

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING NEWS 2015–2016



Statistics Finland, the national statistical office of Finland, has been actively involved in several technical cooperation projects, as well as in other international consulting activities since the 1990s. Also, the last two years have been active in both long and short-term cooperation. The organisation has been a consortium member or offered expertise in six projects during the last two years, 2015 and 2016. Statistics Finland's experts carried out 25 consulting missions abroad in 2015 and 19 consulting missions in 2016. Statistics Finland also organised and hosted eight international consulting study visits in 2015 and four in 2016, as part of technical cooperation projects or bilateral cooperation.

The main efforts in the field of long-term international technical cooperation in the last five years have taken place in the extensive Kazstat Project, a World Bank Twinning project with the Committee on Statistics of Kazakhstan, led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, Destatis. During the past two years, Statistics Finland has acted as a junior partner in the Statistics Denmark led EU Twinning project in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with main focus on the component concerning national accounts. Participation in an EU Twinning project in Armenia is ongoing. In 2015 to 2016 EU Twinning projects concluded in Ukraine and Kosovo where our organisation also gave input in different expertise fields. Statistics Finland's involvement with a World Bank project in Russia started in 2016. Read more about these projects and other cooperation on this and next pages.

Long-term projects and cooperation

Kazakhstan

The World Bank project in Kazakhstan, led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, Destatis, started in 2012 and will be concluded in the first quarter of 2017. Statistics Finland has been one of the consortium members with the second largest expertise and activity input in the activities after Destatis. Statistics Finland's experts have carried out 45 consultation missions and eleven study visits within this project during 2012 to 2016. Over twenty experts from Statistics Finland conducted consultation missions in Kazakhstan. The main fields of expertise focused on components of price statistics, energy statistics, environmental statistics, science and technology statistics, statistical population and housing registers, dissemination, human resources, administration and strategic planning.

Price statistics was one of the biggest components in the project. The component included several large sub-components with ambitious goals. Finnish experts implemented 27 activities of this component. As one of the outputs of the project, five completely new statistical systems will be implemented in the price statistics sector at the Committee on Statistics (CS) of Kazakhstan.





Kazakh colleagues studying building of price indices on manufacturing services with Finnish colleagues at Statistics Finland in May 2016.

2010 implementation plan was finalised. This project continued Statistics Finland's cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina after earlier EU Twinning projects in the country.



Study visit of Kazakh delegation on price statistics at Statistics Finland in 2016. From left Kuanyshbek Zhakybekuly (Committee on Statistics, Kazakhstan), Anna-Riikka Pitkänen (Statistics Finland), Emma Tlepbergenova (Committee on Statistics, Kazakhstan), Ilkka Lehtinen (Statistics Finland), Assel Zhunussova (Committee on Statistics, Kazakhstan), Susanna Tåg (Statistics Finland) and Irina Kopteva (interpreter).



Business register experts from Bosnia and Herzegovina on a study visit at Statistics Finland in May 2015.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Statistics Finland was acting as a junior partner in the EU Twinning project "Support to the State and Entity Statistical Institutions, phase IV" in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project was led by Statistics Denmark. Twinning partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina were the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS), the Institute for Statistics of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FIS), the Institute for Statistics of the Republika Srpska (RSIS) and the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina (CBBH). The project started in 2014 and ended in December 2016. Finnish experts conducted and implemented the component of national accounts and also co-operated in components of statistical business register and structural business statistics. One of the objectives of the statistical system in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the transition of National Accounts to ESA 2010. In this project the first complete version of an ESA

Armenia

Statistics Finland's experts have since 2015 provided expertise in the Statistics Denmark led EU Twinning project in Armenia. The Finnish expertise has focused on the poverty statistics component and on the innovation statistics component. The project continues in 2017.



Delegation members of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia discussing innovation statistics with Finnish colleagues.



The innovation statistics experts of the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSSRA) and Finnish colleagues in Helsinki in June 2016. From left Ari Leppälahti (Statistics Finland), Kai Husso (Ministry of Employment and Economy), Juha-Pekka Konttinen (Statistics Finland), Gagik Gevorgyan (NSSRA), Nelli Baghdasaryan (NSSRA), Anna Hakobyan (NSSRA), Alina Grigoryan (NSSRA), Sona Mirzoyan (interpreter), Ulla-Maarit Saarinen (Statistics Finland) and Mervi Niemi (Statistics Finland).

Russia

A World Bank project on strengthening statistical expertise in the Russian Federation was launched in 2016. The project is led by Statistics Denmark and Statistics Finland is acting as one of the consortium members in the project providing expertise on environmental accounting and dissemination of statistics.

Mongolia

Statistics Finland has in 2016 implemented two study visits in the Destatis led and World Bank financed project. A high-level study visit to Statistics Finland was organised for a delegation of the Chairperson of the National Statistical Office of Mongolia (NSO), directors of NSO and members of the Parliament of Mongolia. Statistics Finland presented to the delegation the co-ordination and use of administrative data, the dissemination of open data, and examples of open data and non-traditional data sources. Examples of using geospatial information integrated to statistical data, as well as dissemination of integrated geospatial and statistical data through a national GIS portal were provided.



The high-level Mongolian delegation's study visit to Statistics Finland in November 2016. The Chairperson of the National Statistical Office of Mongolia, Ariunzaya Ayush (in the front, second from right) and the Director General of Statistics Finland, Marjo Bruun (in the middle in the front).

The delegation of the National Statistical Office of Mongolia and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia got acquainted with Finnish data collection, processing and dissemination of cultural, science and technology statistics and innovation statistics at Statistics Finland, as well as with international recommendations.

Both visits were part of the Smart Government project of the Government of Mongolia.



The delegation of the National Statistical Office of Mongolia (NSO) on a study visit in Helsinki in November 2016 on the subject of culture, science and technology statistics. From left Heidi Pirkola (Statistics Finland), Khuslen Zorigt (NSO), Oyunchimeg Dandar (NSO), Ari Leppälahti (Statistics Finland), Mervi Niemi (Statistics Finland), Gulifira Myekei (Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sports of Mongolia), Doljinsuren Nyam-Ochir (NSO) and Bolorchimeg Nasanbayar (NSO).

Kosovo

Statistics Finland has participated in an EU Twinning project with the Kosovo Agency of Statistics in 2013 to 2016. The leader of the project was Statistics Denmark. Finnish experts together with other colleagues enhanced the capability of the quality management and tourism statistics in Kosovo.

Ukraine

Statistics Finland provided expertise on the component promoting the activity and creating a positive image of the Ukrainian state statistical bodies in Statistics Denmark's EU Twinning project in Ukraine in 2013 to 2015. This component included developing the marketing, communication, customer training, researcher services, as well as confidentiality policy of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine.



The delegation of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine on a coffee break with Finnish colleagues in a study visit at Statistics Finland in September 2015.



The Ukrainian delegation is listening to a Finnish colleague's ideas and experiences on blogging about statistics.

Bilateral cooperation

Abu Dhabi

A study visit of the high-level delegation of the Statistics Centre – Abu Dhabi (SCAD) took place at Statistics Finland in May 2015. The visit focused on the register-based statistical system in Finland. A Memorandum of Understanding between Statistics Finland and SCAD was signed in March 2016.



Director General of Statistics Finland, Marjo Bruun (in the middle left) and HE Butti Al Qubaisi, Director General of SCAD, meeting on a study visit in Helsinki in May 2015.

Short-term cooperation

Georgia

Statistics Finland's two Labour Force Survey experts cooperated under the TAIEX programme at the Georgian National Statistical Office (Geostat) in Tbilis in November 2016.

Turkey

The Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) visited Statistics Finland's Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) Centre in May 2015. The Turkish delegation was introduced to the recruitment and training, as well as technical issues and quality, monitoring, planning, strategies and management of CATI.

Experts of TurkStat visited Statistics Finland on a study visit also in August 2015, under the topic ESS Peer Review. During the visit, Statistics Finland shared its experiences of the process of Peer Review implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Croatia

The Croatian Bureau of Statistics' study visit to Statistics Finland took place in October 2015. The objective of the visit was to examine short-term statistics in the service sector in Finland. The visit was part of the EU IPA cooperation programme.

South Korea

There were three independent study visits from South Korea to Statistics Finland in the autumn 2016. The topics of the visits included the statistical business register, the time use survey, price indices and short-term statistics. The visitors represented Statistics Korea and KOSII.



Korean colleagues expressed their gratitude with a poster on the cooperation with Statistics Finland in business demography statistics.

Meet some of Statistics Finland's experts

Expert on environmental statistics

Environmental statistics expert, senior statistician and team leader, Jukka Muukkonen has wide experience in environmental statistics, as well as in international technical cooperation in many countries. His latest involvements in interna-



Jukka Muukkonen

tional cooperation are with the World Bank Kazstat Project (project led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany, Destatis) and the World Bank Twinning Russia Project (project led by Statistics Denmark).

According to Jukka Muukkonen, collaboration between organisations producing data on environment is one of the key issues when developing statistics.

Expert on dissemination of statistics



Markku Huttunen

Statistics Finland's senior expert on developing dissemination is senior adviser Markku Huttunen. He has been involved in the international technical cooperation in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Kosovo and Kazakhstan.

Organisational news

The coordination of the international technical cooperation and consulting at Statistics Finland has been re-organised. The new contact point for international technical cooperation and consulting is from 1 March 2017 the Communication and Information Services Department. The new contact person and coordinator is Marika Pohjola. She can be reached by e-mail marika.pohjola@stat.fi.



Marika Pohjola

Ari Tyrkkö and Ulla-Maarit Saarinen from the team of international activities at the Office of the Director General would like to thank all partners in the international technical cooperation and consulting activities during the last years for

good cooperation. They wish that the fruitful cooperation with all partners will continue in coming years, too, with a new international consulting team in the Communication and Information Services Department.



Ari Tyrkkö



Ulla-Maarit Saarinen