues of quality assurance and the dissemination of statistical results. Conferences of that kind are also used to discuss and further develop existing activities of bilateral and international co-operation or to initiate new ones. In this context, discussions were held by President Radermacher with the Director-General of Eurostat, the Director of the Statistics Department of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), representatives of the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) and the heads of the national statistical offices of Austria, the Czech Republic, and Macedonia.</p>
<b>27 – 31 August 2007 in Prague</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>
	<p>The purpose of the study visit of Macedonian statisticians to the Czech statistical office was to hold consultations on administrative data sources for statistical surveys to maintain business registers. The Czech experts provided information on data sources for the business register and explained especially the use of software.</p>
<b>27 – 31 August 2007 in Skopje</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>
	<p>During this consulting activity in Skopje, the German experts gave an overview of the European system of structural business statistics. They explained the problems that occurred in Germany when the old system was adjusted to EU requirements. The statistical office of the Republic of Macedonia (SSO) conducted a pilot survey in the areas of the industry, construction, trade, hotel and restaurant industry, and transport. Based on the results, the Macedonian statisticians were given recommendations for the future methodological development. Although the SSO questionnaires can be used to collect all data of structural business statistics, the plausibility checks of the microdata should be improved and smaller businesses are not sufficiently covered.</p>
<b>03 – 07 September 2007 in Skopje</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>
	<p>The goal of the consulting activity in the area of energy price statistics and foreign trade price indices was to support the Macedonian statistical office in further developing the methods of collecting electricity and gas prices. The results of a pilot survey on export prices of selected product groups, taking special account of average prices of mineral oil products, were evaluated. The experts recommended to finish the regular survey of energy prices early according to European standards. This however requires adjusting the current legal basis.</p>
<b>06 September 2007 in Berlin</b>	<b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b>
	<p>On the occasion of the second meeting of the German-Chinese working group on "trade statistics", representatives of the two countries discussed causes of the discrepancies in data on the countries' mutual trade and ways of minimising them. One of the main causes identified is the different delimitation of the partner country.</p>



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### Overview from July 2007 to December 2007

<b>10 – 12 September 2007</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b> 	<b>Bilateral Co-operation with Korea</b> <p>German price statistics was the issue of a three-day visit of a South Korean delegation. The colleagues from the Republic of Korea were given detailed information on the German practice of calculating indices of rents and house prices, monitoring seasonal prices, methodical projects like CENEX, and the further development of the sample of consumer price statistics. Also, the delegation visited the Hessian Land Statistical Office to obtain information about the details of the data collection done there.</p>
<b>10 – 12 September 2007</b> <b>in Sofia</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b> <p>The project management from the Federal Statistical Office and the French statistical office INSEE met the office and project management of Bulgaria at the Bulgarian statistical office to develop a work and time schedule of the new Twinning project. The new Bulgarian office management explained their ideas on how to implement the project. Statistics production including the work flows between the main office and the subordinate regional offices should gradually be adjusted to the practice in the other EU member states by using modern technologies and modern survey methods. The main activities of the project were jointly defined.</p>
<b>10 – 13 September 2007</b> <b>in Skopje</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <p>Ways and means to create a new internal communication culture at the Macedonian statistical office were the topic of another expert mission of the co-operation project with the former Yugoslav republic. It was recommended to include more often information sources such as staff interviews, intranet and staff journals. The introduction of indicators will support the SSO in implementing relevant changes. A staff opinion survey is scheduled for October 2007. For that purpose, an online communication forum is made available to the staff. Models available for the external communication management are the procedures applied by the Federal Statistical Office and other national statistical institutes of the EU.</p>
<b>10 – 14 September 2007</b> <b>in Skopje</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <p>In this training measure in the component “business statistics”, population census methods using administrative sources were presented.</p>
<b>17 – 21 September 2007</b> <b>in Skopje</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <p>The expert mission served to support the Macedonian statistical office in creating and further developing the short-term business statistics and to standardise the data in manufacturing, mining, and construction and to harmonise them with the European rules for science and technology. Special emphasis was put on the state of affairs regarding the introduction of turnover and order statistics in manufacturing, mining, and construction. In order to compare the construction standards of Germany with those of Macedonia, the categorisation of dwelling sizes in Thuringia was used. Also, formulas for the modification of technical and cyclical aspects in the context of labour productivity were developed.</p>



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<p><b>17 – 28 September 2007</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>The expert mission on “statistical methods” comprised sample bases and sampling methods, classifications, seasonal adjustment, and geographical information systems (GIS). With the exception of seasonal adjustment and GIS, the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan is at a good level. Open questions were discussed during the mission and further consulting missions were agreed upon. However, the two areas mentioned above are still in an early phase of implementation.</p>
<p><b>24 – 28 September 2007</b> <b>in Prague</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p> <p>Within the scope of a study visit to the Czech statistical office, the SSO staff members obtained information on approaches to input-output accounts and Continuous Function Chart (CFC) estimates for superordinate agencies. CFC is a programming language for programmable controllers. Another goal of the activity was to implement a Protocol Independent Multicast (PIM) software, which is a network technology procedure, at the Macedonian statistical office. During the consultation, methods and data sources for CFC and PIM were discussed. At the end of the activity, a PIM software which will be made available to the SSO was presented. In the context of input-output accounts, the compilation of the tables in the CZSO and the relevant work organisation were explained.</p>
<p><b>24 – 29 September 2007</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>Improving the questionnaire design is one of the central issues of the co-operation project with the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan. As questionnaires are the basis of any survey-based statistical data collection, the topic of questionnaire design is of major importance for nearly all statistical areas. Errors resulting from inadequate questionnaires can hardly be corrected in later stages of data collection. It is planned for the co-operation project to pool and analyse the experience acquired with questionnaire design in the various statistical surveys in order to develop on that basis a standard pattern for the questionnaires used.</p>
<p><b>25 – 27 September 2007</b> <b>in Skopje</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p> <p>Measuring poverty was the topic of an expert mission to the Macedonian statistical office. The first issue was a study on the term of income. Major topics of the consultation were common features of, and differences between the household budget surveys and EU-SILC. The SSO will in the future conduct a panel survey on the basis of household budget surveys at four-year intervals.</p>
<p><b>01 – 04 October 2007</b> <b>in Sofia</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Bulgaria I</b></p> <p>To analyse the results available so far from the pilot survey on household budget surveys in Bulgaria, the expert from the Federal Statistical Office met Bulgarian colleagues in Sofia for first discussions. The private consulting company that had conducted the survey was also involved. Issues covered by the discussions included special topics of data processing, data formats, extrapolation, tabulation, and calculation of indicators.</p>



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### Overview from July 2007 to December 2007

<b>08 – 13 October 2007 in Dushanbe</b>	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>	<p>After all the sub-components had been analysed by the responsible key experts as part of the initial phase of the co-operation project with the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan and first consultations had been held, this mission was intended to co-ordinate the work plan for the following three and a half years. For that purpose, the proposals of the key experts and the Tajik colleagues were collected and prioritised. During the implementation, major importance will be attached, apart from technical-organisational consultations, especially to the components of agricultural and poverty statistics, so that those components will be the most comprehensive ones within the project.</p>
		
<b>09 – 11 October 2007 in Moscow</b>	<b>EU Grant Project Russian Federation</b>	<p>The last consultation measure in the component on business registers was performed by two German and one Finnish expert at the statistical office of the Russian Federation (ROSSTAT) and dealt with assessing the work performed and answering open questions. The knowledge acquired was thus consolidated and the further procedure in setting up a register of enterprise groups was discussed. Apart from questions on establishing enterprise groups, aspects of register maintenance, i.e. updating the register data, were discussed. Special emphasis was placed on updating the interlinkages between the units and the variables. Another focus was the representation of enterprise groups in a separate register and questions of their continuity. The Russian colleagues presented first results of forming enterprise groups.</p>
		
<b>09 – 12 October 2007 in Vilnius</b>	<b>PHARE Programme 2004</b>	<p>As a last activity of the co-operation with the Lithuanian statistical office in agricultural statistics, another expert mission was scheduled in the short term. The main goal of the mission was to examine the availability and quality of the data on the income of agricultural households (IAHS – Income of Agricultural Household Sector). Together with the Lithuanian statisticians, the draft final report on the progress made in the project was prepared. Both the experts involved and relevant users, e.g. in the ministries, considered the IAHS as a useful data basis for national political decision-making.</p>
		
<b>16 – 18 October 2007 in Skopje</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	<p>This expert mission was based on three activities conducted earlier in the national accounts component. Advice was given on the quarterly estimation of the gross domestic product. The experts of the Macedonian statistical office presented calculations on the use of the gross domestic product (GDP) which they had developed by themselves on the basis of the previous three activities. Those calculations concerned heating oil as well as imports and exports. The German expert explained the production and use approaches to calculating the GDP in Germany. The calculation methods of the two countries were compared with each other.</p>
		



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES




### Overview from July 2007 to December 2007

<b>16 – 18 October 2007</b> <b>in Skopje</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>
	<p>During a three-day activity, two experts from Germany and Hungary gave advice to the staff members of the Macedonian statistical office regarding issues of quality assurance. The topic was introduced by a presentation of the Hungarian quality report. The focus was on the EU requirements, on how they are met and on the components of the EU quality concept. Also, the first draft of the Macedonian quality report on the Labour Force Survey (LFS) was prepared. The basis used was the “Joint Standard Quality Report for Labour Force Survey and Regional Labour Market Statistics” of 2006, whose components were analysed. A similar approach was used for the first draft of the Macedonian quality report on “The use of information and communication technologies in enterprises”. Here the basis was the German standard quality report.</p>
<b>17 – 19 October 2007</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b>	<b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b>
	<p>Following a break of several months in the co-operation programme between the Federal Statistical Office and the Turkish statistical office (TURKSTAT), this study visit on management information systems continued the programme in the second phase of the USST project (cf. p. 3). Experts from all three cross-section departments of the Federal Statistical Office presented to the Turkish guests various management information areas, such as on staff, security, and document management. The consultation focused on the question of whether the two offices can benefit from the other's experience and how the solutions found can possibly be transferred. It is intended to address some of those issues in more detail.</p>
<b>19 – 26 October 2007</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b>	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>
	<p>Within the scope of the co-operation with the statistical office of the Republic of Tajikistan, in the project component on business registers, an expert from Tajikistan participated in the “International Round Table on Business Survey Frames - Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers”. One day of the event was dedicated to a workshop in which specifically the experience and problems of developing countries were discussed. At the beginning of the study visit, specific discussions with various business statistics experts were held at the Federal Statistical Office.</p>
<b>19 October –</b> <b>01 November 2007</b> <b>in Sofia</b>	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria I</b>
	<p>As a final activity of the consultations on the pilot survey on suitcase trade, the Czech expert visited the Bulgarian statistical office. The results of the survey provide valuable information on the suitcase trade between Bulgaria and its neighbouring countries (number of “suitcase traders”, type and value of the goods imported). The data will be used by the Bulgarian statistical office to enhance the completeness of the gross national product.</p>
<b>22 – 24 October 2007</b> <b>in Moscow</b>	<b>Bilateral Co-operation with the Russian Federation</b>
	<p>The goal of the consultation was to examine the discrepancies between the foreign trade data of Germany and Russia. The methodical principles of German and Russian foreign trade statistics were compared with each other. A comparison between the German-Russian trade data and the German-Chinese trade data contributed much to identify the causes of the discrepancies. Most of the discrepancies refer to mineral oil and natural gas, although an improvement on the Russian side is expected from 2008. The experts of the two countries explored causes for discrepancies between Russian imports and German exports, such as differences in defining the good's country of origin and of destination, price differences, and the coverage or non-coverage of third countries as an origin of imported goods.</p>



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<b>22 – 25 October 2007 in Sofia</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria I</b> <p>The final discussion of the results of the pilot survey on household budget surveys in Bulgaria focused on analysing the data available and to answer questions of extrapolation and data processing. The German expert had provided valuable support to the Bulgarian colleagues during the entire project and successfully completed her activity by this consultation.</p>
<b>22 – 26 October 2007 in Bonn</b> 	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b> <p>On the occasion of this study visit on project management, staff members of the Tajik statistical office and of the Project Coordination Team (PCT) located there visited the Federal Statistical Office in Bonn. In addition to exchanging information on the progress of the common co-operation project, discussions were held especially on communication processes, co-operation in a team, and target control. The Tajik project team has an important function in the project as an interface between the Tajik and the international experts. In this context, a precondition for successfully carrying out the project is efficient work, not only during the individual co-operation activities but also, and especially between successive missions.</p>
<b>23 – 25 October 2007 in Zagreb</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b> <p>With a kick-off meeting, the project partners started the implementation phase of the Twinning project. Participants in the meeting were not only the project managers of the Croatian statistical office, but also representatives of Human Dynamics (private consulting company responsible for a parallel project including a component that is identical to one of the Twinning project components), a representative of the European Union delegation and a representative of the Croatian financing agency (CFCU). The German project leader informed the Croatian colleagues about the processes and procedures of preparing and carrying through the individual consultation activities and the EU requirements to be met by the project administration. In a document jointly prepared, the guidelines for future co-operation between those involved in the project were defined.</p>
<b>24 – 26 October 2007 in Wiesbaden</b> 	<b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b> <p>International education statistics was the topic of a three-day study visit of a delegation from the Turkish national statistical office. The Turkish delegation was given information on issues of integrating the education programmes into the International Standard Classification of Education ISCED97 and classifying the subjects of training and studies. Also, data collection methods and setting up a coding system for Turkish education statistics were discussed. To get better acquainted with various education statistics in the federal system, the delegation visited the Hessian Land Statistical Office.</p>



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### Overview from July 2007 to December 2007

<b>24 – 26 October 2007 in Zagreb</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b>  <p>The first activity of project component 1 (enhancing the organisational structure) was performed as a joint workshop with Human Dynamics (cf. above). During the workshop the Croatian colleagues presented to the member states experts the strategic and organisational situation of the Croatian statistical office (CBS) and the specialised units involved in the co-operation projects. The result of the workshop will be a jointly developed assessment document reflecting the current situation of the CBS and of the Croatian statistical system in the areas relevant for the project, including the recommendations of the EU member states experts involved, and thus showing the current need for consultation. This allows the parties involved in the project to plan and co-ordinate the expert mission in a needs-oriented manner and to benefit from possible synergies.</p>
<b>25 October 2007 in Skopje</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>  <p>The report on the fifth project quarter was adopted by the members of the steering committee without major changes. Due to capacity shortages in the third project quarter of 2007, some project activities could not be performed. However, the time schedule is not at risk because they have either been carried through already in the current quarter or they will be carried out before the end of the year.</p>
<b>29 October – 02 November 2007 in Skopje</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>  <p>Two experts of the Czech statistical office gave advice to the Macedonian statisticians on the issue of value added at the regional level and gave recommendations on the bottom-up and top-down methods. They analysed data sources of all institutional sectors, identified shortcomings, and showed possible solutions for the various economic sectors, including agriculture and forestry, fisheries, the industry, electricity, gas and water supply, construction, trade, hotel and restaurant industry, housing, education and health. A first pilot calculation of regional value added data was performed at the end of the activity.</p>
<b>30 October – 02 November 2007 in Skopje</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>  <p>This consulting activity at the statistical office of the Republic of Macedonia (SSO) dealt with the standardisation of metadata in Germany and at an international level. The German expert first gave an overview of the structure of official statistics in Germany and the federal and Land authorities involved. He presented the approximately 390 official statistics and the standard list of the statistics of the Federation and the Länder. The Macedonian statisticians were given recommendations on metadata systems in the context of data dissemination and on technical aspects.</p>
<b>02 – 07 November 2007 in Skopje</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>  <p>The consulting activity at the Macedonian statistical office was aimed at improving the network and data security. The two experts of the Land Statistical Office of Thuringia informed their Macedonian colleagues about security technology and identified concrete security gaps of the IT system of the SSO. Using practical examples, they showed possible solutions and participated in preparing the creation of an information security system at the SSO. Considering the current situation of the SSO network, the consistency of databases is not guaranteed. To avoid administrative efforts and to improve structural clarity, the two German experts advised the Macedonian statisticians to use just one domain.</p>

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<b>04 – 13 November 2007 in Wiesbaden, Erfurt</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b></p> <p>The study visit was part of the bilateral German-Chinese co-operation project on price statistics agreed upon for the period from 2006 to 2010. Based on the activities performed before, the participants were given more detailed information on methods and procedures of calculating the indices of producer, consumer and goods transport prices. What was particularly interesting was the explanations on the work of the Thuringian Land Statistical Office regarding consumer price statistics and especially the working methods of the price collectors. The Chinese side welcomed especially the fact that the exchange of information was not limited to the technical level but included the presentation of the practical approach to surveys of price statistics.</p>
	
<b>05 – 07 December 2007 in Skopje</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p> <p>The goal of the consultation was to evaluate the progress made in the project component on national accounts. Using a PIM software (Protocol Independent Multicast, a procedure of network technology), the value of the Continuous Function Charts applied was determined. Another item was the conversion of the national currency into euros and the integration of that conversion into the methodology and work flows. As regards the financial aspects, government expenditure and consumption of fixed capital were classified using the PIM method. The SSO presented its production account and the generation of income accounts in a breakdown by institutional sectors. Based on the presentation, some recommendations were given on the procedure to follow.</p>
	
<b>06 – 08 November 2007 in Ankara</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b></p> <p>The expert mission of the project component on “improving the administrative structure of TURKSTAT” was the first co-operation activity in Ankara within the co-operation between the Turkish statistical office and the Federal Statistical Office in the second phase of the USST co-operation project that has started now. The expert used the initial activity to discuss with the Turkish colleagues what should be the main issues of this component within the duration of the project and what goals should be achieved. The consultations will focus on staff management and especially the development of detailed job descriptions.</p>
	
<b>06 – 09 November 2007 in Moscow</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EU Grant Project Russian Federation</b></p> <p>The evaluation of the pilot survey on productivity measurement at the regional level in the Russian Federation was the topic of the consulting mission of two experts of the Dutch statistical office. Between June and September, a research institute connected with ROSSTAT conducted a pilot survey on productivity measurement. This consultation now focused on evaluating the results. As a result of the consultation, the methodology – developed by the research institute – of productivity measurement in Russia by economic sector and region was revised and the accuracy of calculation methods was enhanced.</p>
	
<b>12 – 16 November 2007 in Skopje</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p> <p>During their consultation at the Macedonian statistical office, two Swedish experts supported their Macedonian colleagues in establishing and further developing specific statistical software. The work focused on the Unified Modeling Language, especially UML diagrams. The diagrams should be used to document the work in the software system of the SSO. Also, the requirements of the planned software system were determined and documented by use cases. The experts suggest a distinction by two different use cases, with one describing the work flows and the other describing the IT system flow.</p>
	



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<b>03 – 14 December 2007 in Ankara</b> 	<b>Co-operation Project on Causes of Death Statistics</b> <p>This expert mission on the automated coding of causes of death statistics was performed outside the co-operation with the Turkish statistical office in the USST co-operation programme. The goal is to allocate the approximately 600,000 deaths per year in Turkey to the causes of death given in a standard classification. During the mission, the potential of automated coding by means of the IRIS coding system was determined.</p>
<b>04 – 05 December 2007 in Sisak, Rijeka</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b> <p>The Twinning advisor working in the project visited some Croatian regional offices to get acquainted with their major activities and to check whether, and to what extent, those activities can be integrated into the project.</p>
<b>11 – 14 December 2007 in Zagreb</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b> <p>The purpose of this first expert mission in project component 2 on “improving business statistics” of the Twinning project was to take stock of the surveys conducted for business statistics in Croatia and to compare them with EU standards and requirements. In co-ordination with the Croatian colleagues, the experts then developed a work plan for business statistics, especially for the surveys regarding short-term statistics.</p>
<b>19 – 21 December 2007 in Moscow</b> 	<b>EU Grant Project Russian Federation</b> <p>This was the last activity in the project component on “calculating labour productivity”. Within that activity, the German and Russian project managers discussed the draft final report on the project and subsequently evaluated a two-day regional conference on the project results achieved and on the results of a pilot survey on calculating labour productivity at the regional level. The project will be completed with a positive result in this component, too.</p>



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