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 INSEE France

Component 6: Business Trends Statistics

Activity 6.1: Study visit

(of France, Paris, June 24-26, 2014)

The study visit of representatives of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine to the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies - Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques, France (hereinafter – “the INSEE”) took place under the implementation of the Component "Business Trends Statistics" 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 main purpose of the study visit consisted in obtaining expertise on the organisation and methodology of the business trends surveys (hereinafter – “the BTS”) in France, use and dissemination of their outcomes.

In compliance with the Terms of Reference approved by Letter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine No. 630/16-087-2100 dated 21.05.2014, consultations were offered dealing with the following issues:

- regulatory documents used for the BTS;

- French observation programme (list of questions to get answers from respondents, observation units, population units, type, method and frequency of surveys) and reporting and statistical toolkit of the BTS;

- methods of collection, processing and generalisation of data, system and methodology for calculation of derived indicators that are calculated based on observations;

- publishing policy of the INSEE France concerning the BTS outcomes.

During the study visit, Anne Husseini-Skalitz and Yaëlle Gorin, INSEE experts, with the support of Mykhailo Hornovskyi, interpreter, made presentations to illustrate that France had been conducting the BTS and consumer surveys in the structure of the business trends since the 1950s.

Apart from the INSEE, the Bank of France is also responsible for the business trends surveys, however, the latter makes a survey to issue projections in the monetary field.

The INSEE France carries out the BTS according to framework contracts between itself and the European Commission, which are concluded once every 4 or 5 years and financed by the parties pursuing to the contract conditions.

In its organisational structure, the INSEE France delegated BTS activities to the Business Survey Division (employing 18 persons), the Department of Short-Term Economic Forecasts, the Unit of Economic Research and National Accounts.

Consumer survey is empowered to another board - the Directorate of Healthcare and Social Development.

French BTS and consumer surveys are based on the Joint Harmonised EU Programme of Business and Consumer Surveys (hereinafter – “the EU Harmonised Programme”). At the same time, these surveys take into consideration national interests in terms of the list of questions, frequency and economic activities.

In compliance with the EU Harmonised Programme, INSEE France carries out the BTS in the following way:

every month – in industry, construction, services and retail trade;

every quarter – in industry with regard to investment plans (though the EU Harmonised Programme envisages a semi-annual frequency for this survey).

The following surveys are conducted additionally to meet national needs:

once two months – in wholesale trade,

twice a year – in industry in the area of money resources,

quarterly – in construction in the area of real estate and building crafts development.

France has no guidelines on how to fill in the BTS questionnaires.

The BTS is based on sampling, with an enterprise as a reporting unit. The sampling frame is selected from the SIRUS Statistical business register. A percentage of surveyed enterprises ranges between 1% and 22% depending on activity and character of the questionnaire.

The regional office of the INSEE France prints and mails personified questionnaires separately for every reporting period.

Respondents send their completed questionnaires ether in hard or in soft copy to the INSEE that makes processing, automated control, analysis, generalisation and seasonal adjustments of BTS data with the use of SAS and Demetra software. <http://www.google.ru/aclk?sa=L&ai=COTZJBa1LU99jgqnLA96hgZgJ1O36-gTMwrqjjQHU08UXCAAQASgCULGk7Iv9_____wFgpQbIAQGpAoUwpTr8010-qgQgT9Ay-fLvaH-rAELk_uENp8-A6GofClSmAVZ98tP34ieAB4zB5TCQBwM&sig=AOD64_18P0AU1g5CP9NShR-Dd8671hpweg&ved=0CBsQ0Qw&adurl=http://landing.infoconst.ru%3Futm_source%3Dgoogle%26utm_medium%3Dcpc%26utm_campaign%3DOracle%26utm_term%3Doracle>

Information obtained from the BTS and consumer survey is submitted to the European Commission for further calculation and publication of indicators that fit into the general European methodology. This information is also used to calculate national indicators of business environment countrywide and by industries using the methodology developed by the INSEE France itself.

To incorporate the French experience into the Ukrainian statistics, experts of the INSEE France also provided examples of French questionnaires for some reporting periods as well as copies of official statistical publications.

On the whole, the study visit demonstrated a high professional level. Knowledge acquired by the SSSU experts will be used to continue improvement of the methodology and organisation of Ukrainian BTS as provided for by the State Statistics Development Strategy until 2017, specifically, in terms of bringing Ukrainian business trends surveys into line with the EU Harmonised Programme and the French statistical practice of data processing methods.

Department Director I.M. Zhuk