

Voorburg Group 2003 Progress report 2003 Germany

Main achievements of the country for the recent period 2002-2003:

1. Producer Price Index (ppi) for services

Start of two pilot studies on ppis on behalf of Eurostat:

1.1 Development of a ppi for telecommunication (TC):

On the basis of an existing cpi on TC development of a ppi:

Start of work April 2003,

production of an interim report to Eurostat August 2003,

envisaged end of the pilot phase January 2004

envisaged aim: Production of a regular ppi for TC beginning with 2004

Stuff involved: 1 person (university degree) full time, several experts on a part time basis

State of work:

Collection of weighting information via questionnaire from TC firms; evaluation of a regular reporting system with specific regard to non-tariff prices for TC firms; regular contacts with firms and with regulation authority for TC.

Problems envisaged:

Firms are rather reserved to provide weighting information. Regulation authority by legislation is not allowed to provide individual or highly disaggregated data on a regular basis.

1.2 Development of a ppi on legal activities, accounting, book keeping and auditing activities

Feasibility study

Start of work April 2003,

envisaged dead line for interim report December 2003

envisaged end of the pilot phase September 2004

envisaged aim: Production of a regular ppi for TK beginning with 2005, experimental data for 2004, weighting information for 2002/2003

Stuff involved: 2 persons (university degree) full time, several experts on a part time basis.

State of work:

Contacts with authorities (chambers for legal activities, accounting, bookkeeping), development of several questionnaires for obtaining weighting information, test of questionnaires, evaluation of a regular reporting system.

Problems envisaged:

Less problems than for TC. Positive reactions of different chambers.

2. Classification of service activities and products

No particular fields of activity. Involvement in the international works for the 2007 revision of ISIC.

3. Information society statistics

Publication of several studies/inquiries (in German language):

- Households in the information society (source: Wirtschaft und Statistik 2/2003)
- Information technology in enterprises (Wirtschaft und Statistik 2/2003)
- Monitoring the development of e-commerce (Wirtschaft und Statistik 4/2003)
- Equipment of households with information and communication technologies (Wirtschaft und Statistik 4/2003)

4. Ad hoc issues

c. Short term indicators

Start of a quarterly reporting system on services at the beginning of 2003 on a regular basis. (Methodological description in preparation).

Main issues and challenges facing the country or organisation

The main emphasis of work of the Federal Office of Statistics will be devoted to the development of ppis for services. This task is regarded as one of the most important challenges for future work in German statistics. It includes the provision of additional staff for the work. Priorities of work are devoted to „priority 1“ NACE-sectors according to the draft amendment of EU-short term statistics.

This work will be undertaken despite of large budgetary restrictions for the Federal Office due to strict budgetary restraints of public finances of Germany.

Priorities of the work program for the next years and future topics for inclusion in the next program.

Proposals for priorities of future work are the following sectors:

- Human health activities,
- sewage and refuse disposal.

For human health activities methodological interactions between ppi and cpi have to be taken into account.

For sewage and refuse disposal harmonised EU-standards in legislation exist. For EU comparable ppis could be based on these legal standards. For Non-EU countries in-depth comparisons seem desirable.