TWINNING PROJECT

Support to Development Process in the State Statistics Service of Ukraine with the Objective to Enhance its Capacity and Production

Ukraine



REPORT ON THE STUDY VISIT

to

Statistics Denmark

Component 8 Foreign Trade

Activity 8.2 Study visit

June 10-12, 2014, Copenhagen, Denmark

The study visit to Statistics Denmark was organized within the framework of the Twinning Project “Support to Development Process in the State Statistics Service of Ukraine with the Objective to Enhance its Capacity and Production”. The SV took place in Copenhagen on June 10 - 12, 2014.

The main purpose of the study visit to Statistics Denmark was to get familiar with the Danish methodology applied to statistics of international trade in services during the transition period to a new accounting system meeting the recommendations of the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (UN Statistical Commission, 2010) and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (IMF, 2009).

During the study visit the representatives of the SSSU got familiar with the methodology and accounting system in Danish foreign trade statistics, Danish experience during the transition to a new accounting system in the statistics of foreign trade.

The SSSU specialists participated in the discussion of the methodological approaches to computation of types of services that have not been previously accounted in the statistics of foreign trade in services (processing of material resources, freight and agency services, cargo and luggage insurance, reinsurance services) in accordance with the accounting system of such services in Statistics Denmark.

Danish and Ukrainian statisticians made their presentations on the aforesaid issues and discussed some problems that arose during the process of collecting of statistical information, obtaining administrative data and maintaining an appropriate data quality.

The problematic issues which have arisen during the transition to a new accounting system in Ukraine's foreign trade statistics in services and further steps towards getting the methodological and practical assistance to address such issues have been discussed.

Moreover, the relevant provisions of the General Assembly resolution as of 27.03.2014 ("The territorial integrity of Ukraine" (A/Res/68/262)) on annexation of Crimea by Russian Federation have been mentioned during the study visit and Ukraine was referred to as geographically and territorially integral state.

The SSSU delegates express their sincere gratitude to all Denmark Statistics experts who participated in the study visit sessions for their time, interesting presentations and valuable information that was obtained during the SV.

Participants:

SSSU

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Tetyana Poremska, Head of Unite, Department for Trade Statistics

Viktor Kostyrko, Senior Economist, Department for Trade Statistics

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Conclusions and recommendations

This study visit provided an opportunity to the SSSU statisticians to gain new experience, improve knowledge and practical skills on compilation of foreign trade statistics in the balance of payments, as well as methodology, procedures for collecting and compiling data from foreign trade statistics. Participants exchanged their views on issues concerning collection, processing and dissemination of foreign trade statistics data, compilation of balance of payments, ensuring of data comparability both on national and international levels. Further steps to harmonise Ukrainian foreign trade statistics with the European and international standards were identified.

Methodological approaches applied by Statistics Denmark to calculate the types of services that have not been previously accounted in the statistics of foreign trade before were discussed. Ukrainian specialists got expert recommendations on the harmonisation of the national system of statistical accounting of foreign trade in services in accordance with European standards.

In order to ensure the completeness and quality of statistical data Danish experts provided the SSSU with the recommendations and stressed on the need for customs statistics data for the calculation of retrospective data on foreign trade in services (insurance, agency and freight, recycling of material resources).

Future cooperation

The SSSU has to continue the ongoing process of the implementation of the new accounting system of foreign trade in services, which is in line with the Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (UN Statistical Commission, 2010) and the sixth edition of the Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (IMF, 2009). Also, the SSSU will have to go on the issue of obtaining data needed to calculate the aforesaid types of services.

The working mission of experts from Statistics Denmark is planned for October 2014.