



INFORMATION



Federal Statistical Office



Center for Central and Eastern Europe



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Technical Cooperation in Statistics with Central and Eastern European Countries and the New Independent States

Agreement on technical cooperation between Georgia and Germany

From 27 to 28 August 1998, the Minister for Economic Affairs and the Chairman of the National Statistical Institute of Georgia visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden. The purpose of the visit was to intensify bilateral cooperation and to support the Georgian statistical office. As a result of the visit a bilateral agreement on technical cooperation between the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the State Department for Statistics of Georgia was signed by both Presidents in Wiesbaden.

Based on the bilateral agreement, a technical cooperation programme running until the end of 1999 was set up. Several actions are already scheduled until autumn 1999 as part of the current Tacis project on construction and investment statistics. It is planned to continue such activities and to include agricultural statistics as a new Tacis component.

The Federal Statistical Office has been closely cooperating with Georgia's statisticians since 1992. The FSO Germany offers to support the Georgian partner on many issues, including legal bases and overall organisation of statistics, publications and public relations focused on public and private use of official statistics.

The statistical offices of the Federal States of Germany contribute by implementing that agreement on statistical cooperation. For instance, the Statistical Office of Berlin has been cooperating for several years with the statistical offices of Tbilisi and of Georgia. New contacts of the Statistical Office of the "Saar" supplement the existing partnership relations between Georgia and the "Saarland" as well as between Tbilisi and Saarbrücken.

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Present and future technical cooperation

An international Tacis conference on "Statistics in transformation countries in 2005" was held in Almaty/Kazakhstan from 12 to 16 October. The focus was on medium and long-term strategies of technical cooperation between the European Union Member States and the 13 New Independent States (NIS and Mongolia). The Federal Statistical Office of Germany since many years active in most transformation countries proposed to discuss two issues: Basic questions of statistical cooperation and user orientation in data dissemination.

In all reform countries, technical cooperation is still characterised by inefficient coordination. First of all, there is inefficient coordination of projects, programmes and financial support at the statistical institutes and at the governments of the recipient countries. As all project information is available in the reform countries, those countries should perform the major part of coordination activities.

It will be necessary to improve the management of statistical institutions and to make the advanced training measures in statistics accessible also to coordinators of cooperation. In view of both the manifold contacts and the numerous international partner institutions, efficient use of scarce resources can be ensured only by highly qualified contact managers. More coordination activities on the part of the European Union are supplementing national activities. To improve sustainability, however, new management principles and a new corporate culture should be introduced, and more publicity should be promoted.

Since 1996 the Federal Statistical Office has been developing a paper on fundamental issues of „demand-oriented“ data dissemination policy. The discussions during the conference recommend that the transformation countries should pay more attention to issues of implementing the new data dissemination strategies.

It was proposed to set up an international task force. The Federal Statistical Office would draw on its expertise in issues of marketing and pricing for statistical products and services.

Coordinating technical cooperation: Fresco

Two important bodies of international cooperation at EU level are focusing on the improvement of the coordination of technical cooperation and technical support to the reform countries by EU and EFTA national statistical offices: the SPC (Statistical Programme Committee) and CESD-Communautaire in Luxembourg.

"Fresco Agreement"

The Federal Statistical Office supports the agreement between the national statistical offices to improve cooperation and coordination of consulting projects with the recipient countries. That agreement is a result of the „Fiesole Round Table on European Statistical Cooperation“. The Federal Statistical Office of Germany recommends to charge a Network Operator within the staff of CESD-C to organise and manage the exchange of information on consulting and cooperation projects as well as on public tender as of Tacis and Phare.

Representatives of the Federal Statistical Office also support the activities of CESD-C to found a "Consulting Ltd. Company" in Luxembourg for ACP-developing-country projects. A "European Economic Interest Group (EEIG)" for land use projects should also be founded. However, business plans should be presented to inform about the expected balance. A key management problem will be the coordination of operations between the "Ltd. Consulting Company", the "EEIG consortium", and CESD-C, which has become a "holding function".



Evaluating regional statistics in the reform countries

Many political institutions concerned with the regional structure and with the formation of cross-border "Euroregions" have increased their demand for regional statistics. The EU Commission and Eurostat support the reform countries in reorganising their centralised statistical system and in setting up a system of regional statistics. Political institutions in the reform countries have so far paid little attention to those small-area statistics. Commissioned by Eurostat, a representative of the Statistical Office of Baden-Württemberg evaluated the restructuring process in the reform countries on the regional level.

The local authorities in the central European reform countries have started to deal with regional and cross-border policies and with regional statistics. Above all, regional research has become more and more popular. Statisticians attempt to set up an efficient system of regional statistics, which will provide a basis for regional economic policy. Such regional economic policy is also an element of European Union's regional development. However, despite those efforts in the European reform countries for the improvement of statistics, the restructuring of regional statistics is often not sufficient.

Organisational structure

Considering the good quality of regional results, the production and processing of data at **regional statistical offices** seem to be more efficient. Nevertheless, there are discussions about further restructuring in some countries. Although the regional offices produce regional statistics, they neglect data interpretation. Regional statisticians, regional researchers, geographers, and cartographers are often badly paid. However, in some reform-countries, the regional offices have scientific know-how and

they are well equipped with computers. This improves the influence and weight of regional statistics in those countries.

Regional classification

The system of regional classification of a country's overall area consists of administrative-area units. However, not all regional classifications have been legalised by the government or the parliament. In a few countries, the regional classification has to be used by different lower level authorities, too, e.g. offices dealing with tax, customs, or labour issues. Missing administrative regions or areas are sometimes replaced by "statistical regions". In five reform countries, the structure is not at all comparable with the EU standards. Regional classifications that could be used for a scientific approach to regional, national, or development planning are not available yet. Some regional offices cooperate with local authorities on small-area planning.

Summary of evaluation results

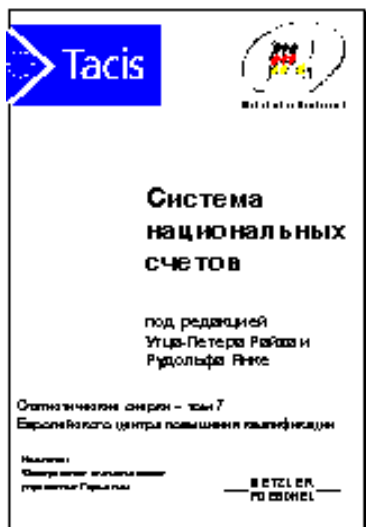
The restructuring of regional statistics can be considered now as a political task in the reform countries. However, the gap of the achieved standard within the reform countries is about 10 years. It is about 10-20 years if the standard is compared with the "EU top statistical offices". In most reform countries, data banks, documentation, networks, and information systems of regional statistics are only at the level of the 1980s. So far, the national statistical offices still seem to neglect regional statistics as an effective part of the national system. Regional statistical offices are mainly defined as production units rather than marketing and consulting units. Thus EU requirements on statistics often cannot be met on the regional level by the reform countries.

Without close cooperation as well as technical assistance, and scientific support, most of the smaller countries will not be able to reach EU regional standards.



Handbook on „National Accounts" in Russian

The Federal Statistical Office has published now a handbook on "National Accounts" in Russian. The new handbook is volume 7 of the series "Statistical Contributions" edited by FSO Germany.



By publishing that series of Russian-language contributions on major statistical areas, the Federal Statistical Office takes account of the great demand for market-oriented information on official statistics in the New Independent States. The new publication deals with statistical topics which are important for both statistics and economics. The volume contains reports presented at a "multiplier seminar" on "National Accounts" held at the Federal Statistical Office in 1994. That "seminar" was organised with support of the European Commission and in cooperation with several statistical offices of western European countries. Due to the time lag between the event and the edition of the publication, a few contributions are not entirely up to date. Some of the more recent developments in national accounting - such as the introduction of the new version of the SNA-93 - have been included. As volume 7 deals mainly with basic computation methods, which are hardly affected by current trends, the usefulness of the handbook is not in

doubt. This volume will be a crucial source of information especially for Russian-language statisticians who are not national accounting experts.

Evaluation of the German consulting activities

As from 1993, the Federal Statistical Office performed consulting activities and implemented projects with the statistical institutes of the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the Republic of Belarus. Projects were based on contracts and financial support of the German "*Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau*", a public German bank, well-known from the "Marshall Plan". This financial institution was authorized by the Federal Ministry of Economics to manage the funds of Germany's "Transform consulting programme" to Eastern Europe.

Due to budget cuts in the German "Transform consulting programme", technical cooperation on statistics was mainly stopped in July 1997. Focusing on the cooperation with the State Committee on Statistics of the Russian Federation, a project evaluation has been performed. Main criteria of the evaluation of the German consulting activities had been cost-benefit relations, efficiency, sustainability and significance. The integration into other consulting programmes as well as expected multiplier effects had been evaluated. The evaluation proved that most bilateral goals on restructuring statistics in the Russian Federation had been achieved.

However, it is also recommended to continue statistical cooperation supported by the Federal "Transform consulting programme". The "Center for Central and Eastern Europe" in Berlin will recommend to restart former activities and to continue a demand-oriented statistical cooperation with the partner offices in the Russian Federation and in Ukraine.



Country Report



Organisation of official statistics in Kazakhstan

Regional institutions of official statistics

The Republic of Kazakhstan consists of 16 "Oblasts" or regions, including the former capital Almaty and the new capital Astana. The "Oblasts" are subdivided into 160 rayons, 84 towns, 195 settlements, and 2,150 districts.

The system of official statistics of Kazakhstan is regulated by the "Law on official statistics" of 7 May 1997. According to Article 8 of that law, the National Statistical Agency (NSA) has to build up and direct a network of territorial units.

The territorial structure of the statistical system in Kazakhstan is described in the table.

Each "Oblast" has set up a "Statistical Committee" with a staff of about 95 experts. The regional "Statistical Committees" are collecting

data from the "Rayon Committees" and from administrative units at the Oblast level. Those data are entered, processed, checked, and passed on to the NSA. The main task of the "Rayon Statistical Committees" is to distribute and collect the questionnaires, to update the registers, and to check visually on the questionnaires.

The situation of the National Statistical Agency

Since 1 September 1998, the National Statistical Agency has to report to the Kazakhstan government. At that time, a small NSA branch office was set up in the new capital Astana to keep on contact with the national government. On 1 January 1998, an Information and Computing Center (ICC) was also set up as a part of the NSA of Kazakhstan. However, the computer equipment at the ICC needs improvement. Supported by a World Bank credit, the NSA will receive some 600 personal computers by the end of 1998. This support will improve the equipment of the Oblast Committees, too.

Official statistical units	Number of units	Number of employees	Percentage
National Statistical Agency (NSA)	1	380	12,2
incl.: Computer Center (ICC)		(236)	(7,6)
Statistical Oblast Committees	16	1 905	61,4
Statistical Town and Rayon Committees	186	818	26,4
Total		3 103	100,0



Country Report



The situation of the regional Statistical Offices

Affiliated with the NSA are 16 Oblast Statistical Committees as well as 186 Rayon and Town Statistical Committees with a total of some 2,700 staff. However, in 1993, the regional offices had about 3,700 staff. Staff declined by 25%. Today one third of the employees, about 800 people, work at the Rayon and Town Statistical Committees. About 80% of the staff of the Oblast Statistical Committees have been employed already for more than 5 years. Some Oblast Committees have employees working on the basis of fixed-term employment contracts. They often hire their interviewers and enumerators through fee contracts.

The computer equipment of the Oblast Statistical Committees is still at a low technical level. Just 6 Oblast Statistical Committees have a local network, which was set up without external support. There is only one PC available per an average of 5 employees at the Oblast Committees. The World Bank's support will allow to install one computer in every room.

The Oblast Statistical Committees are more and more considering statistics as a political information system for different institutions of the economy. It provides major information on the situation of the society. Thus, the modern aspect of statistics as part of the market economy increases its influence and importance. At the same time, statistics is losing its former function as a governmental tool to control state owned enterprises.

Some Oblast Statistical Committees still pass on respondents' individual data. However, this is done on a legal basis. Individual data are passed on legally, if the respondents are prosecuted, and if they are involved in „economic sabotage“. Also white-collar crime, as well as tax crimes allow to pass on data of individuals.

Reorganisational prospects

The new procedures of statistical monitoring and data collection, and the use of modern computing technology will lead to steady changes in the organisational structure. NSA's efficiency will be strengthened by staff being transferred from the Oblasts and the ICC. A better statistical management should avoid most of today's overlapping activities. The ICC should be charged to check on all surveys in Kazakhstan. As a result, equipment and staff at the Oblast Committees will become available for new activities. It will be possible to transfer staff from the Oblast Committees to the central office in Almaty. A similar improvement can result from modernizing data processing and publication of survey results by the Computer Center for the support of all Oblast, Rayon, and Town Committees.

If technical infrastructure will be modernised and if an upward economic development will be ensured in the Republic of Kazakhstan, it will be possible to close the Statistical Committees at rayon and town levels. Big cities might be an exception. Staff of those Committees can then be hired as qualified statisticians by the rayon and town administrations.



Multinational Activities



"International afternoon" at Germany's "Statistical Week"

The "Center for Central and Eastern Europe" of Germany's Federal Statistical Office coordinates consulting activities on the local level. Activities of the "Johann-Peter-Süßmilch-Gesellschaft e.V." focused on demography were also supported during the "International Afternoon". Prof. Dr. Eckart Elsner from the Statistical Office of Berlin and Mr. Teschner from the Statistical Office of Bielefeld chaired the conference during the Statistical Week in "Lübeck" in October 1998.

The topic of the „international afternoon“ had been coordinated by the *Süßmilch-Gesellschaft* with the same topics at the national level one day before. The issues were on problems of agglomerations and the causes and effects of international mobility in the European reform countries and in different western industrialised countries.

Dr. Jonas Markelevitius, vice-director of the Statistical Office of Vilnius (Lithuania), presented data and problems of agglomerations of the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. The head of the Statistical Office of Komitat Budapest, Irene Waffenschmidt, reported about intraregional mobility and its effects in the densely populated area of the Hungarian capital. The national Institute for Statistics and Economic Research of France (INSEE) was represented by Cédric Duchêne. He reported about INSEE surveys and data collection conducted to cover intraregional mobility in France. Magister Slavomir Banaszak from the Statistical Economic Office of Jelenia Góra in Poland presented a report about the setting up of a databank for local information. The databank

provides information on small-area and time related research projects in Poland.

The "International Afternoon" during the "Statistical Week in Lübeck" was closed by emphasising the importance of a continuous cross border exchange of national experience and information. This also includes cross-border-cooperation between statistical institutions.

"Information" offered in the Internet

Germany's Federal Statistical Office now disseminates its report "Information" also via e-mail and internet. Some of the addressees, however, had technical problems in receiving the reports on cooperation activities with the reform countries.

With the publication of this issue, the Federal Statistical Office offers a down-load, which is free of charge, in the „Adobe format“ on the Internet. For anyone who is interested but does not have an „Adobe-Acrobat Reader“, a „click“ is sufficient to get access to Adobe through a link. The report "Information" is offered by the address

"<http://www.statistik-bund.de>"

and through the Federal Statistical Office's homepage under "Publications" and "Online publications". A link in "Information from the Center for Central and Eastern Europe" on the homepage also provides information on the activities of the "Center".

The editorial staff would be pleased to get some feedback on the new electronic services, in particular from the cooperation partners in the reform countries!



Cooperation Activities



Summary for June to October 1998

16.-19.6.1998 in Wiesbaden	Belarusian and Ukrainian experts were consulted on publications and on the system of statistics on the hotel and restaurant industry in Germany. A draft questionnaire for the census in the hotel and restaurant industry to be conducted in October 1998 was examined for Belarus. Questionnaires for a census in the hotel and restaurant industry were developed for Ukraine.
22.-26.6.1998 in Wiesbaden	Consultancies with Mongolian statisticians focused on Germany's foreign trade statistics. Main issues were organisation, data collection system, methodological bases and cooperation with the customs authorities. A visit to the customs office of Mainz provided information on recording imports and exports by the authorities. Consulting at the „Deutsche Bundesbank“ (Federal Bank of Germany) focused on procedures to integrate data of foreign trade statistics into the German balance of payments.
22.-26.6.1998 in Berlin	Statisticians from Azerbaijan and the Republic of Moldova were given an overview about the German system of agricultural statistics. Emphasis was on the statistics of crop and animal production, registers of agricultural units and plants, and the agricultural accounting system.
24.-30.6.1998 in Kamenz (Saxony)	Consultancies to Kyrgyz experts focused on methods of agricultural accounting at a regional level, on surveys of land use, on crop reports, on livestock census, on milk statistics, and on slaughtering statistics. Other topics were surveys on earnings in agriculture, on the taxation of agricultural plants and businesses and on prices in agriculture..
29.6.1998 and 15.9.1998 in Luxembourg	Representatives of the Federal Statistical Office participated in the meetings of the CESD Bureau on restructuring CESD-Communaute in Luxembourg and on preparing the "Fresco Agreement". The "Fresco Agreement" between National Statistical Institutes of the EU and the EFTA members is the basis for a more efficient coordination of technical cooperation.
30.6.-3.7.1998 in Moscow	This expert mission focused on the development of an Russian „overall-classifier“ of different types of economic activities, of production and services. The economic activities are recorded by a system of Statistical Classification of the European Union (NACE). The draft of the Russian classification was discussed and analysed, taking into account international experience.
2.-15.7.1998 in Ramallah and Gaza	Charged by the " <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH</i> " (German Technical Cooperation Ltd. Company) an expert evaluated technical cooperation with the Palestinian statistical office. The results of evaluation are a precondition for future technical cooperation with the Palestinian statistical office.
20.7.1998 in Wiesbaden	During this one-day study visit, an overview of the development of bilateral foreign trade relations between Germany and Hungary was given. Differing bilateral foreign trade results were examined.
20.-25.7.1998 in Almaty	The workshop at the National Statistical Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan focused on ensuring the quality of the statistics of household budgets, on survey and sampling procedures, on the collection of data on income and expenditure of households and on recording their standard of living. The focus was also on recording welfare and poverty.
12.-14.8.1998 in Moscow	During this expert mission a pilot survey was evaluated. The survey was conducted in July 1998 to obtain data of the market of selected milk products. Supplements to the questionnaire and to the tables were discussed. More sophisticated analyses to evaluate the data were also discussed.



Cooperation Activities



15.-25.8.1998 in Berlin	The emphasis of the visit of the experts from Azerbaijan and Georgia was on investment statistics. In addition, aspects of the collection of statistics on construction and on construction prices were discussed. Meetings were held with data users, e.g. from Berlin's Economic Research Institutes, the university of Potsdam, and from Berlin's Chamber of Crafts.
24.-28.8.1998 in Wiesbaden	The study visit of Ukrainian and Belarusian industrial statisticians to the Federal Statistical Office, focused on the Ukrainian list of variables and the questionnaire of a business survey.
27.-28.8.1998 in Wiesbaden	The Minister of Economics and the Chairman of the Georgian National Statistical Office visited the Federal Statistical Office. A bilateral agreement on technical cooperation between the presidents of the two National Statistical Offices was signed.
31.8.-17.9.1998 in Almaty	During a mission of the " <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH</i> " (German Technical Cooperation Ltd.) an expert evaluated the internal organisation of the National Statistical Agency (NSA) of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Regional offices, were also evaluated. Based on questionnaires and a visit to regional statistical offices, recommendations were given on the use of new information technologies and on the function of regional statistics.
1.-4.9.1998 in Wiesbaden and Düsseldorf	This study visit of Uzbek statisticians was focused on publications and the dissemination of statistical information. Various software products for statistical production were presented at the Federal Statistical Office, at the Hessian Statistical Office, and at the Office for Data Processing and Statistics of North Rhine-Westphalia.
9.-11.9.1998 in Almaty	An expert mission on investment statistics informed statisticians from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The European and German systems of investment statistics were presented and compared with the statistical system of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. A plan for implementing a total of six Tacis supported actions was elaborated. The leading German partner is the Statistical Office of Berlin.
14.-18.9.1998 in Almaty	During an expert mission of the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony labour market statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan were evaluated. The experts consulted also on standards of German and European labour market statistics. A plan of actions for that Tacis-project was elaborated.
16.-18.9.1998 in Wiesbaden	During this study visit, a draft questionnaire for the wholesale trade census in the Ukraine was discussed and definitions and notes were prepared. Also, information was presented on the procedures of the wholesale trade census in Germany in 1993 by the Hessian Statistical Office.
21.-25.9.1998 in Berlin and Bonn	During this study visit, the list of key figures on the financial activities of agricultural units and plants in Russia was supplemented. The methodology of their computation was discussed. The German Federal Ministry for Agriculture consulted on the preparation of the agricultural report of the Federal Government, taking account of financial data.
21.-25.9.1998 in Wiesbaden	A draft for national classification of economic activities was presented by the Russian experts. The contents, interpretation, and practical use of classifications were also discussed. The Russian statisticians were consulted on the structure of the German statistical system, on the combination of statistical data from different surveys, and on the periods of saving data.



Cooperation Activities



**23.9.-3.10.1998
in Saarbrücken
and Berlin**

Representatives of the Georgian Statistical Office visited the Statistical Offices of the Saar and of Berlin in Germany. The visit is part of the partnership relations between the "Saarland" and Georgia and between "Saarbrücken" and Tbilisi. At the Statistical Office of the "Saar" the delegation got information on the functions of a regional statistical office within the system of federal statistics. During the stay in Berlin the delegation was informed about Germany's parliamentary elections. The focus was on operations of the Statistical Office in preparing the election and processing and evaluating the results. At the Statistical Office of Berlin and at various scientific and statistical institutions in Berlin and Potsdam issues of tourism, domestic trade, and regional statistics were presented.

**5.-9.10.1998
in Wiesbaden**

During the study visit of Russian experts evaluations and analyses on trade statistics, were discussed. The seminar to be held in Moscow in December 1998 and involving 30 regional offices was prepared.

**5.-19.10.1998
in Moscow and
Bryansk**

During this mission the methodology of calculating gross value added of agricultural production in the Bryansk region was presented. Information was exchanged on the calculation of changes in livestock. The German system of recording changes in stocks and in meat production was also discussed.

**12.-16.10.1998
in Almaty**

Two representatives of Germany's Federal Statistical Office participated in the "High-Level Tacis Conference" on future consulting activities of the western European statistical offices for the Transform countries until 2005.

**13.-16.10.1998
in Tashkent**

During an expert mission of the Thuringian Statistical Office, problems of energy statistics were discussed with experts of the State Department on Statistics and of some regional statistical offices. The European and German systems of energy statistics were presented and the system of energy statistics in Uzbekistan was analysed. Further issues were problems of business registers and the setting up of energy balances.

**19.-21.10.1998
in Wiesbaden**

During this study visit, two Mongolian experts were consulted on applying international standards and procedures of foreign trade statistics, focusing on commodity movements. Also discussed had been tabulation procedures in foreign trade statistics and the current cooperation with the customs authorities. A first bilateral comparison was made for bilateral foreign trade data of Germany and Mongolia for 1997.

**20.-23.10.1998
in Wiesbaden**

During this study visit, advice was given on a census of enterprises in the hotel and restaurant industry. The census will be conducted in the Ukraine at the end of 1998. The results of a sample survey in retail trade performed in the Ukraine was evaluated.

**27.-29.10.1998
in Chisinau**

During the expert mission of the Thuringian Statistical Office to the Department of Statistics and Sociological Analysis of the Republic of Moldova, the systems of construction and investment statistics in Germany and the Republic of Moldova were presented. Questions and problems in preparing, producing, and evaluating such statistics were discussed.

**28.-30.10.1998
in Bishkek**

During an expert mission the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic was consulted in the publication and dissemination of statistical information. The publication activities of the National Statistical Committee were also evaluated. A plan of actions for bilateral cooperation in 1999-2000 was jointly prepared. Major topics should be the Internet, graphical design of publications and public relations.