REPORT

of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine on the Participation in the Study Visit to the National State Statistics Service of the Kingdom of Denmark

(March 17-19, 2015, Copenhagen, Denmark)

Invited by the State Statistics Service of the Kingdom of Denmark (Statistics Denmark) under implementation of activities within the framework of the Twining project “Support to Development Process in the State Statistics Service of Ukraine with the Objective to Enhance Its Capacity and Production” (Component 3 “CPI: quality reports”), SSSU representatives performed a study visit to Copenhagen between March 17 and 19, 2015. The Ukrainian delegation consisted of O.S. Kalabukha, Director of the Price Statistics Department, N.V. Profatska, Deputy Director of the Price Statistics Department, K.V. Istratenko, Head of the Division for Industrial Producer Price Statistics, N.I. Lysenko, Head of the Division for Statistics of Construction, Transport, Communications and Housing Prices, and Y.A. Muzychenko, Head of the Unit for International Cooperation. The visit was aimed at getting expertise on compiling standard reports for quality of statistical observations on price statistics.

In the course of the study visit, the SSSU specialists got familiar with the history, legal principles and organisational structure of Statistics Denmark. Reporting is made obligatory by the law of Denmark, and this ensures collection of 95% administrative data and only 5% of data is collected by Statistics Denmark. At the same time, currently available accounting and communication means allow application of state-of-the-art technologies for on-line data collection (using the Internet, short messages, e-interviews). The Ukrainian delegation learnt about the Statistics Demark’s experience on protection of confidential data during their collection, processing, storage and dissemination. Specifically, they have been presented the data dissemination system in Denmark, which allows the user to ask for and receive information on-line by selected price index groups and subgroups in any time period, and thus enables getting a complete idea on the dynamics of pricing process in the long-time period.

Another topic of the visit was the introduction into basic principles of building consumer price index and harmonised consumer price index in Denmark and catching the conceptual difference between those two indices.

Close attention was paid to compilation of reports for quality of statistical observations on price statistics in Statistics Denmark. The parties considered the structure of quality reports, discussed in details components of quality for statistical observations, in particular, relevance, accuracy, timeliness and punctuality, accessibility and clarity, coherence and comparability.

The discussion also focused on approaches to calculation of sample error for price indices, namely, the НВ method applied in Statistics Denmark, characteristics of accuracy (reliability), standard and limiting errors, coefficients of variation and confidence intervals as well as their actual use, specifically, related to calculations or estimations of sample errors.

The study visit made it possible to look at the stages of compilation of industrial producer price index in Denmark. The Danish experts introduced basic principles of selecting a sample survey of businesses and products to carry out an observation over changes of producer prices. Denmark calculates industrial producer price indices by Sections A, B, C, D, Е of the Economic Activities Classification. At the product group level, data are collected and processed based on the Combined Nomenclature (CN), whereas Ukraine builds its industrial producer price indices by Sections B, C, D NACE-2010 and the Industrial Products Nomenclature harmonised with the Statistical Classification of Products by Activities EEC (СРА 2008) and PRODСOM 2012.

Statistics Denmark presented a pilot project of the use of scanned data to calculate consumer price index and harmonised consumer price index. Work on this index started in January, 2011. Starting in 2016, Denmark plans to use information of scanned bar codes received by Statistics Denmark from supermarkets to calculate price indices.

During the meeting, SSSU specialists familiarized their Danish colleagues with the work on improvement of price index calculations, namely with implementation of experimental calculations of consumer price indices based on the weight structure on National Accounts data, calculations of industrial producer price indices on the domestic and foreign markets, validations and monitoring of primary consumer goods (services) information coming from urban settlements.

The study visit resulted in discussions of the further cooperation on project Twinning activities.

The SSSU representatives would like to express their sincere gratitude to Statistics Denmark experts for the presentations and useful information received during this study visit.

Persons met

Statistics Denmark:

Martin Birger Larsen

Thomas Hjorth

Silja Emmel

Karin Blix

Peter Stoltze

Janni Stavad

And experts of the Consumer Price Index Division

Conclusions and Recommendations

According to the study visit programme, experts of Statistics Denmark made detailed and exhaustive presentations. The study visit made it possible to receive practical experience on compilation of standard reports for quality of statistical observations on price statistics on all data quality components and on the selection of approaches for calculation of sample errors for price indices.

The study visit participants got a detailed impression of the Statistics Denmark methodology for calculating consumer price index, harmonised consumer price index, and industrial producer price index.

Summing up the results of the study visit, Statistics Denmark representatives provided recommendations on a more in-depth study of quality components of statistical observations, specifically, accuracy. They also recommended to continue improvement of the methodology of consumer price index calculation in terms of a sample of mobile communication services and the application of “user profiles” in relation to changes in tariff packages.

Further Cooperation

The SSSU has to continue work studying how to compile standard reports for quality of statistical observations on price statistics.

A working mission of a Statistics Denmark expert is scheduled for November, 2015.