

STATISTICS ACROSS BORDERS

Statistical Co-operation
with Transition and Developing Countries



1/2002

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Editorial

After a structural break, the Newsletter on Statistical Co-operation with Transition and Developing Countries has appeared with a new look. This layout has been inspired by the new Corporate Design of Destatis – the Federal Statistical Office. The new design symbolises the statistical office's move towards a modern and professional provider of information services. The revision was accompanied with our Newsletter being christened "Statistics across borders": for us, an essential feature of our work and a confession of international co-operation.

"Statistics across borders" will henceforth be published every six months. The newsletter will tread a new path, laying more emphasis on background information.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions, please, send us an e-mail to the following address:

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Some changes have occurred also in the personnel of the division for "Statistical Co-operation". Please, refer to page 20 of this publication to find the current responsibilities.

The editors



China's chief statistician visited the Federal Statistical Office

From 7 to 11 May 2001, Mr. ZHU Zhixin, Commissioner of the Statistical Board in the People's Republic of China, visited the Federal Statistical Office for a discussion about the co-operation of the two statistical offices, which have had contacts for more than 20 years. At the beginning of the 1990s, these contacts were intensified at the initiative of the Chinese government. Meanwhile, the ensuing bilateral co-operation projects have made Germany the biggest co-operation partner of the People's Republic of China in official statistics besides Canada. During the recent 10 years, more than 500 experts in official statistics from both countries exchanged experiences at circa 80 meetings that provided information and training.

The Chinese delegation met President Hahlen at the Federal Statistical Office for an exchange of views about the present situation and the future prospects of co-operation in official statistics between Germany and China. The exchange of information focussed on the results of a project launched in 1996 to reorganise China's industrial and transport statistics and on a discussion of topics in economic statistics, which were of importance also in the bilateral co-operation context.

The two chief statisticians emphasised the good and successful relations of co-operation between Chinese and German experts and their interest to pursue this partnership. President Hahlen stressed that German experts had, jointly with their Chinese partners, develop solutions that were compatible with the needs and overall conditions of China.

While in Wiesbaden, the Chinese guests, who were accompanied by Mr. Eckart Hohmann, President of Hesse's State Statistical Office, visited the State Parliament of Hesse. There they were met by Mr. Möller, President of the Parliament, and Mr. Riebel, Minister of State and Chief of the State Chancellery. In addition, parallel with Hesse's parliamentary session, Mr. Hans Eichel, Federal Minister of Finance, who attended a mediation committee meeting held on that day, and Roland Koch, Prime Minister of Hesse, also welcomed the delegation.

During a joint dinner, the Chinese delegation met Mr. W. Schmidt, managing director of Germany's Technical Co-operation Agency (GTZ), which, on behalf of the Federal Government of Germany, financed the project on the reorganisation of China's industrial and transport statistics. Mr. Schmidt, who stressed that the co-operation between Germany and China had been an outstanding success internationally, encouraged the statisticians to carry on their successful co-operation.



Poland Twinning

The statistical institutions of Poland and Germany have cultivated close bilateral relations for many years. During the 53rd World Congress of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) held in Seoul in August 2001, President Hahlen (FSO, Germany) met President Toczyński (Central Statistical Office, Poland) for a conversation. On this occasion, President Toczyński suggested that Germany should participate in a twinning project planned by the EU as a component of the Phare programme.

The project is aimed at harmonising Poland's statistical information system in compliance with the requirements of the European Union. It shall be implemented during 2002 – 2004. The main



fields covered are statistical information systems and technologies, agricultural statistics, price statistics, short-term business statistics, statistics on government spending and revenues, output statistics, the labour force survey, the enterprise register and statistics on the intra-EU trade. The funds contributed by the EU amount to 1.5 million Euros.

Twinning

Under the pre-accession strategy, the European Commission has conceived a way enabling the candidate countries to adapt their administrations to membership conditions in the European Union. Partnership projects between administrations of a candidate country and those of one or several Member States (the so-called twinning projects) are expected to help the candidate countries cope with the need to fully adopt, implement and enforce the *acquis communautaire* before entering the European Union. As a rule, twinning projects last several years and cover a large number of individual actions in predefined subject-matter fields.

As the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, jointly with the statistical offices of Finland and Denmark, had already started in September 2001 a feasibility study on project implementation, a positive reply could be sent to Warsaw before long. Germany, jointly with Finland and Denmark, submitted a project implementation proposal to the European Commission.

On 8 September 2001, a German delegation, headed by the Vice-President of Germany's Federal Statistical Office, travelled to Warsaw to have first discussions. There was a general exchange of information on the forthcoming project. In addition, Mr. Wolfgang Schulze, German project leader from the Federal Statistical Office, and Mr. Ullrich Eichler, Pre-Accession Adviser from the State Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony, were introduced to the leading executives of the Polish office. The Pre-Accession Adviser is a long-term expert, supposed to provide the Polish colleagues with on-the-spot support for two years during project implementation.

Twinning project: Statistical Information System

This project complies with a medium-term objective of the 1999 contract on Accession Partnership with Poland. It is planned that the EU will co-finance measures in fields, such as Institution Building (IB) and the refurbishing of equipment, in order

(a) to harmonise the methodology of statistical surveys in compliance with EU requirements, in particular, for agricultural, price and business statistics, statistics on public finance, on the labour market, on industrial production, external trade, transport, the environment and tourism;

(b) to improve Polish statistics and their connections to Eurostat in terms of quality, productivity and data safety and to enhance their public accessibility by modernising the enterprise register and the technological infrastructure and by raising the qualification levels of statisticians;

(c) to modernise and to develop the statistical information system in line with the needs for agricultural statistics and other data on EU policies that Poland has to adopt. The IB component of this project is being implemented by way of partnership (twinning).



On 11 September 2001, immediately after the German proposal had officially been presented at the Central Statistical Office, responsible representatives from the statistical offices of Germany, Finland, Denmark, and Poland had a first meeting in Warsaw. It provided an opportunity to discuss the distribution of responsibilities shared by the offices and to draft a first framework for project implementation and funding. The Central Statistical Office of Poland also invited France, already engaged in a twinning project on regional statistics with the Polish Statistics Office, to participate in project implementation and to provide experts.

As provisionally agreed, German experts will undertake 38 advisory missions. The priorities set relate to information technologies, agricultural statistics, the labour force survey, short-term business statistics, statistics on intra-EU trade, and environmental statistics. Denmark will contribute 14 advisory missions, in particular, in fields, such as transport statistics, statistics on tourism and the enterprise register. Finland has agreed to take care of price statistics and statistics on government spending and revenues. Some of the fields mentioned are jointly covered by the partners.

From the very beginning, the Federal Statistical Office has been anxious to include the statistical offices of the federal states (*“Laender”*) in the preparations for the project, taking into account that it would not be possible to implement so big a project without their active involvement.

The staff of the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the co-operating partner institutions are looking forward to this common project, which, in addition to the concrete results of successful project implementation, will provide them with valuable experience in the field of cross-border co-operation in official statistics.



Project planning talks with China

The bilateral co-operation programme between Germany's Federal Statistical Office and the PR of China's National Bureau of Statistics provides for planning talks being held annually. The planning talks took place in Wiesbaden, Eschborn (GTZ) and Bonn from 10 to 15 September 2001. President Hahlen personally welcomed the members of a delegation headed by Mr. DU Weiqun, Deputy Director of department in charge of international co-operation. At a joint lunch with the members of the delegation and in the presence of the Vice-President of the FSO and the chiefs of all departments, Mr. Hahlen highly appreciated the successful co-operation during the last few years. Saying that their experience had been very positive, the two sides underlined their strong interest in the present co-operation being continued.

The topics discussed during the visit included the bilateral actions envisaged for 2002 and the measures, which would still have to be conducted under the project entitled “Reorganisation of Industrial and Road Traffic Statistics in the PR of China”. During the present phase of follow-up evaluation, two expert missions on sample surveys in road transport statistics and a workshop on “User-Oriented Data Dissemination”, which will be attended by participants from provincial offices in China, are still in the offing. Also discussed was a symposium, which will be organised by the GTZ to present the results of the project. The symposium will be held in Beijing in October 2002 and it will present the progress achieved in China's industrial and transport statistics to a



large audience composed of government representatives from China and Germany, representatives of international organisations, businessmen and public figures.

During the meeting, Mr. Du said that China's National Bureau of Statistics was strongly interested in the successful co-operation being continued. At the invitation of the Chinese office, Mr. Kopsch, departmental president, and Mrs. Moore, Head of the Division for Statistical Co-operation and International Statistics, visited the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Beijing from 24 November to 1 December in order to continue the project planning talks. In this connection, the representatives of the two offices agreed on the subjects to be covered by a 2002 bilateral co-operation programme, tracing out the lines for medium-term planning as well. In particular, they discussed the details of a project in small compass aimed at building a data sources system in international statistics in China and they finally signed a corresponding convention.

Subsequently, on the initiative of the Chinese hosts, the representatives of the two offices also discussed possible themes for a new large-scale project, which would be supposed to serve the goals of the economic and structural reform in the People's Republic of China, i.e. goals, which are politically supported by Germany, too. The details of the themes suggested by the Chinese side are presently under elaboration at NBS level.

Paris21- General Assembly



On 4 and 5 October 2001, the annual general assembly of the *Paris21* consortium met on the premises of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris. The "Millennium Development Goals" (MDG), developed under the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as an objective supposed to be achieved by way of global partnership between industrial and developing countries, were presented at the meeting (see case). A large majority welcomed the MDGs, even though some of the indicators selected would still need to be further reviewed to make sure that they are actually substantiated and purposeful.

Representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and from Eurostat reported on their experience with the implementation of poverty reduction strategies (PRS). Representatives from Kenya and Mauritania described their experience with the development and implementation of such strategies. Participants unanimously expressed the conviction that poverty could not be combated using a universal strategy, and that, instead, it would be necessary to draft such strategies on the national level, tailored to a country's needs. This postulation is also valid for the statistical monitoring of the social and economic results of poverty reduction.

Parallel with the assembly, the Task Team on "Advocacy Tools" also gathered to acquaint participants with the contents of a new information package, which included promotion tools supposed to be used on the political level for the improvement and development of national statistical systems. The Federal Statistical Office had been one of the institutions assisting in the development of the said promotion tools. Reference was made to the contents of a web site, presenting a folder and a poster entitled "Why statistics?". To disseminate the message, it is intended to adapt these tools to the specific conditions of the various countries.

Millennium Development Goals

The United Nations "Millennium Declaration" is the starting point of the "Millennium Development Goals", adopted to harmonise monitoring progress in various political and social fields and, thus, to facilitate national and international priority-setting for development. The eight main goals are listed below:

- eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
- achieve universal primary education,
- promote gender equality and empower women,
- reduce child mortality,
- improve maternal health,
- combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,
- ensure environmental sustainability,
- develop a global partnership for development.

These goals are split up into 18 targets reflected, in their turn, by 48 statistical indicators, which will be used to monitor progress in development for the analysis of target achievement.

**Presentation of the European Union's co-operation in statistics**

At the invitation of President Hahlen, representatives from Eurostat visited the Federal Statistical Office at Wiesbaden on 9 October 2001 to present the co-operation programmes of the European Union designed for the candidate countries, the Balkan countries and the successor states of the former Soviet Union. In his welcoming speech, President Hahlen appreciated the considerable amount of commitment that German experts had revealed often beyond the normal scope of everyday work and, referring to the forthcoming twinning project with Poland, he stressed the particular obligation of Germany vis-à-vis its neighbouring country. He expressed his gratitude to the many experts, both active and retired, from the Federal Statistical Office, from the statistical offices of the federal states (*"Länder"*), from the Federal Bank of Germany (*Deutsche Bundesbank*), the German Institute for Economic Research, from Germany's Technical Co-operation Agency and other institutions, who were active in the field of statistics co-operation and attended the meeting in Wiesbaden as guests.

The foundations and objectives of the EU programmes were presented under the guidance of Mr. Heikki Salmi, chief of Eurostat's section on "Technical Co-operation with Phare and Tacis Countries". New challenges have emerged as a consequence of the need for consultation in Turkey and the Balkan countries, which will be strongly supported in the years to come on the basis of new and comprehensive financing schemes.

The representatives from Eurostat pointed out that successful programme implementation depended on the extent to which the statistical institutions of the EU were ready to make technical experts available for it. In this connection, they appreciated the strong involvement of Germany's



official statistics in co-operation efforts with transition countries and thanked the Federal Statistical Office for its readiness to employ trainees from candidate countries at the Federal Statistical Office as well as for its participation in the twinning project with Poland.

There will be a growing need for consultation in the near future. For that reason, Eurostat would welcome it very much, if Germany undertook co-operation commitments, also and above all with Turkey.

FSO President visited Slovakia



At the invitation of President Mach (Slovakia), Mr. Hahlen, President of Germany's Federal Statistical Office, visited the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR) in Bratislava on 6 and 7 November. The talks were held to strengthen the co-operation efforts of the two offices and to identify fields for a possible co-operation under EU programmes.

President Mach stressed that the Slovak Republic's integration into the European Union was a task of utmost importance to all political and administrative bodies. To bring official statistics in alignment with existing needs was a first priority task, since statistics provided an essential basis for the evaluation of accomplishments in other chapters of the "*acquis communautaire*". For that reason, the experience that one of the Member States had gathered in its co-operation with Eurostat and under the European Statistical System (ESS) were a major item of the discussions.

The co-operation efforts envisaged on the bilateral level and under the Phare programme related to fields, such as time budget surveys, iron and steel statistics, time series in production statistics, Prodcom classifications, and industrial and building statistics. In addition to that, President Hahlen repeated a proposal, which invited statisticians from Slovakia to work at the Federal Statistical Office and be trained there as EU-funded trainees.

President Mach's return visit to the Federal Statistical Office in Wiesbaden has been envisaged for the first half of this year. The talks will be devoted to quality management issues of the Federal Statistical Office.

Poland's chief statistician in Wiesbaden



On 4 and 5 December 2001, Mr. Toczyński, President of the Federal Statistical Office of Poland (GUS), and Mrs. Domaszewicz, director in charge of international co-ordination, paid a visit to the Federal Statistical Office of Germany.

A main item discussed was co-operation within the bodies of the European Union and, in this context, the decision-making and institutional structure of legislative procedures for Statistics at EU level. The discussions focussed, in particular, on the responsibilities and functions of the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) as well as on the German contribution to further developments of the statistical programme within the European Statistical System (ESS).

In view of a new twinning project (see page 3), the work programme adopted under the bilateral co-operation agreement was revised and redrafted in order to avoid duplication. Bilateral actions



of a supplementary nature shall be undertaken in areas not covered by the twinning. They include measures relating to statistics on incoming orders in industry and construction and the dissemination of regional statistics. Another subject discussed related to the migration flows between Poland and Germany, a subject with a particular political relevance. In this context, the Federal Statistical Office will examine a policy paper to be submitted by Poland in order to find out which possibilities there are for a clear and specified approach to statistical analysis. Division I A "*Fundamental Questions, National and International Co-ordination*" will be in charge of the concept for and the co-ordination of the bilateral programme.



Takis co-operation

Eurostat is already making preparations, jointly with the statistical offices of the beneficiary countries, for the next Tacis contracts, i.e. "Statistics 6" and "Statistics 7", which are to be signed in late 2002. For the first time, a call for tenders will be needed to implement Tacis projects, an approach already practised with regard to Phare projects. It can be expected that several bids will come from private firms or individuals. The bidders will be dependent on the mediation of expertise available at the statistical offices and, for that reason, they will address, in addition to other institutions, also the Federal Statistical Office to recruit the experts they need. In all cases, it will be necessary for the statistical offices to have negotiations about the nature and the extent of their involvement, including the payment of fees. The Federal Statistical Office and the State Statistical Offices need to co-operate closely in order to cope with the large volume of co-operation, not least owing to the fact that so many countries are involved in actions under the Tacis contracts.

CESD-Communaire in Luxembourg remains to be the contracting party, as far as ongoing contracts are concerned, i.e. "Statistics 4" and "Statistics 5". Since December 2001 negotiations have taken place in order to solve problems that have emerged there and to make sure that these co-operation projects will be carried on.



World Bank project on agricultural statistics with Lithuania

Johann Hahlen, President of the Federal Republic of Germany's Federal Statistical Office, and Petras Adlys, ex-Director General of the "Department of Statistics to the Government of the Republic of Lithuania", judged the close relationship in bilateral co-operation to be a "milestone" on Lithuania's road into the European Union. Though the leadership of the office has changed, Lithuania continues to be interested in keeping up the good tradition of co-operating with Germany in official statistics. In the fall of 2000, the two national statistical institutions had signed a voluminous contract on consulting and co-operation. The project, which was funded by the World Bank, had the goal to help Lithuania restructure its agricultural statistics. It has now been terminated successfully.

Werner Griepenkerl, ex-chief of the agricultural statistics division, has been entrusted with the leadership function as expert responsible for the technical implementation of that World Bank



project. At the Lithuanian office, Aniceta Šapolienė is a strong advocate of co-operation in this field.

The 20 odd experts recruited by the Bonn Co-ordination Group of the Federal Statistical Office imparted knowledge to approximately 100 agricultural statisticians from Lithuania about the details of the standards applied by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the EU. If compliance with the *acquis communautaire* is reached quickly, Lithuania can be expected to be fit for the forthcoming agricultural census in 2002.

Other institutions involved were the State (“Land”) Statistical Offices of Berlin, of Brandenburg, and of Schleswig-Holstein, the Federal Ministry for Consumers Protection, Food and Agriculture, and the Carl-Duisberg Society in Berlin. Meetings took place alternately in Vilnius and in Berlin or in Frankfurt on the Oder. The German embassy in Vilnius, attaching high priority to the co-operation efforts of the two offices, supported Lithuania in the procurement of information technology for a pilot project. The preparations to be made in selected regions and municipalities will be essential for the forthcoming agricultural census.

Statisticians from Lithuania were particularly interested in the fact that Germany was using electronic means to provide the FAO and Eurostat with national agricultural statistics and structural data on farms in Germany. They discussed the experience that Germany had gathered in the transition process and in restructuring the ex-GDR’s national statistical office, after Germany had been reunified. Other points discussed at some length during the exchange of information were sampling methods in Germany, the different sources of monetary and non-monetary statistics on agriculture in Germany, the German network of record-keeping farms, and “AGRA online”, the electronic information system of agricultural statistics.

Czech trainees



During the first half of 2002, three statisticians from the Czech Republic spend five and a half months at the Federal Statistical Office to attend a course of advanced training, i.e. a traineeship. Under the European Union’s Phare programme, experts from candidate countries are being given the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of European standards and of the “*acquis communautaire*”. The colleagues from the Czech Republic’s national statistical office will fully be integrated into the work routines of the respective divisions for what is called “in-service training”.

First experience regarding the delegation of experts from statistical offices of the candidate countries were gathered by Spain and Finland. The Federal Statistical Office is presently playing a vanguard role in respect of EU traineeships. In the future, further traineeships shall be held. President Hahlen welcomed this kind of co-operation with the candidate countries, saying that traineeships were an exemplar of the idea of European integration.

As from January 2002, Mrs. Dagmar Zácková and Mrs. Šárka Šilhánová have started their traineeships in department V (foreign trade division) and in department III (division of input-output computations, savings and investment accounts), respectively. As from March, Mr. Pavel Kouba will be assigned to the division of IT infrastructure & production, department II.



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES





Overview from May to December 2001

06-11 May 2001 in Wiesbaden	A detailed report about the Chinese chief statistician's visit to Wiesbaden can be found on page 3.
	
07-09 May 2001 in Moscow	An expert mission took place in Moscow under the <u>regional project</u> of the Russian Federation , relating to the "Development of a system for the collection, processing, storage and transfer of statistics on the regional and federal levels". During the mission, the experts assessed the results of prior study visits to Sweden, France and Germany to elaborate possible solutions regarding the information technology with which the Russian system of official statistics should be equipped on the regional and federal levels. The pattern of the final solution will be presented at a concluding meeting planned to be held in Samara in June.
	
14-16 May in Luxembourg	This year's meeting of the Tacis Steering Committee for the CIS states and Mongolia was held in Luxembourg from 15 – 16 May 2001. The meeting of the Tacis Steering Committee dealt with the <u>strategy of statistical co-operation</u> under the Tacis programme. The CIS states, in particular, reported their experience from the introduction of new international classifications and from the implementation of training programmes. Future project components were discussed in parallel talks with beneficiary countries.
	
16-18 May 2001 in Riga	An expert from the Free State of Saxony's Statistical Office paid a visit to the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia for an exchange of ideas about <u>cultural statistics</u> . The discussion referred both to the current situation in Germany and Saxony and to the progress reached in building cultural statistics in Latvia. On that occasion, the German expert, who described examples of the federal state's cultural statistics, was able to give the Latvian colleagues valuable advice on how to build cultural statistics in Latvia, taking EU requirements into account.
	
21-23 May 2001 in Bishkek	The working meeting held in Bishkek to mark the <u>75th anniversary of official statistics</u> in Kyrgyzstan was attended by Dr. Richter from Wiesbaden as the German representative. In addition to the state festivities, workshops were held on different statistical topics and further co-operation measures were discussed. The topics discussed at the workshops were "Problems of official statistics in reform and developing countries" and "First results of the 1999 census of population". At the same time, the Kyrgyz Statistical Society was founded during the meeting. Kyrgyz representatives several times appreciated the co-operation with the Federal Statistical Office and requested Germany's official statisticians to continue their support. So far, one Tacis project relating to statistics on building prices has been successfully concluded, another project on investment statistics (together with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) is still going on. For the future, further measures are planned in fields such as regional statistics, the 2002 agricultural census in co-operation with the GTZ, and statistics on tourism.
	



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES







Overview from May to December 2001

<p>21-25 May 2001 on the Crimea</p> 	<p>Experts from the Federal Statistical Office and from the Bavarian State Office for Statistics and Data Processing held a workshop on “<u>Industrial statistics</u>” under a Tacis-2 component entitled “Training Centre for Statistics of Ukraine”. The workshop addressed participants, first of all, from regional statistics offices of Ukraine. The German experts described the way in which the various components of the official industrial statistics system are built up and dovetailed. They also explained the place of industrial statistics within the overall system of economic statistics and the links between short-term and long-term statistics on enterprises and establishments, the catalogue of variables and definitions applied as well as the classifications and the register used. In addition, they discussed the entire procedure from data collection to publication.</p>
<p>23-26 May 2001 in Baku</p> 	<p>In May 2001, Mr. Führer, expert from Hesse’s State Statistical Office, participated in a one-week event in Baku (Azerbaijan), which was devoted to the <u>agricultural census</u>. The main objectives of the mission were as follows: documents should be evaluated, which were intended for use in a pilot survey on “land use”, and recommendations should be given, which related to the survey being conducted in July 2001. At the same time, the need was identified to have further pilot surveys, such as, for example, on livestock and on the degree of mechanisation. In this context, much time was spent on presenting general concepts and making comparisons with the federal German system. Moreover, agreement was reached on the future plan of action under Tacis 4. It provides for a general analysis of results and for concrete preparations concerning a pilot survey on livestock.</p>
<p>28 May-01 June 2001 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>From 28 May to 1 June 2001, two representatives from Tajikistan’s National Statistics Bureau attended a training course in <u>statistics on building prices</u> held in Wiesbaden. Methodologically and thematically, the course was based on the results of prior measures and on a pilot study conducted in Tajikistan in the first quarter 2001. The course raised questions that had remained open on specific aspects of building price statistics, using concrete examples for clarification: building price estimation, price indices and price data collection, methods ensuring chronological comparability of prices, acceptance of capital formation in construction, price formation taking account of additional equipment, updating of building activities conducted and planned. An additional action is recommended for the future, which would show how to handle problems raised by long-term comparisons between data on changes in building prices.</p>
<p>05-08 June 2001 in Samara</p> 	<p>Under the <u>regional project</u> of the Russian Federation, relating to the “Development of a system for the collection, processing, storage and transfer of statistics on the regional and federal levels”, the final meeting, which concluded the regional project, was held in Samara. Two experts from the Federal Statistical Office participated in the seminar, which was attended by high-ranking representatives from Moscow Goskomstat and from various regional statistics committees. Proposals that had been elaborated by the Russian side in collaboration with German experts were recommended for implementation. Agreement was reached that the IT equipment needs to be renewed completely so that it will be possible in the future to use modern technologies and the Internet for statistical purposes.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES






Overview from May to December 2001

<p>05-08 June 2001 in Potsdam</p> 	<p>Experts from Russia's National Statistical Office and from regional statistics committees studied practical experience regarding the organisation of <u>regional statistics</u> in Germany and examined the legal basis of regional and municipal statistics. They learnt how statistical offices are funded in Germany, how the data collected are processed, what modern technologies are used for setting up and maintaining databases and publishing results.</p>
<p>06-07 June 2001 in Kiev</p> 	<p>An expert from the Federal Statistical Office made the staff of Ukraine's Goskomstat familiar with the requirements of "<u>statistics on financial services</u>" as a component of structural enterprise statistics of the EU. As accountancy in Ukraine is not in line with EU requirements, it is presently difficult to fulfil the entire programme of European statistics on financial services, though key figures can be provided. On the other hand, the data base on banks and insurance companies seems to be in compliance with the requirements of the 1995 European system of national accounts.</p>
<p>10-23 June 2001 in Vienna, Wiesbaden and Luxembourg</p> 	<p>The visit of a delegation from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the PR of China on "<u>International mirror comparisons of purchasing power parities</u>" and "<u>International statistics</u>" took place in the context of bilateral co-operation. The delegation also had talks with representatives of Austria's federal institution "Statistik Austria", of Eurostat, of the State Statistical Office of Hesse and the Federal Statistical Office.</p>
<p>19-21 June 2001 in Kamenz</p> 	<p>A delegation of Czech statisticians visited the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony for an exchange of ideas about <u>regional statistics</u>. In particular, the following topics were explained and discussed: responsibilities and division of labour in regional statistics in Germany, software used to obtain regional statistics, adaptation of the Czech statistics system to EU requirements. Both sides said that they were in favour of work being continued on the development of a data base on regional statistics in one of the Euro regions between the two countries. Hopefully, this data base will make it possible to meet the strong needs for regional data raised by the forthcoming East European enlargement of the EU.</p>
<p>26 June-02 July 2001 in Vilnius</p> 	<p>An expert recruited on behalf of the Federal Statistical Office paid a visit to the Statistical Office of Lithuania under a World Bank project entitled "<u>Improvement in the system of agricultural statistics</u> in Lithuania". You find a detailed report on this project on page 9.</p>
<p>03-06 July 2001 in Almaty</p> 	<p>Experts from the Federal Statistical Office visited the Republic of Kazakhstan's Statistics Agency under a Tacis project component entitled "<u>Regional structure</u> of official statistics". The discussions had the goal to elaborate the project component's specification. This was done in describing the regional structure of official statistics in the Republic of Kazakhstan and in Germany and explaining the functions and objectives of regional statistics in the EU. At the end of the visit, the experts discussed and determined objectives for the project component and the related responsibilities and elaborated a plan of action.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from May to December 2001

04-06 July 2001 in Wiesbaden	 <p>Two external trade statisticians from the Republic of Armenia's National Statistical Service attended a training measure at the Federal Statistical Office to make a <u>mirror comparison</u> between Armenia and Germany. The measure provided methodological support in external trade statistics. In addition, the guests were informed of data collection, processing, editing and dissemination.</p>
15-28 July 2001 in Wiesbaden	 <p>Three Chinese statisticians visited The Federal Statistical Office under a GTZ project entitled "Reorganisation of industrial and road traffic statistics in the PR of China". The consultation had the goal to deepen the knowledge acquired during expert missions to China and training workshops at CDG Munich about methods and techniques for the <u>calculation of short-term business indices</u> in Germany. Discussions focussed on the output index, the index of incoming orders and the index of import and export prices. This meeting concluded the activities in the sub-field of industrial statistics.</p>
16-20 July 2001 in Berlin	 <p>During a consultation with <u>agricultural statisticians</u> from Ukraine in Berlin, in particular, the following subjects were described and discussed: agricultural production statistics in Germany, sampling concepts used to collect agricultural statistics in Germany, preparation, organisation and practical implementation of the 2001 structural survey of agriculture in Schleswig-Holstein as well as methodological and organisational concepts of the survey on the structure of agricultural and forestry holdings. (agricultural censuses, structural surveys on agriculture).</p>
23-27 July 2001 in Ulan-Bator	 <p>A visit of two external trade statisticians from The Federal Statistical Office was used to make a bilateral mirror comparison so that at least some of the differences between the statistical results of the two countries were clarified. The differences are caused, first of all, by specific features of Mongolia's external trade and by the resulting commodity flows. In addition, advice was given about data collection, processing and dissemination in the two countries. Possibilities of selling statistical results on the market were also discussed.</p>
23-27 July 2001 in Wiesbaden	 <p><u>Industrial, trade and building statisticians</u> from Ukraine paid a visit to the Federal Statistical Office. At first, they had joint consultations. An expert of the Monopolies Commission described concentration measurements and concentration statistics in terms of economic relevance, methodology and problem solution.</p> <p>The following consultations were held separately. The topics discussed by industrial and building statisticians were the draft questionnaires that Ukraine's Statistical Office had elaborated to collect data on building licences and completions in respect of individual buildings. Specific problems were discussed, with which enterprises collecting short-term business statistics were faced in sector E of the NACE. Trade statisticians discussed the system of variables to be built up for the evaluation of market structures, the approach to be used for the calculation of a quantity index (referred to as "Messzahl" in German) by branch and for all wholesale enterprises together as well as Ukraine's data collection programme for wholesale statistics to be adapted to EU requirements.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from May to December 2001

30 July – 03 August
2001 in Beijing, Xi'an



"The computation of value added in the field of transport and the contribution made by this sector to the GDP" was the subject of a visit made to The Federal Statistical Office by an expert from the **PR of China**. A main point of the consultation, which took place under a GTZ project, was an intensive exchange of experience on how the data that were required for the computation of value added in the transport sector and, in particular, data on road transport could be made available. A problem arising in this context is that the data base, formerly strictly regulated by the Ministry, has more and more vanished during the transformation process.

Furthermore, a description was given of statistics on transport-related services. The Chinese side was particularly interested in information about the respondents' obligation to supply the figures required, about the definitions used for survey variables, about sampling techniques, the enterprise register, about collaboration with the federal states' statistical offices and about the links with national accounts.

11-13 September
2001 in Wiesbaden



Two external trade statisticians from the Republic of **Azerbaijan's** National Statistics Office were trained, while attending the Division of External Trade Statistics in Wiesbaden for a mirror comparison between Azerbaijan and Germany. The main fields of the consultation included the provision of methodological support in external trade statistics and of information about collection, processing, editing and dissemination. In the course of the discussions, the Azerbaijan colleagues were given the recommendation that simplified customs declarations should be introduced into external trade statistics. They would be used, whenever the value of goods traded would range between 1,000 and 5,000 US dollars. They were also given a first introduction to themes, such as mirror comparisons, the Intrastat register and the system of plausibility checks. Other measures were recommended, such as detailed mirror comparisons in order to minimise existing differences and acquisition of knowledge on topics like plausibility checks and data collection without resorting to Azerbaijan's customs authorities.

05-07 September
2001 in Wiesbaden









A consultation with **Ukrainian** statisticians on regional statistics was used to discuss the following items: structure and current developments of the data base used for national accounts on the national level, connections between national and regional accounts and questions on deflation. Another point of the discussion was the experience gathered during the introduction in Germany of the 1995 European system of national accounts (and the 1993 SNA, respectively). The discussions that started in March on a system referred to as REGIO-STAT were continued (in particular, criteria for the choice of variables; catalogue of variables for the regional data base, time series, users of REGIO-STAT), as were the discussions on the structure and operation of the GENESIS database (discussion of the underlying principle according to which statistical variables are selected for inclusion into the database, general classification requirements, the software used for the generation and updating of the database, the types of tabulation, forms and organisation of access to GENESIS, protection of confidentiality).






CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from May to December 2001

<p>10-15 September 2001 in Wiesbaden, Eschborn and Bonn</p> 	<p>A detailed report on the project planning talks between the Federal Statistical Office and the National Bureau of Statistics of the People's Republic of China is given on page 5.</p>
<p>10-15 September 2001 in Wiesbaden and Munich</p> 	<p>In the context of bilateral statistics co-operation, the Chinese delegation was made acquainted with the <u>publication and dissemination system</u> used by the Federal Statistical Office and the Bavarian State Office for Statistics and Data Processing. In particular, the following topics were discussed: presentation of the system of official statistics in Germany, introduction to the publication system used by The Federal Statistical Office and the Bavarian State Office for Statistics and Data Processing, presentation of the Internet program and of its editors, presentation of the marketing concept, presentation of the activities of "Info-Service" and of the electronic editorial office of The Federal Statistical Office. Furthermore, the guests visited the library and the computer centre.</p>
<p>09 October 2001 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>A detailed report on a presentation of the European Union's co-operation programme in statistics can be found on page 7.</p>
<p>08-11 October 2001 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>The visit of Mr. Lützel, Vice-President of The Federal Statistical Office, was used for a general exchange of information about the <u>forthcoming Twinning Project</u>. On this occasion, the German project leader from the Federal Statistical Office and the Pre-Accession Adviser designate from the Free State of Saxony's Statistical Office were introduced to leading executives of the Polish office during the meeting.</p>
<p>24-25 October 2001 in Warsaw</p> 	<p>The first meeting of responsible representatives from statistical institutions of Germany, Finland, Denmark, and Poland was held in Warsaw to elaborate a partnership agreement referred to as <u>Twinning Covenant</u>. It provided an opportunity to discuss the distribution of tasks shared by the three EU institutions and to draft a provisional framework of project implementation and funding.</p>
<p>06-07 November 2001 in Bratislava</p> 	<p>A detailed report about the visit the President of The Federal Statistical Office made to the Statistical Office of Slovakia can be found on page 8.</p>

CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES




Overview from May to December 2001

<p>27 October-08 November 2001 in Beijing and Xi'an</p> 	<p>Prior to this official trip, the NBS of the PR of China had wished that a project on <u>international statistics</u> be launched under the international co-operation programme in statistics between The Federal Statistical Office and the NBS. The discussions at the NBS in Beijing were devoted to setting the priorities for a future project on international statistics and on dissemination of international statistics and a respective draft agreement was elaborated. Furthermore, a detailed plan of action was drafted, which described the concrete steps of project implementation. The two sides agreed that the objective of the project would be to make sure that the quality of work, done by the International Statistics Unit of the NBS, is improved and developed in a sustainable way, based on the support granted by THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL OFFICE.</p>
<p>05-09 November 2001 in Kamenz</p> 	<p>The final meeting on Tacis component "<u>Labour Market Statistics</u>", attended by statisticians from Kazakhstan, was held at the Free State of Saxony's Statistical Office to discuss the entire course of project implementation. Emphasis was placed, in particular, on extrapolation, error estimation, and rotation of the households selected. Furthermore, plausibility checks and the resulting quality improvements were in the focus of the discussion. This component gave the Republic of Kazakhstan's Statistics Agency the capability to conduct its own household surveys, using samples drawn from a register of buildings and households, which is based on the 1999 census of population. The main goal pursued by these activities was to determine unemployment figures in respect of the Republic of Kazakhstan.</p>
<p>14-16 November 2001 in Wiesbaden</p> 	<p>The last action under GTZ component "<u>Statistics on wages and salaries in Kazakhstan</u>" (GLS) was held to discuss the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. goals and programme of Kazakhstan's GLS pilot survey 2. sampling frame, accuracy intended and achieved, and practical implementation of the sample survey 3. dialogue plausibility program, tabulation of results, including extrapolation and imputation for non-response, questions about mechanised processing 4. tabulation program for working purposes and for publication (tables of mean values and variation, confidentiality) 5. goals of public-relations work and provisional evaluation of the GLS sample survey 6. further activities regarding the pilot survey and a comprehensive GLS sample survey covering total Kazakhstan. <p>The representatives from the Statistics Agency explained the concrete objectives pursued by the GLS pilot survey as well as the definitions and concepts of relevance to this survey. They described the sampling frame that their office had elaborated on the basis of Neyman-Tchuprov's allocation formula. The dialogue plausibility program of Kazakhstan was described and explained in detail. The Statistics Agency submitted a large set of working tables (mean values and variation) as well as a first set of tables for publication. The details of the tables were discussed at length.</p> <p>The representatives from the Statistics Agency said that a survey on wages and salaries would be taken, covering total Kazakhstan, with 2003 as the year of reference; that shall be done as far as possible in compliance with Council Ordinance (EC) No. 530/1999 of 9 March 1999.</p>



CO-OPERATION ACTIVITIES

Overview from May to December 2001

15 November 2001 in Bonn	<p>The functioning and the organisation of official statistics in the Federal Republic of Germany were described, and the network of data exchange was explained, to the statisticians from Moldova. The main features of <u>agricultural statistics</u> were presented and the overall context of their operation was described, including an East-West comparison, based on a users' manual ("LandMan") now under development. Approaches to possible problem solutions in Moldova were discussed. Particular problems are presently raised by the registration of family farms and barter relations in view of the fact that goods, labour and financial markets do not function properly. At the beginning of December, a meeting on the registration of price trends in agriculture was held in Wiesbaden. It is also planned to continue the exchange of information by electronic means.</p>
	<p>A detailed report on the project planning trip to the National Bureau of Statistics in China is given on page 5.</p>
24 November–01 December 2001 in Beijing	
	<p>A study visit to the Free State of Saxony's Statistical Office in Kamenz, which had the goal to make methodological and organisational preparations for the agricultural census to be held in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2002, concluded a GTZ project entitled "<u>Agricultural statistics in Kyrgyzstan</u>". More specifically, the study visit was expected to evaluate the experience gathered during pilot survey I (livestock and structure) and pilot survey II (land use) regarding the various components, such as survey programme, data collection programme and evaluation and dissemination programmes, and to derive conclusions from the pilot surveys for the agricultural census in 2002.</p> <p>The pilot surveys were a major step in the preparations for the agricultural census. They provided good results in a relatively short period of time. The conclusion is drawn from the available results that the planned agricultural census can be taken successfully.</p>
10-14 December 2001 in Kamenz	
	

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