

OFFICIAL STATISTICS IN GERMANY

**Twinning Project with Bosnia and Herzegovina
Wiesbaden, 12-13 March 2013**

Federal Statistical Office Germany (Destatis)

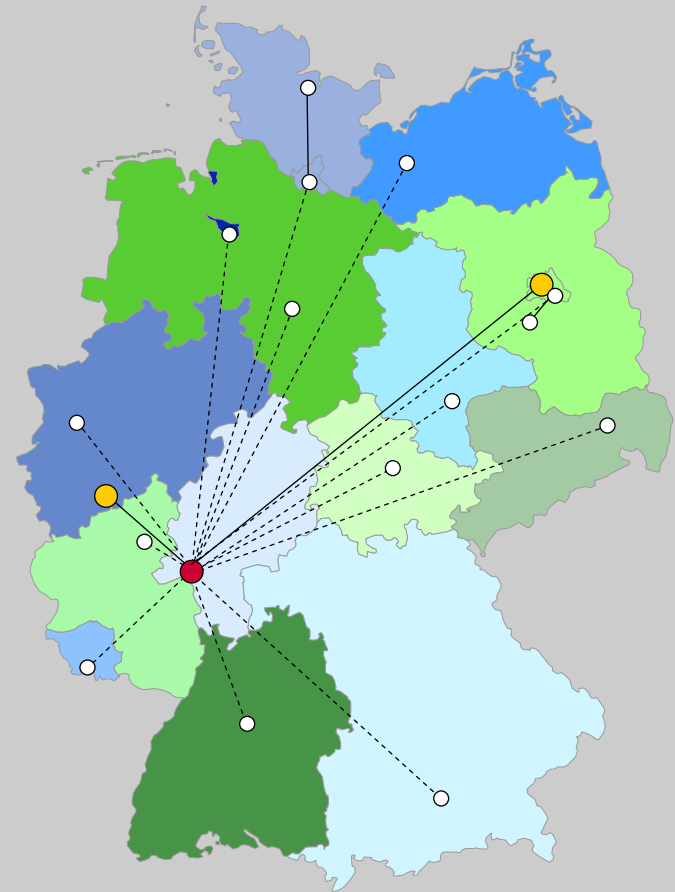
Agency for Statistics of BiH (BHAS)

Institute for Statistics of Federation of BiH (FIS)

Institute for Statistics of Republika Srpska (RSIS)

What does *regional decentralisation* mean?

- Federal structure of Germany
- Independence of the statistical offices of the Länder
- Division of tasks between the federal and Land levels



Legal Framework (I)

Constitution („Basic Law“)

- Obliges Federal Statistics (as part of the executive power) to adhere to the rule of law
- Assigns the legislative competence for „Statistics for the Federation“ to the federation [Art. 73 para. 1 No. 11]
- Assigns the execution of federal laws (incl. laws on statistical surveys) to the States [Art. 83]
- Permits the establishing of a federal authority in the field of statistics [Art. 87 para. 3]

Legal Framework (II)

Federal Statistics Law

establishes

- Federal Statistical Office as an Institution (Art. 2)
- Principles of objectivity, impartiality, scientific independence (Art. 1)

governs

- Arrangement and execution of surveys in general (Art. 5)
- Treatment of registers (Art. 13)
- Compulsory response (Art. 15)
- Statistical confidentiality (Art. 16)
- Fines (Art. 23)

Legal framework (III)

Statistics Laws (for each survey)
appoint

- Type of survey (i. e. sample survey)
- Respondents (i. e. enterprises)
- Variables
- Reference period
- Periodicity

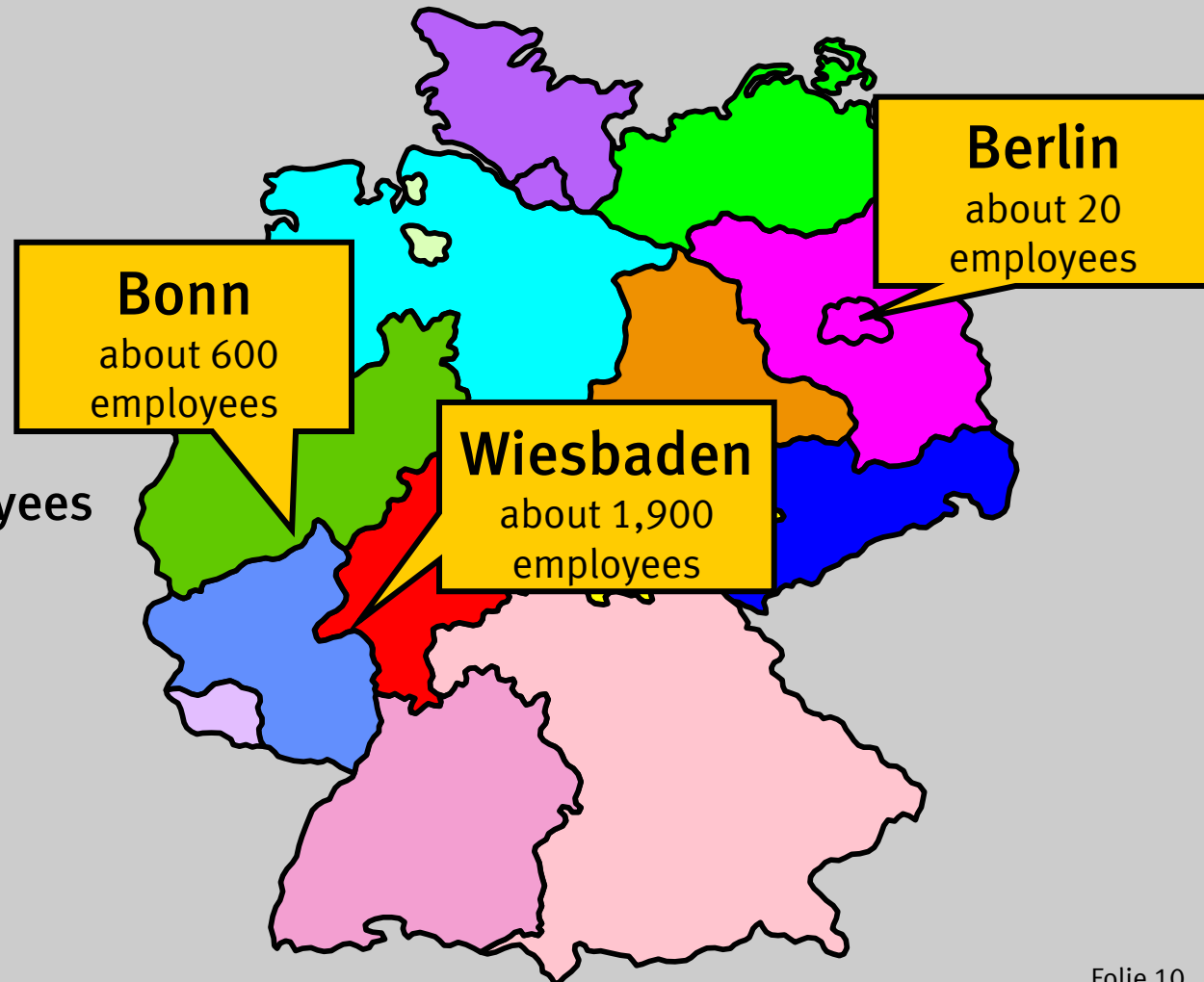


The Federal Statistical Office

- ~ 2 500 Employees, 56 % Women
- Average Age [permanent staff]: ~ 48 Years
- Part-time share: 26 %
- Locations: Wiesbaden, Bonn, Berlin
- Tasks:
 - Methodological and technical preparation of statistical surveys
 - Collecting and processing of data
 - Dissemination of statistical information

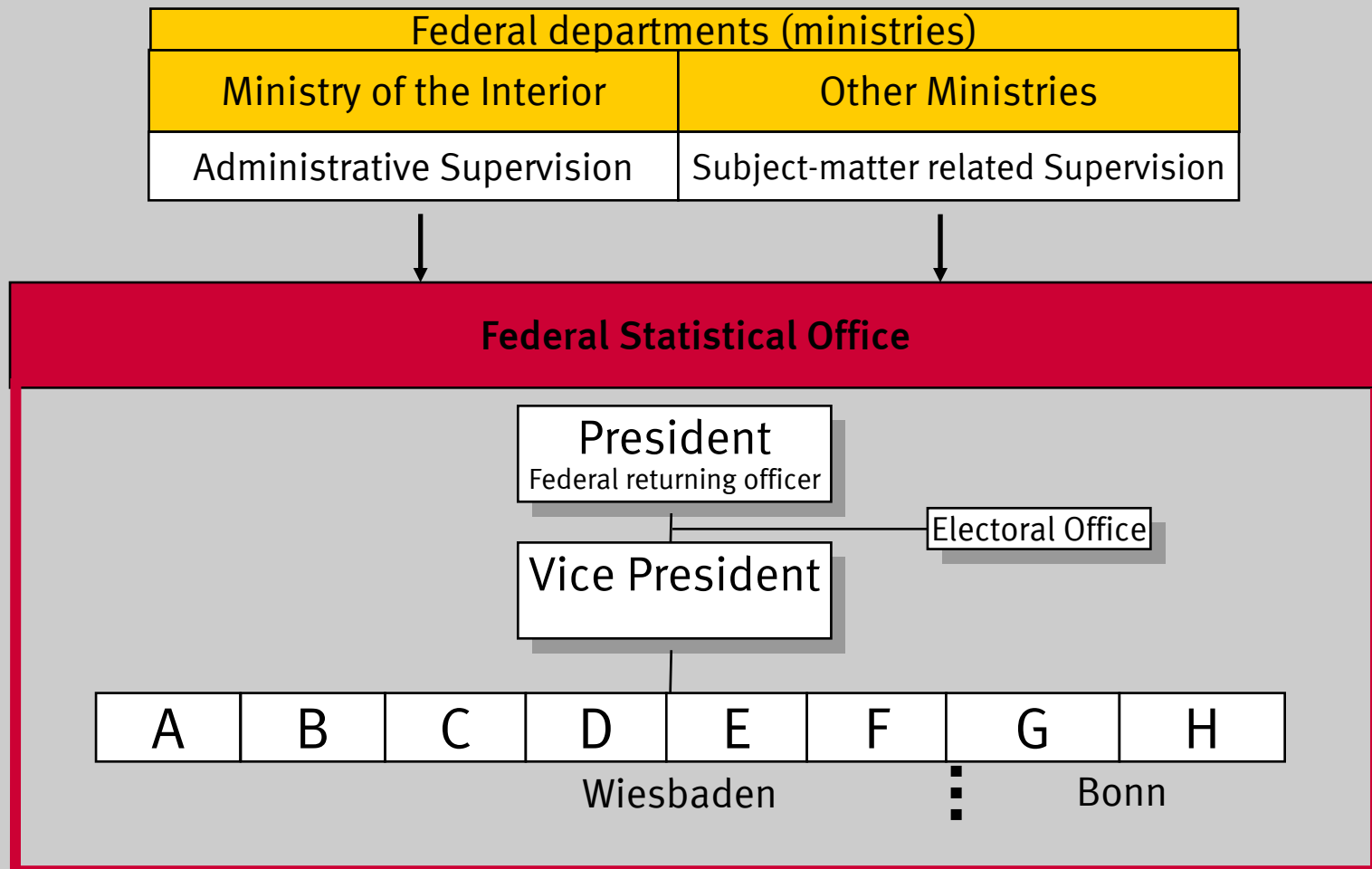


Where the FSO is located:



■ Total: about 2,500 employees

Institutional Setting



Division of tasks

1

Preparation

- method, content
- legislative
- time schedule
- processing plan



**Federal
Statistical
Office**

2

Implementation

- survey organisation
- determination of respondents
- despatch
- control of returns



**Statistical
Offices
of the Federal
States**

3

Processing

- plausibility tests
- tabulation



**Statistical
Offices
of the Federal
States**

4

Dissemination

- press conferences
- press releases
- publications
- internet



**Federal
Statistical Office

Statistical
Offices of the
Federal States**

Who actually produces *statistics*?

Official statistics



Official statistics in the broader sense



Non-official statistics



Number of federal statistics

Federal statistics are produced:

- centralized by the **Federal Statistical Office** (128)
- decentralized by the **State Statistical Offices** (234)



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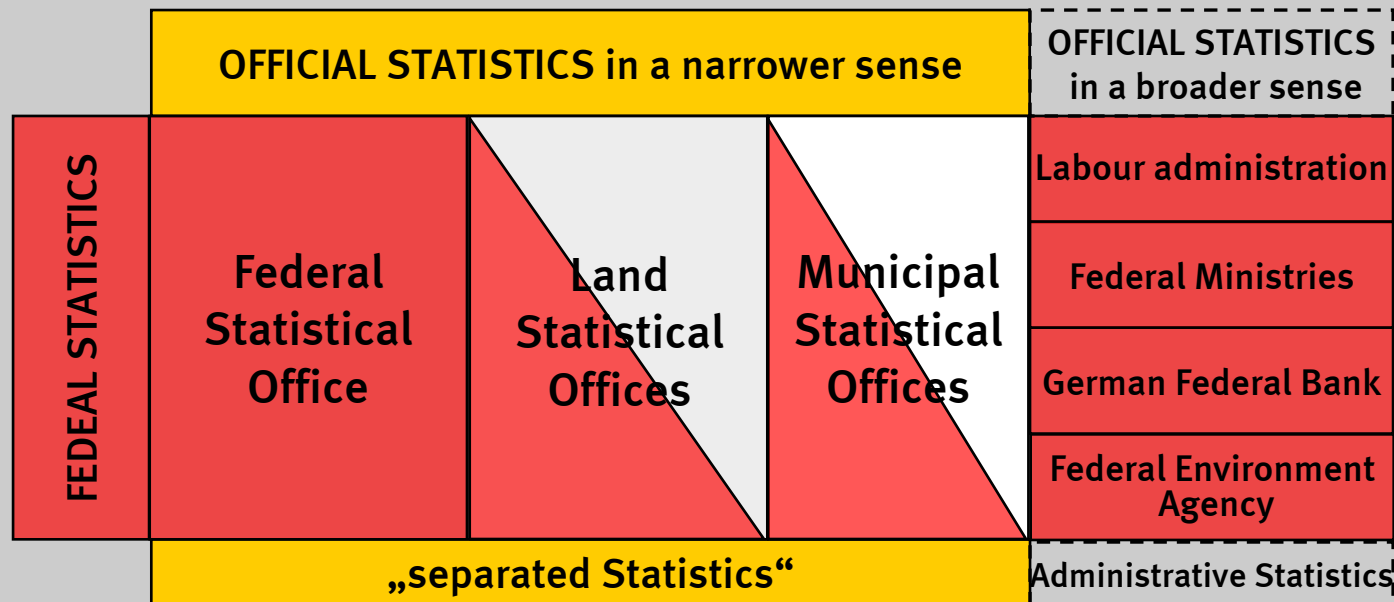
in some exceptional cases by other Federal Institutions:

- German Central Bank (Deutsche Bundesbank)
- Federal Ministries
- Federal Agencies



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Official Statistics vs. Federal Statistics

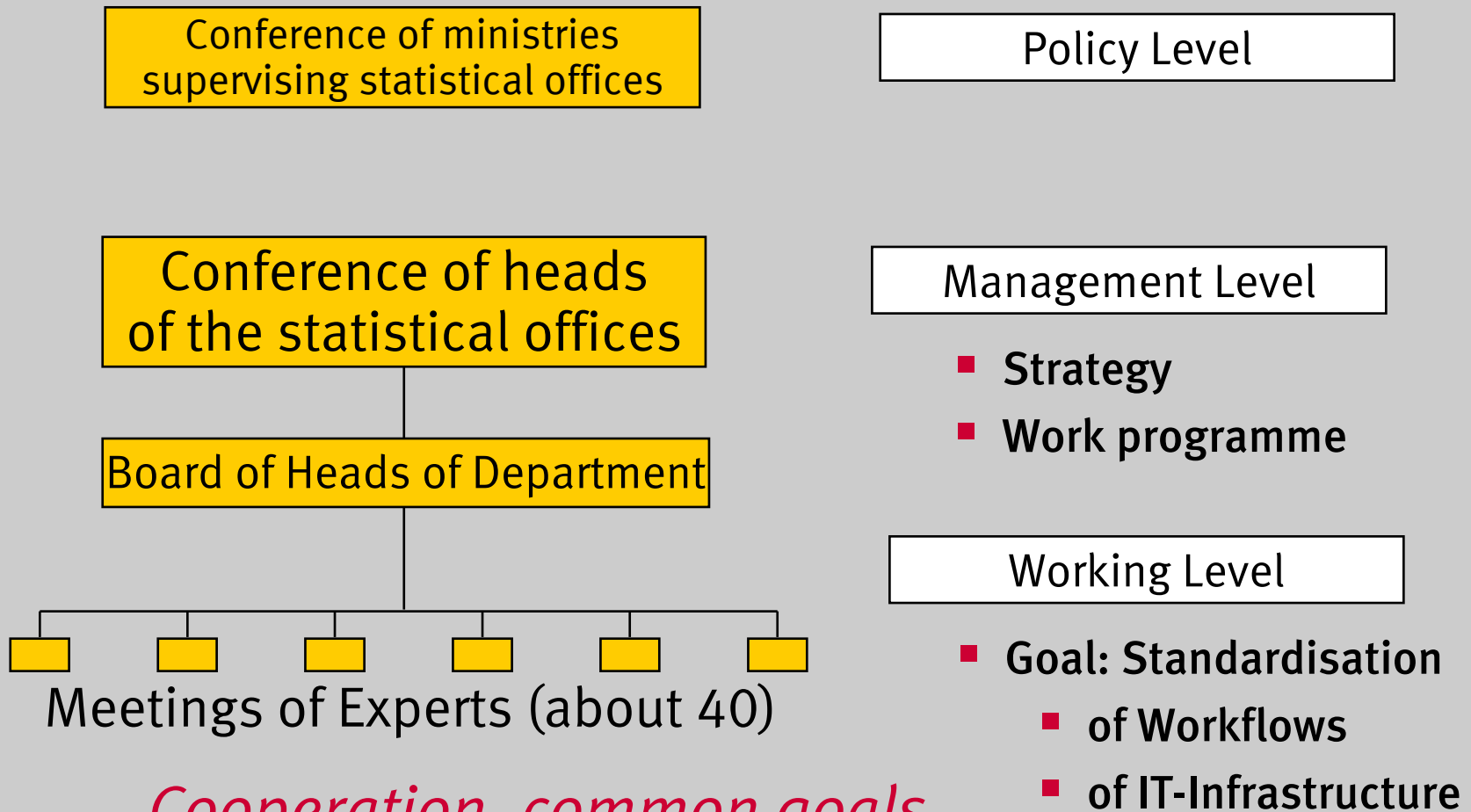


NON-OFFICIAL STATISTICS			
Associations	Research Institutes	Universities	(Commercial) market, social and opinion research

Statistical Programs of **Länder** and **Federation**

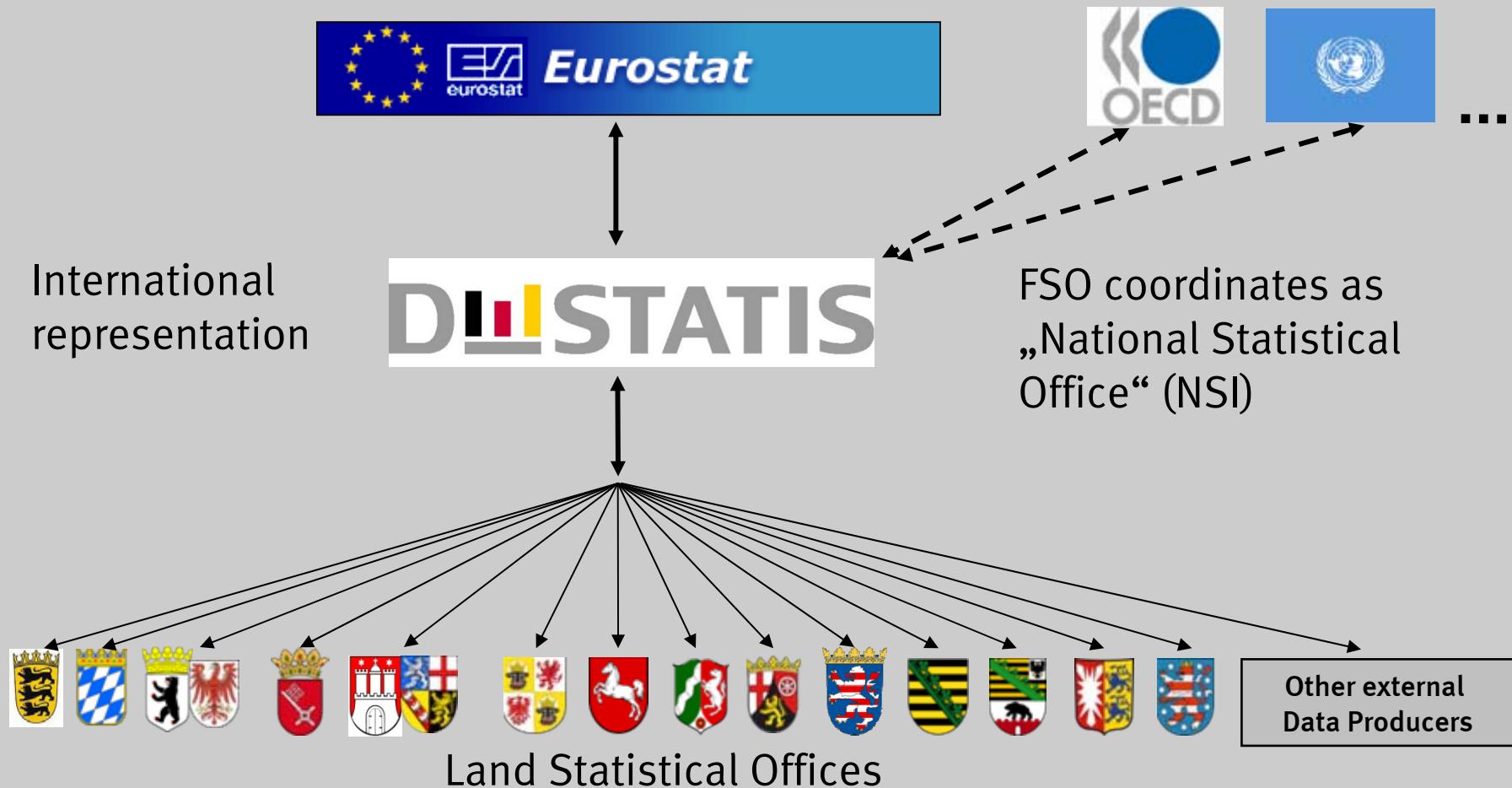
Type of statistics	Legal basis	Provided by
central federal statistics	Federal law	Destatis only
decentral federal statistics	Federal law or EU law	Destatis and Land Statistical Offices
coordinated Land statistics	Länder law	Destatis and Land Statistical Offices
General Land statistics	Länder law	ALL Land Statistical Offices
Special Land statistics	Länder law	SOME Land Statistical Offices
External Federal Statistics	Federal law	Other data producers (e. g. German Federal Bank)
Administrative Statistics of the Federation (Geschäftsstatistiken)	No specific law	Destatis, on behalf of other federal authorities

How coordination is done:



*Cooperation, common goals
and good will are essential!*

The FSO in its coordinating role



Decentralised statistical production means...

- Coordination efforts
- Need for Standardisation
- Delays in different stages of statistics production
- Higher administrative costs



- Close Contacts of Statisticians
- Knowledge of Regional Particularities
- Consideration of specific data requirements
- Broad Discussion on best Practices

Our strategic action areas

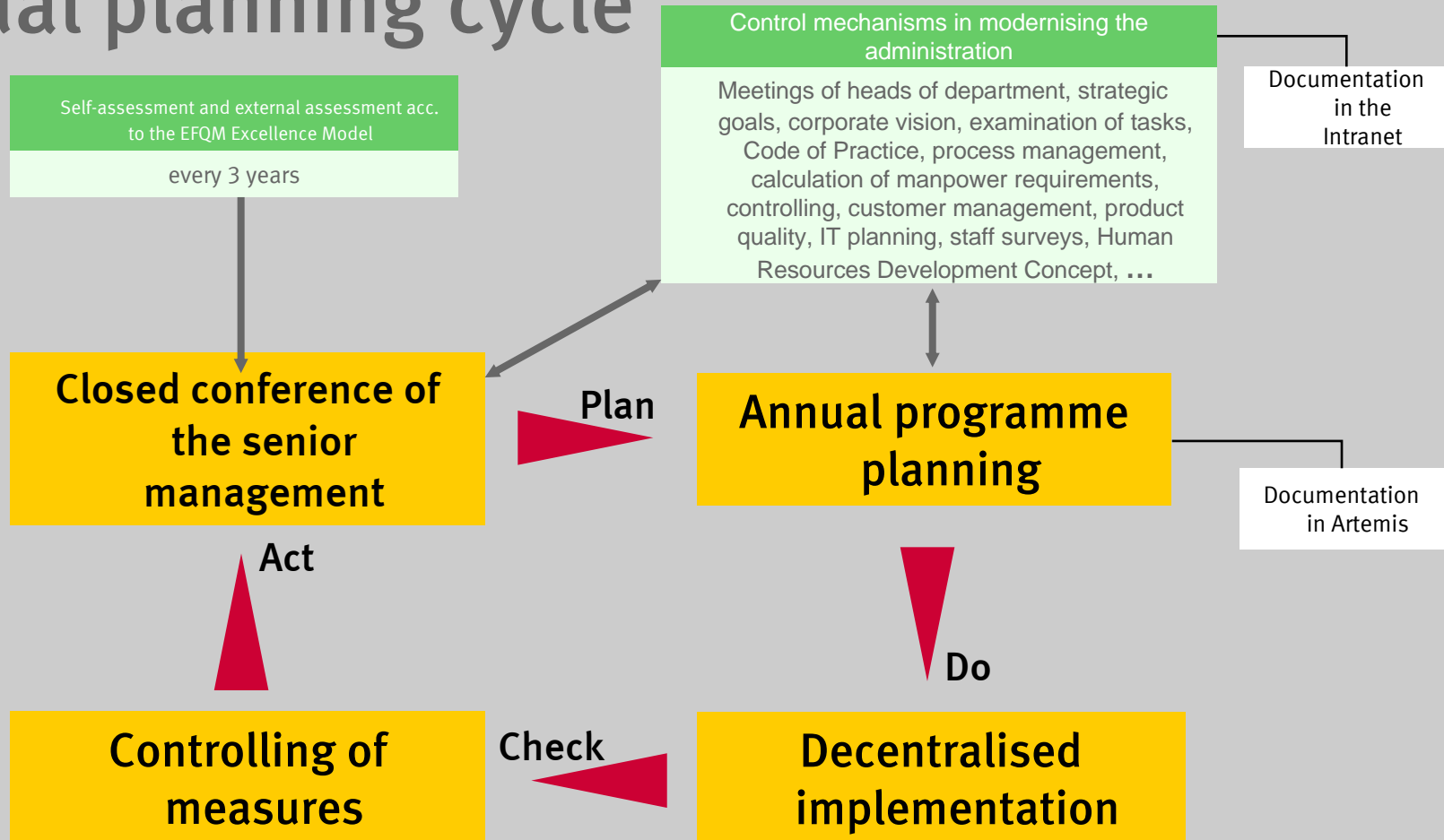


Responsibilities – who, what, when

- All departments of Destatis → executive management
 - Heads of departments & heads of divisions
 - Contact persons for each single measure
- Working programme for one year is stipulated
 - Centralised Controlling (section A 102)
 - for measures of particular importance
 - Decentralised Controlling (the departments)
 - for measures of individual responsibility
- Duty to report (quarterly)



Annual planning cycle



Early Alert System for Federal Statistics

- Since 1997/1998
- **Identifying delays early** makes remedy measures more effective.
- Basis: Work Plan with **due dates for selected surveys**
- List of selected surveys **updated yearly** by OPTIKO (Committee on optimised co-operation between Land Statistical Offices).
- **Delays** have to be **reported to Destatis** (Unit: Controlling and process management). This working unit informs:
 - Federation-Länder Working Group on IT
 - working unit responsible for the statistical domain
 - Land office which has assumed the „godparent“ function for the respective statistical domain. The latter two have to decide on and to perform remedy measures.

Surveys within the Early Alert System

- A Category: **Principal economic indicators** (price index etc.)
- Especially marked: All surveys with results that are important for the **European Central Bank** and the **International Monetary Fund**
- B Category: Surveys with project status, intended to be implemented as new statistics and for the rationalisation of existing statistics.
- Altogether: **about 60 surveys.**

Reporting within the Early Alert System

Reports: As early as possible but at the latest by specified dates!

Report must contain:

- Detailed reasons for the delay
- Expected number of days of delay
- Planned remedial measures
- Wishes for external help („administrative assistance“/“Amtshilfe“)

If a delay persists, updating reports are obligatory.

Destatis reports yearly to the OPTIKO (Committee on optimised co-operation between Land statistical offices) on the situation in the past year and monthly on the share of all due dates met. Reports are available to all Land Statistical Offices via Internet („StaNet“).

Crisis Management

The Destatis working unit on Controlling and process management keeps records of all delay reports and informs the involved authorities of the Länder and the Federation.

If necessary, a **crisis management** is coordinated by the responsible head of department of Destatis and the head of the respective Land Statistical Office.