

Foreword

This is the very first newsletter on the international consulting activities of Statistics Finland. With it we wish to inform our international colleagues and partners about our latest consulting operations.

Our co-operation strategy

Statistics Finland is willing to share its statistical, methodological and technological know-how with the statistical institutions of other countries.

This non-profit activity is mainly based on external funding from international or national sources. The majority of our consulting activities have been carried out in Europe but no regions of the world are ruled out a priori in our consulting strategy.

Phare and Cards co-operation

In 2004 the main focus in consulting activities was on the enlargement process funded by EU Phare or Cards programmes.

Three twinning projects led by Statistics Finland were completed in 2004. The Regstat project at the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic (SOSR) and twinning lights of the Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia and at Statistics Lithuania. In addition, Finland provided short term experts for four other twinings led by Germany in Poland, Sweden also in Poland, Denmark in Croatia and Italy in Albania.



Slovak Republic

The Slovakian Regstat project was set up to strengthen the production and dissemination of regional statistics. The one-year long twinning part of the project specified, among other things, the contents and the overall architecture of a regional database system. Its implementation continues through 2005 by the SOSR and a private Slovak IT company providing the technical assistance to the project. At the beginning of 2006 the SOSR is expected to launch a sophisticated regional database service for their customers.



Final Regstat seminar with the Finnish ambassador Mr Viemerö (center left), DG of Statistics Finland, Mrs. Jeskanen-Sundström and the President of the SOSR, Mr. Mach.



Latvia

The Latvian twinning light prepared the foundations for the reorganisation and automation of the interviewing activities of the Latvian Central Statistical Bureau (CSB). The work will be continued in a full-scale twinning project on social statistics starting during spring 2005.



Lithuania

The twinning light project on "Quality Review and Reporting in the Lithuanian Statistical System" was carried out successfully. Special attention was paid to the development of a quality framework according to the ESS quality requirements and to the process of quality assessment.



Estonia

Short term experts of Statistics Finland were provided for the twinning project on "Own resources and Budgetary Process" led by the Finnish Ministry of Finance.



Croatia

Statistics Denmark and the Croatian Statistical Office invited Finnish short term experts to their twinning activity to develop national accounts, sampling methodology and quality in statistics. The co-operation will continue in another project of Statistic Denmark. The Finnish responsibilities will cover regional accounts, some structural business statistics and household surveys.



Poland

The twinning project on "Statistical Information System" led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany was completed in 2004. Finnish experts participated in the project in the fields of price statistics, public finance statistics, business register and statistical information system.

The project “Upgrading of the Quality of the Polish Statistics” led by Statistics Sweden started in 2004. The Finnish short term inputs are focused on the development of the usage of administrative registers and quality issues.



Albania

The Italian ISTAT is the main partner in a twinning project on the overall development of the Albanian Statistical Office and in an IMF funded project for the enhancement of the national accounts. Statistics Finland has contributed to both projects.

Ad hoc activities

Workshops on Welfare Statistics and Geographic Information Systems were held at Statistics Finland for participants from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. A seminar on EU legislative process was organised in Budapest jointly with Statistics Sweden for the colleagues from the Czech Republic, Hungary and the Slovak Republic. Estonian colleagues became acquainted with the excessive deficit procedure (EDP). Latvian experts were consulted on the time use survey and business register and Lithuanian experts on index on industrial output and earnings statistics. Two experts from State Institute of Statistics of Turkey paid a study visit to Helsinki to study the business register. One expert of Statistics Finland participated in a Phare pilot project on job vacancies survey. One Finnish expert contributed to a seminar on statistical publications organised by the Ministry of Agriculture of Bulgaria.

TACIS co-operation



Azerbaijan



Armenia

Statistics Finland participated in consortium with ICON-Institute and the Federal Statistical Office of Germany in the EU Tacis 6 Statistics Project. The area of our activities covered dissemination of statistical information, labour market statistics and statistical classifications in Armenia and Azerbaijan

Finnish experts also contributed to a Tacis seminar on administrative registers organized by INSEE in Paris.

Bilateral cooperation



Russian Federation

Bilateral co-operation between Statistics Finland and the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (former Goskomstat) has continued for over ten years. The co-operation has been funded by the governments of both countries. In 2004 activities were carried out in the field of environment statistics, population statistics and registers, living conditions statistics, price statistics, finance statistics, confidentiality issues and ethical questions.



The delegation of the Federal State Statistics Service led by Mr Alexander Surinov, Deputy Head of Rosstat, got acquainted with the Finnish regional accounts



Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

Bilateral cooperation with the NSIs of the three Baltic States also has a long tradition. The Finnish government appropriated funds for this purpose until 2004. A seminar on the EU legislative process was organised in Riga for the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian colleagues. Experts of Latvia and Lithuania became acquainted with sustainable development indicators. Latvian experts paid a visit to study human resources management, and Estonian experts participated in courses on statistical graphics.

Consulting Activities in 2001-2004

	2001	2002	2003	2004
Projects	53	44	39	42
Study visits to Finland	43	33	15	26
- Participants	120	136	66	84
Expert missions abroad	47	48	43	86
- Experts	78	93	74	104