

# STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

Statistical Co-operation  
with Transition and Developing Countries



1/2008

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

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

Published in November 2008  
Order number: 0000024-08531-1

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Copy deadline: 30 June 2008



## Editorial

Dear readers,

In our last edition, we reported about the start of new projects. As you can see from our project reports, the implementation phase has now started in the projects with the Croatian, Bulgarian and Turkish statistical offices.

In the first six months of this year, we performed a total of 76 activities in statistical co-operation. 61 of them were expert missions to the relevant countries and 15 were study visits to the Federal Statistical Office, to one of the Land offices or to a statistical office of one of the other EU countries involved in the project. At this point, we would like to express our thanks to the statistical offices of the Länder (German federal states), which strongly support our work.

We have established the new “About us” column to inform you about current changes in German statistical co-operation.

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

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*The editors*

Simone Koll

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## Co-operation with the Tajik statistical office – Progress report



In the first six months of 2008, co-operation measures were performed in 14 of the total of 30 components of the co-operation project “Strengthening the National Statistical System of the Republic of Tajikistan” that is financed by the World Bank. Based on the results of the inception phase, the short-term experts performed the consultations defined in the work plan. The experts came from all five national statistical offices involved in the project in addition to Destatis, that is the offices of Sweden, Denmark, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The consultations focus on the statistical areas that are relevant for the Millennium Development Goals, including statistics on income and living conditions of the people and agricultural statistics. Within the accompanying cross-section components there was, among other things, a first mission on developing a new statistics law.

The main event in the first half of 2008 was a two-week seminar in Wiesbaden for managers of the Tajik statistical office Goskomstat. The delegation

was headed by the Goskomstat Vice-President, Ms Bakhtyia Muhammadiyeva. Topics discussed in Wiesbaden with the delegation from Goskomstat and some regional statistical offices of Tajikistan were quality management, the impact of transformation processes on the statistical system, confidentiality, protection and dissemination of statistical data as well as administrative tasks such as human resources management and controlling in the field of statistical activities. Also, the participants were given insight into the co-operation between statistical bodies and ministries in Germany and the EU as well as into relevant communication and decision-making processes. Various aspects of social statistics and business registers were discussed, too. Excursions to the Land Statistical Office of Rhineland-Palatinate, to the Bonn Branch Office of the Federal Statistical Office and to the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection completed the programme.

## Co-operation with the Macedonian statistical office – Progress report



The implementation phase of the Twinning project with the Macedonian statistical office was finished within the reporting period as scheduled.

The Twinning project concluded with one of the highlights of the co-operation when on 10 April 2008 together with experts from Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary and Sweden the project results achieved during the last two years have been presented in Skopje. One of the major aims of the project was to support the Macedonian statistical office in creating a central basis for adjusting the national law and administration to the common EU standard. In Skopje, the event achieved high public awareness. There were about 120 invited guests from the spheres of politics, the economy, the scientific community and official statistics. Many representatives of the



*The photo shows the German team at the concluding conference: Mr Störtzbach, Mr Kickner, Mr Stäglin, Mr Angermann, Mrs Koll, Mr Radermacher, Mr Kromholz and Mr Schulze (from the right side)*

Macedonian media had come, too. Guests of honour were the Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister, the EU representative to Macedonia, the



President of the Macedonian central bank and the ambassadors of Germany and Slovenia. The event was chaired by the German project leader, Mr. Störtzbach, and the Director General of the Macedonian statistical office, Ms Novkovska. The President of the Federal Statistical Office, Mr. Radermacher, delivered a keynote speech on the future of the European Statistical System (ESS). Mr. Krombholz, President of the Thuringian Land Office for Statistics, which played a major role in the project at the expert level, gave a welcoming address on behalf of the Minister President of the Free State of Thuringia.

In three working groups (macro-economic statistics, business and social statistics, and organisational structure), the project results were presented in detail and discussed with the expert audience. There was agreement within the presentations of the project managers and the experts from the EU member states as well as in the statements of the participants, that the project has created major preconditions required to modernise the Macedonian statistical system and to adjust it to the statistical standards applicable in the ESS and that the project aims set by the EU have thus been achieved.

## Twinning II with Bulgaria – Re-organising the regional structure of the statistical office



The new Twinning project officially started on 24 March 2008. It supports the Bulgarian statistical office in adjusting its structures and work flows to the requirements of the EU regional policy (EU Structural Funds). The project partners are the Bulgarian statistical office as the beneficiary and Destatis in a consortium with the French statistical office (INSEE). Other experts from Denmark, Finland, Austria, Poland, Spain, Hungary and the Czech Republic are involved in the project. The project's original duration of 27 months had to be reduced to 20 months because the contracting procedure was delayed several times. The project partners had no influence on the causes of the delays:

In mid-November 2006, the Twinning project was put up for tender. The application deadline envisaged was 5 February 2007. With Bulgaria's accession to the EU, the entire responsibility for managing EU projects was to be transferred from the EU to Bulgaria. This so-called EDIS accreditation (Extended Decentralised Implementation System) required time. The deadline for submitting tenders was postponed to 3 May 2007. The German-French project proposal was then presented in Sofia on 15 June 2007. The tender was accepted on 16 June 2007. After the project partners had prepared the Twinning contract and co-ordinated



it with the responsible Central Finance and Contracts Unit (CFCU) at the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance, the draft contract was approved without changes by the European Commission on 6 February 2008. On 14 February 2008, the project

partners transmitted the signed Twinning contract to the CFCU. When checking the contract again, the CFCU realised for the first time that the duration of the Twinning contract exceeded the duration of the underlying funding agreement concluded between the EU and Bulgaria. Germany made the constructive proposal that the contract should first be signed and then be reduced in duration by concluding an amendment contract. Although supported by the Enlargement Directorate-General, that proposal was not accepted by the CFCU, which further delayed the project start. Af-

ter further co-ordination and transmission of the signed copies, the contract finally entered into force on 24 March 2008. Altogether, the duration of the Twinning contract was reduced by 7 months. There were 16 months between the call for tender and project awarding. It remains to be seen to what extent the reduction in duration will affect project implementation. The statistical offices involved are prepared to successfully carry out the project even with a shorter duration. The results of the first expert missions are promising.

### Co-operation with the Turkish statistical office USST II – Progress report



In the reporting period, implementation started in all sub-components of the second phase of the USST co-operation project (Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey). Due to the slight delays before project start, which would have led to a rather short period (about one year) available for implementing the expert missions, the implementation phase was extended up to 2 April 2009. Consequently, the total duration since 3 October 2007 will now be 18 months.

During that time, the involvement of the Federal Statistical Office focuses on environmental statistics, where consultations were held, and further consultations are scheduled, for waste and waste water statistics.

Within the Training Grant, which is implemented at the same time and from which study visits of Turkish statisticians to EU states are financed, four additional co-operation measures were held in the first half of 2008. This refers to agricultural statistics, where the consultations were again combined with the International Green Week in Berlin, national accounts, educational classifications, and health statistics.

Due to the retirement of the long-time Head of the Turkish statistical office (TURKSTAT), Prof. Ömer Demir, the former Vice-President, Mr. A. Ömer Toprak, was appointed Acting President on 24 March 2008.

### Twinning project with Croatia – Series of interviews at regional offices



The programme PHARE 2005 “Technical Assistance to the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia in the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire” is to support the accession process by providing adequate statistical information to the Croatian government and the European Union. The assistance to be provided aims at enhancing the efficiency of the Central Bureau

of Statistics (CBS) with regard to its internal organisation and to bring about improvements in the following statistical areas: Business register and national classification of economic activities, national accounts, short-term economic statistics, important household surveys (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions – SILC, household budget surveys) and value-based agricultural sta-



tistics. The programme is implemented in two Twinning projects, led by the Federal Statistical Office and the Danish statistical office, and within the scope of a service contract under the direction of Hulla & Co. Human Dynamics KG.

The implementing of the service contract on “Technical Assistance to the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia in the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire” (Europe Aid/123197/ DSER/HR) started in August 2007. Component 1 of the service contract (“Organisational efficiency of the Central Bureau of Statistics”) is closely related to component 1 (“Improving the organisational efficiency of the Central Bureau of Statistics”) of the Twinning Project on “Technical Assistance to the Central Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Croatia in the Adoption of the Acquis Communautaire in Selected Statistical Areas” (HR 05 IB ST 01), which started in October 2007 under German leadership.

Component 1 (organisational efficiency of the Central Bureau of Statistics) covers organisational and financial issues and the following major results are to be achieved:

- Proposals for a new organisational structure including provisions on regional data collection
- Table on the actual distribution of staff
- Draft of updated job descriptions
- Overview of demand for staff
- Detailed training plan for human resources development
- Systems for financial management control and checks
- Updated legal acts on the organisation and activities of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The sub-activities are performed in a co-ordinated manner, based on the German Twinning contract and the Human Dynamics service contract.

Earlier assessments of the regional statistical system showed that the current situation is far from satisfactory.

The Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia has a centralised structure. The two CBS locations are in Zagreb.

In addition, each of the 21 regions of Croatia has at least one regional statistics department.

There are a total of 50 regional units with 237 staff members. Those regional statistical agencies (apart from the one in Zagreb, which belongs to the Zagreb administration) are part of the decentralised central administration of the Central State Administrative Office of Public Administration (SAO) and participate in Shared Services, e. g. wage payments. The SAO is also responsible for the budget, staff and equipment of its regional offices and of the statistical agencies.

The Central Bureau of Statistics does not have direct influence on the statistical offices of the regions, although the latter conduct statistical data surveys for the CBS under the technical supervisions of the CBS and with CBS support in staff training. The statistical activities of the regional agencies are mainly limited to the local collection of data, including the first phase of manual checking for questionnaire completeness. Electronic data capture and processing is done at the CBS central unit.

The current situation is not satisfactory. Fundamental changes in the CBS work organisation cannot completely be carried out because the regional statistics level is not covered by those changes. More efficient use of staff and IT equipment in the statistical system, aimed at improving the quality of official statistics, can be envisaged only if both the national and the regional level are included.

Following an agreement between the CBS and the programme partners, it was decided to conduct a survey among all regional agencies in order to collect comprehensive background information for future decision-making on the organisation at the regional level.

The purpose of collecting such information is to examine the possibilities of improving the effi-



ciency and the cost-benefit ratio of regional data collection and processing for official statistics.

The survey is conducted in two stages:

- Contact with the regional agencies is established by sending a letter including a paper questionnaire. In the letter, the agencies are asked to complete the questionnaire by a specific reference day and to participate in the planned interviews.
- In interviews to be arranged with the regional agencies, the data in the questionnaires are verified and additional oral questions are asked. The interviews were held, first, by the

German Twinning long-term expert and her assistant and, second, by the team leader of the service contract and a local advisor, who interviewed 6 and 15 regional agencies, respectively. Every interview is recorded in Croatian and English and the respondents are asked to give relevant comments which are included in the minutes.

After completing data collection, a summarising report will be prepared, including a detailed analysis. These are the target data: Data collection by 1 July 2008 and reporting by 15 August 2008.

### Co-operation with the Chinese statistical office – Working group on trade statistics



From 26 to 28 May 2008, a German delegation consisting of representatives of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and of the Federal Statistical Office visited the People's Republic of China on the occasion of the third meeting of the German-Chinese working group on trade statistics.

The German delegation was led by Karl Wendling, Head of Directorate on foreign trade and payments law, foreign trade and payments controls, economic co-operation with North Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australia at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. The Chinese delegates were led by Liu Haiquan, Deputy Head of Department on fundamental issues and statistics at the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China.

The working group was set up at the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the German-Chinese Joint Economic Committee on 11 November 2005 by the two responsible German and Chinese ministers.

The purpose of the working group is to identify differences in German and Chinese trade statistics and to perform the required analyses.

At the end of the work, a jointly prepared final report including conclusions and recommendations is to be submitted to the economic committee.

The two sides agreed on the causes of the discrepancies. The joint final report will now be prepared by 30 September 2008 before being submitted to the German-Chinese Joint Economic Committee. The working group thus will successfully finish its work soon.



*This photo shows the Deputy Chairman of the NBS, Mr Xie Hongguang (centre) and Mrs von Oppeln-Bronikowski (5th from right), head of the German delegation on the occasion of a visit to NBS on 28 May 2008*



Prior to the working group meeting, the German delegation was informed about the current social, economic and political situation in China on 26 May 2008 by the permanent deputy of the ambassador and head of the economic department of the German embassy in Beijing, Werner Lauk.

The delegates from the Federal Statistical Office, led by Sibylle von Oppeln-Bronikowski, Head of Department on prices, foreign trade, transport and earnings, met representatives of the management level of the Chinese statistical office for discussions in the morning of 28 May 2008. Dr. Mathias Bruch, Head of the economic statistics Division at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, also participated in the discussions.

The delegation was welcomed by the Deputy Head of Office, Xie Hongguang who, at short notice, had to substitute the Head of Office, Xie Fuzhan, who was not available.

Ms von Oppeln-Bronikowski handed over a letter from President Walter Radermacher for Xie Hongguang, in which he expresses his sympathy because of the earthquake catastrophe in Central China.

Subsequently, Ms von Oppeln-Bronikowski held a speech on topics and challenges of European official statistics, Dr. Klaus Geyer-Schäfer, Head of foreign trade Division, reported on the results of the third meeting of the working group on trade statistics, and Albrecht Krockow, Head of Section in the foreign trade Division, informed on the state of affairs of revising the recommendations of the United Nations on the methodology for compiling international merchandise trade statistics including concepts and definitions.

In the afternoon, the project manager in charge of co-operation with China at the Federal Statistical Office discussed with the responsible Chinese heads of department and division the bilateral projects suggested by the Chinese side on employment statistics, earnings statistics, construction, housing and investment statistics, energy statistics as well as internet data dissemination and statistical information services. It is envisaged that the individual projects should be planned in detail in Germany and China next year between the German and Chinese experts. Projects are scheduled to start in late 2009/early 2010.

## Co-operation with the Romanian statistical office in economic statistics



On 27 August 2007, the EU-financed project on "Reforming Romanian economic statistics" started. The project is carried out by an international consortium led by ICON Public Institute Cologne and with Destatis participating as consortium partner. It has a duration of 16 months. The aim of the project, which is subdivided into eight project components, is to further develop the Romanian statistical system by adopting the *acquis communautaire*.

### Project component A: Reforming agricultural statistics

In this component, the methodology regarding vegetable and fodder plant cultivation as well as flower and ornamental plant production are further developed. For that purpose, three pilot sur-

veys are conducted and the methodology for setting up a fodder balance and its annual updating is developed.

### Project component B: Short-term indicators for service prices

The goal of this project component is to produce price indices for services in accordance with the European provisions regarding short-term indicators and the methodical development of producer price indices for services.

### Project component C: Methods of covering the shadow economy in national accounts

The aim is to improve the methodology of estimating the share of the shadow economy and its inclusion in national accounts. For that purpose, definitions are developed and test surveys are





conducted to create a methodical basis allowing to exactly represent the shadow economy in national accounting.

Project component D: Seasonal adjustment in quarterly accounts

The aim of this component is to create the framework conditions for taking over the calculation methodology regarding quarterly accounts in accordance with ESA95 and Eurostat recommendations. The purpose is to bring about comparability between all quarters while eliminating calendar and working day effects in quarterly national accounts.

Project component E: Improving/harmonising environment statistics

The primary goal of this project component is to enable the Romanian statistical office to regularly compile environmental accounts including NAMEA tables on air emissions and valuation of mineral resources, so that detailed data can be made available especially with a view to climatic changes. Environmental statistics are to be improved in order to integrate them into national accounts satellite systems together with economic indicators, taking into account the harmonised methodology. This involves the following tasks:

- Developing new statistical procedures and methods in accordance with the new international recommendations,
- Setting up accounts to show stocks, circulation and yield of natural resources (mineral resources),
- Setting up a matrix for national accounts, including emissions and waste according to the NAMEA model,
- Developing an IT system and databases for conducting a pilot survey and setting up an environmental-economic accounting system,
- Training of experts involved in the setting up and maintenance of the environmental-economic accounting system.

Destatis provides the key expert in this component (cf. reports under “co-operation activities”).

Project component F: Further developing business statistics

In this component, business statistics are further developed and structural business surveys are redesigned. Attention must be paid here to methodical aspects and IT procedures, taking into account the requirements of the new structural business statistics and Foreign Affiliates Trade Statistics in balance of payments statistics.

Project component G: Developing regional statistical indicators

The goal here is to develop regional statistical indicators in line with the new EU requirements. It is planned to:

- prepare a manual on statistical key indicators at the regional level (NUTS 2, NUTS 3),
- develop a strategy on introducing regional statistical indicators, and
- conduct two pilot surveys at the local level regarding regional accounts.

Destatis carried out a study visit in this project component (cf. report under “co-operation activities”).

Project component H: Public access to statistical data

The aim of this project component, which is subdivided into several sub-components, is to enable the general public to have electronic access to statistical results available. This involves developing databases, improving structures of existing data and optimising ways of access.


Destatis will carry out a study visit in this component.





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>14 – 24 January 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden, Bonn,</b> <b>Bad Ems</b> 	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b> <p>The high-level seminar on “Methods, tools and challenges of official statistics” was the initial event of the implementation phase of the co-operation project with Tajikistan that started in June 2007. <i>See also report on p. 3.</i></p>
<b>15 – 18 January 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b> <p>The aims of the mission were to exchange knowledge and experience between the Croatian experts and those from Denmark, Sweden and Finland regarding household budget surveys (HBS) and EU-SILC as well as to identify potential for improvement regarding the current Croatian HBS and EU-SILC survey with a view to EU harmonisation and the planning of further missions within this component.</p>
<b>17 January 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b> 	<b>Bilateral Co-operation – Armenia</b> <p>During an information visit on the “General classification of territorial units for statistics, taking Denmark and Germany as examples”, the Head of the Armenian statistical office, Stepan Mnatsakanyan, and his delegation visited the Federal Statistical Office on 17 January 2008. The experts of the Federal Statistical Office presented the administrative and territorial structure of the Federal Republic of Germany.</p>
<b>17 – 19 January 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden, Berlin</b> 	<b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b> <p>The study visit on the reform of agricultural statistics again involved a visit to the Green Week international agricultural fair in Berlin. There the Turkish participants had opportunity, among other things, to talk with experts of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, the Central Market and Price Monitoring Agency (ZMP) and the Central Marketing Organization of German Agricultural Industries (CMA). The purpose was to discuss ways of improving the quality of agricultural statistics in Turkey.</p>
<b>21 – 25 January 2008</b> <b>in Bucharest</b> 	<b>PHARE 2004 – Romania</b> <p>In the environmental component of the PHARE project, there are three work areas of different importance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Setting up air emission balances for Romania (NAMEA-Air) and supplying them to Eurostat with a sufficient degree of detail.</li> <li>2. First production of waste balances according to the EU waste statistics directive for Romania regarding reference year 2006.</li> <li>3. Support in monetary valuation of domestic energy raw materials (coal, gas and oil).</li> </ol> <p>The above topics were discussed with the respective experts of the Romanian statistical office (INS) and of other institutions and companies. Romanian colleagues made clear that INS would like to have the entire air emission balancing done externally. Processing the basic data of environment statistics is to be done at the National Environmental Agency (NEPA) itself, which is to be enabled to do so as part of this project.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>22 – 25 January 2008 in Zagreb</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b>  <p>The purpose of the measure was to present the household budget surveys (HBS) of the national statistical offices of Germany, Sweden and Finland and to assess the Croatian HBS. Aims of the mission were not only to exchange knowledge and experience regarding HBS between the Croatian statisticians and the experts, but also to identify potential for improvement of the current Croatian HBS regarding the EU harmonisation and the planning of the other missions of component 3, also in the context of EU-SILC as the other main topic of consultation. Time scheduling for the follow-up missions was co-ordinated.</p>
<b>23 January 2008 in Skopje</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>  <p>At the sixth meeting of the steering committee of the Twinning project “Support to the State Statistical Office (SSO) of Macedonia”, the report on progress made in the sixth project quarter was adopted without major changes. The project activities agreed upon were performed in accordance with the work plan and the project’s interim goals agreed upon by contract were achieved. The project management provided information on the concept and progress made in preparing the final symposium of the project, which was then held on 10 April and where the project results were presented to the general public.</p>
<b>23 – 25 January 2008 in Zagreb</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b>  <p>Based on the results of the first measure, an overview was given on the current situation of Croatian official statistics (including the regional offices). Taking the achieved results as a basis, the three experts from Finland, Sweden and Germany prepared an action plan for reshaping the Croatian statistical system. The action plan comprises three possible alternatives and shows the various advantages and disadvantages. It is intended to present the knowledge obtained so far and the recommendations prepared as soon as possible to the new head of office and to discuss their implementation.</p>
<b>28 January 2008 in Bonn</b>  	<b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b>  <p>Participants from the Chinese National Statistical Office and various regional offices visited Bonn within the scope of a three-month training course at Freiburg university. The German experts explained the structure of the Federal Statistical Office and the distribution of functions within the system of German official statistics. The Chinese also received information on statistical legal provisions as well as on the methods and dissemination channels for statistical data applied by the Federal Statistical Office.</p>
<b>28 – 29 January 2008 in Zagreb</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b>  <p>At the meeting of the Twinning project steering committee, the state of affairs of project progress (consultations performed, aims achieved, project budget) was presented and explained, and the draft report on the first quarter was agreed upon. Also, an outlook on future consultations was given and the work steps and activities required for the project to be successful were shown. The progress made in the project is in line with contractual agreements and was appreciated.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>28 January – 02 February 2008 in Dushanbe</b>	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>	<p>The purpose of the consultations was to analyse the current system of foreign trade data collection in Tajikistan and possible approaches to improvement. First, the organisation of foreign trade statistics in Tajikistan was compared with that of Germany. Since 1993, compilation of foreign trade statistics in Tajikistan has been within the responsibility of the statistical office. The data basis is formed by monthly import and export data of the Tajik customs administration. Also, the total of about 800 importing and exporting enterprises are obliged to report their cross-border commodity transactions direct to the statistical office on a quarterly basis. Data collection methods and possible co-operation with the customs administration were discussed. Other items of discussion have been nomenclatures and classifications applied as well as data processing and publication of foreign trade statistics. Altogether, it turned out that the methods applied in Tajikistan are largely in line with the international recommendations of the United Nations regarding the compilation of statistics on cross-border trading of goods.</p>
		
<b>29 – 31 January 2008 in Zagreb</b>	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b>	<p>The experts of the statistical offices of Denmark, Sweden and Germany presented the structure of and experience made with the current organisation of their statistical offices. The discussions held after the presentations and the proposals made by the Croatian representatives led to the following recommendations of the international experts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Performing the rearrangement in two stages: Reorganising the Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia (CBS) in a first stage, settling the issue of regional offices in a second stage.</li> <li>- Survey among CBS staff to be conducted by the company Human Dynamics on their ideas of reorganisation as a basis for further discussions,</li> <li>- Performing a workshop on the development of, and proposals on reorganisation following the appointment of the new Director-General, involving the company Human Dynamics, the CBS management and the international experts.</li> </ul>
		
<b>29 – 31 January 2008 in Skopje</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>	<p>The aim of the third expert mission to Skopje in the business register component was to complete the recommendations on the legal framework of the business register and, generally, on its concept. The experts of the Czech and Macedonian statistical offices discussed the procedures, methods and time schedule regarding the implementation of the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities (NACE Rev. 2). The experience of the Czech experts was particularly interesting for the Macedonian statisticians.</p>
		
<b>06 – 08 February 2008 in Sofia</b>	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b>	<p>Before the project officially started, the German project manager and the long-term expert held recruitment interviews regarding the project assistant job. The assistant's job contract was concluded directly between the successful candidate and the Bulgarian financing authority (CFCU).</p>
		



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>07 – 08 February 2008</b> <b>in Skopje</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <p>This mission of a Czech expert to the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia was a follow-up to the two previous consultations on input-output tables. The consultation focused on the automated RAS procedure (<i>Residual Allocation System</i>) on updating existing input-output tables and on the conversion of symmetric input-output tables. The Czech expert assessed positively the Macedonian methods and procedures on collecting and balancing data of input-output accounts and of the production and use approach. Discussions on further improvement were aimed especially at accuracy and timely supply of the collected data.</p>
<b>10 – 15 February 2008</b> <b>in Skopje</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <p>The two German experts advised the Macedonian colleagues on issues of quality of the data available or still to be collected in business statistics. During the last consultation, the experts agreed with their Macedonian colleagues that the latter should prepare questionnaires for small and medium-sized enterprises and tables containing results. The staff members of the Macedonian State Statistical Office (SSO) informed the two German experts on the results of the pilot surveys conducted in trade, industry, construction, hotel and restaurants, transport and communication. The German experts dealt in detail with questions and problems regarding data, such as the inconsistency of some tables or plausibility problems.</p>
<b>17 – 22 February 2008</b> <b>in Skopje</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <p>The main goal of the expert mission on microdata was to improve microdata access for the scientific and research community by providing relevant publications. The two experts gave an overview of research data dissemination in Germany, legal bases and framework conditions in Germany and Europe, confidentiality, anonymisation, Scientific Use and CAMPUS Files and on the activities of the research data centres at the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder in general. They made improvement proposals to the Macedonian experts regarding a procedure developed by the latter on microdata access.</p>
<b>18 – 22 February 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b> <p>The aim of the mission was to support the statistical office in Zagreb (CBS) in developing a human resources development concept. Presentations focused on the concepts of the statistical offices of Denmark, Sweden and Germany and on experience made when introducing various tools. The CBS does not yet have a human resources development concept. Existing tools such as annual talks between superiors and their staff members or the advanced training programme should be integrated in a specific concept.</p>
<b>18 – 29 February 2008</b> <b>in Ankara</b> 	<b>Co-operation Project on Causes of Death Statistics Turkey</b> <p>With this second mission on coding the causes of death statistics, the consultations that started last year were continued.</p>





## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>26 – 28 February 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden, Oberhausen</b>	<b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b> <p>Three guests from the Turkish statistical office TURKSTAT visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden for discussions on the European Continuing Vocational Training Survey (CVTS), which will be conducted for the first time in Turkey. To get acquainted with data collection, the participants also visited the Oberhausen branch office of the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of North Rhine-Westphalia.</p>
	
<b>04 – 07 March 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b>	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b> <p>The goal of the mission was to discuss the draft version of the new EU-SILC questionnaire prepared by the Croatian statistical office, to hold co-ordination talks with the company Human Dynamics and to plan the content and time schedule of further measures. The questionnaire for the EU-SILC survey was developed taking account of the EU specifications regarding questionnaire development. The parties involved in the project agreed that the questionnaire should be programmed and available for electronic questioning before the next measure will be held.</p>
	
<b>07 March 2008</b> <b>in Berlin</b>	<b>Bilateral Meeting – Mongolia</b> <p>The information meeting dealt with questions of continuous population statistics and of the register-based Census 2011 planned in Germany. Mongolia will hold a traditional census in 2010. The guests were given detailed information on the system of continuous population statistics and on how the register-based Census 2011 will be held. Also, the legal bases of the census were discussed in detail. The guests from Mongolia showed great interest in the topics and got some proposals that can be implemented in Mongolia.</p>
	
<b>11 – 13 March 2008</b> <b>in Skopje</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <p>The main issues presented in this consultation were the project results on human resources and organisational development. To improve human resources development and the administrative structure, the Macedonian statisticians started to set up a human resources development concept, an advanced training plan, a system of electronic personnel file management, a cost and performance accounting system, a strategy plan, and a staff survey, which in the meantime has been conducted by the SSO. The staff database, too, has been further developed, especially with a view to education and training of staff members. This was the last expert mission of the project component on Capacity Building, where major progress was made in all areas of the SSO.</p>
	
<b>12 – 13 March 2008</b> <b>in Bonn</b>	<b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b> <p>Major results of the annual programme planning discussions between the German and Chinese staff responsible for the programme within the scope of the German-Chinese statistics co-operation were the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Evaluation of the projects on statistical legislation, prices, education and health.</li> <li>- Defining the project activities for 2008.</li> <li>- Planning a final seminar to be held in China in 2009 to present the project results.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals for future project topics include statistics on construction, housing, investments, employment, earnings, and internet data dissemination as well as statistical information services.</p>
	



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>13 – 14 March 2008 in Skopje</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>  <p>This consultation on quality focused on revising the quality control reports and the general evaluation of the results achieved in this component of the Twinning project "Support to the State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia (SSO)". The quality reports had been prepared on the basis of a pilot survey on quality control regarding information and communication technology as well as the labour force survey. They showed that the previous consultations were very successful and that the general handling of quality reports at the Macedonian statistical office is very satisfactory. The two experts dealt with specific features of the SSO methodology and, together with their Macedonian colleagues, developed guidelines for the further development of quality control.</p>
<b>17 – 18 March 2008 in Skopje</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>  <p>Two experts of the Thuringian Land Statistical Office held a final discussion in the project component on improving information and communication technology. The improvements refer to data and network security, statistical databases, migration of data and application development. During the project, training courses were performed on application development, data processing, administration, programming, and Windows 2003. The modern IT infrastructure brings about improvements in all areas of the SSO.</p>
<b>17 – 21 March 2008 in Bucharest</b>  	<b>PHARE 2004 – Romania</b>  <p>During the expert mission, the following activities were agreed upon as future focuses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Romanian waste statistics, deficits can be identified regarding the coverage of agricultural waste and construction waste. The serious undercoverage will be remedied in the medium term through methodological support and an additional survey.</li> <li>2. To compile the NAMEA-Air tables by the end of August 2008, the tables produced according to the Kyoto Reporting must be transformed to fit the NAMEA classification.</li> <li>3. The administrative sources available for Romania regarding monetary data on the extraction and processing of fossil energy sources still have to be evaluated. At the same time, however, it is planned to develop a questionnaire and to send it quite soon to conduct a comprehensive data collection at the total of about 50 local units of that sector in Romania.</li> </ol>
<b>25 – 31 March 2008 in Dushanbe</b>  	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>  <p>So far, seasonal adjustment methods have not systematically been applied at the Tajik statistical office (Goskomstat). With the members of the Goskomstat working group specially set up for the introduction, the Swedish expert discussed what steps are required to apply seasonal adjustment methods. A major precondition for successful implementation, apart from methodical consultation, is an improvement of the staff situation. It would be ideal if Goskomstat could assign specific staff to deal only with seasonal adjustment in order to obtain useful results. So far, that task has been performed by some experts in addition to their main activity.</p>
<b>25 March – 02 April 2008 in Dushanbe</b>  	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>  <p>The main goal of the mission of a Swedish expert was to explain to the staff members of the Tajik statistical office Goskomstat how to draw enterprise samples. The expert supported the Tajik colleagues in producing a simple enterprise sample and discussed the use of suitable software solutions for sampling.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES







### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>31 March – 01 April 2008</b> <b>in Prague</b> 	<b>Bilateral Co-operation with the Czech Republic</b> <p>The goal of a Twinning Light project carried out in 2003 and 2004 with the Czech statistical office (CZSO) was to support that office in introducing and improving management and control methods especially for strategic planning and quality management. In the follow-up seminar now performed, information has been exchanged on the goals achieved so far on the basis of the project results and on the experience made at the Czech office in implementing the project recommendations. Participants from Destatis reported on further developments regarding the relevant areas made in the meantime. Also, both sides reported on activities derived from the strategic goals and regarding the redesign of statistical systems (the German side reported especially on metadata, GENESIS and register-based economic statistics).</p>
<b>31 March – 03 April 2008</b> <b>in Sofia, Smolyan, Plovdiv</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b> <p>At the initial meeting, the Twinning project was officially opened. It was a meeting of the staff members from Bulgaria, Germany and France responsible for the project management. The initial situation and the tasks and consultations to be performed were discussed and the first dates were agreed upon. After the meeting, the project managers and the long-term expert visited the regional offices in Smolyan and Plovdiv to get an overview of the local situation and of the tasks of those offices.</p>
<b>31 March – 04 April 2008</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b> 	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b> <p>During the mission of a Slovak expert for the population census, it was agreed that the pilot census should take place in the district of Ragun, some 80 kilometres east of the capital Dushanbe, in October 2008. The time schedule for the project was adjusted accordingly.</p>
<b>31 March – 01 April 2008</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b> 	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b> <p>The aim of the project component on poverty statistics is to publish regular and reliable statistical data on income and living conditions, which are suitable as a basis for assessing the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for Tajikistan. The most important tools here are the household budget survey and the survey on income and living conditions. Together with the Tajik colleagues, the Slovak expert updated the time schedule for that project component. The next consultations will focus on the development of manuals for the interviewers involved in, and the households covered by the household budget survey.</p>
<b>08 – 11 April 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b> 	<b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b> <p>During the study visit on the supply and use tables and on the input-output tables regarding energy, the guests of the Turkish statistical office again had an occasion to discuss questions arising from the introduction of such tables in the Turkish statistical system.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<p><b>10 April 2008</b> <b>in Skopje</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p> <p>At the final event, the results achieved during the Twinning project “Support to the State Statistical Office (SSO) of Macedonia” were presented to the approximately 120 participants from the spheres of politics, economy, science and official statistics. Under the leadership of the Federal Statistical Office, over 70 statistical experts from Germany, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Hungary were involved in this project. In the presentations of the project managers and of the experts from the EU member states and in the statements of the participants, there was agreement that the project aims set by the EU were achieved: The project created major preconditions required to modernise the Macedonian statistical system and to adjust it to the statistical standards applicable in the European Statistical System (ESS).</p>
<p><b>10 – 16 April 2008</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>The mission of two experts from the Czech statistical office (CZSO) focused on assessing the current practical work at the Tajik statistical office (Goskomstat) regarding informal economy. The experts submitted proposals for data quality improvement. Especially a labour force survey should be conducted as soon as possible. A further mission in this component is scheduled for autumn 2008.</p>
<p><b>14 – 16 April 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Croatia</b></p> <p>The aim of the mission was to assess the state of affairs regarding the sample survey and methodology in short-term industrial statistics. Based on the exchange of knowledge and experience between the Croatian statisticians and the EU experts, an implementation plan was prepared, taking account of the required adjustments and changes and the development of sample surveys and questionnaires.</p>
<p><b>14 – 18 April 2008</b> <b>in Sofia</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b></p> <p>To prepare official statistics of Bulgaria for the new tasks of the EU regional support (Structural Funds), the availability of regional statistical indicators should also be checked and improved where necessary. Two French experts performed a first stocktaking. They found out that the data users are satisfied with the work of the statistical office and of the regional offices as well as with the range of data provided. The regional indicators are largely in line with EU specifications.</p>
<p><b>14 – 22 April 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden, Bonn</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b></p> <p>The visit of a delegation of the National Statistical Office of the People’s Republic of China dealt with issues of publishing education and health statistics in the Federal Republic of Germany. Altogether, the Chinese side got many new ideas regarding the publications of education and health statistics. In the next few months, the Chinese side will draft a publication concept and send it to the German experts. The German side was asked to analyse the concept and, where necessary, to submit proposals for improvement to the Chinese side. The visit to the Bonn university hospital, which provided some practical insight into the German health system, was very informative, too.</p>
<p><b>14 – 23 April 2008</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>The consultation undertaken by an expert from the Czech statistical office focused on consumer price statistics. In particular, the expert outlined the extent to which the Household Budget Survey can be used for the purposes of price statistics. In the course of the consultation, proposals were made as to how to improve the system of price statistics at the Tajik statistical office.</p>



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### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>15 – 18 April 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b> 	<b>Twinning project Croatia</b> <p>Aims of the mission were to discuss the draft of the new Household Budget Survey (HBS) questionnaire prepared by the Croatian statistical office, to hold further co-ordination talks with Human Dynamics and to plan the content and time schedule of further measures. The draft questionnaire prepared by the Croatian office was discussed in detail. The parties involved agreed on its content, while taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Finnish and German experts. The parties engaged in the project agreed on the next activities, mutual obligations to deliver documents (the Croatian statistical office, for instance, is to submit data editing instructions) and time schedules. The activities to take place in the next few months will concern sampling methods and data processing.</p>
<b>15 – 18 April 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b> 	<b>Twinning project Croatia</b> <p>The progress of the project (consultation measures conducted, goals achieved, project budget) was presented and explained and the draft report for the second quarter agreed at the meeting of the Twinning Project Steering Committee. In addition, the consultation measures to be undertaken in the future were outlined and the steps and activities required to make the project a success were explained. The progress of the project, which was rated as positive, is in harmony with the relevant contract specifications. However, a critical aspect is the fact that the position of Director General of the Croatian statistical office is still vacant. Hence important ideas and strategic requirements regarding the further project orientation and procedure are missing.</p>
<b>17 – 23 April 2008</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b> 	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b> <p>A central pillar of the co-operation project, apart from the consultations in the specialised components, is the improvement of the work in the cross-section units of the Tajik statistical office (Goskomstat). In this context, a first expert mission was performed on issues of statistical legislation. The consultations were used to analyse the existing statistics law and to discuss with the colleagues how it can be further developed to allow Goskomstat to perform its function as an information provider. It was agreed upon that an internal Goskomstat working group would prepare a new draft version by autumn 2008. An expert mission held at the same time was aimed at improving the management procedures in the TAJSTAT project. The Tajik colleagues and the German project partner agreed that, in order to ensure efficient use of resources, the subject-related preparation of the activities should involve even closer co-ordination between the project team, Goskomstat and the experts involved.</p>
<b>21 – 25 April 2008</b> <b>in Sofia</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b> <p>Access for the Bulgarian statistical office to administrative data is limited. Two Finnish experts performed a consultation with the aim of identifying important data sources and improving access. Burdens on respondents are to be reduced by enhancing the utilisation of administrative data. At the same time, administrative registers are to be used more often as a sampling frame for sample surveys.</p>
<b>21 – 25 April 2008</b> <b>in Sofia</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b> <p>The regional structure and the co-operation between the statistical main office and the regional offices are to be improved. Two French experts obtained an overview of the structure and functioning of official statistics in Bulgaria and gave first recommendations on how the co-operation and distribution of tasks between the main office and the regional offices could be modified.</p>



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### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008





<b>22 – 25 April 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b>	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b>
	<p>Prior to the planned pilot survey, an electronic questionnaire for EU SILC was developed and programmed. The arrangement of the test/pilot survey, the representation of results, and the evaluation of the sample design for EU SILC were another focus of the measure.</p>
<b>29 – 30 April 2008</b> <b>in Ankara</b>	<b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b>
	<p>The participants of the second meeting of the USST II project steering committee assessed the progress made in the various sub-components. Implementing the project contents agreed upon will require a higher consultation frequency. The participants agreed that it will be possible to do so in the coming months and that all project goals can be achieved.</p>
<b>05 – 07 May 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b>	<b>PHARE 2004 – Romania</b>
	<p>The Romanian colleague was given an overview of the system of official statistics in Germany and the regional statistical system. Due to the German federal structure and the largely decentralised statistics production, there is a vast stock of regional data broken down to the municipality level. Regarding the publication of regional data, the statistical offices of the Federation and the Länder have developed a common data catalogue to provide regional statistics, comprising results from all areas of official statistics at municipality and Kreis (administrative district) levels which are available in the short term. As all data are available online, too, the regional database "GENESIS Online" and the interactive regional atlas were also presented to the Romanian expert. At the Hessian Land Statistical Office, the statistics of public finance and short-distance passenger transport were taken as examples to explain the coverage and production of regional statistical indicators.</p>
<b>05 – 08 May 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden, Bonn, Dessau</b>	<b>PHARE 2004 – Romania</b>
	<p>During this study visit, Environmental-Economic Accounting and especially the emission structure as well as the output database were presented to the Romanian expert. Issues of environmental statistics dealt with were information on waste statistics and waste balancing. A visit to the Federal Environmental Agency was organised to provide information on the Agency's structure and functions, on emission reporting and balancing and on the relevant databases in that area. The possibilities of transfer to the Romanian statistical system have also been discussed in detail during the study visit.</p>
<b>07 May 2008</b> <b>in Skopje</b>	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b>
	<p>At the seventh meeting of the steering committee, the report of the Twinning project management was unanimously adopted together with the Macedonian statistical office (SSO). Except for two consultations, which are scheduled for the last project quarter, all consultations planned for the two-year implementation period were performed successfully and according to schedule. The results achieved in strategic planning, finance and staff management (Capacity Building) – some of the experts' suggestions have already been implemented at the Macedonian statistical office (SSO) – serve as an example for reforms in other areas of the Macedonian administration, which will be an important topic in the accession negotiations with the EU.</p>





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<b>12 – 16 May 2008</b> <b>in Sofia</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b> <p>By combining several consultations to form a cross-subject seminar, the following aims were achieved:</p> <p>Performing the consultations remaining from the previous project (BG04/IB/FI/11), presentation of the results of the previous project, presentation and discussion of the regional organisation of official statistics in selected member states, and proposals for improving the regional structure of the Bulgarian statistical office. First of all, staff members of the main and regional offices were trained in workshops. The training focused on the pilot surveys of shuttle trade, on the business register, and on household budget surveys, which had been conducted as part of the previous project.</p> <p>In a final seminar, the results of the successful previous project were presented and the heads of the regional statistical offices of Bulgaria were familiarised with the new Twinning project. In addition, a press conference of the Bulgarian statistical office was held, with the experts present at that time participating. Afterwards, experts from Germany, France, Poland and Hungary presented the regional organisation of official statistics in those countries. Jointly with the representatives of the Bulgarian statistical office, it was discussed how the regional structure and work-sharing between the regional offices and the main office in Bulgaria can be improved.</p>
<b>14 – 16 May 2008</b> <b>in Stockholm, Örebro</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b> <p>During this study visit to the Swedish statistical office, the production of business statistics, and especially short-term statistics, was presented to the Croatian participants. The visitors were informed in detail about the procedure and the survey methodology of short-term statistics in Sweden. That practical overview and the direct exchange of information were an important complement to the previous consultations in Croatia.</p>
<b>19 – 21 May 2008</b> <b>in Helsinki</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b> <p>Following the study visit to Sweden, this study visit to the Finnish statistical office again allowed the Croatian participants to obtain information on the procedure and survey methodology of business statistics/short-term statistics. The direct comparison between the practical survey activities of the offices visited provided additional and very valuable experience.</p>
<b>19 – 23 May 2008</b> <b>in Sofia</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b> <p>In a second consultation on assessing the availability of statistical indicators at the regional level, the French experts also met representatives of the city of Sofia and of the association of municipalities of Bulgaria. The municipalities, too, are satisfied with the data provided by the Bulgarian statistical office. The experts recommended to collect and better co-ordinate the user requests, to take more account of regional statistics in programme planning, to make micro-data available to the regional statistics department, and to improve the co-operation with the regional offices.</p>








## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>19 – 26 May 2008 in Wiesbaden</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b></p> <p>Within the project on “Statistical legislation”, which has been running since 2006 and is aimed at amending the Chinese statistics law, a Chinese delegation of the National Statistical Office headed by the deputy head of the strategy and legislation department, Mr. Xu Xiaohai, visited the Federal Republic of Germany. The Chinese experts received information on the national and European legal provisions on the business register and on its application and maintenance. Experts of the Federal Statistical Office and of the Hessian Land Statistical Office presented papers on the legal provisions regarding the microcensus and on conducting it at the Land (regional) level. Other topics of the study visit were the EU statistical legal acts and their application as well as the EU statistical programme.</p> <p>During their visit to the German Bundestag (parliament) in Berlin, the legislative procedure at the federal level was presented. At the Office for Statistics of Berlin-Brandenburg, practical statistical legislation and the relevant statistical legal provisions as well as the implementation of national and European legal provisions at Land level were discussed in detail.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b></p> <p>The purpose of the third meeting of the working group on trade statistics was to present the draft reports prepared separately by the two sides, the further procedure and the discussion of future topics to continue the working group activities. The future work steps were defined in a work and time schedule developed jointly. As agreed upon, the Chinese side will, by 31 July 2008, transmit a common draft report to the Federal Statistical Office based on a first version prepared by the German side, which will have to be agreed upon by 30 September 2008. It will then be submitted to the two competent ministries. The minutes signed by the two heads of delegation at the end of the meeting includes the work and time schedule.</p>
<b>24 – 29 May 2008 in Beijing</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bilateral Co-operation with China</b></p> <p>The purpose of the third meeting of the working group on trade statistics was to present the draft reports prepared separately by the two sides, the further procedure and the discussion of future topics to continue the working group activities. The future work steps were defined in a work and time schedule developed jointly. As agreed upon, the Chinese side will, by 31 July 2008, transmit a common draft report to the Federal Statistical Office based on a first version prepared by the German side, which will have to be agreed upon by 30 September 2008. It will then be submitted to the two competent ministries. The minutes signed by the two heads of delegation at the end of the meeting includes the work and time schedule.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b></p> <p>During this mission to the statistical office of the Republic of Macedonia (SSO) in Skopje, the Czech expert provided information on the development and implementation of a statistical metadata system at the Czech statistical office (CZSO). He gave a detailed overview of the concept of the metadata system, the progress made in implementation, and the use of metadata in business statistics. Main aspects of the consultation were organisational procedures and the strategic goals at the CZSO.</p>
<b>26 – 28 May 2008 in Skopje</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b></p> <p>The goal of the mission of an expert from the Czech statistical office was to provide support in developing a standard of the statistical classifications used in Tajikistan. The well-established international classifications were presented and a time schedule for implementation was developed and discussed with the Tajik colleagues.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b></p> <p>The statistical office of Bulgaria intends to introduce a system of cost and performance accounting during the project. That system will be used to measure the efforts and costs of producing the individual statistics and to facilitate future planning. Experts from Denmark, Germany and Austria visited the Bulgarian statistical office to present their systems. They realised that the bases of a system of cost and performance accounting have to be established first (including product catalogue, time recording).</p>
<b>26 – 30 May 2008 in Dushanbe</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b></p> <p>The statistical office of Bulgaria intends to introduce a system of cost and performance accounting during the project. That system will be used to measure the efforts and costs of producing the individual statistics and to facilitate future planning. Experts from Denmark, Germany and Austria visited the Bulgarian statistical office to present their systems. They realised that the bases of a system of cost and performance accounting have to be established first (including product catalogue, time recording).</p>
	

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<b>26 – 30 May 2008 in Sofia</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b>  <p>Within the scope of improving the regional structure, French experts examined the dissemination policy of the main and regional offices. The experts also met statistical data users (journalists and representatives of the ministries of labour, education, regional policy). Although users appreciate the quality of the publications, there is still room for improvement regarding, among other things, the provision of databases, the use of administrative data, an all-encompassing dissemination policy and the dissemination of regional data.</p>
<b>26 – 30 May 2008 in Dushanbe</b>  	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>  <p>During the second expert mission on agricultural statistics, the two Danish experts visited not only the national Tajik statistical office in Dushanbe but also the district office in Sharunav and the local statistical unit in Hasanov to get an overview of data collection. They also held a two-day workshop in which the Danish agricultural surveys were presented and possibilities of transfer to Tajikistan were discussed.</p>
<b>26 – 30 May 2008 in Ankara</b>  	<b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b>  <p>With this expert mission on various aspects of waste statistics, the co-operation within the environmental statistics sub-component of the USST co-operation project started. Generally, the implementation of the EU specifications regarding environmental statistics by the Turkish colleagues has already been very precise. The German expert discussed with the TURKSTAT colleagues how the applied methods can further be improved in the sectors where the requirements of the EU waste statistics Directive have not fully been implemented yet. This refers to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, construction and services.</p>
<b>27 – 30 May 2008 in Sofia</b>  	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b>  <p>To complete the stocktaking of the regional structure of the Bulgarian statistical office, the French experts held talks at the Bulgarian central office, at the regional office of the Sofia administrative district and at the statistical office of Sofia. The further consultations will deal with the following aspects: Revision/reduction of the survey programme, access to new data sources, better assignment of staff members according to their qualification, improved co-ordination of activities and work distribution, improved use of electronic data processing. For further discussion and implementation of the recommendations, the project partners will prepare a joint action plan.</p>
<b>29 – 30 May 2008 in Wiesbaden</b>  	<b>Bilateral Co-operation with the Netherlands</b>  <p>Upon invitation of Destatis President Walter Radermacher, the head of the Dutch statistical office (Statistics Netherlands), Gosse van der Veen, and senior executives of his office visited the Federal Statistical Office on 29 and 30 May 2008 to exchange information on recent developments in the two statistical offices and for bilateral co-ordination of Dutch and German positions in international and EU contexts. Discussions focused on the further development of environmental-economic accounting and intra-Community trade statistics, issues of human resources development and management, the improvement of internal communication at the Federal Statistical Office by introducing the information and knowledge management system (IWMS) and approaches to more efficient shaping of statistical production processes and to quality assurance.</p>



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### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<p><b>02 – 05 June 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Croatia</b></p> <p>The goal of this activity was to adjust and process the data prior to the planned pilot survey for EU SILC. Taking account of the recommendations of the EU experts, the drafts submitted by the Croatian side were discussed in detail, the open questions were settled, and the contents agreed upon. For the upcoming activity, a test run of the questionnaire is planned for interview training and practical use.</p>
<p><b>02 – 05 June 2008</b> <b>in Zagreb</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Croatia</b></p> <p>Taking account of the findings and results achieved so far, the project partners agreed on a joint action plan including the further need for subject-related consultation and the required work-sharing and mutual commitments within the project component on “further development of business statistics”. Where possible, the dates of the individual consultations were fixed.</p>
<p><b>02 – 06 June 2008</b> <b>in Ankara</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b></p> <p>This first expert mission on the sub-component of water/waste water within environmental statistics was aimed at further developing the statistical methodology for data collection of non-public water consumption and waste water treatment in selected sectors jointly with the colleagues of the Turkish statistical office TURKSTAT. This covers mining, construction and services.</p>
<p><b>02 – 06 June 2008</b> <b>in Bucharest</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PHARE 2004 – Romania</b></p> <p>In Romania, the waste statistics activities are subject to considerable time pressure because not only the complete data for 2006 but also a comprehensive quality report will have to be sent to Eurostat in the middle of the year. Both the data and the quality reports were discussed. Also, sectors were examined for which data collection regarding the waste produced there (especially agriculture and construction industry as well as household waste) must be optimised. Many proposals for improvement were discussed and noted in a to-do list for future missions. Regarding the air emission balances, the material for the coming data transmission to Eurostat was examined and the Romanian methodology was partially integrated into the inventory approach for transforming plant-related emission data into sector-related data. The preparation of NAMEA-Air tables to be sent to Eurostat must be finished by the end of October 2008. For the monetary valuation of energy reserves, a survey must be conducted among enterprises operating in the fields of coal, gas and oil extraction. Based on the results, a calculation will be made.</p>
<p><b>09 – 17 June 2008</b> <b>in Ankara</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Co-operation Project on Causes of Death Statistics Turkey</b></p> <p>With this third mission of an expert on causes of death statistics, the co-operation with the Turkish statistical office TURKSTAT in that field was successfully finished. Jointly with the Turkish colleagues, the expert revised the time schedule for introducing the automated coding system IRIS and discussed the further implementation.</p>
<p><b>10 – 25 June 2008</b> <b>in Slavonski Brod, Po- zega, Vukovar, Split</b></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Twinning Project Croatia</b></p> <p>The Twinning advisor working in this project visited some Croatian regional offices to get acquainted with their main activities and to check whether, and to what extent, they can be integrated into the project.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES




### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>16 – 18 June 2008</b> <b>in Skopje</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</b> <p>Developing an IT training programme for the regional statistical offices was the main goal of this mission of a Lithuanian expert to Skopje. The results of the survey of IT use in the regional offices showed that the staff had been trained in using MS Office and is able to apply the programmes at work. Due to insufficient knowledge of the English language, however, the opportunities of further auto-didactic training of the staff are limited. It was therefore recommended to hold IT courses by SSO experts rather than by external training institutes. It was also recommended to subsequently check the progress made in IT training of the staff.</p>
<b>16 – 20 June 2008</b> <b>in Ankara</b> 	<b>USST Co-operation Project Turkey</b> <p>The goal of the expert mission on health statistics to the Turkish statistical office TURKSTAT was to present all the progress made so far within international technical co-operation in health statistics to the participants in a seminar organised by the Turkish ministry of health and to explain what measures of further development are currently being implemented. The expert also discussed other issues of health statistics with the TURKSTAT colleagues, especially regarding the treatment of health expenditure within the scope of a health accounts system.</p>
<b>16 – 25 June 2008</b> <b>in Dushanbe</b> 	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b> <p>As part of the co-operation with the Tajik statistical office in education statistics, an expert mission on ISCED classifications was held which was also used to co-ordinate further missions. In autumn, the Tajik colleagues have planned a study visit to the Czech statistical office.</p>
<b>23 – 25 June 2008</b> <b>in Wiesbaden</b> 	<b>TACIS 10 – Ukraine</b> <p>The purpose of this study visit of two Ukrainian statisticians to Wiesbaden, Foreign Trade Division, was to perform a mirror comparison between the two countries. Comparing the foreign trade data for 2007 showed that the German values were markedly higher than the Ukrainian ones for both directions of trade. The reasons for those discrepancies were discussed on the basis of the commodity groups most affected, and a detailed analysis was agreed upon for the future. Other topics were the commodity classification for foreign trade statistics, publications and the calculation of price indices. The survey concept of foreign trade statistics in Germany and the EU was presented, too.</p>
<b>23 – 27 June 2008</b> <b>in Sofia</b> 	<b>Twinning Project Bulgaria II (Regional structure)</b> <p>Experts from Finland and Austria visited the Bulgarian statistical office to discuss the use of information technologies and data collection methods aimed at reducing the burden on respondents. A major topic of that visit was the question to what extent the ministries and other authorities collecting administrative data can be made aware of the option of making those data available for statistical purposes. A relevant seminar with those authorities is envisaged, which must be thoroughly prepared soon.</p>



## CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

### Overview from January 2008 to June 2008

<b>23 – 27 June 2008 in Zagreb</b>	<b>Twinning Project Croatia</b>
	<p>One of the focuses of that measure was the visit to the regional statistical office in Split. Discussions and interviews allowed the three experts from Finland, Sweden and Germany to get an impression of the local situation. Based on the findings and results achieved so far in the measures performed in component 1, and taking account of the action plan, the experts prepared a final report which was presented to the new head of the Croatian statistical office. The possible implementation of the action plan and the further implementation of the measures were discussed in detail with the head of office and the project managers.</p>
<b>23 – 28 June 2008 in Dushanbe</b>	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>
	<p>The first labour force survey in Tajikistan was conducted in 2004. Another survey is planned for 2009. During the mission of two Danish statisticians, the participants discussed questionnaires, data collection, data capture and processing, dissemination of results, and survey procedure in order to be able to prepare proposals for future surveys.</p>
<b>23 – 28 June 2008 in Dushanbe</b>	<b>World Bank Project Tajikistan</b>
	<p>Within the scope of the co-operation project with the Tajik statistical office (Goskomstat), consultations on issues of national accounts were held. The expert discussed problems and made proposals on how to improve data quality.</p>



### About us

On 18 March 2008, the Head of Department I “Questions of Principle of Federal and International Statistics, Dissemination of Information” of the Federal Statistical Office, Jürgen Chlumsky, bid farewell to Peter Zaumseil, who took his well-earned retirement on 1 April 2008. Mr. Chlumsky honoured Mr. Zaumseil’s great achievements as an interpreter and translator for the Russian and the English languages during his 42 years of service in German statistics. Mr. Zaumseil worked for 25 years in an executive position in the translation service of the Central Statistical Office of the GDR, before he was taken over into the Federal Statistical Office.

Mr. Chlumsky emphasised that the work done by Mr. Zaumseil was not only characterised by the high-quality professional standards applied by Mr. Zaumseil himself; what should also be stressed is the extraordinary skills he showed as



an interpreter in dealing with a multitude of guests at the Office.

When retired, Mr. Zaumseil will continue to work for us on a contract basis as a Russian-language translator in co-operation projects. We look forward to our further co-operation and wish Mr. Zaumseil all the best for the future.

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