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 1.6.1

Mission carried out by Lars Knudsen, Statistics Denmark

13. feb. to 17. feb. 2012

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		STATISTICS DENMARK

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Table of contents

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 was the first mission to be devoted to "Dissemination Databases" within Component 1.6.1 of the project. The mission was aimed at defining a strategic plan forming the base of the further implementation of the project in this statistical area.

The concrete objectives of the mission were to assess the current usage in Ukraine of PX software with regard to overall strategy for dissemination and compilation of statistical information, dissemination of experience of Statistics Denmark as one of the leading statistical services of Europe in usage of PC-Axis software products when developing the databases, training how to deal with software tools related to dissemination and visualization of statistical information for further introduction of such tools in state statistics offices of Ukraine and improvement of statistical data processing and dissemination system.

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.

This 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).

Assessing the current usage in Ukraine of PX software
Employees of GuSULO conducted several presentations concerning the usage of PX software products in Ukraine, and also on the organization of statistics in Ukraine.
The presentations covered the use of PC-Axis, PX-Make, PX-Edit, PX-Web, PX-Map, PX-iMap and MapInfo (the latter is not a PX-product, but is used in relation to PX-Web databases). Furthermore, the status on implementation of the SQL-Datamodel was presented, as well as testing results from installation of the new PX-Web.Net version.
PX-Software has been installed on around 400 pc's, and is used as an important tool in the production of statistics. There are several (3-4) PX-Web databases available online in Ukraine at the moment. There is an internal web page with news concerning PC-Axis software, and discussions in the PC-Axis forum / groups are followed closely.

Presenting the experience of Statistics Denmark with regard to usage of PX software
The production environment and the use and development of PX-products of Statistics Denmark was presented. The main usage is the SQL-Datamodel combined with in-house developed StatBank web interface (a modified version of PX-Web). Furthermore, the use of PX-Publ was presented and discussed in detail.

Informing about the developments concerning usage and dealing with new PX software

A presentation of the current developments of PX-products was carried out. Special attention was given to the new PX-Web.Net and PX-iGraph, as Statistics Denmark is developing PX-iGraph as well as back-end modules used in the selection process in PX-Web.Net (called "Menu-object"). It was pointed out however, that the .Net version of PX-Web is still not complete, in terms of features available from the older versions. Remaining features are expected to be added in the near future.

Furthermore, a demonstration was carried out on how to achieve functionality like PX-Publ offers, but using only MS-Word/Excel and the existing PX-Web.

Training employees concerning new software tools related to dissemination and visualization of statistical
A live demonstrations concerning the new PX-iGraph.Net and was conducted, showing the new features such as animated graphs (e.g. population pyramids) without use of browser plugins. Also different mapping tools were presented. Special attention was given to PX-iMap, Statistics eXplorer and tools for grid data presentation.

Discussing the issues concerning modernization (upgrading) of PC-AXIS / PX-Web software
Strategic issues were discussed, concerning different paths to follow in the use of PX products. Especially concerning the use SQL-Datamodel versus PC-Axis files together with PX-Web. An important point was that the .Net version of PX-Web will make it possible to access both the SQL-Datamodel, PX-files as well as other sources. However, the latter requires development of "parser software".

3. Conclusions and recommendations

The use of PX-Software in the case of Ukraine seems to be one of the most advanced and comprehensive in the PC-Axis community. Not only due to the number of tools implemented, but also because capabilities exist on how to further modify and develop these tools.

The discussions showed that there is great interest toward knowing more about the PX-Publ functionalities that is used in Statistics Denmark, and to know more about the relationship between the SQL-Datamodel and other PX-tools. Also, there is an interest in knowing details on organisational issues and guidelines concerning the management of the dissemination database of Statistics Denmark. Furthermore, they are interested in testing new .Net components of the PX-software family, and to know more details on creating interactive maps. Also a question concerning the experience with courses for internal and external users of PX-products was raised. Thus, these are obvious topics for the coming study visit in Copenhagen.

The discussions also revealed that there are certain problems with the existing PC-Axis setup in Ukraine, as well as wishes for a future setup. In order to find out if the problems are solvable, it would be necessary to gather them in a list. This list should be translated into English, for the convenience of the consultant.

Actions needed for preparing the next mission:

Action	Deadline	Responsible person
List with problems and wished,		GuSULO/Translator

translated into english		
Detailed plan for Copenhagen study visit		Statistics Denmark
A test version of PX-iGraph.Net is being prepared		Statistics Denmark
Practical information concerning the study visit		Statistics Denmark

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Mission

The purpose of this mission is to assess the current usage in Ukraine of PX software with regard to overall strategy for dissemination and compilation of statistical information, dissemination of experience of Statistics Denmark as one of the leading statistical services of Europe in usage of PC-Axis software products when developing the databases, training how to deal with software tools related to dissemination and visualization of statistical information for further introduction of such tools in state statistics offices of Ukraine and improvement of statistical data processing and dissemination system.

During the visit of expert of Statistics Denmark its activity should be governed by the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine "On State Statistics" and this Terms of Reference.

During the working meetings it is necessary to pay particular attention 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.

Expected Results

- Assessing the current usage in Ukraine of PX software, addressed solutions in this regard;

- Presenting the experience of Statistics Denmark with regard to usage of PX software when disseminating the data of official statistics;

- Informing about the developments and consulting the employees of the Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region concerning usage and dealing with new PX software products;

- Training the employees of the Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region on how to deal with new software tools related to dissemination and visualization of statistical information for further introduction of such tools in state statistics offices of Ukraine and improvement of statistical data processing and dissemination system;

- Discussing the issues concerning modernization (upgrading) of PC-AXIS / PX-Web software products.

Actions

The tentative schedule of the mission shall be the following:

Monday, 13 February (10-00 - 17-00, lunch-break 12-30 - 14-00)
Demonstrating how PC-Axis and statistical products should be implemented in the Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region

Tuesday, 14 February (10-00 - 17-00, lunch-break 12-30 - 14-00)

Expert from Denmark:
On experience of Statistics Denmark concerning usage of PC-Axis software products when disseminating the data of official statistics.
In direct developing by Denmark the PC-Axis software products (PX-Make, PX-Publ, PX-iGraph).

Wednesday, 15 February (10-00 - 17-00, lunch-break 12-30 - 14-00)
Expert from Denmark:
Informing about new PC-Axis software products and consulting the employees of the Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region with regard to usage and dealing with such products. Components, installation and introduction of PC-AXIS-dot.Net.
Integrating PC-Axis software products with metadata bases.

Thursday, 16 February (10-00 - 17-00, lunch-break 12-30 - 14-00)
Expert from Denmark:
Cartography to disseminate the information. Training how to deal with new software tools related to dissemination and visualization of statistical information.

Friday, 17 February (10-00 - 17-00, lunch-break 12-30 - 14-00) Discussing the issues for modernization (upgrading) of PC-AXIS / PX-Web software products. Wrapping up.

Tasks to be fulfilled by the State Statistics to facilitate the mission

The Beneficiary will arrange the following

- o Accompanying the expert with interpreter represented by R.D. Tsybukh;
- o Translating, through R.D. Tsybukh, the necessary materials into English and Ukrainian;
- o Familiarizing the expert how PX software is used in Ukraine taking as an example the Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region.

Consultant and Partner

The mission shall be conducted jointly with:
- expert, Statistics Denmark

Partners from the country-beneficiary:

S. O. Matkovsky – Head of the Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region;

T. P. Yavdoschina – Head of IT Technologies and Databases Unit, IT Division, Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region;

R.D. Tsybukh – Specialist of IT Division, Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region, Interpreter/Translator.

Timing

The mission will be conducted from 13 till 17 February 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>
Puzanov Elena, Kyiv, Director of Information DSSU

<u>GuSULO:</u>
S. O. Matkovsky – Head of the Main Statistics Division in L'viv Region
T. P. Yavdoschina – Head of IT Technologies and Databases Unit
R. D. Tsybukh – Specialist of IT Division, Interpreter

Different presenters regarding the PX-usage in GuSULO and Ukraine.

And about 20 other employees of GuSOLU attending the presentations.

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