TWINNING CONTRACT

JO/13/ENP/ST/23

Strengthening the capabilities of the Department of Statistics in Jordan

STUDY VISIT REPORT

on

IT and Online Dissemination

Activity no 4.5 Study visit to Member State

Study visit carried out by the following staff of DoS:
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List of Abbreviations

DoS   Department of Statistics
SD   Statistics Denmark

1. General comments

This study visit report was prepared within the Twinning Project „Strengthening the Capabilities of the Department of Statistics in Jordan".

The concrete objective of the study visit was

- to gain knowledge on IT and Online Dissemination in Statistics Denmark and evaluate how this information can be used as inspiration for methods used in DoS

The participants of the study visit would like to express their thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which they received during their stay.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the participants and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, Statistics Denmark, Istat, NI-CO, CBS or The Department of Statistics in Jordan.

2. Lessons learned

The Information Technology Team has been briefed of the work mechanism of Statistics Denmark during this visit through lectures, presentations, discussions and visits to the servers' rooms, the liaison office and the printing press. There was a focus on some of the themes that were identified in advance by our visiting team before leaving the Department of Statistics (DoS). The topics were as follows:

1 – The Process of Workflow.
2 – The Databases.
3 – Security and Protection of Data and systems.
4 – Websites Technologies.

The team listen and made detail discussion on the presented topics.

Details of the Visit:
The visit lasted for 4 (four) days and included the following detailed activities:

Day One:
The First Session: This session was dedicated to present an introduction on Statistics Denmark and the organizational structure of the Information Technology Unit and its relationship with other statistical units.

The Second Session: It was devoted to discuss the statistical system and the employed tools.

Day Two:
The First Session: It was dedicated to discuss the process and mechanism of protecting the data and the statistical systems. In addition to that, the difference between the work mechanism of the Jordanian Department of Statistics (DoS) and Statistics Denmark has been thoroughly discussed.

The Second Session: This Session included touring the Information Technology Center (the Data Center) and the Printing Press to be acquainted with the employed technologies.

Day Three:
The First Session: The life cycle of the statistical survey was discussed and reviewed during this session.

The Second Session: The construction and structure of the databases using the Oracle databases were discussed and reviewed.

Day Four:
The First Session: It was dedicated to methods of data collection and management.

The Second Session: Demonstrating and explaining the work mechanism of the (search engine) used in the Website of Statistics Denmark.

The Third Session: The content management of the Website of Statistics Denmark using the CMS technique was discussed and reviewed in this session.

The Fourth Session: Completing the Study Visit Assessment Form.

3. Conclusions and recommendations
The importance of the visit lies in its timing and coincidence with preparations for the General Population and Housing Units Census in 2015 in Jordan. The presented and discussed topics included certain points directly related with the General Population and Housing Units Census of 2015 on one hand and the Twinning Project on the other. These points shall be utilized and reflected on the joint activities in both projects through the following topics:

Databases:
1. Qualifying of a specialized databases administrator in addition to the present one. Furthermore, a specialized course on this subject shall be carried out during next September 2014 thru the twining project.

2. Qualifying of the statisticians and to provide them with the tools and applications that enable them to process and edit the data and extract the main results without referring to the Directorate of Information Technology, as is the case in many international statistical organizations.

3. Developing and renewing the databases' software licenses from Oracle 10g to the latest version (12c). This matter is subject to internal debate in the Directorate of Information Technology. We are endeavoring to be benefitted from this issue through the General Population and Housing Census Units Census - 2015. Likewise, there is external discussion with the National Information Technology Center to follow up on the agreement of the government with the Oracle Company that has expired in 2010.

Website:
On the basis of the observations and in order to improve the (DoS) website, the team recommends the need to train the (DoS) staff on the use of modern dissemination tools for developing the websites such as:
1. The Dissemination tool (PX web).
2. Website content management (Content Management system).
3. Search engines for websites.
4. Training on SharePoint.

Security and Protection of Data and Systems:

1) Emphasis on the awareness of the staff concerning the importance of data protection in addition to adherence to regulations that provide protection to the employee and the (DoS) and helps to avoid any problems.

2) Quick action is required to draft data and systems' security and protection policy as per the national IT strategic standards and the international standards.

3) To assess the effectiveness of the existing data and systems' protection measures in the (DoS) by a third party to identify the threats and their sources.

The work mechanism, data collection and the life cycle of the survey:

1) One of the most important remarks and results of the study visit to Statistics Denmark is the non-existence of a field work unit. The process of data collection depends mainly on the administrative records and direct electronic linkage with various institutions, ministries and companies. Another source is to collect data through using offical website for businesses by accessing through the Website of Statistics Denmark.

2) Special importance is assigned to data quality during the process of data collection. The statisticians carry out data processing by themselves and provide the users with the data through the Dissemination Division and not through the IT staff whose role is confined to providing the infrastructure and technical tools.

3) The important functioning of the Frames' Section in the data collection process is noted. The Sampling Units carry out sample checking, determining its completeness and follow-up.

Annex 1. Programme

Programme for study visit to Statistics Denmark:
IT and online dissemination (Activity 4.5)

Tuesday 24 June   (Venue: Styrelseslokalet)

10.00-11.15	Introduction to Statistics Denmark	Silja Emmel
11.15-12.00	Organizational structure of the IT unit and cooperation with other statistical units	Niels Jespersen
12.00-13.00	Lunch break	*International Consulting*
13.00-15.00	DSt.dk and its tools	Lars Knudsen

Wednesday 25 June   (Venue: Styrelseslokalet)

10.00-11.00	IT security	Bo Guldager
11.00-12.00	Tour of IT-center	Bo Guldager
12.00-13.00	Lunch break	*International Consulting*

Thursday 26 June   (Venue: Styrelseslokalet)

11.00-12.00	Survey life cycle	Søren Kristensen
12.00-13.00	Lunch break	*International Consulting*
13:00-15.00	Database structure and Oracle	Niels Jespersen

Friday 27 June   (Venue: Styrelseslokalet)

9.30-11.00	Data collection and organisation	Povl Valeur
11.00-12.30	Search engine	Sanne Nielsen
12.30-13.30	Lunch break	*International Consulting*
13.30-14:30	Website content management	Ditte Karoline Bechsgaard
14.30-15.00	Evaluation of study visit	*International Consulting*