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Project Planning Journey to China

From May 27 to June 07, 2000, the chief of Federal Statistical Office's section for "Statistical Cooperation with Transition and Developing Countries" visited the PR of China. The purpose of the journey was to plan a project of Germany's Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) called "Reorganisation of Industrial and Road Traffic Statistics", which is in its second and concluding phase, and to participate in a workshop on "The Future of Chinese Statistics" held in Beijing on May 30 and 31 by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In the discussions on project planning for 2001 and on the intention of the two project partners to prolong the project with the Federal Statistical Office's partner organisation, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) of the PR of China, it became obvious once again that the Chinese side considered the project to be an important cornerstone in the structural changes taking place in the Chinese economy, as the project was expected to yield high-quality information needed for economic decisions and policy-making. In particular, pending China's accession to the World Trade Organisation the country wishes to analyse and evaluate its economic development in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

The project will result in a set of statistical instruments, which will be guided by the information needs of a market economy and which will provide users on the government level, the business community, international investors and lenders as well as the public at large with current data on the development and the structure of the industrial and transport sector.

In this context it is particularly worth mentioning that among the circa 20 bilateral and international statistics projects that were presented, this project was the only one characterised as exemplary in the final report of the IMF workshop on "The Future of Chinese Statistics" and that the IMF and the participants of the workshop considered that this project corresponded in an exemplary manner with the United Nations (UN) recommendations on Technical Cooperation in Statistics.

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Project Planning Journey to China

(continued)

The following priorities have been set for the remaining period of the project, including prolongation:

- methodological and conceptual activities to determine the volume of traffic,
- orientation of transport statistics towards the requirements of the System of National Accounts (SNA),
- sampling methodology used to regionalise output and producer price statistics,
- methodological activities to determine the output of small enterprises, including sampling methods,
- regionalisation of national accounts.

To reach these goals, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany will continue to push the project forward with commitment, in close cooperation with the NBS.

Workshop on the Development of the Russian Federation's National Statistical System

At the invitation of the Russian Federation's Goskomstat, a workshop was held in Moscow from 29 – 31 May 2000 to discuss plans of the World Bank for a 30m US\$ loan to the Russian Federation, aimed at improving Russia's national statistical system (NASYS). The workshop was attended by high-ranking representatives from inter- and supranational organisations (World Bank, OECD, IMF, Eurostat, CESD¹), by representatives from statistical offices of EU and other western countries (in particular, USA, Japan) and by representatives from the various countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Russian Federation that hosted the workshop was represented by members of government, parliament (State's Douma) and other government agencies. Germany was represented by the Federal Statistical Office's section chief

in charge of cooperation with the Russian Federation.

The project presented to reform the national statistical system of the Russian Federation has to be seen in the context of similar endeavours starting as early as in 1992 that have been supported by a number of international institutions and various countries, including Germany, under an EU program called Tacis². Statistical areas of high priority were identified, which included, in particular, price and business statistics as well as the macroeconomic system. The headway made owing to the support given by colleagues from statistical offices of foreign countries was acknowledged explicitly. Apart from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, some other national statistical offices have strongly supported official statistics in the Russian Federation under the Tacis program. Germany was the only EU member state that contributed one of the 14 speeches at the plenary session. As requested by the Russian partner, the representative from Germany's Federal Statistical Office briefly presented the German system of official statistics, which was acknowledged by the chairman as a valuable contribution.

The new project may be supposed to carry on the work done so far and, thus, to meet with success. However, the new and large project proceeds from the assumption that the problems that exist cannot be resolved adequately, if Russia's statistical system is modernised in selected areas only. Instead, a fundamental reform is required, which also includes the institutional foundations. In particular, the far-reaching and ongoing changes in the country's economy will in the long run require correspondingly large changes in the statistical system. The time needed to achieve this goal was estimated to be as long as 15 years or so. Innovations should not be restricted to the introduction of the best methodology (in particular, sampling), but they should also include the regional structure of the statistical system, the acquisition and the use of modern information technologies, the availability and em-

¹ European Centre for Statistical Development

² Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States



International Coordination

ployment of manpower as well as management issues.

Participants from the Russian Federation presented their ideas of a powerful statistical system in their country. Users expressed their expectations regarding possible improvements under the project to be launched. The representatives from international institutions expressed their positive attitude towards the new project, too, and gave some hints how to further develop the Russian statistical system.

Tacis "Task Force" on Regional Statistics

The second Tacis "Task Force" meeting was held in Baku (Azerbaijan) on April 27/28, 2000, with EU participation to discuss the regional statistical systems of Tacis states on the basis of contributions presented by the participating countries. Owing to its strictly federal nature, the German statistical system, briefly described by a representative from the Federal Statistical Office, received particular notice in respect of the division of labour and functions between the Federal Statistical Office and the statistical offices of the federal states. The discussion covered the entire statistical process from statistical program planning to description and dissemination of results, including relationships with respondents and users of statistics. The issues dealt with in this context related, in particular, to problems such as meeting users' needs for information, including the regional and local levels, and to the division of labour between the various levels involved in the statistical process.

The report on the results of the meeting is to be presented and discussed in detail at a Tacis seminar of executive officials to be held in Kiev in September 2000.

Second Meeting of the Phare Management Group (MGSC)

At its second meeting held in Luxembourg on April 13/14, 2000, the Management Group on Statistical Cooperation under the Phare program discussed ongoing Phare statistical programs, the ways how accession countries could assume the Community's joint achieve-

ments (*acquis communautaire*), cooperation with the Balkans as well as cooperation with Cyprus, Malta and Turkey. In particular, Eurostat presented a first strategy paper for a reform of official statistics in the Balkans during 2000-2006, which was welcomed by the participants of the meeting. In this context, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany was able once again to stress its readiness to support, within the scope of its possibilities, the Balkans and the EU accession candidates by providing experts on statistics needed for EU co-operation activities.

Paris21

A group named Paris21 was formed subsequent to a resolution adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in June 1999 on the implementation of UN summit decisions on economic, social and ecological developments. This was the first time that the significance of statistical indicators for the control of progress achieved in implementing the summit's decisions was stressed on this high-ranking political level. A second meeting of the group held on March 9 in Paris discussed the question whether initiatives of donor countries and international organisations to build up statistical capabilities should at first be oriented towards the IMF's current information needs in the framework of the initiative to disencumber the 28 poorest countries or whether it would be advisable to strive for a broader basis of indicators. A third meeting held in Paris on 22/23 June 2000 tried to show the ways in which it would be possible for governments of both donor and beneficiary countries to make private and international organisations as well as the media understand the importance and necessity of statistical capability building for fighting poverty and granting development aid. As suggested by a World Bank representative, a project is to be launched to make operational recommendations for advocacy tools (for example, booklets, Internet pages, press releases). As regards the exchange of information, the Secretariat informed the group about a data bank, which is now under construction and which will include both statistical projects funded by donor countries and forthcoming actions in the



International Coordination

statistical field, planned for developing countries. The information that had been made available by Germany in advance was judged as exemplary for future data presentations.

World Census of Agriculture 2000

Member countries of the European Union and transition countries alike take part in a world-wide agricultural census. Participation in the "World Census of Agriculture 2000" is part of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation's (FAO) program and it is harmonised with the European Union, which has declared that the census is an obligatory program for the EU accession candidates as well.

The World Census of Agriculture is a full-coverage structural survey of agriculture. This survey will provide synchronous data on the various types of land use, on ownership relations and forms of tenure, on the legal forms of farms, on the structure of farms and manpower as well as data such as livestock and land use.

This major world-wide survey of agriculture provides an empirical basis that will allow to register the current situation and the structural changes that have taken place in agriculture up till now. Such information is needed, above all, in transition countries and EU accession candidates. The census of agriculture pursues the goal to provide internationally comparable, timely, and reliable statistics, above all, on the economic situation of farms in agriculture and forestry. The results will also be used as a basis for the adoption of agricultural policies in a national and European context, taking into account problems of interest to agriculture.

At the same time, the results will also provide a basis which will allow to assess the EU candidates' eligibility for accession and to evaluate the degree to which they have already adapted to what is required in terms of the Commu-

nity's joint achievements (*"acquis communautaire"*) in both agriculture and agricultural statistics. German official statisticians support transition countries and accession candidates with a large number of consulting and cooperation activities in order to harmonise agricultural statistics and to prepare for and carry through the World Census of Agriculture 2000.

In the Federal Republic of Germany, an "Integrated Survey of Agricultural Structure" supplements and replaces the costly surveys of subsets that were conducted in the past. The Federal Republic of Germany completed data collection for the census of agriculture as early as in 1999. Data on the structure of agricultural farms and their production basis were collected in Germany partly in a full census and partly in a sample survey. The federal states collected the data on the basis of an "integrated survey questionnaire". The Federal Statistical Office provided the federal states, which were responsible for conducting the census, with a jointly developed form of survey questionnaire that could be used for further electronic processing. This survey questionnaire, which was suited for further electronic processing, took account of national needs as well as of EU and FAO requirements.

In the context of cooperation with Poland's Central Statistical Office, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany translated the survey questionnaire into English and made the English version available to the Polish partners. The survey questionnaire is suited for electronic processing and can be adapted to national needs and it may also be used for surveys of subsets ("partial" surveys). The questionnaire is included in the information provided electronically by Germany's Federal Statistical Office and it can be found under Internet address http://www.statistik-bund.de/allg/e/veroe/e_zmo.htm.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**17.-19.01.2000
in Wiesbaden**



A study visit of **Russian** statisticians was devoted to a detailed discussion of the methodology used to calculate value added figures in order to find the best solution. In addition to volume calculations, the influence of price changes was a major point for discussion. For illustration, the three independent methods used to calculate gross domestic product at current prices were discussed. Then, input output accounts were discussed as they provide an approach to deriving value added figures. In addition, the price concepts used for national accounts and for price statistics were discussed. The discussions were supplemented by a description of the methodology used for deflation in the public sector.

**17.-21.01.2000
in Wiesbaden**



During a study visit, **Ukrainian and Byelorussian** statisticians for industry and building discussed questions and problems encountered after the latest consultation during preparation and calculation of output indices and indices of orders received in industry and building. The structure and problems related to the calculation of regional output indices as well as statistical methods to measure and evaluate concentration were also described.

**20.-24.01.2000
in Berlin and
Frankfurt/Oder**



In the framework of German-**Polish** cooperation in the field of agricultural statistics the second meeting of the working group on agricultural statistics was held in Berlin and Frankfurt/Oder. The discussions, which were attended also by an expert of the Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry, were focussed on the results of the 1999 Agricultural Census in Germany. Poland plans to adopt an adequate law as soon as possible so that the census of agriculture can be conducted in line with EU standards. Poland will link the census of agriculture with a census of population in order to save expenses. During the presentation of the German census of agriculture, the German experts took the German questionnaire as an example to explain in detail how the rulings of EEC Council Ordinance No. 571/88 on the Structural Survey of Farms in Agriculture were enacted, stressing in particular the necessity of adequate training for interviewers and enumerators. Apart from the legal status of farms, land use, ownership relations and forms of tenure, animal husbandry and manpower, the questions discussed in the context of the German questionnaire also included the problem of "areas closed down", since after accession to the EU Poland will be obliged to record the respective facts. After adequate registration of even the smallest farms in Poland and the stratification approach in the sampling frames for representative surveys had been discussed, the two sides agreed to discuss problems related to the typology of farms at one of their next meetings.

A visit to the office for data processing and statistics of Brandenburg was of particular interest to the Polish delegation. There, they were presented the AGRA online system and the current results of the 1999 census of agriculture in Brandenburg.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**24.-28.01.2000
in Wiesbaden**



During a study visit of statisticians from the Republic of **Tajikistan's** State Statistics Agency agreement was reached on the consulting requirements in areas such as printed publications, press and public relations, dissemination media and design of publications. A plan of action for further cooperation up to 2001 was adopted in the field of publications and public relations and it was agreed that a publication about socio-economic developments in Tajikistan should be issued in English and Russian. The publication is to be printed in Germany and it shall be issued in late summer 2000.

**25.-28.01.2000
in Tashkent**



The objective of a mission of two staff members of the Federal Statistical Office's printing shop to **Uzbekistan's** State Department for Statistics was to abolish the troubles in operating a printing machine acquired with Tacis means. Subsequently, the colleagues of the Tashkent printing shop were made familiar with maintenance requirements.

**02.-04.02.2000
in Bonn and
Düsseldorf**



The cooperation that started last year between the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and Goskomstat of the **Russian Federation** in environmental statistics was continued by another study visit. The items discussed were the methodology and the data collection system used to record investment and current expenditure in environmental protection. In the discussion emphasis was made, in particular, on aspects of total population, the sampling unit, the survey unit and the sample. As these statistics are collected in a decentralised way, a visit to Northrhine-Westfalia's office for data processing and statistics was devoted, in particular, to the practical organisation of surveys in addition to methodological questions.

**14.-18.02.2000
in Wiesbaden and
Berlin**



A study visit of agricultural statisticians from the **Republic of Moldova** and **Azerbaijan** was aimed at clarifying some questions that had remained open in the context of agricultural accounts. The methodology of quarterly accounts used by the Federal Statistical Office and registration and evaluation of work in progress were discussed. Other subjects discussed during the study visit were methods to determine price indices in agriculture and the clarification of issues of tax and agricultural policies (agricultural taxes, improvements in agricultural structure, EU subsidies in agriculture). In conclusion, the approach to the census of agriculture and to the survey of agricultural structure was briefly presented.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**17.-18.02.2000
in Moscow**



During a seminar on "Regional Indicators" held as part of project "Takis Statistics-3/Regional Statistics", project planning was done in the presence of participants, taking into account their different points of view and interests. The goal to be achieved under this sub-project should be the development of an integrated statistical information system for the **Russian Federation**, embedded in adequate administrative structures. The discussion revealed that statistical system of the Russian Federation, which had declared to turn away from planned economy, was nevertheless still oriented towards the one-sided needs of central government and that its orientation towards broader user needs, including those of the regional and sub-regional levels, had become an urgent necessity. In this context a list of statistical indicators should be compiled, which corresponds to user requirements in the Russian Federation on the federal level and in the various regional subdivisions. The important role that Russia's regional statistical offices play in this Tacis project was stressed and it is envisaged to include five of the regional offices that attended the seminar in the working groups.

**21.-23.02.2000
in Kiev**



Two experts from the statistical office of Baden-Wuerttemberg gave a consultation on regional statistics at **Ukraine's** State Statistics Committee in Kiev. Major issues discussed during the mission were regional statistics (available information, publications, organisational structure of dissemination, marketing and sale of products) and regional accounts (methods, definitions and periodicity of regional accounts and their relationships with national accounts). In addition, the basic statistics required for regional accounts in Ukraine and organisational concepts of regional accounts were discussed.

**21.-25.02.2000
in Kamenz and
Wiesbaden**



Two wages statisticians from **Kazakhstan** visited the statistical office of the Free State of Saxony and the Federal Statistical Office. The survey questionnaire prepared by the Republic of Kazakhstan's Statistics Agency, which to be used for a structural survey of wages and salaries, was discussed and a dialogue plausibility program was presented in detail. In Wiesbaden, the statisticians discussed the conceptual approach to a representative sample organised by region, economic branch and number of employees. The discussion was focussed, in particular, on subject-related restrictions, the sampling frame, the sampling program, the drawing of the sample, methods of extrapolation and accuracy evaluations. Some hints were given on specific software programs, on the compilation of sampling plans and tabulation programs.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**21.-25.02.2000
in Minsk**



A consultation, which will apparently be the last one, took place with the Republic of **Byelorussia's** Ministry for Statistics and Analysis under Tacis project "Business Statistics". It concluded Tacis project "Industrial Statistics". This occasion provided the reason for a two-day seminar held with the regional statistical offices of the Republic of Byelorussia. The seminar dealt with EU ordinances on the creation of a standard system of variables for the harmonisation of statistics, with the introduction of new kind-of-activity and goods classifications in industrial statistics, the conversion of output index calculations in the industry in line with international standards, with a structural survey of industrial enterprises for 1999 and with definitions of statistical variables such as turnover, new orders coming in, orders on hand in relation to industrial production as well as index calculation and time series analysis.

**28.02.-03.03.2000
in Wiesbaden**



During a study visit of experts from **Kyrgyzstan's** National Statistical Committee under Tacis project "Publication and Dissemination of Statistics", the draft publications for Expo 2000 were discussed from the point of view of their contents and design, including the deadline set for their completion. The program was rounded off by a presentation of the press and public relations activities of the Federal Statistical Office. In conclusion, pricing models for statistics were discussed.

**03.03.2000
in Wiesbaden**



During a meeting held to co-ordinate activities under GTZ project "Preparations for the 2000 Census of Agriculture in Kyrgyzstan" the parties involved agreed on a plan of actions covering the period up to late 2001. The partners involved in the project are the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony, the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

**06.-08.03.2000
in Sofia**



A seminar attended by an expert from the Federal Statistical Office of Germany was held in Sofia on "Changes in Statistics". It was a project of Leipzig University.

During discussions about possible cooperation under the Phare program, the National Statistical Institute of the **Republic of Bulgaria** confirmed its interest in cooperation with the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. It was agreed to have cooperation activities in the following fields: "Publication Policies and Dissemination of Statistics" and "Foreign Trade Statistics".

**07.-10.03.2000
in Wiesbaden**



A study visit of Russian statisticians served to identify the reasons for major deviations revealed by a mirror comparison of foreign trade statistics between the **Russian Federation** and Germany. The reasons identified were in the methodological field and they could be clarified in most cases. At Germany's Federal Bank, the experts discussed fundamental issues of service statistics related to foreign trade.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**14.-17.03.2000
in Wiesbaden**



During a study visit at the Federal Statistical Office, **Ukrainian** statisticians were made familiar with the Federal Statistical Office's marketing model and with the price regulations derived from it, regarding inquiries and statistical information. The Ukrainian statisticians gave information about their former marketing activities. They became acquainted with the publishing activities of the Federal Statistical Office, with the production process of a printing shop, with survey questionnaires and publications issued by the Federal Statistical Office to present survey results (for example, the monthly journal "Wirtschaft und Statistik"). Aspects of invitations for tenders and of the presentation of bids for the printing of statistical publications were explained.

**21.-23.03.2000
in Suhl**



This possibly last consultation with **Republic of Moldova's** Department for Statistics and Sociological Analysis on energy statistics served to evaluate the results of the project. Obviously, the most important result is the revision and improvement of the entire survey program for collection of energy statistics. At Thuringia's Statistical Office, the Moldavian energy statisticians were given hints on a methodological approach to structural changes in the energy economy. Another issue considered was the determination of national accounting aggregates in the field of energy and water supply.

**21.03.-01.04.2000
in Wiesbaden**



In accordance with GTZ (=German Agency for Technical Cooperation) project "Reorganisation of Industrial and Road Traffic Statistics" three **Chinese** trainees visited Wiesbaden for cooperation in the field of national accounts, production statistics and producer price statistics. It was one of the training activities that had been agreed upon during discussions with a project planning and co-ordinating delegation from China's National Bureau of Statistics in October 1999. The objective of the study visit was to deepen basic knowledge about the whole system and about the calculation methods in industrial statistics, producer price statistics and national accounts, to link the knowledge imparted with practical work, and to become acquainted with methods of cooperation involving several sectors, such as industrial statisticians, price statisticians and national accountants.

**23.03.-28.06.2000
in Munich**



Under the bilateral cooperation program with **China**, two statisticians from the National Bureau of Statistics participated in a seminar for statisticians from developing countries on environmental statistics, which took place at the Training Centre for Economic, Environmental and Social Statistics of Carl-Duisberg-Gesellschaft (CDG).



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**27.-31.03.2000
in Almaty**



At the end of March, a consultation was held at Republic of **Kazakhstan's** Agency for Statistics (AfS) in Almaty, which dealt with the calculation of building price indices according to the components approach. In preparation for the meeting, the AfS conducted a pilot survey in November 1999. A total of 157 building firms were interrogated about the sale prices for 167 building activities. The numerical results of the pilot survey, which were evaluated by an expert, are to be used as a basis for the official building price indices that are planned for the future. Future building price indices (for individual types of structures) will be calculated as weighted averages on the basis of the elementary indices (1999=100) for the various building firms (in each case, in relation to individual construction activities).

The meeting was attended by **Kyrgyz** building price statisticians, who received important hints and recommendations for a future calculation of building price indices of their own. The results of a pilot survey in Kyrgyzstan are expected to be available in September 2000.

**27.-31.03.2000
in Baku**



The main issue of the consultations at **Azerbaijan's** State Committee for Statistics was the presentation and discussion of an approach to the implementation of agricultural censuses on the basis of the 1999 Census of Agriculture in Germany and of the EU survey of agricultural structure in 2000. In addition, the current situation in agricultural statistics in the **Republic of Moldova** and in Azerbaijan was noted and the progress achieved in the two countries in transforming these statistical areas was assessed.

**28.-30.03.2000
in Suhl**



The consultation at Thuringia's Statistical Office was focussed on statistics on building licences, which were explained in much detail, as **Republic of Moldova's** Department for Statistics and Sociological Analyses plans to introduce a similar statistical survey of individual housing construction in 2001. In addition, information was provided about surveys on construction industry, the methodology was presented, which was used for the compilation of long-term series of building and investment statistics, and ways were shown, how supplementary data sources could be opened up for collecting these statistics. Methods were discussed, which were used for the calculation of gross fixed capital formation in the context of national accounts. Other subjects related to capital formation for environmental protection and to possibilities and restrictions in respect of foreign investments.

**03.-07.04.2000
in Almaty**



Two experts from the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony conducted a mission under Tacis project "Labour Market Statistics". They advised **Kazakh** statisticians on the survey questionnaire and the interviewers' instructions for a household sample as well as on the sampling plan, taking into account the available data base. Methodological issues concerning labour market indicators (in particular, the definition of unemployment) were clarified, the use and the compilation of IT programs were discussed.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**08.-14.04.2000
in Beijing and Shi-
jizhuang (Hebei
Province)**

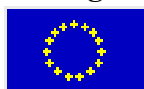


Supported by German experts under GTZ project "Reorganisation of Industrial and Road Traffic Statistics", **China's** official statisticians are converting their survey concepts for small enterprises, having an output value of less than 5mn Yuans, from full-coverage surveys to samples, which must supply reliable results for regional subdivisions, too. The visit of a German expert had the objective:

- to get detailed information about the experience gathered in the course of the pilot sample
- to analyse the quality and reliability of the pilot sample results, and
- to clarify problems that occurred.

The discussions revealed that the Chinese side had a lot of know-how in sampling methodology, though they were still confronted with methodological problems that might affect the quality of sampling results to a considerable extent. The Chinese side asked for further help and support to resolve these problems.

**10.-12.04.2000
in Prague**



An expert from the Federal Statistical Office participated in the sixth session held in the **Czech Republic** on Phare pilot project of foreign trade statistics. The session took stock of, and evaluated former activities under the pilot project of foreign trade statistics. Each of the Phare countries presented a report, which included, in particular, comments on the utility of former activities, the state of adaptation to EU methodology, organisational issues raised in the implementation of the project and experience gathered in the course of cooperation with experts from EU member countries, with Eurostat and other Phare countries. The reports revealed that much progress was already reached in adapting the methods used to the methodological concepts of the EU

**11.-14.04.2000
in Almaty**



Experts from the Federal Statistical Office gave advice to Republic of **Kazakhstan's** Agency for Statistics on issues concerning the use of Internet. The discussions were focussed on the design of user-friendly and effective Internet pages, updating, implementation of Internet contents liable for payment, user statistics and current technological developments in electronic dissemination of statistics.

**26.-28.04.2000
in Kiev**



Ukrainian and **Byelorussian** statisticians participated in a consultation on building and industrial statistics held in Kiev. The discussion covered subjects such as the definition of "turnover", the methodology used for the calculation of output indices for products with a long production cycle, the methodology used for the calculation of indices of labour productivity, and the calculation and utilisation of deflators for the determination of indices of orders received and orders on hand in industry and construction. The system used in Germany to collect information about building licences, buildings and changes in the use of buildings was explained.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**27.-28.04.2000
in Baku**



A representative from the Federal Statistical Office attended the second meeting of Tacis Task Force on Regional Statistics in the capital of **Azerbaijan** (for more detail, please, refer to the contribution on page 3 of this issue).

**08.-12.05.2000
in Kiel**



Estonian statisticians informed themselves about problems of agricultural statistics at the Statistical Office of Schleswig-Holstein. The five-day program provided valuable information about survey methods, the design of survey documents, organisation and processing techniques, which are indispensable for the preparation and implementation of the census of agriculture planned in Estonia for 2001.

The problems caused by the registration of small farms and individual subsidiary plots with small areas and few animals were also discussed. In this context, emphasis was laid on the fact that respondents are generally obliged to provide agricultural statistics and that there is a system of reminders and punishment procedures in Germany. This information and the final excursion found much attention, as the response rate of statistical surveys in Estonia is not satisfactory yet.

**09.-12.05.2000
in Stuttgart**



At the Statistical Office of Baden-Wuerttemberg **Ukrainian** statisticians informed themselves about themes concerning regional statistics and regional accounts. The data banks of the information system of this federal state were presented in terms of contents and access. The new access system of the federation and the federal states (GENESIS) was also presented. In addition, regional population projections and regional purchasing power calculations were described. In the context of regional accounts provisional approaches to the regionalisation of gross value added on a district level were discussed, based on the example of Lviv Region. Possibilities were discussed for a regionalisation of the government sector and the methodological principles and basic statistics were described, which were required for the calculation of primary and secondary income distribution and gross fixed capital formation on a regional level.

**15.-16.05.2000
in Prague**



Experts from the Federal Statistical Office visited the **Czech** Statistical Office for an exchange of opinions on industrial statistics and on structural statistics in the production sector. In particular, they discussed problems of classification, the enterprise register and statistics in the production sector (mining, manufacturing, energy and water supply, construction) from the point of view of harmonising Czech statistics with the requirements of EU ordinances, above all, with the ordinances regulating structural issues and short-term business trends.

**16.-19.05.2000
in Kiev**



At **Ukraine's** State Committee for Statistics in Kiev, a consultation was given to agree on the contents and the design of a joint brochure entitled "Ukraine – Germany in Brief". In addition, Ukrainian statisticians were advised about the design of the statistical yearbook and about the use of information provided in a standardised way.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**22.-24.05.2000
in Kiev**



Under a Tacis project devoted to "Regional Statistics", an expert from the Bavarian Office for Statistics and Data Processing provided advice to colleagues at **Ukraine's** State Committee for Statistics. The mission was focussed on topics such as the revision of statistics on manufacturing in 1997-1999 and possible regionalisation of statistical results, alternative methods of statistical surveys in the distributive and catering trade and handicraft, the planned introduction of statistics on services, the system of regional statistics for Bavaria and the calculation of regional output indices, in particular, the calculation of regional weighting patterns. In this context, sample surveys and surveys of subsets were described as possible variants.

**27.05.-07.06.2000
in Beijing**



A plan of action for the remaining phase of GTZ project "Reorganisation of Industrial and Road Traffic Statistics" was discussed in the course of project planning discussions in the **Chinese** capital (for more detail, please, refer to the contribution on page 1 of this issue).

**29.-31.05.2000
in Moscow**



A representative of the Federal Statistical Office attended a workshop on the "Development of the State Statistical System in the **Russian Federation**", which was organised by the State Statistical Committee of the Russian Federation jointly with the World Bank (for more detail, please, refer to the contribution on page 2 of this issue).

**05.-09.06.2000
in Wiesbaden**



During a study visit of two experts from **Tajikistan's** State Statistical Agency under a Tacis project on "Publication and Dissemination of Statistics", drafts of a publication entitled "Tajikistan in figures 2000" were discussed in detail. Advice was given, in particular, on a user-friendly design of tables and charts and on the choice of images. Furthermore, first ideas were discussed concerning the publication of results of the 2000 population census in Tajikistan, using Tacis means.

**06.-09.06.2000
in Wiesbaden**



A study visit of **Bulgarian** statisticians was devoted to the presentation of a German system, which in accordance with corresponding EU regulations is used to collect, process and disseminate foreign trade statistics. In addition, the intra-trade system was presented. The Bulgarian statisticians were particularly interested in finding out, to what extent it will be possible in the future to use the methods applied in Germany also for Bulgaria's foreign trade statistics.

**08.-20.06.2000
in Beijing**



As agreed under GTZ project "Reorganisation of Industrial and Road Traffic Statistics", an expert from the Federal Statistical Office paid a visit to **China's** National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and to statistical offices of several provinces to discuss "Producer Price Statistics". As was unanimously stated by Chinese statisticians, the advisory activities conducted so far actually contributed to the improvement of Chinese methods. Both methodological and practical issues of survey implementation and evaluation of producer price statistics were discussed. Producer price indices shall be used to determine value added in addition to growth rates in industry. Furthermore it is planned to determine results for regions below province level. Consultations are to be continued.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**12.-16.06.2000
in Bucharest**



A global evaluation of the statistical system was made in **Rumania** by Phare Program Secretariat. The evaluation is done by two experts from national statistical institutions of the EU who are sent to Rumania for two journeys of two weeks and who draft a report on the results of their consultations with all parties involved in the compilation of statistics in Rumania. During a first mission, EU experts from Germany and Portugal studied the current situation in respect of the adoption of the Community's joint achievements and compiled a first draft report, which will be supplemented and completed after the second journey to Rumania.

**12.-22.06.2000
in Wiesbaden,
Bonn, Düsseldorf
and Berlin**



A study visit of **Chinese** statisticians on "Network Administration and Data Safety" took place in the framework of bilateral cooperation in order to impart knowledge about topics such as principles of statistical confidentiality, data banks and data safety, and legal implications. The discussions took place at the Federal Statistical Office, at the Federal Office for Safety in Information Technology (BSI), at North Rhine-Westphalia's Office for Data Processing and Statistics and at the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

**13.-16.06.2000
in Wiesbaden**



Definitions and classifications of industrial services were discussed during a study visit of **Ukrainian** experts for industrial and building statistics in Wiesbaden. Mention was made of possibilities to take account of industrial services in index calculation such as indices of output, turnover and orders received in industry and construction. Problems of data collection and verification (including software) were discussed in the context of short-term industrial and building statistics. Another major point was related to the utilisation of business registers as a basis for surveys to collect short-term statistics in industry and construction.

**13.-16.06.2000
in Wiesbaden**



A study visit of **Slovak** statisticians served to adapt foreign trade statistics to EU standards in terms of methodology and processing technology. The meeting was focussed on a discussion of questions about the implementation and application of EU legislation in foreign trade statistics in Germany and about the respective possibilities for the Slovak Republic to cope with these obligations. In addition, questions were discussed, which were related to INTRASTAT survey system, including INTRASTAT enterprise register used for management and control. A mirror comparison of foreign trade data was made.

**19.-21.06.2000
in Warsaw**



In the context of German-Polish cooperation in agricultural statistics, a third meeting of experts on agricultural statistics was held in Warsaw. The discussions, which are aimed at helping **Poland** in adopting EU's joint achievements in the field of agricultural statistics, were focussed, first of all, on the problems of supply tables. An expert from the Federal Statistical Office and staff members of the Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry participated in the discussions.



Cooperation Activities

Summary for January to June 2000

**19.-21.06.2000
in Kamenz**



In the context of a GTZ project in support of **Kyrgyzstan's** National Statistical Committee, experts from the Statistical Office of the Free State of Saxony prepared an expert evaluation about the survey documents to be used in the census of agriculture 2002. The experts came to the conclusion that the survey documents that were presented had to be reviewed in accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) on the World Census of Agriculture. In their conclusions, the experts made recommendations how the survey documents could be redrafted and how the census concept could be brought in line with FAO recommendations.

**19.-23.06.2000
in Sofia**



An expert from the Federal Statistical Office worked as a lecturer at two seminars held under a project for training Bulgarian agricultural statisticians. The seminars are supposed to help **Bulgaria** adopt EU's joint achievements (acquis communautaire) in agricultural statistics and to introduce joint agricultural politics. The seminars were attended by 22 staff members of the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry and its ten regional offices. The main points discussed were statistics on livestock, slaughtering and meat production, including poultry. More courses, in which also German experts will participate as lecturers, will be held until next year.

**26.-28.06.2000
in Kiev**



During an expert mission, staff members of **Ukraine's** State Committee for Statistics were made acquainted with budget issues of the Federal Statistical Office. In the discussion reference was made, first of all, to receipts and to the use made of outside (third-party) means at the Federal Statistical Office. The problem that pricing for statistics and publications differed depending on the user group was of particular importance in this context.

**26.-30.06.2000
in Bishkek**



A Tacis expert mission on investment statistics, attended by participants from **Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan**, took place in Bishkek from 26 – 30 June 2000. The results of pilot investment surveys that had been conducted in the countries mentioned above were among the main points of discussion. In addition, an overview was given of fixed capital calculation in Germany. A concept was elaborated concerning the continuation of work on Tacis component "Investment Statistics" under Tacis contract 4/5.