TWINNING CONTRACT

Development of new statistical methodologies and indicators in selected areas of statistics in line with EU statistical standards

Ukraine

MISSION REPORT

on

Dissemination Database

Component no 1.6.2

Mission carried out by Lars Knudsen, Statistics Denmark

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List of Abbreviations

ToR   Terms of Reference

SSSU   State Statistics Service of Ukraine

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Twinning Project „Development of new statistical methodologies and indicators in selected areas of statistics in line with EU statistical standards". It is the second mission devoted to "Dissemination Databases" within Component 1.6 of the project. The mission aim was an evaluation of the system of using PC-Axis product family in the Ukrainian statistics with regard to the general strategy of dissemination and preparation of statistics, informing about other countries' experience on the use of PX-Web and data visualistion, presentation of new developments and trends in PC-Axis product family and information on licence and technological requirements on their use, training in operation of new software tools of statistics visualisation for their further implementing with state statistical offices of Ukraine and improving statistical data processing and dissemination.

The concrete objectives of the mission were:
- Summarising issues on the use in Ukraine of PC-Axis product family and the results achieved in this area;
- on the study of other countries' experience on implementation of standards of production and dissemination of statistics through PX-Web application and data visualisation using the CountryStat example;
- Developing recommendations on further activities in the area of using PC-Axis product family in Ukraine's statistics;
- Consulting specialists of the Main Department of Statistics (MDS) in Lviv region with regard to new developments;
- Training MDS specialists in Lviv region in operation of the PX-iGraph visualisation tool;
- Joint development with MDS specialists in Lviv region of a presentation on the use of a PX-iGraph independent version in Ukraine's statistics;
- Discussing licence and technological issues related to implementing Statistics Explorer in Ukraine's statistics.

During the working meetings particular attention has been given to improvement of state statistical activity, optimization of statistical observation system, usage of gain experience to improve statistical data processing and dissemination system in state statistics offices of Ukraine.

The consultant would like to express his thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which he received during the stay in Ukraine, and which highly facilitated the work of the consultant.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the consultant and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, SSSU or Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and results

The following issues has been addressed during the meetings, according to the action plan mentioned in the ToR (see Annex 1).

New in PC-Axis developments and country case studies
MDS specialists were presented with the latest updates on developments for the PC-Axis software package. Special attention was paid to the new beta version of PX-Web 2012 which include graphics (special PX-iGraph implementation). Furthermore, different system setups for different countries were presented. The focus was to demonstrate the various setup combinations, using standard components

from the PC-Axis software package. Especially the setup of the FAO CountrySTAT and the Nordic Statistical Yearbook was investigated in details.

PX-iGraph

MDS specialists were also presented with a detailed walkthrough of the PX-iGraph system, including demonstration on how to implement graphs from the PX-iGraph system on web page and how to use it as a stand-alone tool. This was concluded with MDS specialist hands-on demonstration of an implementation with Ukranian data. Furthermore, the beneficiary showed the consultant a number of bug found in the current version of PX-iGraph. These bugs were gathered and will be reported to the developers of PX-iGraph by the consultant.

Finally the issue of how to expand the application of PX-iGraph in other regions of Ukraine was discussed.

Statistics eXplorer

MDS specialists were presented with a detailed walkthrough of using Statistics eXplorer, both from a user point of view, but also from a producer point of view. Special attention was paid to the procedures of creating "eXplorer packages", "eXplorer Stories" and "eXplorer Vislets". An overview of the different eXplorer products was also presented, including MDim eXplorer and Flow Map eXplorer.

Finally it was discussed how eXplorer could be used in the case of Ukraine, and it was agreed that a result of this mission should be an investigation of the price and condition for Ukraine. Especially there was an interest from the beneficiary to get access to a demo version of the product, so that e.g. problems with Cyrillic characters can be investigated.

Assessment and evaluation of the use of PC-Axis in Ukraine

The beneficiary gave a presented on the implementation of different PX-products for the Lviv region. This presentation revealed that almost all components of the PC-Axis software package is being used and put into production. Thus, the capacity of implementing and taking advantage of all PC-Axis software features is certainly present. During the meetings it was discussed how to proceed if the application of e.g. PX-iGraph should be expanded within Ukraine.

Mission on new publication system

The beneficiary has a wish to setup a new publication system, based on the ideas of PX-Publ. The consultant sketched up a proposal for such a system. This suggestion of the system overview can be used as a starting point for further discussions. It was agreed that a third mission should be held, with special attention to this topic.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

The mission has proved that the capacity of using PC-Axis products in Ukraine is certainly present. Basically all component of the software family has been implemented and used in production in the Lviv region. Thus, the road ahead is to create a plan for its further expansion within Ukraine. A concrete proposal is to use PX-iGraph as a stand-alone tool and for dissemination as integrated parts of other web pages. Thus, it is necessary to develop guides and manuals for such implementations. The Lviv region can go ahead in this process by creating specific scenarios for implementation of the PX-iGraph system. It is important however, to focus on simplicity in both data loading as well as the implementation on the web, for the expansion of application to be successful. A first step in the Lviv region will be to install an updated version of PX-iGraph, which has to be supplied by Statistics Denmark.

The beneficiary has show interest in using Statistics eXplorer as a tool for dissemination an analysis of geographical distributed statistics. However, statistics eXplorer is a commercial product which requires a license. It was agreed on at the meeting that Statistics Denmark will investigate prices and

conditions for the use of statistics eXplorer within Ukraine. Especially the beneficiary wishes to try out the product (e.g. a demo version) before further decision are made. It is important to know if e.g. Cyrillic characters will work correctly with the product. It is preferred if a license agreement could be tailored as either a one-time-license, or to apply for a certain period of time with a on-time payment.

A strategy for use and implementation of PC-Axis products in Ukraine could be an important factor in order to take full advantage of the software package.

As the beneficiary needs a new publication system, a third mission on this topic was agreed.

The following topics could be addressed at the next mission:

o Evaluation of results concerning implementation of PX-iGraph, and the plan to expand its application in other regions.
o Discuss the option for using eXplorer in Ukraine, based on the results obtained concerning price and conditions.
o Use of PX-Publ in Statistics Denmark in detail, including concrete examples.
o Discussing a possible publication setup in Lviv/Ukraine, based on the proposal issued by the consultant at the second meeting.
o If a specific system setup can be achieved, a draft for a plan of implementation should be developed.

For the third mission to be a success it is important the the consultant and the beneficiary harmonize expectations of the outcome in advance. Thus, a terms of reference for this mission must be drafted well in advance.

Actions needed for preparing the next mission:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
ToR for next mission, concerning Publication system		GuSULO/Translator
PX-iGraph bugs found by Ukraine, is to be reported to developers		Statistics Denmark
Update of PX-iGraph.Net software supplied to beneficiaty		Statistics Denmark
Plan for PX-iGraph implementation in Ukraine		GuSULO
eXplorer license agreement conditions, and possibility for eXplorer demo version for Ukraine is explored		Statistics Denmark

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Mission

This visit is aimed at evaluation of the system of using PC-Axis product family in the Ukrainian statistics with regard to the general strategy of dissemination and preparation of statistics, informing about other countries' experience on the use of PX-Web and data visualistion, presentation of new developments and trends in PC-Axis product family and information on licence and technological requirements on their use, training in operation of new software tools of statistics visualisation for their further implementing with state statistical offices of Ukraine and improving statistical data processing and dissemination.

During the visit of the Danish expert, the Ukrainian party should be guided by the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine "On State Statistics" and these Terms of Reference.

During the working meetings, a special attention should be paid to issues of improvement of statistical activity, optimisation of the statistical observation system, use of the obtained experience to improve the data processing and dissemination with state statistical offices of Ukraine.

Expected Results

- Summarising issues on the use in Ukraine of PC-Axis product family and the results achieved in this area;
- on the study of other countries' experience on implementation of standards of production and dissemination of statistics through PX-Web application and data visualisation using the CountryStat example;
- Developing recommendations on further activities in the area of using PC-Axis product family in Ukraine's statistics;
- Consulting specialists of the Main Department of Statistics (MDS) in Lviv region with regard to new developments;
- Training MDS specialists in Lviv region in operation of the PX-iGraph visualisation tool;
- Joint development with MDS specialists in Lviv region of a presentation on the use of a PX-iGraph independent version in Ukraine's statistics;
- Discussing licence and technological issues related to implementing Statistics Explorer in Ukraine's statistics.

Actions

The tentative schedule of the Mission is the following:

Monday, September 24 (from 10-00 till 17-00, with a lunch break from 12-30 till 14-00)

Denmark expert:
- On new trends and developments in PC-Axis product family taking account of the experience of Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland;
- On experience of other countries' implementation of standards of production and dissemination of statistics through PX-Web application and data visualisation using the CountryStat example.

Tuesday, September 25 (from 10-00 till 17-00, with a lunch break from 12-30 till 14-00)

Denmark expert:

- Presenting new features and operation specifics of the PX-iGraph updated version (specifically with regard to ensuring of the interface language selection);
- Training MDS specialists in Lviv region in PX-iGraph operation (using the example of Danish and Ukrainian statistics);

Denmark experts with Ukraine Statistics representatives:
- development of a presentation and a manual on the use of a PX-iGraph independent version in Ukraine's statistics.

Wednesday, September 26 (from 1 from 10-00 till 17-00, with a lunch break from 12-30 till 14-00)

Denmark expert:
- Information on the procedure of using Statistics Explorer, licence and technological requirements related to implement Statistics Explorer in Ukraine's statistics;
- Varieties of Statistics Explorer interfaces (standard, special, mixed, etc.) and their setting up functions. Recommendations on the use of Statistics Explorer features and effects in specific cases.

Thursday, September 27(from 1 from 10-00 till 17-00, with a lunch break from 12-30 till 14-00)

MDS in Lviv region:
- Use of PC-Axis product family in statistical practice.

Denmark expert:
- Evaluation of the use of PC-Axis product family in Ukraine's statistics, possibilities of expanding its application.

Denmark experts with Ukraine Statistics representatives:
- Summarising the visit results. Conclusions and recommendations on further activity in ensuring more effective use of PC-Axis product family in Ukraine's statistics.
- On the next visit of the Denmark expert: naming a date and outlining a meeting agenda.

Friday, September 28(from 1 from 10-00 till 15-00)
- Preparation of the mission report

Tasks to be fulfilled by the SSSU to facilitate the Mission

The Beneficiary will ensure the following:
o Familiarising the expert with the use of PC-Axis product family in Ukraine using the example of the MDS in Lviv region.

Consultant and partner

The Mission will be conducted jointly with:
o Expert, Statistics Denmark.

The partners from the country-beneficiary will be:
o O.O. Puzanova – Director of the Information Technologies Department of the SSSU;
o S.O. Matkovsky – SSSU Head adviser;
o S.I. Zymovina – acting Head of the MDS in Lviv region;
o T.P. Yavdoshchyna – Head of the Information Systems Division of the Information Technologies Unit of the Main Department of Statistics in Lviv region.

Timing

The mission will be conducted from September 24 till September 28, 2012.

Report

The summary report on the results of the mission should be submitted not later than two weeks after the mission is completed.

Annex 2. Persons met

<u>SSSU:</u>
o O.O. Puzanova – Director of the Information Technologies Department of the SSSU;

<u>GuSULO:</u>
o S.O. Matkovsky – SSSU Head adviser;
o S.I. Zymovina – acting Head of the MDS in Lviv region;
o T.P. Yavdoshchyna – Head of the Information Systems Division of the Information Technologies Unit of the Main Department of Statistics in Lviv region.
o Different presenters regarding the PX-usage in GuSULO and Ukraine.
o And about 20 other employees of GuSOLU attending the presentations.

<u>RTA Team:</u>
Irina Bernstein , RTA