

INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTING

ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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– International Consulting

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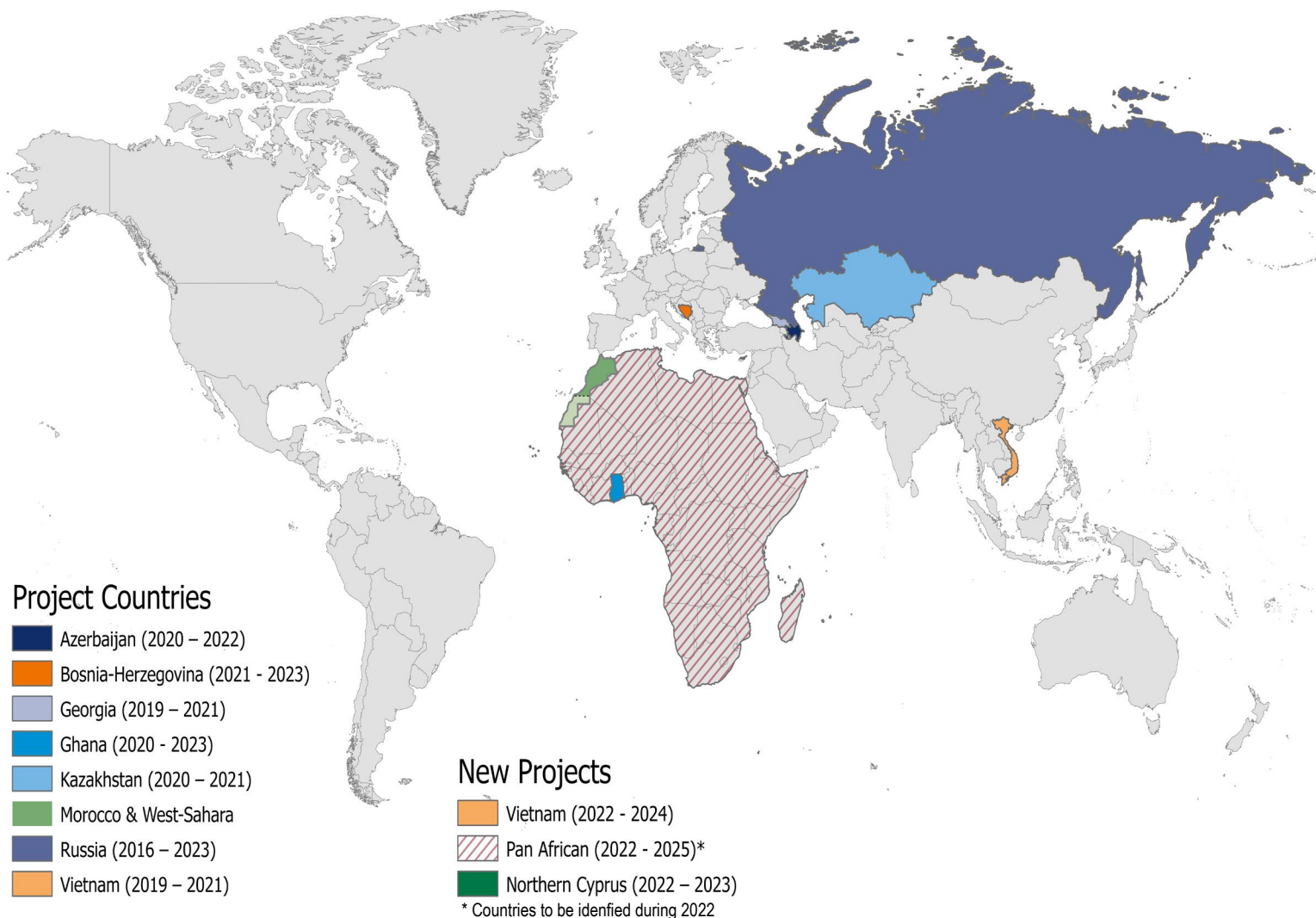
INTRODUCTION: INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING AND STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING

In 2021, Statistics Denmark has supported the Danish, European and International Development priorities through statistical capacity building programs and an increasing number of cooperations with National Statistical Institutions (NSIs) and stakeholders. We have supported our partner countries' SDG programming by strengthening the availability of data for SDG monitoring. Likewise, we have supported economic development programming by bringing in our experts in National Accounts, in Foreign Trade, Consumer Prices and many other areas. Finally, we are increasingly scaling up our activities in the ambit of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) as well as statistics feeding into the SEEA, that provide data for policy makers to support the global green transition. In Denmark we have nicknamed this 'green statistics'.

While we at Statistics Denmark have provided advice and capacity building to NSIs and other producers of official statistics across the globe for the last 26 years, 2021 has

seen a broadening and strengthened cooperation with line ministries and institutions.

Despite the fact that 2021 was defined by the COVID-19 pandemic, making travel difficult, if not impossible – 2021 has seen fruitful cooperations in Ghana, Morocco, Vietnam, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Russia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. In Morocco, among many activities we have worked together with colleagues at Haut-Commissariat au Plan on an IT strategy as well as a communication strategy improving the access to and use of data. In Ghana, we have engaged with Ghana Statistical Service in the recent census, cooperating on the development of their Statistical Databank, using the Swedish open source platform PX-Web. Among several activities and under the EU Twinning Program in Georgia, we have closed a two-year project with the National Statistics Office under the auspice of which we have conducted R-training, import/export mirror comparisons, we have revised the Consum-



er Price Index and developed supply and use tables as well as documentation on the National Accounts.

In 2021, Statistics Denmark agreed on a series of new strategic priorities for our international advisory.

Strengthened Project Portfolio. It is our aim to broaden and strengthen our program portfolio, focusing on the areas with the biggest impact potential, while also ensuring that all branches of the statistical production can be implemented into the programs. For this reason, 2021 has seen the birth of two new projects in Northern Cyprus as well as in Africa, with program modalities radically different to our usual twinning projects.

In broadening and adjusting our program portfolio, we have also scaled up our activities within 'green statistics'. We are seeking to make sure that we, to the best of our abilities, can support the 'green agenda' outlined in Denmark's new development strategy "The world we share" and in the ratification of the SEEA, by bringing increased capacity building on green statistics.

Partnerships and Statistical Networks. 2021 has seen the beginning of several new partnerships and cooperations in Denmark as well as globally, in addition to a deepening of existing partnerships. The quality of our statistical capacity building depends on a strong global, regional as well as in-country coordination of statistical and sectoral engagements. For this reason, we have also done significant outreach internationally and within Denmark, among others hosting workshops aiming at strengthening the cooperation between agencies implementing Strategic Sector Cooperations with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Statistics that support policymaking and monitoring is at the heart of most government sectors – and it is fundamental to the sustainable development agenda.

Communications. Finally, we have taken up the challenge to improve communication on the value of statistical capacity building as well as on official statistics itself. Within the overarching framework of a communication strategy for our international advisory, several communication products were published in the form of films, articles and interviews. A LinkedIn platform tailored to Statistics Denmark's international advisory services went live in 2021, ensuring maximum dissemination of our new communication efforts. Views on key posts amount to 700-800 views – from people in diverse sectors and across the globe.

This year, 2022, will see the implementation of three new projects – and a significant scale up of existing projects as well as resources within our international advisory team. We will reframe our Strategic Sector Cooperation to be even greener and possibly broaden of country focus. 2022 will also see a continued strengthening of institutional cooperation with line ministries and institutions in Denmark within our Strategic Sector Cooperation and EU programs ensuring alignment and a holistic approach to government capacity building.

For the year 2021, we would like to thank our partner Statistical Bureaus in all our project-countries, as well as our sister Statistical Bureaus in the Nordic and Broader European Countries. We would like to thank the NGO's that have contributed as well as the other stakeholders that have been engaged in our programs. We look forward to a new year, with continued strong cooperation, working in favor of official statistics ■



Carsten Zangenberg
Director, Communication and Sales

Why do we engage in capacity building?

We engage in statistical capacity building by incentive and demand from the EU, the World Bank and from bilateral donors such as the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their aim is to support sustainable statistical systems that provide policy makers, companies and citizens with data about private sector trends, labour markets, education, prices and availability of goods, tax collection and more. Data that underpins and sustains governments' ability to make informed decisions on poverty reduction, green growth and many other key development issues. The statistical data also allows companies and organizations to make knowledge-based decisions and enables citizens to participate in the democratic process on an informed basis.

By offering our expertise from the official statistics, we can help our partners meet the need for independent, reliable and internationally comparable data. Thereby not only supporting our partner Statistical Institutions, but also the policy goals of the EU and Denmark. In turn, our staff liaises with their peers in partner Statistical Institutions – maintaining and deepening professional relations that bring learning, new competencies and much appreciated questioning and cooperation ■

INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING “GOING GREEN”: WHY AND HOW?

Focus on sustainable development

Among multi- and bilateral development actors, the need to focus on environmentally sustainable modes of producing goods, living, transporting ourselves around, and handling waste, water and forests is becoming ever more relevant. Nonetheless, in the world of statistics, the framework for political decision-making remains largely based on traditional economic information.

In the light of Denmark’s new Development Strategy, which has a significant focus on heading the fight for climate, nature and environment in developing countries, supporting sustainable development and decision making through data and statistics is of pivotal importance.

A central framework for sustainable accounting

The UN System of Economic Environmental Accounting Central Framework (SEEA CF) offers one of the most important statistical frameworks needed. The SEEA is fully recognised by the International Community – with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank encouraging its implementation across the globe.

The SEEA is an international statistical standard for measuring the environment and its relationship with the economy. It allows for a development of a set of green transition indicators and it provides decision-makers and investors alike with a solid basis for decisions, enabling an outlining of the consequences of policies for the economy as well as the environment – on specific sectors and environmental areas.

In Denmark, the SEEA contains 13 different and independent accounts, and the office of the Green National Accounts in Statistics Denmark produces all modules systematically. In developing countries however, there is a primary need for the development of energy-accounts as well as accounts in emissions, water, land and forests.

Environmental accounts have many uses

We, as well as policy makers, use the SEEA to deal with questions like ‘how well plastic is recycled – which sectors are lagging behind?’, ‘how much and what waste is recycled and from which sectors?’, ‘where are the large emitters?’ and ‘where can we find the least and most energy efficient sectors?’. In the case of Denmark, the ministry of finance in turn has developed the so-called ‘green reform’ – a tool for conducting statistical modelling of different choices to boost environmental reform.

The prerequisites for producing the statistics

At Statistics Denmark’s International Consulting, we prioritise supporting the Danish government and international institutions’ commitments and priorities through capacity building in what we do best – develop and produce timely, consistent and reliable statistics. Our position and extensive experiences with the production of the SEEA means that our sharing of experiences and competencies with statistical producers globally makes a significant benefit – especially where countries are still battling its production and where the environmental footprint is large.

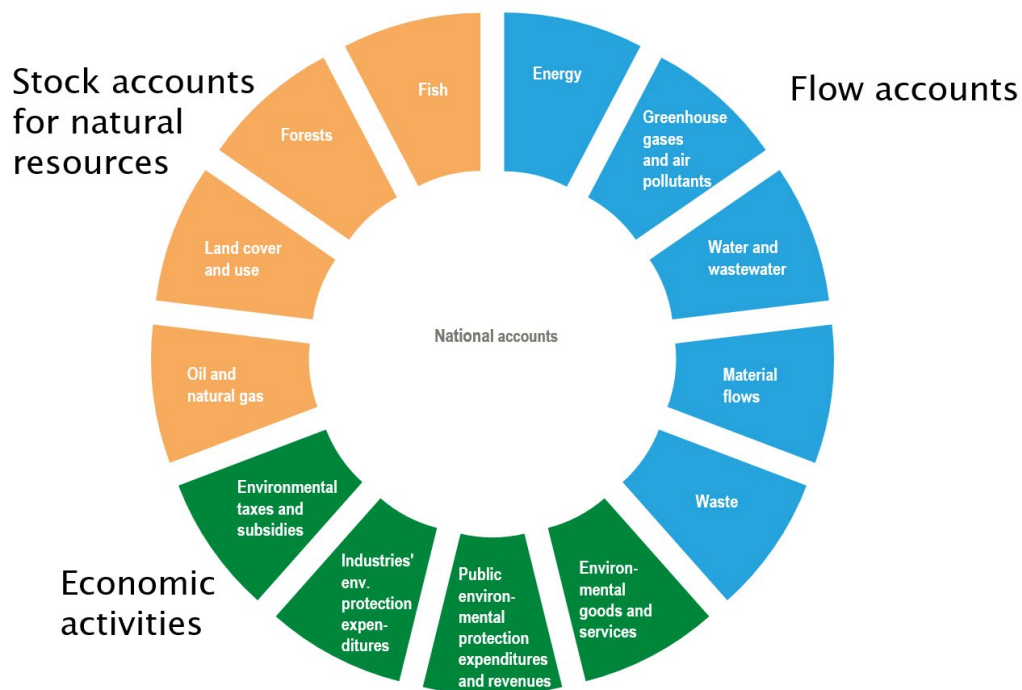
The road to producing statistics for the green transition, however, is paved with the prior mastery of a variety of underlying processes and data prerequisites. At Statistics Denmark, we rely on a variety of statistical competencies and capacities in-house needed to deliver



QR code: Watch our video
about the Green National
Accounts

data to the compilation of the Green National Accounts. Similarly, we also rely on external sources of data from a variety of public agencies. The accounts are the result of a fine-tuned system of data and standards, as well as well-functioning internal and cross-sectoral data partnerships.

So, the road to the SEEA and to a sustainable green transition might very well start with the development of an IT-strategy, the development of a functioning business register, and not the least with a well-functioning communications infrastructure. Because data that are not adequately published cannot be adequately used ■



From an overall perspective, the information in the green national accounts pertains to one of the following three groups: 1. Flows of natural resources, materials and residuals, 2. Aspects of the green economy (environmental production, environmental taxes etc.), and 3. Stocks of natural resources

The information in the green national accounts for Denmark within the three main groups is organised in a series of sub-accounts, as shown in the figure above. The sub-accounts highlight conditions that have major economic and environmental impact.

MOROCCO

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the strategic sector cooperation between the Moroccan statistical office (HCP), Statistics Denmark (SD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) is to ensure that the public debate in Morocco builds upon relevant and easily accessible statistics that support informed decision-making.

Key achievements in 2021

2021 was a busy year with nearly 20 activities implemented including a fall that enabled physical missions to Morocco. Some of the key activities included:

- **IT & Communication & Dissemination strategies**
SD experts supported the finalization of HCP's first ever IT strategy ready for implementation. Experts also engaged in the drafting of a communication strategy. In addition, engagements involved the roll out of a user survey.
- **Data management centre**
Experts supported HCP's establishment of a data management centre with everything from the conceptual frame to the practical implementation including a system to manage internal access to systems and data. On request from HCP, the Danish experts also gave a presentation on IT-security issues.
- **Improvement of HCP's website**
An external consultant was hired to make the website of the HCP more user friendly, while SD experts supported the process with recommendations with regard to information architecture, layout, migration of content and progress made according to the activity and time plan.
- **Quality Management System**
Finally, SD engaged in the organisation and documentation of quality management at HCP. Read more about the activities in Karin Blix's story on the following page.

What's next?

During 2022, lots of ongoing activities will continue and new ones will start. Moroccan, Danish and Norwegian experts will collaborate to modernize the Statistical Business Register, using a generic system developed by the Norwegian NSI (SSB). The new register will enable HCP to compile more detailed and solid information on Moroccan businesses – an activity that was postponed to 2022 due to Covid-19 travel restrictions to Morocco. In 2022, we will also focus on the green component of the project where experts from SD together with the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) will support HCP in the process of generating statistics on access to water in Morocco. An important activity feeding directly into SDG reporting and monitoring ■



Group photo from the mission to Rabat, Morocco
Photo: Unknown

PROJECT FACTS

Project name

Support to Morocco's ongoing efforts to improve the quality and digitalisation of official statistics. Focus is to allow the Moroccan statistical office (HCP) to take advantage of the ongoing digitalisation of the Morocco society in general and the public administration especially. This involves developing a new IT strategy for HCP, electronic data collection, improving the use of administrative data and modernising the statistical business register. Also, quality management and environmental statistics are addressed.

Key topics

Partner

Haut Commissariat au Plan (HCP).

Donor

Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

Period

2020–2023

ZOOMING IN

Karin Blix tells about the work in Morocco



Karin Blix
Chief advisor,
Methodology & Analysis

Describe the purpose of the activity you work on

The expected outcome of the component that I work on in Morocco is that commitment to quality principles is formalised and integrated into all levels of the statistical production. This is of course rather ambitious and we will succeed by taking small steps. The first step has been to implement a quality management system together with HCP and here the Moroccans are well on the way. We are also working on a template and guidelines on how to complete quality reports for Moroccan statistics together with a set of quality reports. Some of the next steps are to set up a plan for implementing the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM) in the production structures, form a quality policy for HCP, a national quality assurance framework and a setup for training of trainers in the organisation – in the use of GSBPM and in completing quality reports.

What motivated you to engage in the project?

My motivation comes from a great interest in getting to know new cultures. Working together is a great source for this. Understanding how a society works is an important starting point for contributing to the development of the statistical system in general and a quality management system in particular. Another reason for engaging is development of my own competences — and how we at Statistics

Denmark can continue to develop our quality management system and the way we e.g. train our colleagues in completing quality reports. Working together gives inspiration to see things in a different way and provides new perspective and ideas for change.

What surprised you? And/or can you tell about a success?

Nothing has actually surprised me much in the cooperation with my Moroccan colleagues. I have enjoyed working with them. We have had good discussions that have led to some very fine results this far in the project and I have brought back with me good ideas on how to make changes to some of our processes in Statistics Denmark. For me there is no doubt – the physical meetings are much more fruitful than meetings on Zoom. They give the possibility to get a feel for the culture and the way the society functions which the coffee breaks and the stay in the country contributes substantially to in addition to the actual (physical) meetings ■



Preparations for tea break in between sessions
Photo: Karin Blix

GHANA

OBJECTIVE

The Strategic Sector Cooperation between Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), Statistics Denmark (SD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Denmark lays down the foundation for a statistical system that should ultimately be based on fewer surveys, while at the same time ensuring more data and higher data quality. This is to strengthen the foundation for evidence-based decision making in Ghana and improving monitoring and reporting of the UN SDGs.

Key achievements in 2021

2021 was an exciting year for GSS as they conducted the nationwide Housing & Population Census (HPC).

SD supported the process with visibility in form of video content (scan the QR code below) and articles to tell the story about the important work done but, also how the use of administrative data for statistical production can limit costs and workload for future censuses. SD experts also had missions to Ghana to advise on how to build an online statistical databank to make the HPC data - and with time also other statistics - easily accessible to the wider public, politicians and the media.

Apart from the engagement in relation to the HPC, 2021 also involved activities within the following areas:

- **Consumer Price Index**
Statistics Denmark is engaged in an ongoing task to support GSS to rebase the Consumer Price Index from 10 to 16 regions. In 2021, experts supported the process of making data available for 6 new regions in Ghana. Read more in the story by Martin and Martin.
- **R training**
Development of training material for an extensive course for selected GSS staff in the software 'R'. The

planned physical training was however postponed to 2022 due to Covid-19.

- **Methodology**
Several online discussions took place between staff from SD and GSS on how to structure the methodology department in a national statistical institute based on experiences from Denmark and with the aim to conduct systematic methodology work across the organisation.
- **Green National Accounts**
Experts presented the Green National Accounts based upon guidelines in the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Central Framework and an online dialogue took place focused on preparations for a longer-term collaboration on green statistics.

What's next?

The above initiatives will continue during 2022, hopefully with an increase in international travel of experts to Ghana and staff from GSS visiting SD. The project will also explore new avenues where GSS will learn from the Danish example of doing income-generating activities. Finally, the cooperation will strengthen focus on green statistics starting with engagements on green goods and services ■



QR code with video about the Housing & Population Census

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Strengthening official statistics in Ghana.
Key topics	Use of administrative data sources for statistical production, IT infrastructure, quality management, economic statistics, environmental accounts, dissemination and communication.
Partner	Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)
Donor	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Period	2020–2023

ZOOMING IN

Martin and Martin tell about the work in Ghana



Martin Sædholm Nielsen
Senior advisor,
Prices and
Consumption



Martin Birger Larsen
Head of section,
Prices and
Consumption

Describe the purpose of the activity you work on

Since 2019, we have helped Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in updating their consumer price index (CPI): we have implemented a new basket of goods and services into their CPI, assisted GSS in changing and updating the index calculations underlying their CPI and



Data collection for the Housing & Population census Photo: Bo Illum Jørgensen



On mission in Accra, Ghana. Photo: Harrison Ofori

supported the process of using new software for the calculations. The Ghanaian CPI is still based on the old regional structure (10 regions). We have been asked to support them in the process of changing the calculations to be based on the new 16 regions.

What motivated you to engage in the project?

It is always a great opportunity to be able to collaborate with colleagues from other countries – it is satisfying to assist others and usually you also learn a lot yourself during the process. We both like to visit other countries and experience different cultures and when you work together with locals you get a much better understanding of the country compared to when you are a tourist. Ghana is the most exotic country we have visited so far in the sense of being quite different from Denmark.

What surprised you? And/or can you tell about a success?

The weather is very different from Denmark. So is the work culture. It has been a great pleasure to both visit Ghana and work with our colleagues there. While meetings are sometimes delayed, everyone is always smiling, open-minded and helpful. We also appreciated the experience of "Ghana-Friday" – a tradition where you wear colorful clothes at the office instead of suits ■

GEORGIA

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project was to facilitate Georgia's approximation to the Union Acquis in the area of statistics, thereby supporting the association process. The project aimed at supporting the staff at the Georgian National Statistical System (Geostat) in building and expanding their knowledge on how to produce specific statistics according to European requirements.

Key achievements in 2021

2021 was the final year of the Twinning project making it a melancholic year characterized by intense activities. The Pandemic allowed a hectic period of face-to-face meetings in Copenhagen, Prague and Tbilisi starting in July and ending in November. These interactions showed the full value of Twinning and painstakingly demonstrated the value of inter-personal relations, which we have been denied for so long. The main achievement of the project was that it succeeded meeting all its original targets.

The work in 2021 more specifically involved:

- **Mirror comparison**
Significant work went into describing the trade between Georgia and selected EU states as the European and Georgian data did not compare well. The method is known as mirror comparison and resulted in a report concluding that Geostat's data is fundamentally sound. Read more in the story by Stefan.
- **Harmonised Consumer Price Index (CPI)**
Two missions paved the way for Geostat to make changes to its CPI compilation in order to make its data comparable to the European Harmonised CPI.

- **R training**

Two training courses in using the software R were completed. A virtual one in January and a face-to-face course in Tbilisi in October for 17 staff members. R is rapidly becoming the de facto standard for compiling data at statistical offices around the globe. A number of so-called "packages" is produced by various statistical offices and are available free of charge.

- **Sports accounts**

At the request of the Government of Georgia, Geostat was tasked with looking into the possibilities of producing Sports Satellite Accounts (SSA). Staff from Poland and the Netherlands shared their experiences with Geostat. The SSA estimates the economic contribution of sports to the economy. So, the SSA is a framework similar to the Supply and Use Tables (SUT) detailing only goods and services related to sports and the industry groups associated with them. The more detailed the SUT and business classifications are, the easier this will be. For each of the goods and services the data is divided into sports and no sports. Due to costs, the SSA is not produced in Europe on an annual basis, but rather every 3 to 5 years.

What's next?

As the project has successfully delivered on all its original results and in addition some that were added along the way, the next step is for Geostat to produce the new statistical products on a day-to-day basis, integrating them into the yearly work plan. ■



For more information, scan the QR code to watch a short video about our cooperation in Georgia

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Strengthening the Capacity of the Georgian National Statistical System - GE 16 ENI ST 06 18.
Key topics	External Trade Statistics, National Accounts, Business Statistics and Social Statistics
Partner	National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat)
Donor	EU - Twinning project
Period	2019–2021 (32 months in total)

ZOOMING IN

Stefan Anbro tells about the work in Georgia



Stefan Anbro
Senior advisor,
External Economy

Describe the purpose of the activity you work on

I worked on two components within external economy. In the first component, we worked with Geostat on analysing asymmetries between Georgia and the EU in International Trade in Goods Statistics. In the second component, the objective was to create a new statistical product on International Trade in Services.

What motivated you to engage in the project?

To put it simply, I was curious. How are statistics produced in Georgia? Which challenges do they face? How may we support them? All these questions seemed very intriguing. Moreover, I have a great sympathy for the post-soviet countries and their specific challenges and opportunities. I live in a mixed family with a Lithuanian wife and I have lived many years in Lithuania myself. So the chance to get to know a completely different corner of the post-soviet world was something which meant a lot to me.

What surprised you? And/or can you tell about a success?

Among many other things, I want to mention that Geostat at the end of the project employed two new people for validation of data from their new survey on Interna-



Geostat staff during R training.
Photo: Ekaterine Lobzhanidze

tional Trade in Services. All the way through the project, we were stressing the importance of close company contact and data validation due to the conceptual complexity of Trade in Services. So when Geostat in the end managed to find resources for an intensified effort in this area, it really felt like a step forward. ■



On mission in Tbilisi, Georgia. Photo: Stefan Anbro

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

OBJECTIVE

The project is the fourth Twinning project between Statistics Denmark (SD) and the partners of National Statistical System (NSS) of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The overall objective is to modernise the NSS and align its products to European standards, thereby underpinning the country's status as an EU candidate country.

Key achievements in 2021

The project follows in the footsteps of the project "Support to the reform of the statistics system in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018 to 2020)". This time, we are partnering with Statistics Sweden and Statistics Finland. Istat of Italy is also providing short-term expertise. The Indirect Taxation Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a new beneficiary of the project. The work in 2021 involved:

- **Agricultural Statistics**
Bosnia and Herzegovina is preparing to conduct a full-scale agricultural census, which we are supporting together with Statistics Sweden and experts from the Swedish board of Agriculture. The project will among other things help develop a long-term strategic document.
- **Business statistics**
Updating and modernising the Statistical Business registers continued. A number of new statistical products related to the Index of Construction and Index of Service Production (ISP) will be introduced.
- **Balance of payments (BoP)**
In this project, staff mainly from Statistics Finland has been working with the Central Bank of Bosnia and Herzegovina to prepare BoP on a monthly basis. BoP is integrated with foreign trade statistics.
- **Wages**
Activities have started to prepare for a structure of earnings survey to be carried out late in 2022. It will provide new statistics on gross and hourly wages broken down by age, sex, occupation, hours worked

and the contractual relation of the employees. Thereby providing important insights into the workings of the labour market and gender equality issues.

- **Administrative data**
Building on foundations laid out in the previous twinning project, we hope to complete pilot projects showing the benefits and savings that can be achieved from using administrative data sources.
- **Indirect Taxation Authority**
New to the Twinning project is the Macro Economic Analysis Unit of the Governing Board of the Indirect Taxation Authority. Although statistical offices do not and should not collect taxes, the correct reporting of taxes is an important part of government finances, national accounts and for estimating economic progress. As the Taxation Authority is tasked with reporting data to Eurostat, its inclusion in the project is relevant. The Swedish tax authority is providing most appreciated knowledge through Statistics Sweden.

What's next?

- As the project began during the pandemic with most activities conducted in remote mode, the future will hopefully see more face-to-face meetings as staff from Denmark, Finland, Italy and Sweden work closely with their local partners preparing statistics according to European methodologies ■



Sarajevo. Photo: Jesper Ellemosse Jensen, Statistics Denmark

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Support to the reform of the statistics system in Bosnia and Herzegovina - BA 15 IPA ST 01 17.
Key topics	Business Statistics, Balance of Payment, Wages and Taxes.
Partner	Statistical System of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
Funding	EU – Twinning project
Period	2021–2023 (24 months in total)

VIETNAM

Key achievements in 2021

- **Covid-19 challenges**
Experts from SD have held a number of virtual workshops focused on big data, education statistics, migration and environmental accounting. SD has also contributed to Vietnam's new statistical development strategy 2021-2030. Despite Covid-19 challenges, the cooperation - that has only just begun - has been very positive. Along with the activities, Statistics Denmark has contributed to "Viet Nam Statistical Development Strategy 2021-2030, Vision to 2045" with technical assistance from the Danish Embassy.
- **Finalisation of inception project**
On 26 November 2021, the director generals from SD and GSO held a virtual signing ceremony, and subsequently submitted the application for The Full SSC Project Phase 1 to be implemented from early 2022. Please find below a link to an article from The Saigon Times:

OBJECTIVE

The Strategic Sector Cooperation between the General Statistics Office of Vietnam (GSO), Statistics Denmark (SD) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) has to date been at the inception phase with a view to formalise a longer-term collaboration between the institutions to allow for timely and relevant production and dissemination of statistics in Vietnam.

<https://english.thesaigontimes.vn/denmark-supports-vietnam-to-improve-quality-of-official-statistics/>

- **A green touch**
During the implementation of the inception project, there has been a focus on finding synergies with the green agenda. An aim for the future SSC project is to harmonise the project activities, especially the added component on Green National Accounts, to parallel green activities in Vietnam.



From the virtual signing ceremony. Photo: GSO Vietnam

What's next?

In 2022, we will start up the longer-term Strategic Sector Cooperation with GSO lasting until 2024. We are of course excited to take on board this new project with a view to support informed decision-making through relevant and accessible statistics in Vietnam, and to support the continuous development of the statistics needed for green policy making ■

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Support to Vietnam's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of official statistics.
Key topics	Inception phase with a view to build a longer-term collaboration around population and migration statistics, education, Big Data and Environmental Accounts.
Partner	General Statistics Office of Vietnam (GSO).
Funding	Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
Period	2019 - 2021

RUSSIA

OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat), to become “a center of excellence” in statistics, and secondly to provide technical assistance in selected areas of statistics to government statistical services to other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Key achievements in 2021

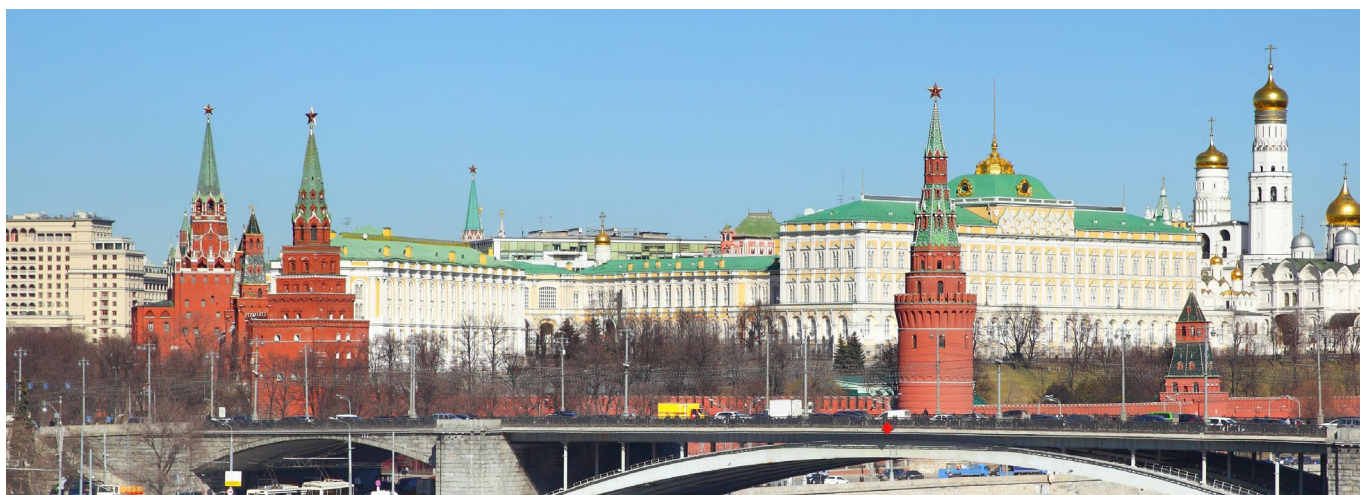
Following a cessation of missions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2021, the consortium partners led by Statistics Denmark resolved to virtual missions and delivered online trainings in accordance with Rosstat’s list of desired topics.

- **Conducting virtual missions**

Despite the limitations of this modality, the exchanges were active and trainings were highly appreciated. Moreover, it brought great satisfaction to all parties involved to be engaged in project activities again after the non-voluntary pause.

- **Trainings in Environmental Goods & Services – and more**

Trainings were held on several topics including sector accounts on environmental goods and services, enterprise group profiling, tourism satellite accounts, and input-output tables ■



The Kremlin, Moscow. Photo: Signelements

PROJECT FACTS

Project name

Strengthening statistical expertise in the Russian Federation project

Key topics

Development of the statistical infrastructure, quality, national and macroeconomic accounts, government accounts, environmental, demography and Official Development Assistance statistics

Partner

The Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat)

Funding

The World Bank

Period

2016 – 2023 (extended due to momentary low implementation rate following Covid-19)

OTHER PROJECTS

MOLDOVA



Project facts

- **Name:** Technical Assistance to Support the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova - EUROPEAID/138242/DH/SER/MD
- **Key topics:** Modernising the national statistical system
- **Partner:** National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova
- **Donor:** EU – Technical Assistance
- **Period:** 2022

Societa Geografica Italiana (URS SGI) heads the consortium including Istat, Statistics Poland and Statistics Denmark as partners. In 2022, we will work on aspects of business statistics and perhaps on disclosure control and confidentiality ■

AZERBAIJAN



Project facts

- **Name:** Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy to strengthen collection, harmonisation, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics - AZ/16/ENI/ST/01/19
- **Key topics:** Business statistics
- **Partner:** State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- **Funding:** EU – Twinning project
- **Period:** 2020–2022

Project objective and key achievements in 2021

The consortium for the EU Twinning project is led by Statistics Finland and comprises of Statistics Denmark, Lithuania and Nederland. The objective of the project is to increase capacity among local operators to collect, process, harmonise, analyse, publish and disseminate

business statistics measuring the performance of the private sector/Small & Medium Enterprises in Azerbaijan. From the Danish side, the project involves some of our most experienced experts on business statistics that during 2020 familiarised themselves with virtual missions – a set-up that will continue ■

STEP – STATISTICS FOR THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Project facts

- **Name:** STEP (Statistics Through Eastern Partnership) – EU regional program
- **Key topics:** Improve production and dissemination of high quality statistics in line with international and European standards; Harmonise statistical methodologies with international and European standards; Strengthening the institutional capacity based on the values in the Code of standards for European statistics; Enhance evidence-based policy-making through increasing the amount of reliable statistics.
- **Partner:** Statistical Systems of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
- **Donor:** EU – Technical Assistance
- **Period:** 2019–2022

STEP is an EU funded regional program addressing the national statistical systems of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The program is managed by Expertise France with inputs from the NSI's of France (INSEE), Hungary (HCSO), Italy (Istat), Statistics Lithuania and Statistics Denmark. In 2022 we will share our knowledge on Covid-19 effects on selected business statistics and the experimental statistics we have implemented to estimate the effect of the pandemic ■

NEW OPPORTUNITIES 2022

NORTHERN CYPRUS

OBJECTIVE

To improve statistical actions regarding administrative data sources management and governance, and further development of statistics in the Turkish Cypriot community.

Context and planned activities 2022

Until recently, a 'statistical unit' used to exist within the 'state planning office' in the Turkish Cypriot community (TCC). However, it did not have the means to produce official statistics according to the requirements of the EU acquis. The EU has provided support for the statistics sector for over 10 years now through the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument, supporting the preparation of TCC's legislative and enforcement capacity, so that the EU legislation can be immediately applicable upon comprehensive settlement to the Cyprus dispute.

The TCC adopted an EU acquis compliant legal text on statistics in May 2019. The legal text aims to address the issue of reliable and objective statistics, which is key for undertaking effective reforms and helping settlement preparations. It further lays ground for establishing an independent Statistical Institute (SI).

The legal text provides for five branches of the SI: 1) population and social statistics; 2) business statistics; 3) macroeconomic statistics; 4) methodology, coordination and publication; and 5) IT. The new SI has the responsibility for coordinating the production of all official statistics.

There is a great demand to improve the statistical work to be in line with requirements of the newly adopted legal text on statistics. Thus, additional staff has been recruited and IT infrastructure is being purchased and installed. Statistics Denmark will support the capacity building among existing and new SI staff at various levels, ranging from individual skills development in SAS programming and using administrative data for statistics, support in creating a strategic plan, a communication plan, organisational development, and building partnerships with local data owners. The efforts will concentrate on these issues with a focus on business register ■



Cyprus. Photo: Signelement

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Technical Assistance on Statistics for the Turkish Cypriot Community
Key topics	Business statistics, administrative data sources management and governance, communication strategy and branding, building partnerships
Partner	The newly established Statistical Institute of the Turkish Cypriot Community
Donor	The European Union, represented by the European Commission
Period	12 months from expected start date medio 2022

PAN-AFRICAN PROJECT

SELECTED COUNTRIES YET TO BE IDENTIFIED



Photo: Signelements

OBJECTIVE

To support African integration through strengthening the African Statistical System and ensure the use of quality statistical data in the decision-making process and policy monitoring, in order to facilitate monitoring of societal progress in Africa, with a special focus on the social domain.

Context and planned activities 2022

The Pan-African project is part of an EU funded programme counting two projects headed by Statistics Denmark and Statistics France respectively, and one contract managed by Expertise France. The Danish-headed project focuses on support to producing official statistics within the social domains of education, health, labour and migration, and counts consortium partners from NSIs of France, Finland, Spain and Poland. Denmark is consortium partner in the French-headed project focusing on support to statistical business registry and national accounts.

During a 4-month inception phase starting in 2022, both projects will identify partner countries based on a variety of criteria including need, absorption capacity, and expected impact.

Implementation is expected completed October 2025 ■

PROJECT FACTS

Project name	Social Statistics in Africa (SOCSTAF) (Pan-African Statistics Programme II: Developing social statistics in African national statistical offices)
Key topics	Statistics within health, education, labour and migration.
Partner	Partner countries to be identified during a 4 month inception phase from February 2022.
Donor	Eurostat
Period	44 months from 28 February 2022

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