

International Consulting News 1/2009

This newsletter is the fifth issue of International Consulting news published by Statistics Finland. The current issue presents an overview of our activities within technical co-operation in 2008 and some perspectives for the future.

In 2008 Statistics Finland was involved in around 15 projects or smaller scale activities. Totally 73 missions by Finnish experts and 12 study visits to Statistics Finland were completed in 2008.

Croatia

The two-year EU Twinning project on Public Finance Statistics was successfully completed in February. Its results are presented in the previous issue of this Newsletter.

Statistics Finland participates in two ongoing Twinning projects in the CBS of Croatia. In the project led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany Finnish experts have contributed to the components on business statistics, household surveys and improving of organisational capacity. In the project led by Statistics Denmark the Finnish experts have contributed to the development of the National Accounts and business register. Totally 27 missions and two study visits have been completed within these two projects in 2008.

Estonia

Statistics Finland made a successful proposal for the implementation of the Twinning Light Project "Improving the Quality of Estonia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory". The Estonian partner is the Ministry of the Environment. Experts from the Ministry of the Environment of Finland, the Finnish Environment Institute and the Finnish Forest Research Institute will also participate in the execution of the project, which will start in March 2009.

The Estonian colleagues participating in the implementation of the 2010 population census visited the Population Statistics Department of Statistics Finland in November.

Ethiopia

Statistics Finland has prepared in co-operation with the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia and the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) a development project on poverty monitoring and evaluation systems in Ethiopia. Two fact-finding and project identification missions in the area of development of household surveys were carried out to Ethiopia in 2008. The project will be financed by the Finnish government's development aid appropriations and Statistics Finland will implement the project in cooperation with the THL. The project is planned to begin in March 2009 and end in December 2011 and it will include both consultation missions to Ethiopia and study visits to Finland.



Marketplace in Addis Ababa (photo: Markku Lindqvist)

Kyrgyz Republic

Statistics Finland carried out a fact-finding and appraisal mission to the Kyrgyz Republic in September 2008. As a result, a proposal for a co-operation project has been prepared together with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC). The proposal consists of four major components: strategic framework for statistical operations, effective use of administrative data for statistical purposes, development of the National Accounts, and improvement of data quality in various statistics. The project will be financed by the Finnish government's development aid appropriations and

it is planned to begin at the earliest in the second quarter of year 2009 and last for 24 months.



*Historical Museum and the Statue of Liberty in Bishkek
(photo: Hilikka Vihavainen)*

Latvia

Statistics Finland was selected as the Twinning Light partner to implement the project on increasing CSB capacity in data protection and confidentiality. Colleagues from Denmark, Germany and Sweden will also participate in the execution of the project, which started in January 2009.

Two ad hoc study visits from CSB of Latvia to Finland were conducted in 2008 on the themes “Measuring social transfers in kind” and “COFOG”.

Russia

Based on the Plan of Actions for 2008-2009 within bilateral cooperation between Rosstat and Statistics Finland, six meetings were held in 2008 in the following areas: staff training, labour force statistics, agricultural prices, management of IT projects, environment expenditures and municipal statistics.

Bulgaria

Five missions connected to data confidentiality and administrative sources were carried out by the Finnish experts within the German Twinning project in the National Statistical institute of Bulgaria.

Egypt

The twinning Project on Institutional Capacity Building of the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics of Egypt, led by

Statistics Denmark, started in the second half of 2008. Finnish experts participate in the implementation of the Components on statistical policy and legislation, organisational reform improving of statistical awareness, National Accounts, price statistics and business register. Three missions were conducted in 2008.

Kosovo

An expert from Statistics Finland participated in the mission on the methodology of the pilot labour cost survey planned to be executed by the Statistical Office of Kosovo in 2009. The survey is connected to the EU project where GOPA acts on behalf of the European Commission Liaison Office to Kosovo.

Turkey

In Turkey, the EU project “Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey” (USST II) continued. Finnish experts carried out two missions to Turkey in 2008: one on science and technology statistics and one on structural business statistics.

Two study visits to Statistics Finland by Turkish statisticians were also carried out within the USST II cooperation: one on structural business statistics and the other on modernisation of WEB services.

Ukraine

The World Bank granted Ukraine a loan for the development of several areas of statistics. A consortium, led by French Adetef, in which Statistics Finland is one of the members, was awarded the tender to implement the project. First actions took place in March 2008 and the project is foreseen to be completed by the end of June 2009. Statistics Finland has the main responsibility for environmental and energy statistics, but experts on price statistics, household business surveys and short-term construction surveys have also participated in actions. By the end of 2008 ten missions from Statistics Finland and two study visits to Finland have taken place.