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Season's greetings



Within the consulting activities Statistics Finland has created a large amount of professional contacts with the beneficiaries and co-operation partners in many countries. These contacts and friendships have increased the mutual understanding of the existing problems, the ways to solve them and of the challenges ahead of us. I am convinced that together we have achieved remarkable results in the past and continue doing so in 2007. I would like to warmly thank you for the excellent co-operation and good results. I would also like to thank the donors who have continued making the statistical consulting activities possible for us by providing the necessary financial support. Together we all bear the responsibility to harmonise statistics and statistical methods and to spread the statistical ethics and best practices around the world.

Season's greetings and a happy and successful year 2007

Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Director General of Statistics Finland

Armenia

The representatives of the Armenian National Statistical Service (NSS) carried out two study visits to Statistics Finland. The first, led by the President of NSS Mr. Mnatsakanyan, was focused on strategic management issues and on the organisation, planning and monitoring of the statistical production systems and services. The second dealt with the details of the statistical business register and the structural business statistics. Both visits, which were funded by the World Bank, were rated highly successful by both parties.



Mr Stepan Mnatsakanyan, President, NSS of the Republic of Armenia and Ms Heli Jeskanen-Sundström, Director General of Statistics Finland summarizing the Armenian study visit to Statistics Finland

Statistical co-operation with Russia

Bilateral co-operation between Statistics Finland and the Federal State Statistics Service of Russia (Rosstat), funded by the governments of both countries, was implemented in eight subject areas in 2006. Special attention was paid to the questions on internal migration statistics, border interview surveys, statistics on national wealth, contents of household budget surveys, ethical principles in statistics, information technology, producer price indices in service sector and forest statistics.

Project on the harmonization of the Russian consumer price indices within the EU Tacis programme has started with one mission to Rosstat and one visit to Statistics Finland. The project will continue in 2007. Statistics Finland also participates in the Tacis project developing the business register and led by Germany.

Results of the Latvian social statistics twinning

Statistics Finland has been co-operating with the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) of Latvia for more than ten years. The latest milestone was reached when the 1-year twinning project to strengthen statistical capacities in the field of both social and demographic statistics and in environment statistics came to an end in May 2006.

The most tangible results of the project were the computerisation of the interviewing activities, migration of two major surveys (LFS and EU-SILC) into the new CAPI environment, adoption of new imputation methodologies, preparation of the social statistics strategy, strengthening the foundations for register-based statistical systems and the introduction of the environmental accounts methodology.

As the consequence the CSB is capable of providing timelier and higher quality information about the living conditions of the households than before and thus facilitate the analysis of social issues. One example of the benefits of the project was, that the quarterly LFS could be published three weeks earlier than in the previous year.

The joint project of us and Statistics Denmark was implemented in an excellent co-operation atmosphere and all involved Latvian, Finnish and Danish experts gave their best with a strong target-oriented approach.

Croatian government finances

The two year twinning project between Statistics Finland, Statistics Denmark as a junior partner and the Croatian Central Bureau of Statistics is approaching its mid-term.

The first main area of the project is to constitute a basis for cooperation in the field of government finance statistics. All three institutions concerned (Central Bureau of Statistics, National Bank and Ministry of Finance) are actively participating in the work. They will also all be signatories of a formal document on the cooperation.

The second major issue is to develop government sector accounts to follow EU legislation (ESA 1995, EDP manual). For this part, the project is also following the time table. Recording of the tricky statistical issues, such as capital transfers and recording of taxes, is in an encouraging state.

An important issue still ahead is the share of the compilation responsibilities in government finance statistics between the three institutions. This will also be an essential part of the cooperation document.



Co-operation in practice. Project staff with the experts from the CBS, Ministry of Finance and the Croatian National Bank

The project has been lucky in the sense that the EU experts from Statistics Finland, Denmark and Sweden have been highly professional and able to adjust their thinking in the Croatian cases quite well. When the Croatian colleagues are also highly motivated, the aimed goals will most probably be achieved when the project ends in February 2008.

Consulting Activities in 2003-2006

	2003	2004	2005	2006
Projects	39	42	38	28
Study visits to Finland	15	26	22	22
- Participants	66	84	89	83
Expert missions abroad	43	86	82	56
- Experts	74	104	111	84

In addition to those, which were described in previous chapters, the 2006 activities include our light-twinning on interviewing organisation in the Czech Republic, another Finnish light twinning in Romania as well as our participation in the Denmark-led Croatian twinings and some minor activities in Lithuania, Serbia, Bulgaria, the Slovak Republic (SILC) and some study visits from Estonia and Ukraine.