

Standard Summary Project Fiche
Project Number 2002/000.601.03.03

1. Basic Information

- 1.1. CRIS-number: 2002/000.601.03.03
- 1.2. Title: Programme of modernisation of national statistics
- 1.3. Sector: Internal Market
- 1.4. Location: Lithuanian Department of Statistics

2. Objectives

2.1. Overall Objectives

The overall objective of this **2.2 MEUR Project**, of which 0.2 MEUR is national co-financing, is to meet EU statistical *acquis* requirements in national statistics.

2.2. Project purpose

- Ensure availability of harmonised quality statistics meeting user-needs in terms of concepts, contents and form (covering consumption of fixed capital in national accounts, first preparation for Intrastat, Information society statistics, Introduction of Structure of Earnings Survey (SES), Post-processing and analysis of agro-census and support to FSS, quality review and reporting for statistics as well as institutional strengthening)
- Strengthen the capacity of the statistical system of Lithuania, including at the regional level, in modern data collection and dissemination methods, further integrating it into the European Statistical System (ESS).

2.3. Accession Partnership and NPAA and Priority

The 2001 Accession Partnership requests to “further improve quality and coverage of statistics; ensure that adequate resources are available to further strengthen statistical capacities, including at regional level”.

The 2001 NPAA sets out measures concerning organisational matters, institution building, training and economic reforms. It identifies short-term and medium-term priorities for Statistics Lithuania. These are:

- Statistics infrastructure (e.g. classifications, quality of indicators);
- Demographic and social statistics (LFS, LCS, SES);
- Macroeconomic statistics (national accounts, price indices on insurance services, education, health care, social security);
- Business statistics (structural business surveys);
- Transport and foreign trade statistics (INTRASTAT, infrastructure costs);
- Agriculture, forestry and fishery statistics (economic agricultural accounts, farm structure survey).

3. Description

3.1. Background and Justification

Issues selected for the support in the 2002 project are basically reflected in the AP, NPAA and RR 2001 as well as the eEurope Action Plan and Draft Community Statistical Programme 2003-2007, based on several round table discussions, which were held with the business community (e.g.

Confederation of Lithuanian Industrialists, Small and Medium Business Association), agricultural associations (Chamber of Agriculture) and Information society-related bodies (like Infobalt Association) to consult about their needs and expectations for business, agricultural and IS statistics, or are a logical continuation of the previous and current projects run by Statistics Lithuania. The 2001 Regular Report of the Commission identified the following gaps: Demographic and social statistics (LFS frequency increased and preparations for a structure of earnings survey (SES) need to be finalised); Macro-economic statistics (the European System of Accounts (ESA 95) has to be fully implemented and quality of results must be improved); Improvement for a series of statistical domains (transport statistics, accounting system for expenditure on infrastructure in respect of transport by rail, road and inland waterway); Business statistics still need to be further improved (use of supplementary units for products and statistics at a regional level); Agricultural statistics.

Following the Eurostat's mission to Lithuania in June 2001 (Annex 4), the request for the extensive scope of areas requesting aid has been supported by Eurostat's letter to DG Elarg-A4, as previous and ongoing projects used to release guaranteed results due to continued cooperation with and monitoring by EUROSTAT.

SL's strategy is laid out in the Annual Work Programme of Official statistics, which is approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and focuses on clear identification of statistical needs and objectives. The strategy follows the fundamental principles of official statistics which guarantee impartiality, professional independence, transparency of methodology applied, use of the most efficient sources, data confidentiality, transparency of laws, application of international standards and international co-operation and ensure quality of statistical data, analytical aspects, reliability, comparability and timeliness.

Statistics represent themselves a large part of the *acquis* and it is the objective of SL to comply with it and to provide sustainable service to the EC bodies, national government and public at large. With this in view, SL needs to strengthen its institutional capacity, keep up with technological development, recruit and maintain well-trained staff and coordinate activities of other line ministries and institutions involved in the national statistical system.

3.2. Linked Activities

Since 1992 Phare assistance totalling 9.45 MEUR has been allocated under the National Programmes to improve primary data collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of statistical data, modernisation of the central office and its regional offices through provision of modern data processing technology and enhancement of human resource capacities through establishment of the Internal Training Unit, as well as translation and implementation of 22 international classifications, acquisition of Population Census-related equipment and application of data protection and confidentiality procedures, execution of Population Census, etc.. Of this amount 2 MEUR has been received from the 1998 National Phare programme and 2.6 MEUR from the 2000 National Phare programme.

In addition to that, the Danish Government granted 50,000 ECU in 1997. SIDA (1,173,000 SEK in 1999-2000 + 1,900,000 SEK in 2001-2002) provided grants for improving business statistics, population register, demographic and other issues related statistics, aiming at activities involving all three Baltic States in cooperation with Statistics Sweden in modernisation of statistical production. Finland provided assistance for the preparation for the Population Census and integration with EC statistical systems.

Phare assistance to the statistical sector in Lithuania was also provided under the Multi-country statistics programmes – under 1997 programme (0.2 MEUR), under 1998 programme (5 MEUR for 10 Phare beneficiary countries) and under 1999 programme (15 MEUR for 10 Phare beneficiary countries).

This project will provide further development of certain components already previously tackled by other national Phare projects, e.g. agricultural statistics and FSS (continuation of the the 2000 project), other National accounts components (the 1998 project), the Structural earnings statistics (the 1998 project).

For a more comprehensive analysis see Annex 6.

3.3. Results

The guaranteed results of the project will be:

3.3.1. Twinning Light:

- Statistical quality review and reporting
 - Quality of statistical data review model established, ways of statistical reporting modernised.
 - Time-series of main indicators seasonally adjusted.
- Definition of the scope of Information society statistics and integration into existing surveys
 - Information society (IS) statistics scope and sources defined.
 - Some IS statistics collected through existing surveys.
 - The methodology and system of indicators characterising electronic commerce established.
 - Foundations for availability of indicators serving in the field of Internet trade between businesses as well as between businesses and consumers laid down.

3.3.2. Technical Assistance:

- Exhaustiveness of National Accounts improved and compliance with ESA 95 achieved
 - Compliance with ESA95 concepts achieved;
 - Reliability of the current estimates of the CFC at current and constant prices ensured;
 - Increased reliability of GDP achieved;
 - Availability and reliability of the Balance sheets of non-financial assets ensured.
- Intrastat data collection system started
 - The register of exporters and importers established
- SES conducted
 - The development of statistical system in the area of earnings structure and distribution, which is comparable with those currently existing in the EC ensured;
 - Reliable and comprehensive base of statistical information, which may serve as a foundation for future economic analysis, policy development and academic research available.
- Agro-census results processed, analysed and published, FSS finalised
 - FSS related activities finalised, its results processed and analysed;
 - Statistical Farm register improved, database of agro indicators updated.
- Other IS statistics collected
 - Methodological work (in the field of adjusting nomenclatures, ICT products, e-Commerce, e-Government, ESDIS, e-Learning, structural indicators like ICT expenditure and the level of Internet access and the content sector like audiovisual statistics) carried out;
 - Integration of IS aspects into existing surveys and development of questionnaires investigated;
 - Special publications on existing IS statistics available.
- Increased quality of statistical indicators achieved and reporting system operational

- System of statistical surveys, corresponding with the main Eurostat's requirements for qualitative statistics operational.
- Quality of data checking and editing increased.
- International classifications maintained and updated in terms of quality.
- Time series of main indicators of Lithuania: production, value added, labour statistics, wages and salaries and budget revenue seasonally adjusted;
- Regional database of statistical indicators of Lithuania improved in terms of quality.
- Administrative capacity strengthened, staff trained
 - Staff, IT specialists in central and regional offices and users trained
- New exchange of information in place and operational, data confidentiality and security increased
 - New exchange of information in place and operational
 - Ensuring of confidentiality and data protection throughout all electronic data collection stages achieved;
 - Development of data warehousing and OLAP technologies advanced.
- Statistical system compliant and integrated with ESS

3.3.3. Supplies

The guaranteed result for the investment component is the acquisition of new equipment and software to support the needs within the above mentioned components of this project. Acquisition is planned in two lots. A sum of € 700,000 has been set aside for these purposes, envisaging 3 separate IT systems operational.

- Equipment purchased, installed and staff trained to use it
- 3 separate IT systems operational.

3.4. Activities

The project will be carried out with the help of two Twinning Light Arrangements, one Service (TA) contract, and one Supplies contract.

The below listed blocks of activities refer to various sub-projects:

Twinning Light:

- Review of quality of sampling surveys, methods of data collection, coherence and timeliness of statistical information
- Development of methods to deal with non-response
- Review of possibilities and methods for seasonal adjustment of certain indicators
- Identification of IS statistical scope and sources
- Analysis of possibilities to incorporate IS issue into existing surveys

Technical Assistance:

- Preparation and execution of pilot Perpetual Inventory Method for consumption of fixed capital in NA
- Preparation for Intrastat register
- Preparation and execution of the SES
- Analysis of agro-census results, finalisation of FSS-related activities, publication of findings, updating of the database and improvement of Farmer's Farm register
- Follow-up of IS related activities, further incorporating them into existing surveys
- Follow-up of quality review and reporting activities, ensuring exhaustive quality review and reporting system
- Training of staff in central and regional offices and enumerators, fellowships and study visits
- Creation of models for analysis and presentation of indicators to users

- Development of information exchange systems
- Integration of the national Statistical information system with ESS
- Preparation of technical specifications for Supply component

Supplies:

- Acquisition of hardware and software to form 3 separate systems for the execution of the project.
- Developing and testing specific computer systems.

3.4.1. Scope of the Twinning light

There will be two *Twinning Light* contracts:

1. Statistical quality review and reporting (data review model, quality of data checking, editing, seasonal adjustment);
2. Definition of the scope of Information society statistics and integration into existing surveys (areas like e-commerce, etc.).

They will support elaboration of the systems of indicators (concepts, methodology and strategy) reflecting the areas described above to meet compliance with the European Statistical System.

They will request STEs inputs (appr. 8 m/months per covenant), study visits, training, documentation and translation.

More specifically TwL contracts will envisage such activities:

3.4.1.1. Statistical quality review and reporting (data review model, quality of data checking, editing, seasonal adjustment)

Activities under the TwL contract are assumed to cover such stages as:

- Analysis of the current situation – quality of sampling surveys, methods of data collection, metadata usage, coherence of statistical information, timeliness;
- Development of methods for automatic data checking and control – development of methods on dealing with non-response;
- Reducing of non-sampling errors by the improved quality of the business register – analysis of data on LKAU (local kind of activity unit) from the pilot survey of small enterprises, supplementing the business register with LKAUs.

3.4.1.2. Definition of the scope of Information society statistics and integration into existing surveys (areas like e-commerce, etc.).

Activities under TwL contract are assumed to basically deal with the e-commerce aspects and proceed in such stages:

- Familiarisation with e-commerce defining and measuring methods in EC or OECD countries;
- Consultations by International experts on experience, data collection sources, indicators, definitions, methods;
- Analysis of external experience and current internal situation, available data sources;
- Analysis of possibilities to collect IS statistics through existing surveys.
- Collection of certain statistical indicators recommended by the Twinning Light partners through the existing surveys.

FKC

RK

3.4.2. Scope of TA

3.4.2.1. Consumption of Fixed Capital in National Accounts

To achieve the compliance with ESA95, the SL should get information on what service lives and depreciation rates of the capital stock are underlying the present depreciation figures. For the calculation of the stock of fixed assets at replacement prices the Perpetual Inventory Method (PIM) is recommended. Activities for the preparation and execution of the Pilot perpetual inventory method (PPIM) are assumed to follow through such stages as:

- Organisational issues in relation to the preparation of PIM, including analysis and sampling;
- Translation of methodological materials;
- Study visits for gaining experience, expertise of local and international experts;
- Preparation of methodological documentation and questionnaire;
- Printing of questionnaires;
- Analysis of available specialised software;
- Acquisition or design of the software;
- Training of specialists and enumerators;
- Preparation and execution of Pilot PIM;
- Processing of questionnaires, analysis of results;
- Release of information.

3.4.2.2. First Preparation for Intrastat

After abolishment of Customs Borders, information on exports and imports will not be available on the Single Administrative Document. Information on trade among the EC Member States will have to be collected from enterprises directly, thus, a new task arose – to build Intrastat data collection system for all accession countries to the EC.

Activities are assumed to follow through such stages as:

- Development of Intrastat register;
- Development of computer software for Intrastat register;
- Preparation of the Guidebook for companies for filling in Intrastat declaration;
- Resorting to expertise of local and international experts, study visits;
- Design of Intrastat declaration;
- Software development for the processing of Intrastat data;
- Translation and preparation for usage free text of the Combined nomenclature;
- Execution of the Pilot survey;
- Processing of data of the Pilot survey and analyses;
- Training of local specialists for the Intrastat system;
- Training of companies in using electronic Intrastat data entering and transmission programs like IDEP and IRIS;
- Preparation of publicity campaign for the introduction of Intrastat system in Lithuania, printing of promotional material.

3.4.2.3. Introduction of the Structure of Earnings Survey

Structural statistics on earnings enables to analyse economic and social progress, to reflect changes taking place in the structure of the labour force and in the distribution of earnings. The European Central Bank needs information on the structure and distribution of earnings in order to assess the economic development in the Member States in the context of a single European Monetary Policy.

The activity of the project concerns carrying out of the survey on Earnings Structure and Distribution. Assumed stages of activities will be as follows:

- Preparation of the questionnaire and explanatory notes for filling in the questionnaire;
- Creation of the sample frame. Sample design. Calculations of statistical estimates and standard errors;
- Study visits to NSI with successfully conducted SES;
- Printing and mailing of questionnaires;
- Training of specialists from central and regional statistical offices;
- Recruitment of enumerators. Data collection;
- Survey data processing (data entry, data validation) and analysis;
- Preparation of the software for the data entry, data processing, calculations of statistical estimates and standard errors, tabulation programme;
- Preparation for the publication of results;
- Preparation of the report on quality.

3.4.2.4. Post-processing and Analysis of Agro-census and Support to FSS

The guaranteed results of this part of the project will be the full-scale completion of a comprehensive Agricultural Census, post – processing and analysis of the Agricultural Census, various support and finalisation of the FSS-related activities (planned 2003), following which compliance of agricultural statistics with EC standards will be achieved and the multipurpose Farm register maintained and updated in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The project will assist SL in compiling the agriculture statistics and development of the multi-purpose farm register as the basis for policy-making. It will also help with the development of an agricultural information system, analysis of the census and the FSS results, assist in designing the sample metadata for sustainable surveys.

Activities are assumed to follow through such stages as:

- Organisational issues in relation to the preparation of the Farm structure survey;
- Preparation of methodological documentation and FSS questionnaire;
- Printing of questionnaires;
- Defining and obtaining hardware and software;
- Training of staff and enumerators;
- Consultations by International experts;
- Study visits and participation in meetings of the Eurostat working group on FSS;
- Finalisation of FSS-related activities;
- Creation of the base for a permanent sustainable survey system;
- Data entry, statistical control/checking and processing;
- Estimation of data, tabulation programme;
- Data analysis, publication of findings, update of the database of agro indicators;
- Creation of the statistical profile register of agricultural enterprises on the basis of the Census data, its' maintenance;
- Development of methods on utilisation of administrative data sources;
- Development of the data transfer to Eurostat model, procedures and logics.

3.4.2.5. Information society statistics

Based on the Twinning Light findings and recommendations the follow-up of the system of principles, methodologies and measurement methods of IS indicators and those of e-commerce in particular will be carried out.

More specific activities are supposed to cover such stages:

- Analysis of experience of other countries in the area of Information Society (IS) and assessment of user needs and priorities;
- Preparation of definitions, methods and identification of data collection sources for indicators in order to ensure comparability;
- Assessment of data availability, valorisation of existing statistical data;
- Harmonisation, comparability and quality problems related to data sets available through different sources;
- Participation in activities of Eurostat, OECD and international organisations related to a statistical understanding of IS;
- Execution of relevant surveys (and pilot surveys prior to them);
- Development and constant updating of the database of IS statistical indicators, supplementing it with new indicators;
- Provision of statistical data about the IS to Lithuanian public administration institutions, public at large and international organisations.

More specific activities concerning the e-commerce component are assumed to follow through such stages as:

- Testing of the methodology in SL;
- Establishment of the system of e-commerce and other IS related indicators.

3.4.2.6. Quality Review and Reporting for Statistics

Based on the Twinning Light findings and recommendations the follow-up of activities are assumed to follow through such stages as:

- Improvement of the accuracy of sample surveys:
 - Development of methodologies for variance estimation of sample surveys;
 - Training of staff of central and regional statistical offices;
- Development of software for automatic data checking and control:
 - Development of software, introducing automatic data checking and control.
- Maintaining and development of the database of international classifications:
 - Development of the input-output programmes for the database of the international classifications;
 - Analysis of models for main statistical indicators of foreign countries. Creation of models for main indicators of Lithuania. Presentation of main indicators of Lithuania to users;
 - Creation of the base design. Creation of software for the base. Filling the base with statistical data;
 - Creation of new software for the base of statistical indicators of Lithuania. Grouping of indicators according to classifications;
 - Results in tables and graphics with comments. Analysis of causes and effects of sudden changes on main macroeconomic indicators.

The priority work of Eurostat is to establish standard methods for assessing the quality of statistics. Since the Commission Regulations request the estimation of coefficients of variation, the methodological problems occur in order to obtain estimates of good quality. The new programme may be the first step for the implementation of the standard quality report.

3.4.2.7. Information systems

Activities are assumed to follow through such stages as:

- Development of information exchange systems:

- Definition of the concept for implementation of modern data collection and transmission tools (relations between different data transmission procedures, management of data flows, authorisation, confidentiality assurance, etc);
- Implementation and development of electronic questionnaires (electronic questionnaire's architecture, IT tools, links between existing internal databases, ROI, etc.);
- Development of the Internet capacity for collection and dissemination of data;
- Staff training.
- Integration of the national Statistical Information system with ESS.
- Preparation of technical specifications and Tender dossier documents for Supply component.

Intangible supplies and services, primarily for the purposes of the development of computer/information systems, software supporting the collection and processing of statistics, provision of documentation, translation costs, fellowships etc.

3.4.2.8. Profile of experts

Experts both for the TA and Twinning parts of the project must be fluent in English (Lithuanian/Russian is an advantage) and capable of providing on-the-job training as well as personal advice at a high level in the institutions involved. The emphasis will be on the transference of skills and knowledge so that the results of the project are sustainable in national and regional offices. STAs must be professionals in relevant areas, capable to advise the SL staff and perform practical tasks as specified by the Project. They should have a university or equal standing degree and over 10 years of relevant experience within a Member States' Statistics Office. Knowledge of EU standards in the area, knowledge of statistical production in CECs and relevant advisory experience would be an advantage. More precisely, the Contractor ensures that its experts maintain appropriate professional qualification and competence in the relevant sub-projects:

- knowledge in statistics pertaining to the relevant field;
- familiarisation with pre-accession requirements;
- relevant work experience in third countries;
- experience in managing statistical projects;
- Communication skills;
- PC skills.

3.4.3. Scope of Investment component/supplies

Aiming at efficient execution of the activities and envisaging the objectives of all the above-described projects to be met, certain systems of equipment for central and regional offices have to be obtained. More precisely: a) IT system for regional offices (handheld PCs (CATI), OS to them, server for them), b) IT system for central office for internet based data collection ensuring data confidentiality and protection (hardware and software, servers, firewall systems, PCs, software for the preparation of e-questionnaires), c) IT system for the execution of other project components (hardware and software, PCs, PC servers, printers, specialised statistical software packages, additional storage for the system of servers).

Acquisition of the above three systems is planned in two lots:

Lot 1 - Servers and SW (for 280,000 EUR)

Lot 2 – Handheld PCs, printers and SW (for 420,000 EUR).

A more detailed description is given in Annex 4.

3.5. Lessons learned

In the past, Lithuanian statistics benefited every second year from the Phare support, so there is an extensive experience in dealing with projects, different contractors and counterparts, ensuring adequate absorption capacity is SL. Generalising two groups of observations should be made:

- Responsibilities among the counterparts, within the Steering Committee members and other participating institutions have to be clearly defined during the Inception phase to avoid misunderstandings and lack of backstopping during the course of the project.

- Statistics is a rather specific area, the Twinning initiative is seldom volunteered by Member States. The decision to have a combination of two Twinning Light arrangements and TA arrangement rather than traditional Twinning rests upon the fact Phare 2000 Twinning project failed as there was a lack of interest from the Member States. The combination of smaller Twinning Light components (prior investigated in Member States if they consider their participation) and TA assistance is expected to release positive results.

4. Institutional Framework

The Project will be co-ordinated by the SL, the Central Statistical Office under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, which is responsible for managing Statistics in the Republic of Lithuania. The Central Statistical Office is located in Vilnius with 296 employees working in it as well as with 309 employees working in 10 statistical offices of the counties and 38 statistical offices in districts.

The Seimas passed the new Statistics Law on 23 December 1999 (No. VIII-1511), which came into force on 31 December 1999, incorporating the European principles for organising State statistics. The new Statute of SL, new composition of the Statistical Council (advisory body comprising representatives from line ministries, mass media, research institutions, etc.) and Collegium were approved on 12 March 2001 by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. The Law ensured confidentiality of personal data, while the Statute clarified law provisions more in detail.

In order to provide sustainable service to the EC bodies and the national government, the SL needs to strengthen parts of its institutional capacity, keep up with technological development, develop and maintain well-trained staff and co-ordinate activities of other line ministries and institutions involved in the national statistical system (e.g. the Bank of Lithuania compiles information about monetary statistics and the Balance of Payments, the Ministry of Health compiles health statistics, etc.). Already now highly qualified specialists are paid salaries adequate of their rank in the public sector, others are motivated by training opportunities, which leads to very low job turnover in the office. Besides the new components requesting improvement, the envisaged attention is placed on quality and reliability of already existing statistics.

The Steering Committee with the task to supervise the overall project achievements and notably the achievement of compliance with EU standards will be set up. The SC will usually meet once per quarter, but at least twice per year. It will consist of PO, project leaders and other national bodies of users and compilers of statistics (Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Foreign Affairs and business or agricultural community). Representatives of Eurostat, unit A5, EC Delegation, CFCU and successful tenderers would be also invited for participation.

If required, the Steering Committee will be supported by specific Working Groups which may prepare and discuss reports. No specific budget allocation will be foreseen for the operation of the Steering Committee.

5. Budget (in EUR)

	Phare Support			National Co-financing	IFI	TOTAL
	Investment Support	Institution Building	Total Phare (=I+IB)			
Twinning Light (two contracts)		0.30	0.30			0.30
TA		1.20	1.20			1.20
Supplies (2 lots)	0.50		0.50	0.20		0.70
Total	0.50	1.50	2.00	0.20		2.20

The Phare amount is binding as a maximum amount available for the project. The ration between the Phare and national co-finance amounts is also binding and has to be applied to the final contract price.

The national co-financing commitment is a tax-excluded net amount.

6. Implementation Arrangements

6.1. Implementing Agency

The CFCU is responsible for contracting and accounts of the project. Responsibility for technical preparation, control and management will remain with the beneficiary, The Lithuanian Department of Statistics (Statistics Lithuania).

PAO: **Zilvinas Pajarskas**, Director of the CFCU
Address: J. Tumo Vaizganto 8A/2 Telephone: + 370 2 22 66 21
2600 Vilnius Fax: + 370 2 22 53 35
Lithuania E-mail: Info@cfcu.lt

6.2. Twinning Light

The beneficiary institution is the Lithuanian Department of Statistics (Statistics Lithuania), Gedimino 29, 2746 Vilnius, Lithuania. Contact: Ms A Miskiniene, PO. Tel: +370 2 364 826, Fax: +370 2 364 899, E-mail: ami@mail.std.lt.

6.3. Non-standard aspects

There are no non-standard aspects to this project and the CFCU will ensure that the PRAG as well as the Twinning Manual will be strictly followed.

6.4. Contracts

There will be four contracts in this project with the following values:

Value of two Twinning Light Contracts : 0.3 MEUR (0.15 MEUR each)

Value of Service contract: 1,2 MEUR

Value of Supplies contract (in two lots): 0,7 MEUR, of which 0.2 MEUR is national co-financing

7. Implementation Schedule

Component	Start of tendering	Start of project activity	Project completion
Twinning light	3Q 2002	4Q 2002	1Q 2003
TA	4Q 2002	2Q 2003	1Q 2005
Supplies	3Q 2003	1Q 2004	3Q 2004

8. Equal Opportunity

Equal opportunity principles and practices in ensuring equal gender participation in the Project activities and results will be guaranteed. As of 1 January 2001, Central statistical office counted 83.4 per cent of women out of the total number of employees, whereas women in statistical offices of counties, cities and districts accounted for 94.5 per cent. Vacancies are equally open to both genders; two women are deputies of the Director general out of four persons in the top management.

9. Environment

The investment component of this Project all relate to Institution Building activities.

10. Rates of Return

The investment component of this Project relates to Institution Building activities.

11. Investment Criteria

The investment component of this Project relates to Institution Building activities.

12. Conditionality and Sequencing

The Project is conditional on co-financing being available for the investment component of the project.

The project will be executed according to the Implementation Schedule (Annexe 2).

Annexes to Project Fiche

1. Logframe Matrix
2. Detailed Implementation Chart
3. Cumulative Contracting and Disbursement Schedule for the Project
4. Reference to Feasibility/Pre-Feasibility Studies
5. List of Relevant Laws and Regulations
6. Relations with the Previous Phare activities and projects from other sources
7. Eurostat's mission report (June 2001, Vilnius)

LOGFRAME PLANNING MATRIX FOR		Programme name and number: LI 2002-X-XX	Disbursement period expires 3Q/2005
Project: Programme of modernisation of national statistics		Contracting period expires 3Q/2004	Phare budget: 2.0 MEUR
Overall objective	- Meeting EU statistical acquis requirements in national statistics.	Sources of Verification - Statistical data collected and published by Statistics Lithuania and line ministries - Questionnaires, Official Statistics work programme, management decrees in the official journal "Valstybes ziniuos" - EC Regular Report - System of registers - Output databases	
Project purpose	- Ensure availability of harmonised quality statistics meeting user-needs in terms of concepts, contents and form (covering consumption of fixed capital in national accounts, first preparation for Intrastat, Information society statistics, Introduction of Structure of Earnings Survey (SES), Post-processing and analysis of agro-census and support to FSS, quality review and reporting for statistics as well as institutional strengthening) - Strengthen the capacity of the statistical system of Lithuania, including at the regional level, in modern data collection and dissemination methods, further integrating it into the European Statistical System (ESS).	Sources of Verification - Statistical reports and surveys - Statistics available in Lithuania and Eurostat - Register of importers and exporters - Publications - Questionnaires - Interviews	Assumptions - Government commitment to EU integration - Availability of funds for additional staff, hardware and software - Success of Agro-census - Availability of relevant by-laws for e-signature legislature, other statistics area related government decrees
Results	TwL: - Quality of statistical data review model established, ways of statistical reporting modernised - Time-series of main indicators seasonally adjusted - Information society statistics scope and sources defined - Some IS statistics collected through existing surveys TA: - Exhaustiveness of National Accounts improved and compliance with ESA 95 achieved - Intrastat data collection system started - SES conducted - Agro-census results processed, analysed and published, FSS related activities finalised - Other IS statistics collected - Increased quality of statistical indicators achieved and reporting system operational - Administrative capacity strengthened, staff trained in IT, administration, management and statistics-related issues - New exchange of information in place and operational, data confidentiality and security insured	Sources of Verification - Publications - Questionnaires and methodology prepared - Project reports - National statistics reports - Databases	Assumptions - Adequate staffing, hardware and software available - Inter-institutional cooperation - Timely aid

<p>- Statistical system compliant and integrated with ESS</p> <p>Supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equipment purchased, installed and staff trained to use it - 3 new IT systems operational 	<p>- Survey costs reduced by 10-20 %</p>		
<p>Activities</p> <p>TwL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of quality of sampling surveys, methods of data collection, coherence and timeliness of statistical information - Development of methods to deal with non-response - Identification of IS statistical scope and definitions - Analysis of possibilities to incorporate the issue into existing surveys <p>TA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation and execution of pilot Perpetual Inventory Method for consumption of fixed capital in NA - Preparation for Intrastat register - Preparation and execution of the SES - Analysis of agro-census results, finalisation of FSS survey-related activities, publication of findings, updating of the agro indicators database and improvement of Farmer's Farm register, development of the data transfer to Eurostat model, procedures and logics - Follow-up of IS related activities, further incorporating them into existing surveys - Follow-up of quality review and reporting activities - Training of staff in central and regional offices and enumerators, fellowships and study visits - Creation of models for analysis and presentation of indicators to users - Development of information exchange systems - Integration of national Statistical Information system with ESS - Preparation of technical specifications for Supply component <p>Supplies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acquisition of hardware and software to form 3 separate systems for the execution of the project. - Developing and testing specific computer systems. 	<p>Means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two Twinning Light arrangements - One Service TA contract - One Supplies contract 	<p>Sources of Verification</p>	<p>Assumptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Twinning model successful and contracts timely concluded - Inter-institutional cooperation - Adequate staffing of SL
			<p>Preconditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-financing

FER

RK

CUMULATIVE CONTRACTING AND DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE (Phare Contribution only - € Million)

	Date												
	2002			2003			2004			2005			
	30/06	30/09	31/12	31/03	30/06	30/09	31/12	31/03	30/06	30/09	31/12	31/03	30/06
Contracting													
• Twinning Light			0.3										
• TA					1.2								
• Equipment Supply								0.5					
Total contracting (cumulative)			0.3	0.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0					
Disbursement													
• Twinning Light			0.24	0.24	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
• TA					0.36	0.463	0.566	0.669	0.772	0.875	0.978	1.08	1.2
• Equipment Supply								0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total disbursement (cumulative)			0.24	0.24	0.66	0.763	0.866	1.269	1.372	1.475	1.778	1.88	2.0

RER

Rk

162

162

Reference to Feasibility/Pre-Feasibility Studies

On 6-8 June 2001 the regular annual Eurostat mission was organised to Statistics Lithuania envisaging assessment of the situation and identification of the remaining gaps. Based on the Mission report (summary and full report is given in Annex 7) prepared by Unit A5 and Programme Secretariat, needs for the Phare support 2002 were drafted and elaborated in discussions with Eurostat officials. This concerns both investment component, Twinning light exercise as well as technical assistance.

In recognising the SL need to receive special support for enormous efforts of developing regional databases, also within the new financial instruments or future Phare allocations and further strategic orientation in IT to explore and implement possibilities of electronic data collection, transmission and dissemination were discussed to integrate electronic data collection and dissemination, rationalise the data processing through the development of new interfaces and through scanning an investment component was developed with the tentative breakdown presented below:

Acquisition of hardware and software for internet based data collection;

SW for Simultaneously ensuring confidentiality and data protection through out all electronic data collection stages

- Internet server + SW
- Firewall hardware and software
- SW for preparation of electronic questionnaires
- 50 PCs

Acquisition of hardware and software for interviewers (handheld PC);

- 100 handheld PC + OS;
- 5 SW licences (design of programmes for handled PCs)

- 10 PC servers for counties +SW (rewriting of information from handled PCs for further processing)

Acquisition of computer hardware and software to meet of needs of subprojects € 265,000.

- 100 PC
- 5 PC servers
- 10 Workgroups printers
- Specialized SW packages (specialized software packages for the execution of statistical tasks)
- Additional storage.

Lot 1 - Servers and SW

No	Equipment	Qty	Total price (Eur)
1	Internet server + SW	1	50,000
2	PC servers + SW	15	90,000
3	Additional storage	1	40,000
4	Hardware and software for ensuring confidentiality and data protection	1	100,000
	Total		280,000

Lot 2 - PC, printers and SW

No	Equipment	Qty	Total price (Eur)
1	PC +SW	100	225,000
2	Handheld PC	100	100,000
3	Workgroups printers	10	20,000
4	SW for preparation of electronic questionnaires	1	30,000
5	SW for preparation of applications for Handheld PC	5	20,000
6	Specialised statistical SW packages		25,000
	Total		420,000

List of Relevant Laws and Regulations

The new Law on Statistics has been harmonised with EC requirements and was passed by the Parliament in December 1999.

Responsibilities of handling certain activities are laid out in the following legislation:

1. The Law on amendment to the Law on Statistics passed in December 1999 (No. VIII-1511), enacted on 31 December 1999.
2. The Law on the Register of Enterprises (31/07/90, No. I-440).
3. The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on transfer of the Register of Enterprises to the Lithuanian Department of Statistics (19/12/94, No. 1274).
4. The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania about the Outline of the Regional policy in Lithuania (21/07/98, No 902).
5. The Law on the Farmers' farms passed on 4 May 1999, No VIII-1159.
6. The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania about the Farm Register (08/08/94, No. 701).
7. Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Regulations for the Farm register (23/01/1995, No. 98).
8. The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Total Agricultural Census (15/12/1998, No. 1435).

The legal basis for **National Accounts** in the EC:

1. The Council Regulation No 2223/96 on the System of National and Regional Accounts.

The legal basis in **Lithuania**:

1. The Resolution No 569 of 16 May 2001 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on Implementation of the European System of national and regional accounts in Lithuania.

The Legal basis for **Intrastat** in the EC is:

1. The Council Regulation 3330/91 of 7 November 1991 on the Statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States.
amended by: the Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3046/92 of October 1992 laying down provisions implementing and amending the Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States.
Regulation (EC) No 1182/99.
Regulation (EC) No 1624/2000.
2. The Commission Regulation (EC) No 1901 2000 of 7 September 2000 laying down certain provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 on the statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States.
3. The Commission Regulation (EEC) No 3590/92 of 11 December 1992 concerning the statistical information media for statistics on trade between Member States.
4. Explanatory notes to the Intrastat forms referred to in Article 2 of the Commission Regulation No 3590/92.
5. Data requested by Member States on the basis of Articles 21 and 23 of the Council Regulation (EEC) No 3330/91 (1) from the parties responsible for providing statistical information for the purpose of compiling statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States.
6. The Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2658/87 of 23 July 1987 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

Amending doc.: Council Regulation (EEC) No 3528/89 of 23 November 1989 amending the Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs code - Article 252

The Council Regulation (EEC) No 1969/93 of 19 July 1993 amending the Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council Regulation (EEC) No 254/2000 of 31 January 2000 amending the Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

The Commission Regulation (EC) No 2388/2000 of 13 October 2000 amending Annex 1 to the Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

7. The Commission Regulation (EC) No 2032/2000 of 27 September 2000 on the nomenclature for countries and territories for the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between Member States.

The legal bases in **Lithuania**:

1. Foreign trade methodology approved by the Decree No. 56 of the Director general of Statistics Lithuania, on 21 October 1996.

The legal basis for **Information society statistics** in EC are the:

1. eEurope Action Plan, the European Council, Dec. 1999.
2. Community's Fifth Framework Programme on R&D.
3. Draft explanatory notes for NACE rev. 1 Version 2002.

And in **Lithuania** the legal basis is:

1. The concept of e-commerce. Draft/June 2001.
2. The Programme of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, 2001-2004.
3. The Order No 27 on Establishing the Coordinating Group for Implementation of the Council Decision No 297/99/EC and the Commission Decision No 841/99/EC adopted on 6 March 2001 by Statistics Lithuania.

The legal basis for **Structure of Earnings Survey** in EC is:

1. The Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 of March 1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs.
2. The Commission Regulation (EC) No 1916/2000 of 8 September 2000 on implementing the Council Regulation (EC) No 530/1999 concerning structural statistics on earnings and on labour costs as regards the definition and transmission of information on structure of earnings.

The legal basis in **Lithuania** is:

1. Draft Order of Statistics Lithuania on the Survey of the Structure and Distribution of Earnings (Date of actual / proposed Adoption - 31 12 2002).
2. The Work Programme of Statistics Lithuania.

The legal basis for **Post-processing and analysis of agro-census and support to FSS** in the EC includes:

1. The Council Regulation 571/88 (EEC) of 29 February 1988, last amended by the Council Regulation (EC) 2467/96 stipulates that a series of surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings (Farm structure surveys, FSS) are to be carried out in the Member States. This regulation describes

the reference periods, level of aggregation, survey thresholds, definition of agricultural holdings, etc.

2. There are a number of Commission Decisions on other methodological aspects like the list of characteristics to be collected (Commission Decision 98/377/EC), the definitions of these characteristics (Commission Decision 89/651/EEC), the deadlines for delivering the data, etc.

3. The methodology for the typology is defined by the Commission Decision 85/377/EEC of June 1985 and by the amendments to the Commission Decision 94/376/EC of 30 May 1994 and Commission Decision 96/393/EC of 13 June 1996.

And its legal basis in **Lithuania** is:

1. The Law on the Farmers' farms passed on 4 May 1999, No VIII-1159

2. The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania about the Farm Register (08/08/94, No. 701).

3. The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Regulations for the Farm register (23/01/1995, No. 98).

4. The Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the Total Agricultural Census in 2001 (14/12/1998, No. 1435).

5. The Order of the Minister of Agriculture No 407 of 05 November 1999 on Procedures for registering Farmers' Farms.

6. Order No. 41 of Director General dated 30.03.2001 on the confirmation of the questionnaire of the Total Census of Agriculture and rules for filling it in.

7. The Order No 28 on Formation of Commission for Total Agricultural Census adopted on 9 March 2001 by Statistics Lithuania.

The legal basis in **EC** for **Quality review and reporting for statistics** covers:

1. The Council Regulation 58/97 and the Council Regulation 410/98, which cover all economic sectors and contain comprehensive data sets on certain economic activities such as industry, construction, trade, insurance, etc.

2. Model Quality Report in Business Statistics, Eurostat (Methodical manual).

3. The Commission Regulation (EC) No 1618/1999 of 23 July concerning the criteria for the evaluation of quality of business statistics.

Further, the **Law Approximation Action Plan** foresees the following secondary legislation as necessary:

1. The Draft Order of Statistics Lithuania on Introduction of Intrastat System (31/03/2003).

2. Preparation of Government decision on the implementation of the Intrastat system in Lithuania.

3. The Draft Order of Statistics Lithuania on the Survey of the Structure and Distribution of Earnings (31/12/2002).

4. The Government Resolution No. 1435 on Total Agricultural Census adopted on 15 December 1998.

5. The Order of SL on the Farm structure survey to be passed 1Q/2003.

Summary of previous Phare activities and projects financed from other sources

Year	Total budget	Project title / number Duration of the Programme	Description of projects/sub-projects
1992	300,000 ECU	Support to SL LI9201.03, 13.08.92-31.12.95	Computer equipment and software (Phare). Prerequisite for starting computerisation of the office. (300,000 ECU)
1993	500,000 ECU	Support to SL LI9302.09.02 15.11.93-31.12.95	Computer system upgrade (Phare). Local Area Network in the Central office (500,000 ECU).
1994	1,000,000 ECU	Support to SL LI9409 12.12.94-31.12.96	Computer system upgrade (Phare); PCs, printers, modems, publishing and other software for central and regional offices. (700,000 ECU)
			Basic office equipment (Phare). 40 photocopiers, 27 fax machines, printers, modems, telephones, fire safes, etc. for central and regional offices. (130,000 ECU)
			Phare TA & training LAN implemented in 4 counties. (170,000 ECU)
1995	800,000 ECU	European Integration / LI950405.04 23.08.95-31.12.97	Preparation and implementation of the European Classifications (Phare). 22 international classifications translated, 4 national versions prepared. Classifications used by all institutions and businessmen in Lithuania.
1996	2,250,000 ECU	Support to SL LI9613.01 20.06.96-31.12.98	Computer system upgrade (Phare). LAN implemented in 6 counties. World Area Network implemented. Provision of a 20 GB disk array and additional RAM, servers for county and central offices, scanners, etc. Guidelines for confidentiality procedures for the pilot population census. (1,500,000 ECU)
1997			Office equipment, SL building security system (Phare). Security system for servers' premises, air conditioning in central and regional offices purchased and installed (300,000 ECU)
1997-1999			Phare TA & Training. Started system of statistical indicators (SIS), now containing over 5800 indicators (over 800 submitted by other institutions). It is being updated and developed into the metadata information system. (450,000 ECU)
1997-1998	50,000 ECU	Danish government	Improvement of business statistics. Activities covered business statistics & background for statistical business register development. There are plans to continue this assistance. (50,000 ECU)
1998	1,173,000 SEK	Cooperation between Statistics Sweden and the Baltic States (SIDA) 1999-2000	Activities covered business-transport, national accounts, elderly people, population census, environment, gender statistics, economic accounts in agriculture, population register, real estate and housing, labour costs, HCPI, electronic dissemination. Travels costs covered by SL. Training, per diems & accommodation covered by Statistics Sweden. Actions in the Baltic States are covered by SL budget.
1998	1,600,000 EUR	Tender for support to SL: LI9803.04.01.02	Computer system upgrading, office & publishing equipment (Phare).
1998	400,000 EUR	Tender for TA&T to the SL LI9803.04.01.01	Phare TA & training for strengthening key government services. The project expires 15 Oct. 2001. It covered 6 areas: Population census, Regional GDP, infrastructure of business statistics, Input-output tables, Earnings structure and development of compliance monitoring instruments.
2000	1,900,000 SEK	Cooperation between Statistics Sweden and the Baltic States (SIDA) 2001-2002	Population census, gender, earnings, price, agriculture and environment, science and development, finance and business, energy statistics, dissemination and national accounts.

JGR

Rka

2000	2,100,000 EUR	Tender for TA&T to the SL LI0003-04-01-0001	Started 15 August 2001, operational for 24 months. It will cover such areas: Social statistics, Business structural statistics and implementation of Prodcum and CPA classifications, preparation, promotion and execution of Agricultural census, Price statistics, development of output databases, data archiving system, internal communication and administration, conception of GIS and compliance monitoring.
	500,000 EUR	Tender dossier submitted to CFCU	Expected two lots: servers equipment and software and client equipment and software.

RG

Rh

Eurostat's mission report (June 2001, Vilnius)

Summary of the Eurostat's mission report

In setting the background for this project the Mission Report states that:

1. For future programmes the priorities of the Accession Partnership, NPAA and the Regular Report will be followed.
2. Some deficiencies were recognised mainly in Business statistics and agricultural statistics.
3. The importance of statistics in agriculture leads to its role for the enlargement process in general. The accession negotiations and the implementation of EU-policies depend largely on agricultural statistics, the assistance to which is hoped from Phare in the next years.
4. Close cooperation between institutions is among the challenges.
5. Recognise SL need to receive special support for enormous efforts of developing regional databases, also within the new financial instruments or future Phare allocations.
6. The quality issue was seen as a major challenge to cover different areas of statistics.
7. The importance and complexity of statistics, also in the accession process, and the growing pressure towards high quality data is stressed.
8. Much room for improvement is seen concerning the statistics as input for national accounts, capital stock and consumption of fixed capital in the private sector being among them.
9. Very specialised subjects like adaptation to Intrastat, Information society statistics would require some funding.
10. Problems are encountered with the Structure of Earnings Survey, which is complex and costly.
11. Further strategic orientation in IT to explore and implement possibilities of electronic data collection, transmission and dissemination were discussed to integrate electronic data collection and dissemination, rationalise the data processing through the development of new interfaces and through scanning.
12. It looks very advisable to configure a national programme of the year 2002 in line with the findings above and much oriented to statistical operations.

Detailed Mission Report

EUROSTAT / PS mission to Lithuania, SL

Vilnius, 06- 08 June 2001

Participants:

N. Wurm, B. Wild (Eurostat-A5), J. Szczerbinska (Programme Secretariat)

Work during the mission started on 6.6.2001 afternoon and finished on 8.6.2001 afternoon.

1. Introduction

Discussions took place in a very friendly atmosphere and the delegation was warmly welcomed. Organisation of the visit programme was excellent and very rich allowing for a large number of meetings for the comparatively short time, including the Ministry of Agriculture and the Advisor of the Prime Minister.

In general the mission felt that there was a very large progress over the last year, in a number of areas. Furthermore SL has achieved a very great capacity in dealing with administrative and budget matters, which puts it in an exceptional situation with respect to some other parts of the administration.

In order to rationalise discussions some general explanations were given in presence of all project leaders concerning Phare news and the enlargement process.

2. Meeting with EC delegation

M. Thiel, Mrs. Seaman

The situation of Statistics Lithuania was reviewed. The overall situation of Statistics Lithuania is very satisfying. Furthermore Eurostat gives an overview about the Phare Multi-Country statistical co-operation,




the various Pilot Projects in Statistics and the Phare 2000 National Program, for which the contractor is currently chosen.

The delegation highlighted that the performance of the Lithuanian Statistics concerning the implementation of the National Phare Programs is comparatively high compared with other sectors. Statistics is the only Phare sector where National Phare programs of 2000 have reached the contracting phase. Generally the delegation is in favour of further program proposals of National Phare in Statistics for 2002. However, it reminds Eurostat to support only a program proposal of a reasonable size and recommends using the instrument of Twinning. Since Statistics Lithuania is relatively advanced, and does thus not require a lengthy stay of an adviser it was convened to opt rather for the "Twinning Light Model" (reduced length of stay). Eurostat will pass the recommendations to Statistics Lithuania and will later disseminate the program proposal for the 2002 National Phare Program to all parties concerned.

Moreover, the delegation provides valuable general information about the institutional structure changes (National Phare Co-ordinator is moved from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Ministry of Finance without any additional staff) as well as on the general political situation. The current government continues to support the further integration of Lithuania to the European Union as a priority.

Mr. Thiel, the Phare co-ordinator will soon leave the office to go the delegation in the Slovak Republic. His successor will be Garces de los Fayos Tournan.

3. Briefing meeting with MM. Adlys, Markelevicius, Mrs Lapeniene, Ambrosaitiene, President and Vice-presidents of SL

Mr. Adlys welcomed the delegation at the begin of the visit. The occasion was taken to run through the main items currently at stake. Main points discussed covered:

- General situation of SL: building renovation, level of staffing still constant, no budget reduction of 10 % was implemented. Staff development is a main concern; much effort has been deployed to training programmes. Good stability in many key positions has been achieved.
- The concern SL had expressed about confidentiality principles preventing the publication of several sectors with oligopolistic or monopolistic structure (sometimes up to 60 %) in Lithuania as rather small country has found a compromise solution. Legal units can be published with some indicators like economic activity, industrial products, investment etc, but only after a special consultation procedure.
- Information service at the entrance: was already renovated and found well performing at a test question.
- Statistics Lithuania continues to be attached to the office of the Prime Minister. The plans to allocate the office to the Ministry of Interior have not been realised. It seems that the office is not affected by the general institutional reform.
- Eurostat expressed its wish to search for ways to intensify and to promote the co-operation between the Ministry of Agriculture and Statistics Lithuania. See for details below (meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture)
- Situation of national Phare programmes 1998 and 2000, for detail see below. Eurostat congratulated the coherent strategic approach, the good and timely papers produced and the fruitful co-operation with Eurostat and the Commission in general in the process to implement Phare 2000. A special point was the integration of the long term adviser in SL which should be actively prepared and supervised.
- Preparation of the Phare programme 2002: the agreement of SL for application is clear, possible components were discussed. The quality issue was seen as a major challenge for statistics of all candidate countries and Lithuania is ready to co-assume a pilot role.
- Discussion of the programme of the visit and its rationale, importance of links with other administrations was stressed. SL has helped to organise a meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The situation of the various Phare horizontal programmes for statistics was explained as well as the general positive financial situation. The new three year horizon was explained and also emphasis was put to the innovative elements in the implementation (subvention mechanisms). The latest developments in the concerning the Phare-Stat 99 budget were presented. Both the Pilot Projects and the Multi-country statistical co-operation are now under contract. The new contractor for the Pilot Projects is a consortium

of CESD/ARTEMIS/ICON with CESD in the lead. The Multi-country statistical co-operation in Phare will be taken over by the Dutch Consortium DHV. The sub-contracts with the statistical offices are being prepared and under way. The time for the implementation of actions is rather short since the contract duration is limited to the 31/8/2002.

- The general Phare trainee policy was discussed comprising: younger people recruited, duration and conditions of stays.
- The population census situation was reviewed. Statistics Lithuania informs that the data-collection on the population census is finalised. The data is now processed in the headquarters. See more detail below.
- The Program Secretariat explained that Statistics Lithuania will be examined in a Global Assessment, an exercise in which all Statistical Offices of the Candidate Countries take part in. It will be performed by a team of 2 senior experts and is scheduled for autumn 2001. The exact dates are still to be fixed and depend on the availability of the experts. The experts will visit the office twice and provide an intermediate report and an extensive final report on their findings. It will be communicated to the management of Statistics Lithuania for comments. The overall objective of the Global Assessment is not to repeat the sectoral assessments, but to focus on the administrative capacity of the office. The Program Secretariat will at a later stage produce a publication on the result of all assessments of the Candidate Countries.

The delegation thanked for the warm welcome and hospitality experienced. Open and useful discussions were possible with SL staff as well as with other bodies due to the excellent organisation of the visits. In general also a substantial progress was noted in presentation and linguistic skills of the personnel of SL.

4. Discussion with all project leaders

In an initial session presentations and explanations were given to the assembly of project leaders. These covered:

- Enlargement issues including the Lithuanian situation after Nice.
- Overview about the Contractual situation in Phare including Multi-Country Statistical Co-operation, Pilot Projects and National Phare Programs
- Explanations from the Programme Secretariat about its role and ongoing operations. Special attention was given to the Compliance Database, where the participants were informed about the state of play. The Compliance Database is now installed in all Candidate Countries. It was widely accepted and welcomed as an Acquis information tool. It was for the first time used for the Acquis compliance measuring. The self-assessments of the Candidate Countries were produced with the database. Moreover the database will also serve as the basis for a publication on the Statistical Acquis (Statistical Requirements Compendium). In order to exchange their experiences with the tool Eurostat will call in meeting on the Compliance Database in Luxemburg in early autumn.
- The Program Secretariat outlined also the planned Global Assessment of Statistics Lithuania (see above)

It was felt that the explanations were deemed useful.

5. Meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture

Mr. A Belzus (Vice-Minister), Mr. Lapinas, Mr. Medingis, Ms. J. Kavaliauskaite (Ministry of Agriculture), Mr. Adlys, Mrs. Norkeviciene, Mrs. Vaitekuniene, Ms. Paugaite (Statistics Lithuania)

Mr. Adlys welcomed the participants of the meeting, thanking the Ministry for the sending a delegation headed by the vice-minister.

Eurostat stressed the importance of statistics in agriculture and highlighted its supporting role for the enlargement process in general. The accession negotiations and the implementation of EU-policies depend largely on agricultural statistics.

Over the past years Phare-Funding has through National Programs and Multi-Beneficiary programs widely contributed to the sustainable development of agricultural statistics. The various Pilot Projects as for example the ones Agromonetary Statistics and Fishery Statistics were quoted as an example as an example.

Eurostat highlighted that the close co-operation of the Lithuanian Institute of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture is crucial for the production of statistics. Over the last past years the presentation of this co-operation was not always very satisfying. Since it is equally important to have a good co-operation and to promote the good co-operation to the outside, Eurostat invited both the Ministry of Agriculture as the LS to search for ways to improve the standing of the co-operation. As a symbol Eurostat advises to send always one representative of a Ministry and one representative from the LS to meetings and working parties. Further enhanced co-operation might lead to a memorandum of understanding or a code of good practice.

The ministry informs that due to a recent change in government the management was changed. The new team is redefining the priorities as has identified them with the establishment of a Market Information System and the Farm Data Network (FADN). Specialists were hired to work on these topics. Currently the ministry is observing the existing models established in other countries in order to learn from the experience of other countries and in order to identify the models that are best suited for Lithuania. A further priority is the agricultural census in 2002. Furthermore the ministry informs about the introduction of direct subsidies in agriculture and accounting for farmers. The delivery of accounting data is the prerequisite for obtaining the subsidies.

As far as the co-operation with Statistics Lithuania is concerned the Ministry of Agriculture points out that closer co-operation is envisaged and the current structures are under review.

Statistics Lithuania stresses that the working relation between Statistics Lithuania and the Ministry was always good. However, they are also looking for ways to promote and deepen the co-operation and are planning to discuss with the Ministry about the best way to implement it. If this process is going to formalise to an agreement or a memorandum will be decided at a later stage.

As the separation of tasks in the production of statistics is concerned the LS informs that the Farm Register is likely to be handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture. Statistics Lithuania envisages keeping only a statistical database of farms for survey purposes. The Agricultural Chamber collects agricultural Prices.

Statistics Lithuania further underlines that the office has no resources to develop further methodologies in statistics and plans to co-operate with the Agricultural University and the Agromonetary Institute on this issue.

The biggest challenge for the office will be the agricultural census, which is scheduled for spring 2002. A pilot census is scheduled for autumn 2001.

N.B. (reported by SL)

Immediately after the meeting and in order to demonstrate the determination of both institutions to put their co-operation on a sound basis the following documents were issued:

- Order 185/65 of 7.6.2001 by the Minister of Agriculture and Director General of the Statistics Department on the composition of a National Council and its provisions of the Lithuanian Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN);
- Document dated 6.6.2001 (n° 111-06-563) to the Minister of Agriculture signed by the Director General of the Statistics Department on the provisions of the information system for agriculture and food products market.
- Inherent approval by the Government of the statistical work programme 2002.

6. Preparation of Phare national programme of 2002

Mrs. Lapeniene, Miskiniene, Norkeviciene

Several components have been envisaged and discussed with responsible persons of SL. As a result of the mission, Eurostat will, in agreement with SL, transmit specific recommendations to DG Enlargement. These proposals are resumed in a separate document. They comprise the following areas: Consumption of fixed capital in national accounts, first preparation for Intrastat, Information society statistics (e-commerce etc), Introduction of Structure of Earnings Survey (SES), Post-processing and analysis of agro-census and support to FSS (farm structure surveys), Quality review and reporting for statistics, Institutional strengthening (new ways of data collection via e-mail, informatics architecture, CATI etc). The total amount envisaged is 2.000.000 Euro.

7. Phare national programme of 2000

Mrs. Lapeniene, Miskiniene, Norkeviciene and colleagues

During the mission the evaluation of the tender for this large programme was ongoing and almost finished. Start of implementation is hoped in early autumn 2001.

In a number of bilateral discussions with project leaders the different components and their status of preparation was reviewed.

8. Meeting with Advisor of the Prime Minister

Mrs. Stankaitiene, Director general and deputies, Mrs. Norkeviciene

A briefing was provided to the Advisor concerning the situation of statistics in Lithuania and the enormous progress recorded. Were also mentioned the factors providing for success, namely stability in human and financial resources and a favourable administrative environment. Some of these factors can also become fragile and continuous support was demanded from the political level.

The importance and complexity of statistics, also in the accession process, was explained and the growing pressure towards high quality data.

Mrs. Stankaitiene showed large comprehension, was much aware of the importance of statistics, especially in her function as macro-economic advisor, and promised support in the future.

The Director General expressed his satisfaction about the understanding he finds in the Government and hopes that this situation will last.

9. Discussion with International relations Department

Mrs. Norkeviciene and colleagues

At the margin of several other meetings and in a final session some discussion took place with people of the international relations department. Points discussed covered:

- The general financial situation concerning the three budgets 1998-2000 was explained. Conditions are much better than one year ago.
- Eurostat explained the changed situation with more than one, and soon several contractors operating. This would increase the organisational challenge, both for Eurostat and for the statistical offices considerably. Situations cannot be excluded, where for the same event, or for events immediately contiguous in time, finance comes from different sources. This is known from the Phare 1998 budget and the procedure to deal with it was discussed.

A discussion took place concerning the compliance database, which SL is expected to update, supplement and verify.

10. Detailed project discussion

Only a few projects were reviewed due to the rather restricted time. This was very useful in order to get some more detailed insight into the Lithuanian statistical system. In no way can the short descriptions hereafter be taken as assessments, they reflect what Lithuanian statisticians told in rather short time. The purpose of the discussion was neither to assess, but mainly to get a concrete feeling of current Phare programmes and future needs with respect to the national Phare programme.

National accounts

Mrs. Tvarijonaviute, Mr. Markelevicius

Only main developments since last year were reviewed. These comprise:

- Government decree emitted on application of ESA-95 in 2001, SL is co-ordinator and has to establish a development plan together with other concerned institutions.
- There is a clear revision policy defined and annexed to the above decree, which has to be explained to users.



- The large self-assessment exercise done with Eurostat, directorate B, has been felt extremely useful for SL after all, despite of the large burden. It gave clear directions for improvement.
- The quality problem in the business register, especially the registration and institutional sectorisation of non-profit institutions, is still having impact to quality of the production account, but being solved now.
- In April 2001, SL has still done the EDP notification, although this now is responsibility of the Ministry of Finance. A course, to be held in Vilnius, on Government Finance Statistics was requested and can surely be supported by the Phare multi-beneficiary programme at quite short notice.
- The expenditure accounts from 1995 onwards were published in constant prices.
- Improvements have still to be done in regional GDP (mix of both methods applied), full regional accounts may only be envisaged for 2003.
- Financial accounts are available, but not published, co-operation with BoL is very good.
- Progress could be achieved also in I/O tables, due to very useful consultations delivered by the Phare supported expert (N. Rainer).

As the area for improvement requiring most financial support, a survey about capital stock and consumption of fixed capital in the private sector was identified, which will be proposed to be included in a next Phare programme.

Financial statistics

Mrs. Bersenaite, M. Markelevicius

SL still has a major role in the establishment of balance of payments, e.g. the survey on trading enterprises, together with the Bank of Lithuania. BoL now aims to have monthly BOP, but quality improvements are still required. In the monthly survey only a very small sample is included.

Financial services statistics are derived from co-operation with bank and insurance supervisors, although other financial intermediation exist without specific supervisory institution. Financial auxiliaries are included in quarterly and annual surveys.

Price statistics

Mrs. Alejeva, Mr. Markelevicius

Work on CPI is ongoing since 1996 and quite successful. Lithuania fully participated in all co-operation efforts. Good results, but not full compliance yet are registered with the HICP. Some minor problems are reported in insurance services where insufficient weighting factors from HBS may be the origin.

Ongoing problems are the recording of prices for capital goods where Phare support is provided, but still not enough, for construction services (payment to a specialised company). This effort has later to be extended to machinery and equipment.

Lithuania is part of the northern group for PPP, steered by Finland. The concerned Eurostat unit is very well informed about the general situation.

Agricultural statistics including census

Mrs. Vaitiekuniene

Explanations were provided about the status of preparation for the agro-census spring 2002, for which a sub-division has been established. A census commission comprises all concerned parties like Ministry, SL, other administrations, farmers' unions etc.

The pilot census is planned for September 2001, a farmer's notebook is disseminated to farms one year before the census. The draft questionnaire is likely to be adopted, a shorter version is disseminated to farms with less than 1 ha arable land (exceptions are intensive producers with little land). SL is likely to keep a statistical farm register, although the administrative register may be taken over by the Ministry. The discussion with the Ministry of Agriculture was prepared, see above.

Structural business statistics




Mrs. Rutkauskiene

The SBS regroups annual surveys with all common indicators grouped over the sectors. The source of those is mainly the balance sheet and the profit and loss account including changes in tangible assets. Sector specific indicators tend to be in specific surveys. In order to follow up correct classification a breakdown of turnover by secondary activity is requested.

Large companies are directly surveyed, whereas for smaller companies the annual accounts are supplied by tax authorities. These supplies are also used to update the business register, the accounts have sometimes quality problems, especially with intermediate totals and breakdowns.

Quite good progress could be achieved with statistical units, big companies were profiled and a view on LKAU is now possible.

With some restriction also a regional breakdown of SBS is now possible, data are currently used in national accounts. Quality requirement of the SBS regulation would not be a problem. For economic analysis a number of key ratios is calculated. These ratios can also be requested by responding companies.

Industry statistics

Mrs. Kunigeliene

Prodcom statistics

Enterprises with more than 20 employees are surveyed monthly, annually all enterprises are surveyed. The classification is printed and can be accessed through a web-site, together with a help programme. Enterprises with trading activity abroad do not have a problem with Prodcom classification, whereas domestic active companies are not trained with the CN. Transposition keys to appropriate other classifications exist.

Users often would be more interested in direct CN figures. Some former Lithuanian specific product codes are resumed through appropriate sub-divisions of the actual Prodcom edition.

Not much derogation (1 % rule) due to volume will be available according to the Prodcom regulation.

Short term statistics in industry

The observed unit is the enterprise, a sample survey is executed. Problems are observed with the use of supplementary units, only few total figures are directly available in volume. The introduction of the Prodcom survey in 2000 also led to detection of mis-classifications in economic activities. The indicators correspond roughly to the EC regulation, some problems are encountered with new orders and sub-contracting.

Employment statistics

Mrs. Motiekaitiene

The **Labour Force Survey** was done twice a year, quarterly employment statistics come from business surveys. Further monthly information is provided by the Labour Office.

Specific modules provided in the LFS are generally followed, at least partly. LFS results are also used as indicators for hidden economy.

It appears that this sector of statistics is quite stable and mature.

Earnings and labour statistics

Mrs. Zarembaite

Structure of Earnings Survey: some support from Phare 1998 was granted, but not sufficient. A test survey (mini-sample) is planned in July 2001 and a first pilot survey shall take place in 2002. The first real survey will take place in 2003 with reference year 2002. Given the complexity and the cost inherent of the domain it was proposed to include a component in the proposal Phare 2002.

A Labour Cost Survey is under way and does not present any particular problem. No major difficulties are expected to establish a Labour Cost Index in 2001.

Some additional earnings surveys are also the responsibility of the division, quarterly and annual. Results are measured in full time equivalent and are used in national accounts.

Foreign trade statistics

Mrs. Kasperuniene

Very good experiences were reported from consultations provided to Tacis countries, linguistics skills being of great help. External trade statistics in Lithuania are well established, also as a consequence of close co-operation with Eurostat in a sectoral project.

The only subject for discussion therefore was future work concerning adaptation to Intrastat and how a future Phare programme could support this. A general plan would be drawn up by the end of 2001. Already now clear is though that there will be a need to build up and update the register of intra-EC trading operators. Furthermore is observed in the current situation that only few companies provide customs data in electronic format.

These issues will therefore be the object of a programme proposal from 2002 budget.

Regional statistics

MM. Ignatavicius, Markelevicius, Mrs. Sinkuniene

A quite large number of statistics have become available on regional level, agricultural production, demography, energy, employment and other social statistics. The survey of local units done in the year 2000 has contributed a lot both to the knowledge about enterprises as well as input for the establishment of regional GDP. This general issue is closely linked to the business register project.

National Phare 1998 supports the establishment of a centralised data base. Some sectoral statistics are representative at NUTS III level, but not all. Several hundred indicators are stored in the data base which will later also be open for authorised external users.

From the Phare 2000 programme support is expected in terms of using additional administrative sources and filling the data base with meta-information. A potential later reform towards less than 10 counties will not create any rupture in time series, as mapping is guaranteed.

The classification server, demonstrated in 2000 to Eurostat, has been substantially improved and will be revisited at the next mission.

Population census and Information Technologies

Mrs. Ambrozaitiene, Mr. Rimsa, Mrs. Norkeviciene

The population census, which started the 6 April 2001, is completed. Due to the positive approach of the population to the census and its good preparation the operation became a success. 12000 enumerators have collected and transmitted the data to Statistics Lithuania, where it is now processed. Eurostat had the chance to get an impression of the data processing on the premises of Statistics Lithuania, where the questionnaires are scanned, coded and submitted to a logical control. The results will also be cross-checked with the administrative registers. It is estimated that the actual data processing will take up to 1 year. The budget provided for the census amounts to 26 Mio Lit.

According to the first preliminary results published, the overall population of Lithuania has decreased to 3,496 Mio (3,675 Mio in last census in 1989).

Priority users of the census will be the Government, the Parliament and other public authorities. The office has established a publication plan for the census according to which a wide range of print and electronic publications will be launched. It is also envisaged to sell tailor made data extracted from the population census according to the demand. Furthermore a GIS publication is foreseen at a later stage.

The results of the population census will be used to rebase samples and the surveys. The agricultural census is scheduled for spring 2002 and a pilot still shall be in autumn 2001, filter questions were included in the population census.

As far as the IT is concerned Statistics Lithuania has a LAN-based client-server architecture which provides on-line access to data for 400 workplaces. Regional offices have at least a dial-up line to the network. The office is equipped with a digital-printing machine that puts it into a position to print its publications. The IT department has about 50 staff of which about 30 are working on programming.

Concerning further strategic orientations in IT the office is exploring the possibilities of electronic data collection and dissemination. At stage only e-mail is used for electronic transmission of data. Data collection

TKR

RC

through direct keying in a handheld computer and telephone interviewing are further issues, which are examined.

Eurostat proposed to integrate electronic data collection and dissemination into the proposal to the Phare National Program in Statistics in 2002. Additional elements of the proposal might be the further rationalisation of the data processing through the development of new interfaces (SIC and Escale) and through scanning.

Nikolaus Wurm / B. Wild / J.Szczerbinska

