

*Statistics Finland
International co-operation in 2007*

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Statistics Finland

Street address: Työpajankatu 13, Helsinki

Postal address: FI-00022 Statistics Finland

Telephone: +358 9 17341

www.stat.fi

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Foreword

Decision-making is becoming more and more dependent on internationally comparable statistics, especially in the European Union. Several targets set for economic policy are tied to quantitative goals whose achievement is monitored with statistical data. The Economic and Monetary Union imposes demands especially on short-term business statistics and on public finance statistics. Besides for the tracking of compliance with the regulations and policies of the European Union, a solid base of statistical data is also needed for the monitoring of many international agreements.

Reliability and high quality are expected of official statistics. The methods used in producing them must be transparent and withstand criticism. It must be possible to reason the used concepts to a wide audience. To this aim, co-operation on the development of statistics and on the improvement of their international comparability is done in different fora.

At Statistics Finland, international co-operation takes many forms today. It has become embedded into the job specification of most experts. Co-operation is naturally broadest within the European Union, but it is also significant within the frameworks of the United Nations and the OECD, as well as at the Nordic level. Experts of Statistics Finland have contributed to the development of statistics in many new Member States and candidate countries of the EU.

Co-operation is never one-way. Instead all parties involved in it learn from each other. There are also numerous scientific fora for the presentation of best innovations and exchange of experiences in the world of statistics.

An annual report of Statistics Finland's international co-operation activity has been prepared for the second time. The intention is to give the stakeholders an overall picture of the international co-operation. This English version is a shortened version of the original report prepared in Finnish. The authors include several employees of Statistics Finland. All experts of the unit responsible for the co-ordination of international activity contributed to the gathering of this information and to the finishing of this report.

Heli Jeskanen-Sundström

Director General

Summary

In 2007, the emphasis in the international activities of Statistics Finland was on work within the European Union. Statistics Finland contributed actively to the efforts of the working groups and committees of Eurostat. The Statistical Programme Committee (SPC), comprised of the heads of the national statistical institutes of EU Member States, met four times during the year. Drafting of EU statistical legal acts continued with special focus on the new Regulation on European Statistics and improvement of the governance of the European Statistical System. A total of 22 new legal acts with an impact on Statistics Finland were passed in the field of statistics in 2007 in the European Union. In addition the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice was evaluated in Finland in August, and this gave added momentum to reviews of procedures and documentation in Statistics Finland.

Finland has been a member of the United Nations Statistical Commission since 2006, and this ensured that global statistical issues were given prominence. The UN Statistical Commission convened in New York at the turn of February/March. Among the discussed subjects were progress made in the UN's statistical programme in the past year, present status quo of compilation of international statistics on education, advancement of the revision of the System of National Accounts and implementation plans for international classifications of economic activities and products.

The annual Conference of European Statisticians (CES) of the UN Economic Commission for Europe was held in Geneva in June, with an agenda that included demographic and health statistics. The Director General of Statistics Finland was elected Chair of the CES for the next two years.

Statistics Finland participated actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) set up by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme. Our expert was in the team of recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize that was awarded to the IPCC in 2007.

The Statistical Committee of the OECD held its fourth session in Geneva in June 2007. The items on the agenda included development of the dissemination of OECD statistics, use of micro data in research and statistics on international trade.

Two fairly extensive international events were organised in Statistics Finland in 2007: a seminar on the theme "Registers in Statistics – Methodology and Quality" in the spring and a meeting of the PC-Axis Reference Group in the autumn. Among co-operation projects, the twinning project in Croatia concerning statistics on public sector financing was nearing completion. Statistics Finland took part in twinning projects managed by other national statistical institutes. It also participated in two consortia, one headed by the German ICON Institute and another by Adetef of France, targeted to bid for new projects. In the summer the consortium headed by the ICON Institute was awarded a project for the upgrading of the statistical system of Turkey, while the one headed by Adetef was awarded a project funded by the World Bank for the development of the statistical system in Ukraine.

Bilateral co-operation continued with the Federal State Statistical Service of the Russian Federation, both with funding for co-operation with neighbouring areas granted by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and within the framework of the EU Tacis programme.

As a new opening, preconditions were set up for the participation of experts of Statistics Finland in Finland's development co-operation projects by negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Statistical co-operation was fostered by means of visits and meetings. International visitors to Statistics Finland included representatives of managements of statistical institutes of Spain, Latvia, Sweden and Singapore. Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistical Division, also visited Statistics Finland in May. Statistics Finland hosted a total of 48 international visits to Finland.

1 *Goals of international activity*

According to its vision, Statistics Finland aims to be "a top organisation in its field, recognised nationally and internationally for its high-quality data production and expertise, and for its co-operative and service capacity". International activities at Statistics Finland are steered by the operating policy approved by the management in 2005. Its updating was started in 2007.

The agency's experts and management participate in international co-operation by drafting statements of Finland's position on matters concerning statistics, supplying data, attending meetings, organising seminars and conferences, and by taking care of bilateral co-operation. Many experts of the agency appear on international fora, hold international positions of trust, train experts from other countries, and act as consultants and advisors in international projects. Statistics Finland aims at being among the world's best statistical institutes. It also wants to promote knowledge about Finnish statistical expertise. The underpinnings for its mode of operating are consistency, continuity and reliability.

These days, the work of most experts includes tasks connected with international co-operation. The International Affairs Unit located in the Secretariat of the Director General is responsible for the co-ordination of international statistical co-operation both at Statistics Finland and in broader contexts, and for the preparation of strategic comments and issuance of practical guidance. It also has the task of assisting the Director General in preparations for top management level meetings. The International Affairs Unit is also responsible for the administration of Statistics Finland's international consulting projects.

2 *Co-operation within the European Union*

2.1 *General*

Statistics Finland has contributed within its resources to the preparation of statistical legislation in the European Union both in the Council Working Party on Statistics and in numerous Eurostat working groups on the development of statistics. The ultimate objective is to make it possible to satisfy the information needs of the European Union by matching them as well as possible with national needs so that data suppliers' response burden is not unreasonably increased.

National co-ordination of EU matters and Finland's positions concerning them are the responsibility of the statistical co-operation group on EU affairs set up by the Ministry of Finance. The group has been working since 1996. The chair and the secretary of the group are from Statistics Finland, and its members represent the Prime Ministers' Office and key ministries and authorities from the point of statistics. In 2007 the group met four times and discussed new Commission proposals for statistical legal acts of the European Parliament and of the Council. The group addressed new proposals also by means of written procedure.

Eurostat's Statistical Programme Committee (SPC), comprised of heads of national statistical institutes, met four times in the course of 2007. Among the items discussed at the meetings were the legal basis of the ESS, implementation strategy for SDMX, future of the SNA and diverse aspects of the HICP, including treatment of owner-occupied dwellings. Several new proposals for legal acts of the European Parliament and of the Council were also under consideration, as well as a number of the Commission's implementing regulations in the field of statistics. In the autumn there was lively debate in the SPC especially about the draft for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Community Statistics.

The Director General of Statistics Finland acted as Chair of the Partnership group Task Force II on Statistical Challenges of the European Statistical System. She also participated in meetings of the Partnership Group of the SPC in this capacity in 2007.

The Conference of Directors General of National Statistical Institutes (DGINS) is held annually for the purposes of advancement of development of statistical systems and identification of future statistical needs. In 2007, the conference was held in Budapest under the following theme of globalisation and statistics: "The ESS response to globalisation – are we doing enough?"

2.2 *Legislative work*

Most statistics are legislatively or otherwise tied to the dictations of EU policies. In 2007, the number of adopted regulations with direct impact on Statistics Finland was 22. Of these, 14 were Regulations or Decisions of the Commission, six Regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council and two Directives or Decisions of the European Parliament and of the Council.

New Commission proposals for statistical regulations are discussed at the expert level in the Council Working Party on Statistics. In 2007, the Working Party on Statistics met nine times both during Germany's Presidency in the first half of the year and during Portugal's Presidency in the latter half of the year. The Working Party considered 24 regulation proposals in the course of the year. The proposals discussed included the Community's Statistical Programme for 2008–2012, the Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics (MEETS) programme, statistics on health, education and lifelong learning, population and housing censuses, energy statistics, and the proposal for a new Regulation on Community Statistics.

2.3 *Participation in expert groups of the European Commission*

2.3.1 *Areas and initiatives*

Eurostat's Working Group on ESS Programming and Co-ordination discussed the Statistical Programme of the Commission for 2008 in June 2007. At the meeting Member States made proposals for amendments to the programme. Finland, too, proposed several amendments, most of which were approved.

In the area of **Population Statistics**, Statistics Finland participated in Eurostat's working group on Education and Training Statistics and in its sub-groups, the working group on Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice, and in the working group on implementing rules of the INSPIRE Directive (EU directive on geographical information). Statistics Finland had a strong presence at a joint meeting of national statistical institutes and map agencies thanks to its map grid data, Nordic co-operation and project initiative. Statistics Finland's Population Statistics Department also acted as the contact point for the European Commission's European Migration Network (EMN). Likewise, the agency participated in the activity of the Women in Science (WiS) group which was making preparations for the "She Figures" data collection due in 2008.

In the area of **Social Statistics** Statistics Finland contributed actively to the work of the task force on the updating of implementing rules for the second round of the Harmonised European Time Use Survey (HETUS). Basing on Finland's proposal, the task force made a decision to adopt a more abridged classification of time use than in the previous survey round. Some countries intend to conduct the new survey round already in 2008.

In the area of **Statistics on Prices and Wages** Finland continued as Group Leader of the Northern Group in the project on Purchasing Power Parities (PPP). Finland participated in the steering group of the CENEX development project concerning treatment of quality changes in the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices.

In the area of **Economic Statistics**, the agenda of the working group on national accounts included updating of the SNA93 and, in particular, revision of the ESA. Issues relating to statistics on the public sector were discussed in several Eurostat working groups and task forces.

In the area of **Business Statistics** Eurostat proposed the establishment of a strategic group for closer defining of, among other things, the MEETS programme. Finland seconded this proposal. Statistics Finland participated in the steering group on the establishment of the EuroGroups register for multinational enterprise groups. The establishment of the register at Eurostat is connected with the entry into force of the regulation on business registers. Finland participated in the Eurostat working group on short-term business statistics which decided that publishing of data on import prices, the last one of the Principal European Economic Indicators, would be started at the EU level. A report was completed for the European Parliament

about the advantages, costs and respondent burden of short-term statistics. The working group on information and technology indicators was preparing a Commission report about the implementation of the decision concerning information and technology statistics.

The chemicals sub-group of the working group on *Environmental Statistics* considered a method developed by Eurostat for the calculation of indicators to monitor the chemicals policy. The costs of the controversial regulation concerning chemicals, or REACH, will be enormous, so monitoring of its effects is important. As the host country of the European Chemicals Agency the regulation has special significance to Finland.

Statistics Finland contributed to the work done within the EU system for the monitoring of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the Kyoto Protocol.

Information technology and development work on classifications: Statistics Finland attended meetings of Eurostat's Local Co-ordinators working group in which addressed subject included plans for further development of the tools offered by Eurostat for electronic data transmission. In addition, the agency participated in meetings of the Statistics Open Standards (SOS) collaboration group considering a common model for operational and IT architecture, in the Management of Statistical Information Systems (MSIS), and Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (DMX) meetings jointly organised by Eurostat and the OECD, and in a special Eurostat working group making preparations for the development of a new socio-economic classification. Eurostat meetings of IT directors of national statistical institutes (ITDG) focused strongly on data exchange between Member States and Eurostat.

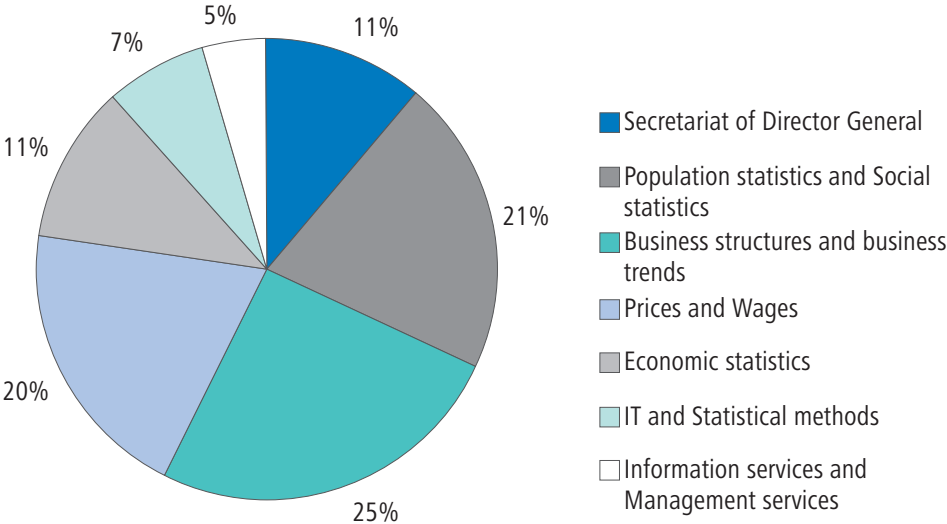
Dissemination and publishing of data: Statistics Finland contributed actively to the development of dissemination channels for statistical data and related meetings and task forces on e.g. XML publishing, and to the implementation of the ESDS service in the European information service network.

2.3.2 Participation in EU meetings

Within the framework of EU co-operation Statistics Finland attended a total of 241 meetings or expert seminars abroad.

Statistics Finland had representatives in approximately 130 statistical committees, working groups, task forces and sub-groups, mainly of Eurostat but also of other directorates-general of the European Commission. Trips related to co-operation within the EU numbered 307, accounting for 50 per cent of all business trips made abroad. The number of trips made to meetings related to EU co-operation diminished by approximately 12 per cent from 2006. The higher number of trips in the previous year was due to Finland's Presidency period.

Participation in meetings and expert seminars within the framework of EU co-operation by department in 2007



2.4 *Peer review of implementation of European Statistics Code of Practice at Statistics Finland*

A peer review of the implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice at Statistics Finland was conducted between 8 and 10 August 2007.

The Code of Practice defines 15 principles for statistics within the European Statistical System. Their objective is unification of procedures and improvement of quality. They are based on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission and are consistent with the quality criteria of Official Statistics of Finland.

The review at Statistics Finland focused on the principles of professional independence, mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources, quality commitment, statistical confidentiality, impartiality and objectivity, and accessibility and clarity of data.

A self-evaluation national statistical institutes had made using paper questionnaires in 2005 formed the basis for the peer review that was conducted in 2007 in which representatives from other countries and Eurostat evaluated the performance of each country in implementing the Code of Practice.

The team that conducted the peer review at Statistics Finland was chaired by Ulrike Rockmann from Germany and its members were Petra Kuncová from the Czech Republic and James Whitworth from Eurostat. Approximately 40 representatives of Statistics Finland's stakeholders and about 30 employees of Statistics Finland participated in the review.

At the general level the results from the review were quite positive. Implementation of the principles was assessed with a scale of four grades: "fully met", "largely met", "partly met" and "not met". For 29 of the 35 reviewed operating principles Statistics Finland received the grade "fully met" and for six the grade "largely met".

Basing on the findings of the review Statistics Finland is among the best national statistical institutes in Europe as far as implementation of the Code of Practice is concerned.

Statistics Finland received a fully positive assessment about implementation of the principles concerning mandate for data collection, adequacy of resources and statistical confidentiality.

The review team would have liked to have seen a clearer mention of professional independence in the Finnish Statistics Act. Likewise, they would have liked to have seen more external evaluations of Statistics Finland's statistics, and guidelines for assessing the mutual significance of different factors of quality, such as timeliness and reliability. The team wished to see more metadata on Statistics Finland's website and better instructions on how to access preliminary data from statistics. The team pointed out that special commissions undertaken for individual customers should be made public.

In the team's opinion, exemplary practices at Statistics Finland included network of quality managers, participation in the Finnish Quality Award competition, Statistics Finland's internal quality award competition, guidelines concerning correction of errors, transparent management style, eCourse in Statistics on the website, and visits of parliamentary groups to the agency.

The review team and Statistics Finland compiled jointly a list of improvement actions by principle. The list contains both ongoing and upcoming development projects whose progress is to be monitored annually. Examples of the improvement actions include improvement of the efficiency of quality work, support for the introduction of the Code of Practice throughout the national statistical system, facilitation of easier online use of micro data, development of an on-line data service that covers all official statistics.

2.5 *Research co-operation*

Statistics Finland took part in the activity of Eurostat's EPROS (European Plan for Research in Official Statistics) working group. In 2007, Statistics Finland was also represented in the EPROS Task Force on the monitoring and establishing of opportunities for participation in the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme in the area of official statistics. Statistics Finland acted as the Task Force rapporteur when it concluded its work in December 2007.

Within the European Union's Sixth Framework Programme (FP6), Statistics Finland participated in two joint projects in 2007, namely KEI (Knowledge Economy Indicators: Development of Innovative and Reliable Indicator Systems) and EU KLEMS, Productivity in the European Union: A Comparative Industry Approach [capital (K), labour (L), energy (E), intermediate inputs (M), services (S) = KLEMS].

In 2007, Statistics Finland submitted an application for two FP7 projects, namely AMELI (quality and extension of the Laeken indicators to small areas) and SMILE (sustainable development/future prognosis programme).

Both are at the negotiation stage and will probably commence in 2008.

3 Nordic co-operation

Since 1992, the Nordic national statistical institutes have defined and financed their statistical co-operation themselves. It consists mainly of exchange of good practices and a few joint projects. For example, a joint project for the promotion of automatic data capture, in which the data content of accommodation statistics is defined identically in all Nordic countries, was launched in May 2007. In the course of 2007, Statistics Finland completed a preliminary structural description for the automated data capture system.

Each Nordic country in turn co-ordinates the co-operation by acting as the chair country for a calendar year at a time. Once a year the heads of the Nordic statistical institutes meet for a day to discuss three to four topical issues and agree on co-operation. A wider meeting of the heads is held once every three years to coincide with the Nordic statistical meeting that is also held every three years. Year 2007 was such a year. The chairing country was Iceland and both meetings were held there, the large statistical meeting in Reykjavik and the meeting of the heads in Egilsstaðir. The general theme of the Reykjavik meeting was statistical measurement problems and it was attended by over 300 participants from all Nordic countries. Items on the agenda of the meeting of the heads in Egilsstaðir included standardisation of processing and working tools, systems of social statistics, the European Statistics Code of Practice, development of personnel and utilisation of Nordic resources.

Nordic contact networks of experts have been set up which include representatives from each Nordic country. In 2007, there were 42 such networks. Both the heads and the experts meet each other in connection with other international meetings organised by e.g. Eurostat.

4 Co-operation within the OECD

Statistics Finland participates actively in the statistical development work of the OECD. The co-operation in the field of statistics mainly takes place in the working groups of the organisation's Statistics Directorate. There is also co-operation with some other directorates, above all the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry, and the Directorate of Education. Statistical co-operation at the OECD is co-ordinated by the Committee on Statistics founded in 2004. It held its fourth meeting in Geneva in June 2007. The items on the agenda included development of the dissemination of OECD statistics, use of micro data in research and statistics on international trade. In addition, the OECD presented its Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) and progress made in the SDMX project. The Director General of Statistics Finland was member of the Bureau of the OECD Committee on Statistics in 2007.

5 *Co-operation within the UN*

5.1 *Statistical Commission*

Finland is member of the UN's Statistical Commission over the 2006–2009 period and on the rotation principle represents all Nordic countries.

In 2007, the thirty-eighth session of the UN's Statistical Commission was held in New York at the turn of February/March and the items on its agenda included progress made in the UN's statistical programme over the year, present state and problems of international statistics on education, advancement of the revision of national accounts and implementation plans for revised international classifications of economic activities and products. In addition, the meeting agreed about future actions and co-ordinated the activities of international organisations. The session was preceded by seminars organised in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Statistical Commission. The topics of the seminars were development of national statistical systems, and future of the Statistical Commission and a global statistical system.

5.2 *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe – UNECE*

The Conference of European Statisticians (CES) held its plenary session in Geneva in June 2007, with for instance population and health statistics on the agenda. Two seminars were organised in connection with the meeting. The topic of the first seminar to which Finland contributed a paper was improvement of the efficiency and productivity of statistical offices. The second one was held under the theme of "Measurement of capital – beyond traditional measures". To this seminar Finland contributed a paper on the measurement of social capital.

The work of the CES is steered by a Bureau which, in addition to its Chair, consists of seven Vice-chairs. In June 2007, the Director General of Statistics Finland was elected Chair of the CES for a two-year term. The Bureau of the CES meets twice a year. In 2007, it met in Geneva in February and in Helsinki in October. The CES Bureau has an important role as co-ordinator of the programmes of international organisations. The Statistical Division of the ECE which acts as Secretariat to the CES maintains a database of the statistical programmes of international organisations.

5.3 *Other co-operation within the UN*

The Director General of Statistics Finland acted as Chair of the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics in the 2006 to 2007 period. She has been Member of the Board since 2004. Basing on the lines of the UNESCO General Conference, the Board defines the UIS policy, approves its yearly programme and budget, steers and prioritises development activities, considers the Institute's annual and other reports, submits an annual report on the activities of the UIS to UNESCO's Executive Board and General Conference and makes recommendations to UNESCO's Secretary General for appointments to the post of Director of the UIS.

Statistics Finland has been participating actively in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) set up by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme. The expert of Statistics Finland, Ms Riitta Pipatti, was in the team of recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize that was awarded to the IPCC in 2007. Review of Finland's National Inventory Report for 2006 required by the Kyoto Protocol was also conducted in May.

6 *Other international co-operation*

From the perspective of Statistics Finland the main international scientific organisations are the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and its various sections, mainly the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS), the International Association for Survey Statisticians (IASS), the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), and the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW). The 56th Session of the ISI was held in Lisbon in August. A representative of Statistics Finland was elected one of the Vice-Presidents of the Council of the IASS for the 2007–2009 term. The second Baltic-Nordic Conference on Survey Sampling (BANOCOSS 2007) was organised jointly with the Finnish Statistical Society in June. The conference was attended by 65 delegates.

Carl-Eric Särndal, Professor Emeritus at the University of Montreal, who acts as permanent methodological consultant to Statistics Finland, visited Statistics Finland twice during 2007 for a total duration of approximately two weeks.

Experts of Statistics Finland gave presentations at international conferences, including the 56th Session of the ISI, and produced articles on statistical methodology, and on social and economic statistics that were published in internationally peer reviewed scientific journals. Finland contributed actively to work on the promotion of statistical literacy and user skills and Statistics Finland's expertise was also utilised in this context. Three English-language doctorate theses on subjects relating to economics and statistical science were published in Statistics Finland's Research Reports series in 2007.

6.1 *Bilateral co-operation*

Statistics Finland has active bilateral co-operation with the national statistical institutes of other countries. Exchange of experiences and benchmarking reviews between similar countries are beneficial to both parties.

In 2007, Statistics Finland hosted visits from the managements of the national statistical institutes of Spain, Latvia, Sweden and Singapore, and of the UK's Office for National Statistics, as well as from Paul Cheung, Director of the United Nations Statistical Division, in connection with the seminar organised in May on the use of registers in statistics. In addition, a delegation came in February from the Netherlands to study strategic planning at Statistics Finland. The management of Statistics Finland made a visit to the Netherlands in October to discuss renewal of the statistical process, modernisation of economic statistics, human resources issues and quality work.

In May, Statistics Finland and Statistics Sweden published jointly the results from a benchmarking study of the statistical systems in the two countries. The study showed that the Swedish and Finnish statistical systems have many similarities but also differences, especially in the exploitation of registers and administrative sources, free-of-charge dissemination of statistics and centralisation of the production of official statistics.

6.2 *International events at Statistics Finland*

During 2007, Statistics Finland organised two fairly large international events. A seminar was held between 21 and 23 May 2007 on the theme of "Registers in Statistics – methodology and quality". In addition to Finnish participants the seminar was attended by 65 persons from 26 countries. In spite of the grown size of the seminar, the arrangements ran smoothly.

A meeting of the PC-Axis International Reference Group was held at Statistics Finland from 5 to 7 September 2007. The PC-Axis International Reference Group is an annual three-day meeting of developers and user of the PC-Axis software family. Approximately 60 persons representing the national statistical institutes of around 20 countries, as well as some other organisations that use this product family, such as the UN, attended the meeting. The

meeting discussed recent product development initiatives and selected from them priorities for implementation during the coming year.

7 *Export of statistical expertise*

Statistics Finland and other agencies compiling official statistics in Finland are expert organisations that have amassed considerable amounts of competence and know-how for which demand exists even internationally. The efforts of the UN, the OECD, the World Bank, the IMF and the European Union aimed at harmonised development of official statistics provide a platform for the exporting of expertise from countries with highly developed statistical systems to countries with less developed ones. This is also the objective of bilateral co-operation with many countries.

For Finland, where appropriations for development aid have up to now not been allocated for statistical projects, programmes of the European Union have formed the backbone for international consulting with the exception of activities in the immediate neighbouring areas, which has been funded by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. As a rule, the aim at Statistics Finland is that costs arising from international consulting are covered with external funding.

International consulting activities are administered by the International Affairs Unit. It spent approximately 30 per cent of its resources on this task in 2007. However, consulting activity relies heavily on the inputs of experts from Statistics Finland's other departments, and in 2007 these totalled 2.3 staff-years. There was less activity than in the year before because of e.g. delayed starts of projects and reduced need for consulting in new EU Member States.

Statistics Finland participated in the co-ordination meetings of international consulting and training projects within the frameworks of the Paris 21 Consortium and Eurostat's management group on respective funding programmes.

During the reviewed year Statistics Finland had joint consulting activities especially with the national statistical institutes of Germany and Denmark, and with certain private organisations.

As in the years before, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs continued to fund bilateral co-operation with Russia within the framework of its programme on co-operation with neighbouring areas. Possibilities for the allocation of development aid appropriations for statistical projects were investigated in the course of the year. A memorandum of understanding defining co-operation principles with view to possible future projects was agreed with the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

7.1 *Croatia*

Statistics Finland's two-year twinning project on public sector finance statistics which started at the Croatian statistical institute in 2006 was one of the points of focus during 2007. In addition to the long-term resident twinning adviser, around ten short-term experts from Statistics Finland and some from Statistics Denmark and Statistics Sweden have worked on the project.

The main goals of the project include signing up of a co-operation agreement between the Croatian Ministry of Finance, the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Bank of Croatia about the division of responsibilities in data exchange and compilation of statistics on public sector financing in compliance with the ESA95. Other goals are maintenance of classification of sectors, as well as commencement of the production processes proper of the statistics and checking of the methodology used for the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP). The project has included practical training and development of information systems for national accounts. Representatives from all three Croatian co-operative organisations made three study visits to Finland and Denmark. Co-operation between the three main Croatian partners has solidified as the project has progressed.

Preparations have been made during the current year for participation in two new twinning projects managed by Germany and Denmark at the Central Bureau of Statistics of Croatia. These projects will commence toward the end of the year. Their aim is to further the compliance of Croatian statistics with the requirements of EU legislation. Experts of Statistics Finland in various fields will participate in both projects.

7.2 *Russia*

Co-operation with the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation was done both with funding for neighbouring areas granted by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and within the Tacis programme of the European Union.

Bilateral co-operation with Russia has now continued for more than a decade in the field of statistics. It is based on a framework agreement between Finnish and Russian statistical authorities and on two-yearly detailed project plans. Three study visits were made to Statistics Finland and five missions to Russia in 2007. The areas of the co-operation were:

- Environmental statistics, especially those on greenhouse gas emissions and environmental protection costs
- National accounts, especially institutional sectors and statistics on national wealth
- Producer prices in construction
- Structural business statistics
- Quality issues: processes of the national statistical service, European Statistics Code of Practice, professional ethics in statistics
- Classifications: NACE and CPA
- Development of data collection methods, processes and dissemination.

Within the EU's Tacis programme, the project concerning consumer prices and the EU's Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices was successfully concluded with the Federal State Statistical Service of the Russian Federation. The project produced conversion keys between the classification codes of the Russian national consumer price index and the HICP/COICOP, recalculated the Russian consumer price index for the period between 2004 and November 2007 by the 12 main headings of the COICOP, distributed information about the calculation methods of the EU's consumer price index and translated items of EU legislation relating to the consumer price index into Russian.

Statistics Finland also participated in a Tacis project on business registers in Russia. The project was managed by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany.

7.3 *Turkey*

In the spring Statistics Finland participated in the submission of a bid for a tender on Upgrading the Statistical System of Turkey, USST 2. The tender was awarded to a consortium lead by the ICON Institute and with Statistics Finland and the national statistical institutes of Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Lithuania and the Czech Republic as its members. The inception phase of the project was concluded at the turn of 2007/2008, to be followed by the implementation phase. The project is due for completion by the end of April 2009. The areas where Statistics Finland will offer its expertise include business registers, business statistics, population statistics and environmental statistics.

Representatives from Turkey also visited Statistics Finland to study Finnish statistics on public sector financing, and balance of payment and input-output statistics.

7.4 *Ukraine*

The World Bank has granted Ukraine a loan of five million dollars for the development of statistics. A consortium led by French Adetef and in which Statistics Finland is also a member was awarded the tender to implement the project. According to the consortium's internal division of tasks, Statistics Finland will be principally responsible for environmental and energy statistics, but will also offer its expertise on a smaller scale in other areas. The project is due to run and be completed during 2008 and 2009.

7.5 Others

Besides the ones listed above, Statistics Finland also participated in other twinning projects of the EU: in Latvia Statistics Finland participated in a Danish-managed project on planning and administrative matters and in a German-managed project on quality issues, and in Romania Statistics Finland participated in a project of the Finnish National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health on poverty and social exclusion.

Smaller scale projects were also run with various countries and partners in the course of the year. In the Balkans, Statistics Finland participated in an EU project led by the ICON Institute on statistics on labour costs, in Bulgaria in one concerning exploitation of register data and in Lithuania in projects on statistical literacy and user skills, and the labour cost index. A visit was hosted from Hungary to study producer price indices and statistics on service commodities. A group of experts from Kazakhstan visited Statistics Finland to study quarterly national accounts and an expert from Israel visited Statistics Finland to study migration statistics and the Finnish register-based population census system.

8 *Development of competence*

A training programme in statistical skills was designed for new employees in 2006 and was then made an established part of Statistics Finland's training system for new recruits in 2007. The opening session of the first module includes a general presentation of Statistics Finland's international operating environment and co-operation.

Within the frame of reference of the European Statistical Training Programme, ESTP, Statistics Finland organised a successful course on "Quality Management in Statistical Agencies" for colleagues from other European national statistical institutes. The course had 25 participants from 18 European countries.

During 2007, employees of Statistics Finland also attended ESTP courses organised by the national statistical institutes of other countries, including one on "Data analysis and data modelling" organised by Statistics Switzerland, one on "Business Registers: Set-up, Use and Maintenance" arranged by Statistics Norway and one on "Introduction to the European Statistical system (ESS)" held at Statistics Denmark. Two employees of Statistics Finland also did a traineeship at Eurostat, one a traineeship at Statistics Denmark and one at Statistics Sweden.

Appendix 1

Business trips

Business trips to meetings abroad in 2007

	Number of trips
EU meetings	307
UN meetings	40
OECD meetings	32
Nordic meetings	47
Scientific meetings	66
Training	20
Consulting	63
Others	41
Total	616

Meetings abroad in 2007

	Number of meetings
EU meetings	241
UN meetings	33
OECD meetings	24
Nordic meetings	21
Scientific meetings	41
Training	19
Consulting	50
Others	24
Total	453

Business trips abroad from Statistics Finland 2000–2007

Type of meeting	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of trips								
UN meeting	22	25	12	16	18	37	38	40
Nordic meeting	58	55	40	37	38	60	49	47
OECD meeting	36	29	19	24	29	28	43	32
EU meeting	314	334	342	289	288	279	336	307
Scientific meeting	85	130	82	70	71	83	84	66
Training	92	44	17	18	7	18	26	20
Consulting	55	78	93	73	108	111	88	63
Others	73	88	53	65	53	42	37	41
Total	735	783	658	592	612	658	701	616

Meetings Abroad 2000–2007

Type of meeting	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of meetings								
UN meeting	16	15	10	13	14	27	28	33
Nordic meeting	29	26	27	25	26	37	28	21
OECD meeting	27	23	17	20	25	20	29	24
EU meeting	229	249	263	234	220	217	234	241
Scientific meeting	55	68	51	42	44	48	50	41
Training	38	22	14	14	5	10	20	19
Consulting	32	47	71	46	80	82	64	50
Others	41	41	33	31	28	26	23	24
Total	467	491	486	425	442	467	476	453

Appendix 2

Visits to Statistics Finland in 2007

In 2007, Statistics Finland hosted a total of 48 visits by 448 persons from abroad. Working group meetings, courses and seminars attracted the largest numbers of visitors.

	Visits, number	Persons, number
Visits of director general level	6	29
Study visits	14	67
Working group meetings, courses and seminars	11	287
Others	17	65
Total	48	448

Appendix 3

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	ENG
CES	Conference of European Statisticians
COFOG	Classification of the Functions of the Government
CPA	Statistical Classification of Products by Activity
DGINS	Directeurs Généraux des Instituts Nationaux de Statistique
E4SM	European System of Social Statistics Survey Modules
EC	European Community
ECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
ECOFIN	Economic and Financial Affairs Council (EU)
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (UN)
EDP	Excessive Deficit Procedure
EEC	European Economic Community
EMN	European Migration Network
EHS	European Household Survey
EPROS	European Programme for Research in Official Statistics
ESA	European System of Accounts
ESS	European Statistical System
ESSPROS	European system of integrated social protection statistics
ESTP	European Statistical Training Programme
EU	European Union
EU KLEMS	Productivity in the European Union: A Comparative Industry Approach (capital K, labour L, energy E, intermediate inputs M, services S = KLEMS)
EU-SILC	EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
FATS	Foreign Affiliates Statistics
FP5	Fifth Research Framework Programme
FP7	Seventh Research Framework Programme
HETUS	Harmonised European Time Use Survey
IAOS	International Association for Official Statistics
IARIW	International Association for Research in Income and Wealth
IASC	International Association for Statistical Computing
IASE	International Association for Statistical Education
IASS	International Association for Survey Statisticians
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INSPIRE	Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe
ISBIS	International Association for Business and Industrial Statistics
ISI	International Statistical Institute
KEI	Knowledge Economy Indicators
MSIS	Management of Statistical Information Systems
MEETS	Modernisation of European Enterprise and Trade Statistics
NACE	Statistical classification of economic activities in the European Community/Nomenclature Générale des Activités Economiques dans les Communautés Européennes
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PEEI	Principal European Economic Indicators
PPP	Purchasing Power Parities
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SNA	System of National Accounts
SOS	Statistical Open Standards
SPC	Statistical Programme Committee
STS	Short-term Business Statistics
UN/ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UN	United Nations

