



Statistisches Bundesamt

INFORMATION

★ **Statistical Cooperation with Transition and Developing Countries** ★
★ **Edition III / 1999** ★

Director General of the Russian Statistical Agency visited Germany

The Director General of the Russian Statistical Agency, Mr. Vladimir Sokolin, and a delegation visited the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden on 1 December 1999 in order to intensify the existing cooperation between German and Russian statisticians. The cooperation is promoted by the European Union under the Tacis Programme.

As a result of the visit, an agreement on further cooperation in the field of statistics was signed by Mr. Sokolin and the President of the Federal Statistical Office, Mr. Hahlen. That declaration of intent is to contribute to a continued orientation of the statistical system of the Russian Federation towards international standards and the requirements of a democratic society based on free-market principles. Following the meeting in Wiesbaden, the delegation visited the IFO Economic Research Institute and the Bavarian Land Office for Statistics and Data Processing in Munich where discussions focused on scientific and regional issues of statistics.

New quality of cooperation with the Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Poland

— President of the Federal Statistical Office visited Warsaw —

The process of Poland's accession to the European Union officially started in March 1998. The Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Poland (CSO) has committed itself to take over the *acquis communautaire*, that is, it will adopt and implement Community legislation. The administrative structures required for that purpose have largely been set up. In this context, the CSO has maintained for a number of years

(continued on page 2)

	page
International Coordination	
• About us	2
• First visit of the management staff of Division IX D to Eurostat and CESD-Communautaire	2
Country Reports	
• China	3
Cooperation Activities	4
Annex	14

Imprint: Published and edited by: Federal Statistical Office ♦ Bonn Branch Office
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Editorial deadline: 31 December 1999



International Coordination

New quality of cooperation with the Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Poland *(continued)*

contacts with international organisations and Statistical Offices of the EU and Central and Eastern European Countries. Following an invitation of the President of the CSO, Mr. Tadeusz Toczyński, on 13 and 14 December 1999 a delegation of the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) headed by President Johann Hahlen held discussions in Warsaw regarding an intensification of statistical cooperation, which has been maintained for nine years now. The FSO welcomed the proposal of the Polish Head of Office to establish a bilateral partnership between the two offices. President Toczyński and his management staff explained to their German guests current tasks and problems facing Polish statistics and presented the organisation and trends of their well advanced data processing system. In the subsequent discussion, the German and Polish delegates agreed on several fields of cooperation.

The meeting was concluded by signing a framework agreement on bilateral partnership cooperation between the two offices.

About us

In the context of transferring the Berlin Branch Office to Bonn, some organisational changes took effect, too. The former "Centre for Central and Eastern Europe" has been transformed into Division IX D "Statistical Cooperation with Transition and Developing Countries" (cf. Information – edition II/1999). This means that this Division's sphere of competence has been extended. In addition to

the Central and Eastern European countries, the New Independent States and Mongolia, Division IX D now also supports China and other developing countries. Further information is given in the enclosed leaflet.

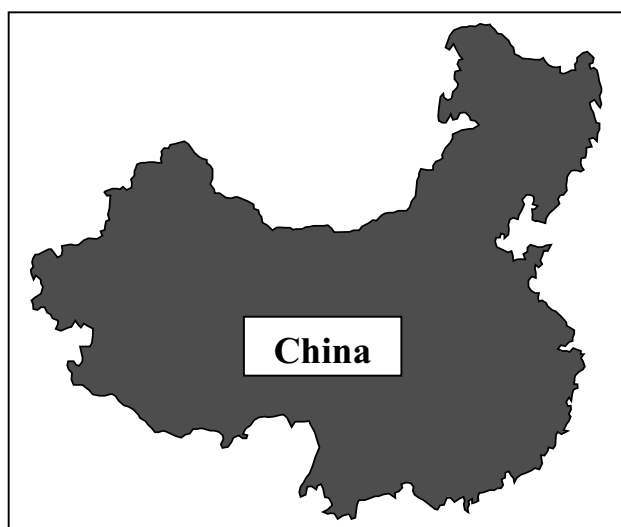
There have been some staff changes, too. The Division is headed by Mrs. Waltraud Moore whose previous responsibility at the Federal Statistical Office included international cooperation, cooperation with EU institutions, with statistical offices of the EU Member States, as well as with official statistics of the People's Republic of China and other developing countries. Other current spheres of competence are shown in the enclosure.

First visit of the management staff of Division IX D to Eurostat and CESD-Communautaire

On 14 September 1999 the Head of Division IX D of the Federal Statistical Office, Mrs. Moore, together with the Heads of Section responsible for the Tacis and Phare assistance programmes, met Eurostat and CESD-Communautaire officials in Luxembourg for initial discussions. The focus was on issues of implementing and financing cooperation measures with the transition and candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The representatives of the Federal Statistical Office confirmed to Eurostat and CESD-Communautaire that the FSO is prepared to continue the committed cooperation between German statistics and partners of transition countries in the field of official statistics. At the same time, however, they emphasised that implementing the EU cooperation projects would have to include the option of wider cost coverage.



Country Reports



China

Since 1993 there has been cooperation between German and Chinese official statistics. Institutions participating on the German side are the Federal Statistical Office, several Land statistical offices, and the *Carl Duisberg Gesellschaft e.V. (CDG)*, Advanced Training Centre for Economic, Environment, and Social Statistics in Munich. Where appropriate, statistical offices of the European Union Member States are involved, too.

China is a developing country and, moreover, considers itself a country in transition to a "socialist market economy". Therefore, Chinese official statistics has to overcome its generally low level of infrastructural development and, at the same time, adjust its methods and procedures, most of which are still those of a centrally planned economy, to the information requirements of a market system. With the experience acquired in the unification process, German official statistics is an important cooperation partner for Chinese official statistics. Since 1993, there has been a bilateral cooperation programme covering all areas of official statistics and, since 1996, a large-scale project has been carried through, commissioned by the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH* - German Technical Cooperation, on "Reorganising Industry and Road Transport Statis-

tics of the People's Republic of China". Such statistics contribute considerably to determining the gross national product as they play a key role in the development towards a market system.

Both the bilateral cooperation measures and the *GTZ China* project are meant to support Chinese official statistics in meeting the challenges of transformation and in achieving the adjustment to international statistical standards. For the year 2000, seven measures have been agreed upon under the bilateral cooperation programme and 19 measures under the *GTZ China* project (including 10 measures financed by the German side). The measures comprise visits of Chinese management delegations to Germany, study visits of Chinese statisticians to Germany, expert missions of German statisticians to China for training and consultation purposes, advanced training seminars in Germany and China for multipliers, the preparation of methodological material in the Chinese language, and the translation of official statistics standard books into Chinese.

Here are some of the events that took place until July 1999:

- 18.03. – 25.06.1999:
Two Chinese statisticians participated in the *CDG* seminar on "Social statistics used for designing policies" in Munich as part of the bilateral cooperation programme,
- 19.06. – 25.06.1999:
Experts of the Federal Statistical Office visited Beijing, regarding the issue of "Evaluation of production index calculation" and for the preparation of the seminar on "Sampling methodology for the monthly and quarterly surveys in production industries", which was held at the *CDG* in Munich from 1.9. to 10.9.1999.
- 19.07.-30.07.1999:
21 Chinese statisticians participated in the *CDG* seminar on "Producer price indices" in Munich as part of the *GTZ* project.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

30.6-2.7.1999 in Berlin	At the Land Statistical Office of Berlin, experts of the National Commission for Statistics of Romania were given an overview of the system of <u>business statistics</u> in Germany, with a focus on the different economic branches (manufacturing, distributive trade, hotels and restaurants). The explanations included the trade register, which may be used to select the survey units, and the electronic processing of enterprise data in the system of national accounts.
1.-2.7.1999 in Kiev (Ukraine)	As part of a consultation with Ukrainian construction statisticians, discussions were held on the draft questionnaire of <u>short-term construction industry statistics</u> and its methodological explanations and variables. The discussion focused on problems occurring in the development of a national classification of construction output. The calculation methodology for the index of construction output was appraised.
12.-15.7.1999 in Bucharest (Romania)	The purpose of the mission of staff members of the Thuringian Land Statistical Office to the National Commission for Statistics of Romania was to discuss questions and problems of backward recalculation of statistical characteristics, in particular the <u>backward recalculation of time series</u> . Various procedures and methods of time series adjustment as well as software for seasonal adjustment of time series and trend calculations were presented.
14.-16.7.1999 in Berlin	The Land Statistical Office of Berlin presented to experts of the National Commission for Statistics of Romania the methodology of data collection for, and calculation of, <u>construction price indices</u> as well as their electronic processing in Germany. Romania does not yet have such a system. Information and proposals were thus given to the Romanian statisticians regarding collection and evaluation methods for the indices.
26.-28.7.1999 in Prague and Usti n.L. (Czech Republic)	Experts of the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony held an initial exchange of experience with statisticians of the Czech Statistical Office concerning the " <u>methodology of regional and euroregional statistics</u> ". Among the issues discussed were the impact of restructuring the regions of the Czech Republic on regional statistics and the experience acquired in setting up regional statistics in the euroregions.
26.-30.7.1999 in Kiev (Ukraine)	In a lecture, the <u>marketing concept</u> of the Federal Statistical Offices was presented to 20 public relations staff members of the specialised departments of the State Committee on Statistics (Goskomstat). In the relevant Goskomstat working group, the Ukrainian marketing and pricing system for statistical information was discussed. An analysis carried through among users of statistical data was a first step towards improving the relation between users and producers of statistics.
27.-30.7.1999 in Chişinau (Moldova)	Representatives of the Statistical Offices of Moldova, Azerbaijan and Georgia participated in a seminar on issues of <u>Economic Accounts for Agriculture</u> , chaired by an expert of the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry. The EU and SNA 1993 systems of Economic Accounts for Agriculture were presented, compared with each other and checked for their



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

	applicability to transition countries. Other topics were methods of calculating ratios for Economic Accounts for Agriculture, the setting up of quantitative balances for agricultural products as well as principles and methods regarding the collection of agricultural product prices as common in the EU.
16.-18.8.1999 in Stuttgart	At the Land Statistical Office of Baden-Württemberg, experts of the National Commission for Statistics of Romania obtained information about the structure and organisation of a German statistical library. Other issues treated during the study visit were questions of technological equipment and library software regarding a computer-assisted information system. The measure served to support Romania in modernising the <u>library and information services</u> of the Romanian office.
16.-20.8.1999 in Wiesbaden	During a study visit to the Federal Statistical Office, statisticians of the Czech Statistical Office discussed issues of <u>tourism statistics</u> with German experts. Focal issues were, among other things, accommodation statistics, the tourism balance, the classification of the World Tourism Organisation and its implementation in the national systems of tourism statistics of the Czech Republic and in Germany.
23.-27.8.1999 in Minsk (Belarus)	The consultation included appraising the calculation of the <u>production index</u> as performed by the Ukraine and Belarus. Questions of calculating the regional production index and labour productivity as well as the structural survey for small enterprises were discussed.
25.-27.8.1999 in Stuttgart	During the study visit of three Ukrainian statisticians to the Land Statistical Office of Baden-Württemberg under the Tacis project on "Regional Statistics", the organisational structure and the process of producing basic statistics were presented taking Germany as an example. Analytical approaches of regional accounts and regional indicators of <u>business statistics</u> were discussed and the regional information system was presented.
30.8.-3.9.1999 in Prague, Usti n.L., Plzeň (Czech Republic)	A staff member of the Federal Statistical Office visited the Czech Statistical Office, holding discussions on questions of <u>environmental statistics</u> . As a result of the regional restructuring of the country, the organisation of Czech statistics will undergo various changes in the near future. Against this background, different issues were discussed regarding waste management statistics, the collection of environmental-economic data, and the regional breakdown of environmental statistics.
1. - 10.9.1999 in Munich	Under the GTZ project on "Reorganising <u>Industry and Road Transport Statistics</u> in the People's Republic of China", the Federal Statistical Office, in cooperation with the CDG Munich, organised a seminar on sampling methodology for 21 Chinese statisticians. The participants in the seminar obtained comprehensive information on sampling methods suited for application in industry and road transport statistics (enterprise sample). The focus was on practical feasibility of the methods.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

8.-10.9.1999 in Berlin	During a study visit to the Land Statistical Office of Berlin, statisticians from the Kyrgyz Republic were given an overview of the system of investment statistics in Germany and the EU. The business register as a basis for defining the groups of respondents to <u>investment statistics</u> was presented, and the definitions and coverage of investments in manufacturing industries were explained. More in-depth discussions were held on the statistics of environmental protection investments, of energy and water supply, and of investment surveys in the construction industry and in retail trade and the hotel and restaurant industry.
8.-10.9.1999 in Wiesbaden	As part of the consultation with Ukrainian statisticians on publishing statistical results, experience was exchanged regarding the Internet and its current trends. The <u>Internet offer</u> of the Federal Statistical Office was presented. The discussion covered issues of organisation, development and prospects of the Internet data supply, as well as the technical implementation of www.statistik-bund.de .
13.-16.9.1999 in Wiesbaden	Staff members of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia discussed with experts of the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden methodological and organisational issues of <u>foreign trade statistics</u> . Explanations included European and national legal bases and the specificities of producing foreign trade statistics that originated from the introduction of the EU Single Market. Also, a mirror comparison between German and Macedonian foreign trade data for 1998 was performed; common features of, and differences between, the two statistical systems were discussed.
13.-17.9.1999 in Wiesbaden	<p>From 13. to 15.09.1999 an international seminar on "capital formation in <u>national accounts</u>" was held in Wiesbaden (Federal Statistical Office) / Frankfurt/M. (Deutsche Bundesbank). The focus here was on the calculation of capital formation in national accounts (gross fixed capital formation in construction according to the commodity flow method, gross fixed capital formation in machinery and equipment and intangible capital formation as well as fixed capital formation by investing branches and sectors). At the Deutsche Bundesbank, questions were treated regarding direct investment within the scope of the balance of payments and of financial accounts as part of national accounts.</p> <p>During the subsequent two-day consultation, the statisticians from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan gathered information about the system of <u>Regional Accounts</u> and discussed issues of pilot surveys in the field of investments.</p> <p>Discussions were held with Ukrainian statisticians on a questionnaire presented by the Ukraine on short-term statistics in <u>construction industry</u> and on the results of a test survey.</p>
13.-24.9.1999 in Berlin and Wiesbaden	The study visit of Georgian statisticians covered the topics of capital formation calculation in national accounts, fixed capital formation in construction, fixed capital formation, and the calculation of fixed assets, direct



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

	investment as part of the balance of payments, the publication and analysis of construction and investment statistics in a democratic market system as well as construction price statistics. It is intended to continue producing the construction price index and <u>investment statistics</u> (emphasis on national accounts) as follow-up projects in Georgia. The construction price index will be continued as a separate project, with Azerbaijan possibly joining in.
15.-25.9.1999 in Beijing (China)	The mission of a national accounting expert of the Federal Statistical Office served to consult the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in the further development of <u>industry and road transport statistics</u> , taking account of the requirements of national accounts. Implementation of what had been prepared at the seminar on "national accounts and industry statistics" held at the CDG in Munich in February was checked during the mission.
16.-22.9.1999 in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)	During the expert mission on <u>publishing and disseminating statistical information</u> to the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan, the proposals to improve selected chapters and the overall design of the publication "Kyrgyzstan in Figures" - which were developed by experts of the Federal Statistical Office - were presented and discussed. Also, initial ideas regarding the concept of a publication of the National Statistical Committee for the EXPO 2000 in Hanover were developed. A seminar on the "Graphical design of publications" was held with the objective of enhancing the understanding of appropriate use and design of statistical charts and tables.
17.9.1999 in Wiesbaden	The progress made regarding the transition to <u>construction price statistics</u> according to the components method was discussed with representatives of the National Statistical Committee of Kyrgyzstan. The debate included summarising major features of the method - construction work descriptions, weighting patterns, selection of reporting companies -, which have to be accounted for in preparing the pilot survey scheduled for February 2000 in Bishkek. Other participants in the discussion were staff members of the statistical offices of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, who wished to obtain information about the German system of construction price statistics.
20. - 24.9.1999 in Beijing / Shanghai (China)	Experts of the Federal Statistical Office and the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg carried through a consulting programme on methodological issues of <u>producer price statistics</u> at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Statistical Bureau of Shanghai Municipality. The debate included the following topics: procedure of sampling representative products, eliminating non-genuine price changes, calculating a price index for large machines and equipment, using average prices as a function of varying quantities, and deflation with producer price indices in industry statistics and national accounts.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

28.9.-1.10.1999 in Munich	The study visit of Slovak statisticians to the Bavarian Land Office for Statistics and Data Processing focused on the following issues: <u>construction industry statistics</u> , <u>statistics of manufacturing industries</u> and <u>national accounts</u> . Discussions included the methodology of short-term and annual surveys among enterprises/local units of manufacturing and construction industries, and the connection between short-term, structural, and national accounting data. Also, the DAMAST data processing system and the wide range of publications on construction industry statistics were presented to the staff members of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic.
28.9.-1.10.1999 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	During an expert mission on <u>energy statistics</u> , two experts of the Thuringian Land Statistical Office appraised the modifications applied by the State Department on Statistics of Uzbekistan to the energy statistics survey documents. Also, draft questionnaires for the energy sources of gas and mineral oil were presented and discussed, in addition to exchanging opinions about the effects of the EU directive on reforming the legislation regarding energy production. Other topics discussed were legal bases on producing energy statistics.
5.-8.10.1999 in Kiev (Ukraine)	The mission of an expert of the Federal Statistical Office served to examine the questionnaire of quarterly <u>wholesale trade statistics</u> , which is to be introduced in the 1st quarter of 2000, according to the EU requirements regarding definitions and classifications (NACE, CPA). Definitions and explanations on that survey were revised and pilot samples for retail trade by regions were appraised.
11.-18.10.1999 in Wiesbaden, Eschborn, Bonn and Berlin	<p>Under the cooperation project on "Reorganising <u>Industry and Road Transport Statistics</u> of the People's Republic of China", talks were held between staff members of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden and Bonn. Their purpose was to exchange information on the progress made, to present current results, and to develop a framework of measures for the remaining period of the last project phase. The Chinese partners and the German experts involved in the project held the opinion that considerable progress was made in the project after going through a phase of consolidation caused by the massive staff reductions in Chinese government authorities last year. Until February 2001, 22 measures are scheduled in the fields of production statistics, producer price statistics, national accounts, sampling methodology, and user requirements, including 11 measures which will be financed by the German side.</p> <p>The delegation also visited the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH - German Technical Cooperation in Eschborn. Talks concentrated on the progress made, the project's importance for economic reform in the People's Republic of China, and on procuring the material requested by the Chinese side under the project.</p>



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

	<p>The Chinese delegation concluded its stay in Germany by visiting the information agency of the Federal Statistical Office in Berlin ("Berlin Information Point") and exhaustively exchanging opinions with staff of the Federal Statistical Office. Items discussed were the success of the cooperation projects, important issues of providing statistical information services to political decision-makers and government agencies as well as aspects of <u>public relations work</u>.</p>
<p>11.-14.10.1999 in Berlin, Wiesbaden, Frankfurt/M.</p>	<p>The goal of the study visit of statisticians from the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Ukraine was to obtain information on various means of <u>public relations work</u>. They participated in preparing, carrying through, and evaluating a press conference on the publication of the Statistical Yearbook 1999, and visited the information agency of the Federal Statistical Office ("Berlin Information Point") and the Eurostat Datashop in Berlin; in Frankfurt/Main they visited the joint stand of the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the Länder at the Frankfurt Book Fair. A consultation served to make them acquainted with the organisation and standardisation of the publication series of the Federal Statistical Office.</p>
<p>18.-20.10.1999 in Warsaw (Poland)</p>	<p>Experts of the Federal Statistical Office, the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg and the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry met Polish agricultural statisticians at the Central Statistical Office of the Republic of Poland. The goal of the discussions on <u>agricultural statistics</u> was to perform an initial stocktaking in order to define future areas of German-Polish cooperation in that field. Such German-Polish "partnership" is the result of an initiative of the Eurostat Committee on Agricultural Statistics, which at a special meeting on technical assistance and enlargement in October 1998 suggested that non-institutionalised bilateral partnerships between candidate countries and EU Member States be established. The objective of such partnerships is to actively accompany the entire technical assistance in the field of agricultural statistics in the candidate country and to enhance the harmonisation process. As a result, cooperation with Poland was agreed upon for three areas: Census of agriculture and, if appropriate, other agricultural statistics, supply accounts and balances, agricultural monetary statistics.</p>
<p>19.-21.10.99 in Chişinău (Moldova)</p>	<p>The mission of experts of the Thuringian Land Statistical Office aimed at explaining the <u>statistics of building permits and completions</u> in Germany and the relevant legal bases. Questions and problems in the context of reorganising or introducing such statistics in Moldova were discussed. Also, the German system of investment surveys was presented and the definitions of a number of investment terms were explained to the representatives of the Department for Statistical and Sociological Research of the Republic of Moldova. In a lecture to managing staff members of the national computing centre, information was given on the structure and functioning of the European Union and Eurostat.</p>



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

19.-21.10.1999 in Bonn, Potsdam and Cologne	<p>Under the bilateral cooperation programme, a delegation of Chinese statisticians visited the Bonn Branch Office of the Federal Statistical Office for technical discussions in the field of <u>land market statistics</u>. Based on the statistics on purchase values of building land and agricultural land, general information on the legal bases of official statistics and the methods applied was given. The information provided on the general area survey by type of actual and planned use included the legal bases and information on the land registers as a basis for data collection. For both areas, an overview was given of publications and alternative data sources as delimited against official statistics.</p> <p>At the Land Office for Data Processing and Statistics of Brandenburg in Potsdam, the Chinese statisticians were given explanations – from a Land statistical office's point of view – about the legal bases and procedures of the <u>statistics on building activity</u> and information about the experience acquired in setting up and producing such statistics.</p> <p>At the Ring Deutscher Makler (RDM – Association of German Estate Agents) in Cologne, the Chinese statisticians obtained an overview of the structure and activities of the RDM and of the member agents as well as information about the real property price statistics produced by the RDM.</p>
26.-28.10.1999 in Chişinau (Moldova)	<p>Experts of the Thuringian Land Statistical Office visited the Department for Statistical and Sociological Research of the Republic of Moldova and discussed questions of <u>energy statistics</u>. The energy statistics revised by Moldova were presented and discussed. Following the recommendations of the German experts, the survey documents were simplified and reduced in volume. Proposals regarding survey characteristics for the energy sources of gas and mineral oil were a subject of debate. Other items discussed were the impact of the EU directive on reforming the legislation regarding energy production on energy statistics and the determination of national accounting aggregates for the area of energy and water supply.</p>
26.-29.10.1999 in Kiev (Ukraine)	<p>Under the Tacis project on the "Advanced Statistical Training Centre of the Ukraine", experts of the Federal Statistical Office held a seminar in Kiev on "<u>construction statistics</u>", which was designed especially for statisticians from the regional offices of the Ukraine. Major topics of the seminar were the following: Definition of reporting units, distinction between enterprises and local units; the system of variables and their definitions as applied to the statistics of local units and enterprises in Germany and the European Union; processing and analysis methods applied, individual work steps of data processing; classification of construction types and groups of clients; methods of supplementary estimation, index calculation and seasonal adjustment, and an overview of the statistics on building activity.</p>



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

2.-5.11.1999 in Almaty (Kazakhstan)	At the Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan, one staff member each of the Federal Statistical Office and the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony explained - as part of a GTZ measure - the system of <u>wage statistics</u> (current and multi-annual surveys in the field of earnings and labour cost statistics) according to international standards (ILO and Eurostat). Consulting was performed on how to organise and conduct wage surveys.
2.-5.11.1999 in Wiesbaden	That visit of Uzbek statisticians to the Federal Statistical Office was the last mission of the Tacis project on " <u>Publishing and Disseminating Statistical Information</u> "; the project cooperation was evaluated and prospects of future cooperation were shown. It was stated that the areas of customer relationships/public relations/data dissemination are at a low level of development at the State Department on Statistics. The Uzbek statisticians were exhaustively introduced to Internet terminology and technological requirements and the structure and procedures of the information services of the Federal Statistical Office. Recommendations were given on how to shape the contents and design of the draft publication "Uzbekistan in the Years of Independence" and the process of producing the Statistical Yearbook was explained.
8.-10.11.1999 in Berlin	On the occasion of a study visit of Ukrainian statisticians to the Land Statistical Office of Berlin as part of the Tacis component " <u>Publication and Data Processing</u> ", the technological procedure of data collection, the preparation and processing of information, the function and position of databases within the entire technological procedure of information processing, principles of setting up such databases, types of databases and hierarchical levels were discussed. The information-related interaction between databases of various levels and types and the tools for automating statistical data processing, in particular the graphical representation, were presented. The discussion covered databases, metadata, descriptive variables, the use of metadata for the information-related interaction between databases and for automated data processing with the purpose of providing information to the general public.
9.-11.11.1999 in Kamenz	During their study visit to the Land Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony, experts of the Czech Statistical Office had an occasion to discuss questions of <u>regional and euroregional statistics</u> as well as fundamental issues of geographical information systems. Differences in terms of contents, structure and production of regional statistics between the Czech Republic on the one hand and Germany and Saxony on the other were identified. Also, the impact of European statistical requirements on the German statistical system and its need for change and adjustment were illustrated.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

9.-12.11.1999 in Bucharest (Romania)	During his stay in Bucharest, an expert of the Land Statistical Office of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania discussed issues of <u>agricultural statistics</u> with staff of the National Commission for Statistics. The talks focused on the preparation of the agricultural census to be conducted in Romania in 2002, the preparation and conduct of agricultural structural surveys in Romania, the maintenance of the register of agricultural holdings in the context of the requirements of Romanian agricultural statistics, and the definition of "agricultural holding" from the Romanian point of view.
22.-26.11.99 in Tashkent (Uzbekistan)	Experts of the Land Statistical Office of Berlin consulted investment statisticians of the Statistical Offices of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Uzbekistan. Discussions covered the questionnaire and the conduct of a pilot survey in the field of <u>investment statistics</u> . Another focus was questions regarding the analysis and publication of investment statistics in a market system.
25.-26.11.1999 in Wiesbaden	The visit of Georgian statisticians to the Federal Statistical Office centred on <u>general questions of statistics</u> (organisation of the Federal Statistical Office, structure and procedures, staffing, the programme of federal statistics, cooperation between the Federation and the Länder, cooperation with science and research, methods of collecting structural data in the industry). The Georgian statisticians obtained a comprehensive overview of that range of topics and detailed questions, too, were discussed with the German experts.
1.-3.12.1999 in Wiesbaden and Munich	The Director General of the Russian Statistical Agency visited Germany. (for details see p. 1)
6.-10.12.1999 in Bucharest (Romania)	An expert of the Land Statistical Office of Baden-Württemberg visited the National Commission for Statistics of Romania for a stocktaking of the <u>organisation and functioning of the statistical library</u> of that Office and for drafting conclusions regarding the library's future organisation and work. The following was examined: the overall concept of the library, the structure of the stocks and their registration according to international standards and the provision of material to users. The National Commission for Statistics of Romania intends to start restructuring the library in line with the results of the consultation.
6.-10.12.1999 in Bonn	Experts of the Russian Statistical Agency (RSA) came for a study visit to the Bonn Branch Office of the Federal Statistical Office in order to obtain basic information on questions of <u>environmental statistics</u> . The first event in that field was used to discuss basic issues regarding the statistics of waste management, water management, air pollution, and environmental installations. An overview was given of the system of environment variables applied, the statistical monitoring of the impact that economic activities have on individual environmental components, and the methods of obtaining relevant information. Statistics on the environment will in the future play a more prominent role in Russia.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for July to December 1999

**8.-9.12.1999
in Ljubljana
(Slovenia)**

With the visit of a German expert to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, the project on providing statistical data of Slovenia on the Internet, that are comparable all over the EU, using the statistical database of the Slovenian Office, was terminated. In addition to supporting technical data processing, assistance was given in translating the data stock into the German language.

**13.-14.12.1999
in Warsaw
(Poland)**

The President of the Federal Statistical Office visited Warsaw.
(for details see pp. 1 and 2)



Annex

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"Statistical Cooperation with Transition and Developing Countries"

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