

*The Training of Statisticians in the GDR*

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2.1 THE UNIFORM SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTANCY AND  
STATISTICS IN THE GDR

The *Uniform System of Accountancy and Statistics* was established in the GDR in the 1960's. Beginning from 1 January 1968 it was gradually introduced, on the basis of legal regulations, into all spheres of the national economy. Since 1 January 1971 it has been in force throughout the national economy. Using the advantages of the socialist society, the uniform system of accountancy and statistics was set up to meet practical requirements, combining accountancy and statistics. The establishment of this uniform and integrated system, which provides numerical data about all economic and social processes in all spheres and on all levels of the national economy, was necessary in order to achieve the following aims:

- to improve the essence of information for accountancy and statistics quickly according to the demands resulting from the rapid economic and social development and the rapid improvement in management and planning,
- to ensure a high standard of quality with regard to the information for accountancy and statistics,
- to make available comparable or interrelated information for all levels and spheres, thus ensuring an essential acceleration in compiling information,
- to improve the substance of information without increasing the amount of social work necessary for it, but, rather, systematically reducing it. This presupposed a comprehensive rationalization of accountancy and statistics which could be achieved most reasonably by a uniformity of management work, thus facilitating the consistent and general application of electronic data processing.

It is on this basis that the principle is implemented for all elements of one occurrence to be recorded only once in all enterprises, institutions etc. by including all features needed for intraplant, interplant, territorial as well as various other purposes in the national economy. It is strictly mandatory for all enterprises, institutions etc. to abide by unified definitions, nomenclatures and systematic guidelines, regulations for evaluation and registration as well as other regulations. They are entitled, however, to make supplements. Thus, generally comparable and relatable information is available. The head of the Statistical Office has the duty







