

Technical co-operation

An excellent platform...

The strive to perfect our production of statistics through more than 150 years has provided Statistics Denmark with an excellent platform to share knowledge of statistical production and development of statistical systems with sister agencies in other countries.

... for technical co-operation

The International consulting unit in Statistics Denmark co-ordinates the technical co-operation with other countries. The unit initially focused its activities on transition countries in central and eastern Europe, but has gradually widened the range of countries in the world with which it is involved. It is still the objective for Statistics Denmark to facilitate e.g. the central and eastern European countries in their efforts to be integrated into European statistical activities.

Statistics Denmark is interested in participating in the development of sound and efficient statistical production. The engagements can vary in time but the achievement of sustainable results will often require several years of commitment. The technical co-operation in an international environment also provides benefits for our own staff such as language skills and flexibility.

Information Technology

Data processing is the core business of any central statistical office, as the gathering, production, and dissemination of statistics are all about processing information. For this reason, a brief account of the present IT strategy of Statistics Denmark is in place here.



LAN - the heart of the system

Statistics Denmark's IT system is centred around a Local Area Network of 625 work stations, all running MS Windows NT. All staff members perform their duties using a LAN-based personal computer.



The other platforms

Other important platforms are attached to the Local Area Network:

- An IBM-compatible mainframe computer, running OS/390. Until 1991 the IT system was based solely upon this platform. Today this powerful machine is still very important and will remain so for years to come. One reason for this is the huge amount of data and programs that it contains, another is the need for processing confidential data that requires the strongest security safeguards. The mainframe has recently been strengthened by the introduction of tape robot technology.
- File servers and application servers based upon Intel-technology and Windows NT from Microsoft.
- A special server dedicated to researchers from universities and other research institutions external to Statistics Denmark.

Common software

The IT Policy dictates that everyone uses the same software to perform the same type of tasks. Consequently, there is only one word-processing program, one spreadsheet, one data base system, and so on. The reason is that in-house job mobility must not be impeded by software barriers, and support and training must be efficient.

Electronic mail and office automation

Electronic mail has been introduced throughout Statistics Denmark and has revolutionised the flow of information and indeed the entire organisation of work. The system is equipped with external e-mail via the Internet. Each and every staff member can access the web from their own work station.

Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing

Surveys involving telephone interviews are carried out by means of Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI), based on the Dutch system Blaise. This enables the information collected to be checked and edited during the interview process, thus speeding up the production of results. Blaise is also used as a basis for the compilation of electronic questionnaires sent to respondents, allowing



(Photo: John Duurlo)

them to enter and check their data for Statistics Denmark's business surveys, as well as for face-to-face interviews.

Desk Top Publishing

The production of publications has been decentralised, so that every statistician is individually responsible for producing the ready-to-print articles for publication. The software tools facilitate the easy integration of text, tables and graphs. The final product is in line with adopted layout standards and is sent to the editors via electronic mail. This has reduced the number of steps in the production process, and has consequently increased efficiency and speed.