

During 2011 and 2012, Statistics Finland carried out several consulting and other smaller scale technical cooperation activities. Statistics Finland's experts participated in almost 50 missions, incl. study visits to Statistics Finland's head quarters in Helsinki, in technical cooperation in 2011 to 2012. Statistics Finland conducted or acted as a cooperation partner in a total of 11 projects in 2011 to 2012.

The main consulting activities in 2011 to 2012 were related to the continuing development projects in Ethiopia and Kyrgyz Republic. Moreover, missions under the EU Twinning projects in Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and several other consulting projects have taken place. Last year, Statistics Finland also participated in the inception phase of the World Bank financed project on strengthening the national statistical system of Kazakhstan.

### **LONG-TERM PROJECTS AND COOPERATION 2011-2012**

#### **Ethiopia**

The co-operation of Statistics Finland with the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia (CSA) and the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare financed by the Finnish government's development aid appropriations continued during 2011 and 2012. The cooperation was carried out under the Development project on poverty monitoring and evaluation systems in Ethiopia. The main purpose of the project was capacity building for poverty monitoring through a new combined data collection of the Household Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey (HICE) and the Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS).

Project implementation started in May 2009. In the last two years, 2011 and 2012, the last three consulting missions to Addis Ababa took place. The missions in 2011 and 2012 concentrated on data analysis and methods including field trips to local offices. The branch office workers were given advise on data collection and interview

methods in household surveys. The missions were related to two surveys: the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) and the Welfare Monitoring Survey (WMS).

The project was finalised by the end of October 2012. According to CSA the methodological capacity of CSA improved during the project. CSA reported remarkable achievements in the speed of data collection in HICE and WMS surveys so that the latest data collection was carried out in a record time. These new data collection results indicated that poverty in Ethiopia has reduced.



*Interview in a household consumption survey in Ethiopia.*



*Tea break during a survey interview in the countryside.*

## Kyrgyz Republic

Statistics Finland, in cooperation with the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic (NSC) and the Information Centre of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland (TIKE), implemented the development project on Finnish-Kyrgyz Technical Cooperation in the Area of Statistics. The project started in 2009 and it was completed at the end of 2012.

In total, 11 consulting missions each lasting one week were carried out in Bishkek and one study visit was arranged in Helsinki during 2011 and 2012. The project was financed by the Finnish government's development aid appropriations. The remaining missions were completed during the first half of 2012 and the entire project was finished before the end of 2012.

Mr. Markku Rätty and Ms. Anneli Savolainen (former Miettinen) were two of a total of 26 experts who visited the NSC in Bishkek during the project. The purpose of their mission was to improve input-output tables. Mr. Rätty, who is a production manager of input-output tables at Statistics Finland, is experienced in similar capacity building activities. He has participated in consulting projects, for instance, in Egypt and Croatia. For Ms. Savolainen, the mission carried out in Bishkek in February 2011 was the first consulting experience.

Capacity building for NSC has proven to be important. The available resources and statistical tools for compiling the input-output tables were challenging. Mr. Rätty and Ms. Savolainen said that at NSC one person alone is responsible for conducting the input-output tables whereas at Statistics Finland some nine people participate in the work.

Both of the Statistics Finland's experts were pleased with the results of the cooperation and praised the hospitality of the local partners. The friendly hosts took good care of their visitors and in addition to the mission consulting activities, unofficial program was organised by local experts. Even though all the working sessions were held in English and Russian, no problems were encountered thanks to an excellent interpreter.



*Mr. Rätty (right) on a coffee break with the Kyrgyz colleagues.*

The project was executed through 16 separate consultation missions to Kyrgyz Republic by Finnish experts and three study visits to Statistics Finland.

The project on Finnish-Kyrgyz Technical Cooperation was completed with a seminar of the use of administrative data for statistical purposes. Representatives of several Kyrgyz ministries and government agencies also participated in the seminar.



*The workshop for producers and users of statistics in October 2012 in Bishkek in the Kyrgyz Republic.*



*Ms. Lola Baimatova, Head of International Coordination Department of the NSC of the Kyrgyz Republic (left, behind), Ms. Hilikka Vihavainen, Deputy Director (Productions) of Statistics Finland and Chair of the project's steering group and Ms. Liuksina Tekeeva, Deputy Chairman of the NSC during the last project mission in October 2012 in Bishkek.*

## Russia

Rosstat and Statistics Finland have cooperated in several statistical fields during the past decades. This cooperation has been based on the Plan of Actions between Statistics Finland and Rosstat, and it has been financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA). Based on the Plan of Actions of 2010 to 2011, eleven meetings and study visits were held in Helsinki, Moscow, Pskov, Yaroslavl and Petrozavodsk. Topics covered during these meetings and study visits were related to construction statistics, consumer price indices, human resource development, integrated information systems, service prices on production, environmental statistics, national accounts and municipality statistics. In December 2011, the Finnish delegation traveled to Moscow to launch negotiations for the new Plan of Actions. Based on these cooperation plans a study visit of Rosstat's young experts to Statistics Finland was carried out in June 2012. The decades long MFA financed cooperation programme with Rosstat ended at the beginning of 2013 as the MFA stopped financing the programme. Cooperation with Rosstat will in future be based on bilateral financing.

## Kazakhstan

Statistics Finland is a member in a consortium that consults in the World Bank twinning project for Strengthening the National System of Kazakshtan. The consortium is led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and the other consortium members are the Czech Statistical Office, the Statistical Office of Slovak Republic, Statistics Korea, and the Federal State Statistics Service of Russian Federation. The inception phase of the project was implemented during autumn 2012 and part of the inception missions were carried out by Statistics Finland's key-experts. The implementation phase of the project started in spring 2013. Altogether, around twenty Statistics Finland's experts will be participating in the project during the project period 2012 to 2017.

## Vietnam

Cooperation between Statistics Finland and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation statistics was initiated in 2009. During 2011, two consulting activities that aimed at capacity building were carried out. A study visit by a Vietnamese delegation was arranged in Helsinki in March 2011 and a consulting mission in Vietnam in June 2011.

## Armenia

Statistics Finland has participated in a EU Twinning Project in Armenia "Support to the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia", which is coordinated by Denmark. In 2011, Statistics Finland's Deputy Director General (Production) Ms. Hilikka Vihavainen took part in a consulting mission on Quality Management in Jerevan.

## Ukraine

Statistics Finland's experts participated in a EU Twinning project in Ukraine in 2012 and the project is continuing in 2013. The project is conducted by Statistics Denmark.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2012, Statistics Finland's experts took part in a EU Twinning project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project was lead by Statistics Denmark. There were eight missions for Finnish experts in Bosnia and Herzegovina and one study visit to Helsinki. The missions were related to, e.g. structural business statistics, business register, household budget survey. Statistics Finland's experts continue participating in the project in 2013.



## SHORT-TERM COOPERATION 2011-2012

### Training activities

The following training activities have been implemented as short-term technical cooperation by Statistics Finland's experts in 2011 to 2012:

**Balkan:** A Statistics Finland's expert, Mr. Kari Djerf, participated as a trainer in training sessions on Quality management organized by ICON and IPA in Sarajevo and Belgrade in May and June in 2011.

**France:** A training session on Use of Administrative Source for Statistical Purposes was held in June 2011 by Medstat. Ms. Kaija Ruotsalainen from Statistics Finland took part in the session as a trainer.

### Study visits

The following study visits have been implemented as short-term technical cooperation at Statistics Finland in 2011 to 2012 :

**Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics:** The information systems of Management in April 2011.

**Uganda Bureau of Statistics:** Registers and quality themes in August 2011.

**National Statistical Office of Mongolia:** Business registers and related themes in September 2011 and in August 2012. Population and household register in February 2012

**Serbian Statistical Office:** EFQM in June 2012

**Turkish Statistical Institute:** Labour input indicators in October 2012.

Several other study visits have also taken place to Statistics Finland's headquarters in Helsinki within the long-term projects and other cooperation.

## Missions

The following missions have been implemented as short-term technical cooperation by Statistics Finland's experts in 2011 to 2012:

**Armenia:** EU Twinning project "Support to the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia: Regulatory Management/Standard Cost Model". The mission "Regulatory Management and Standard Cost Model" was carried out by Director Ms. Hannele Orjala in July 2011. The project was coordinated by the Finnish Institute on Public Management (HAUS).

**Turkey:** EU Twinning project "Decision Making and Performance Management in Public Finance" coordinated by the Finnish Institute on Public Management (HAUS). Mr. Jani Heikkinen from Statistics Finland participated in the mission in the field of public financing in March 2011.

**Greece:** The Joint Eurostat/Greece Statistical Action Plan (JOSGAP) - Improving environment statistics coordinated by Artemis. Mr. Leo Koltola from Statistics Finland participated in the mission "Improving environment statistics" in September 2012.

**Montenegro:** EU funded IPA multibeneficiary statistical cooperation programme project coordinated by ICON. Ms. Outi Pyy-Martikainen from Statistics Finland participated in the mission concerning EU-SILC (Statistics on Income and Living Conditions) related statistical methods in September 2012.

**Mongolia:** World Bank financed project "The strengthening of the Statistical System of Mongolia" led by the Federal Statistical Office of Germany. Ms. Tuula Viitaharju from Statistics

Finland participated in the mission “Statistical register improvement” in September to October 2012.

## **CHANGES IN THE UNIT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

The unit of international affairs has been re-organised from the beginning of 2013. The former Unit of International Affairs is now part of a new unit, the Unit of Coordination and International Activities. The new unit merges national and international coordination of the statistical system in Finland. The new unit also coordinates international technical cooperation. The Head of the Unit of Coordination and International Activities is Mr. Ari Tyrkkö. The four persons of the former Unit of International Affairs will continue working in the new unit as a team of international activities. The team members are Ms. Anita Heinonen, Ms. Raija Löfgren, Ms. Marika Pohjola and Ms. Ulla-Maarit Saarinen. Ms. Saarinen started working in the unit of international affairs in the beginning of 2012 as an international planning officer replacing Ms. Anna Leppäkoski and Ms. Paula Pippuri who worked in the unit during 2011.