

TWINNING NEWSLETTER

A quarterly newsletter published by the Twinning project "Support to Statistics" in Kosovo – a project funded by European Union's Twinning program for IPA Countries

Enhancing compliance with EU standards in statistics

> This is the third Newsletter from the EU-financed Twinning Project, "Support to Statistics" in Kosovo (KS 12 IB ST 01).

The EU funded project is implemented by Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) in co-operation with Statistics Denmark. Also, statistics experts from Finland, Lithuania, Northern Ireland and Italy are participating in the project.

The project has just finished its 9th month of implementation. Each newsletter developed on quarterly basis will give a brief overview on activities undertaken during the quarter, in this case covering June, July and August.

> Project background

The EU funded Twinning Project is running for 24 months until December 2015 and has a total budget of EUR 1.5 million. Twinning Projects are a European Union initiative to help acceding, candidate and neighboring countries to acquire the necessary skills and experience to adopt, implement, and enforce EU legislation. This Twinning Project aims at preparing KAS to produce and disseminate statistics according to EU standards.

> The project has four components:

Component 1. A Quality System for Statistics. The aim is to strengthen the general capacity of KAS.

Component 2. National Accounts. There will be focus on enhancing compliance with the current EU-standards with a special focus on starting the production of Quarterly National Accounts.

Component 3. Business Statistics. The project will among other things work with KAS to improve the Structural Business Statistics, produce new short-term indicators and improve the Statistical Business Register.

Component 4. IT and Dissemination. The activities in component 4 are designed to improve KAS's IT systems and the quality of the dissemination of KAS's statistics.

> User Forum

In Component 1, A Quality System for Statistics, KAS has with support from member state experts arranged a User Forum. The first meeting with the users within the Twinning Project was held on 22nd of October 2014. The meeting was opened by the Chief Executive of KAS, Mr. Isa Krasniqi. Director Lars Thygesen from Statistics Denmark made a presentation on fundamental issues of importance of statistics and especially emphasized the importance of Statistical Quality. Mr. Ramiz Ulaj, Director of the IT and Methodology Department at KAS talked about the Quality Policy of KAS and the progress that has been achieved during the Twinning Project, such as the establishment of the Quality Steering Group, which is now functional as well as the appointment of the Quality Manager at KAS. Ms. Annegrete Wulff, Head of Division, Statistics Denmark, demonstrated new possibilities which will soon be available in a new statistical database. The database, which will contain statistics produced by KAS, will be available free of cost for all external users on the website of KAS as soon as possible. Ms. Hilikka Vihavainen, Former Deputy Director General, Statistics Finland, conducted a session called "Questions to the Users, What we Wish to Know". There was a lively discussion and the debate showed great interest in the coming possibility of having all data from KAS available in the statistical database on KAS website. Participants of the User Forum also completed a User Satisfaction Survey, the results of which gave valuable inputs to KAS.

> 8 missions in the last quarter

A total 21 missions have now been completed. During the past 3 months, 8 mis-



■ Mr. Isa Krasniqi, Mr. Lars Thygesen, Mrs. Hilikka Vihavainen

sions have taken place. The project is progressing well and missions within all four components have been accomplished. In relation to quality work at KAS, the Twinning Project has supported two members of the newly established Quality Steering Group to attend the Quality Conference in Vienna, on June 2014. KAS and experts from member state countries have continued to work with subjects like: Quality System, Quarterly National Accounts, Structural Business Statistics, Industrial Production Indicators, Short-term Statistics, the Statistical Business Register, Dissemination Database and Development of Design Guidelines for Printed and Electronic Publishing. In the past 9 months experts from Denmark, Finland, Italy and Lithuania have been involved.

The third project quarter has been a very busy period, and all Member States experts and professionals from Kosovo Agency of Statistics involved have been working hard. 27 activities are planned for the next two quarters - again within all four components.

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Project information is available from,
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