



# EU Twinning Project

IS12/ENP-APFI/08

**Support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics  
in the development of National Accounts, Education Statistics,  
Survey Methodology, ICBS Website and  
Coordination of Israel National Statistical System**

## **Component C**

Coordination of Israel  
National Statistical System

### **Activity C.5**

Review and discussion on  
long-term strategy and its adoption

*Implemented by:*

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### External annexes to the report

Annex C5.4	Micro Data Access (Power Point)
Annex C5.5	Statistics Denmark's Strategy and Multi-Annual Planning (Power Point)
Annex C5.6	Conclusions and Recommendations (Power Point)

## List of Abbreviations

ICBS	Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MR	Mandatory Result
MS	Member State
NSI	National Statistics Institute
NSS	National Statistical System
PCS	Public Council of Statistics
ToR	Terms of Reference

## **1. General comments**

The MS Expert wishes to thank all officials and individuals met for the kind support and inspiring discussions during the stay in Israel, which highly facilitated the work.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the MS Expert, and do not necessarily correspond to the views of the European Union or Statistics Denmark.

## **2. Activities during the mission**

The program laid out in the ToR was followed with meetings with the management and component leaders. This included:

- Discussion of ICBS' draft strategy (MR13). The discussion focussed in particular on a strategy for setting up a macro database based on cubes.
- Discussion of methods for long term and short term planning (MR14)
- Coordination of the NSS (MR15)
- Discussion of micro data access, which is an area for future development of ICBS.

In addition, the mission included discussions with component leaders of component A, B and E on the attainment of the MRs.

### **2.1 Findings**

The work with the Draft Strategy 2020 is moving ahead well. This means that MR13 will be attained.

A structure of ICBS' work with short term and long term planning is conceived. A short report will document this will be produced, and MR14 will be attained.

ICBS is working on enhancing the NSS. The Public Council for Statistics (PCS) which has existed for decades based on the Statistical Ordinance, will be a vehicle for this enhancement. It is planned that the draft strategy will be discussed and endorsed in PCS. A PCS subcommittee for enhancing NSS is proposed. ICBS is planning a sharpening of the Statistical Ordinance regarding coordination, which will clarify the mandate for coordinating the whole system of official statistics (NSS). This will be discussed in PCS.

A final draft of MoU with the National Insurance Institute could be ready in December. All in all this means that MR15 will be attained.

## **3. Recommendations**

### **3.1 Long term Strategy (MR13)**

ICBS has developed a comprehensive draft of the strategy towards 2020. The MS Expert's general recommendations regarding the strategy are:

- to further sharpen the structure and avoid repetition of the same goals in several places
- to include a chapter on confidentiality and micro data access; this is a key strategic area

ICBS should clarify in its confidentiality policy (and consider modifying the Statistical Ordinance accordingly) as to WHO should be allowed to have access and to WHAT, i.e. what can be published regularly, what can or cannot be given to researchers or to the Government. Also consider internal policy regarding ICBS personnel access to micro-data.

For reasons of confidentiality and ease of use, it is recommended not to give public access to online databases based directly on detailed micro data (table builder). Instead ICBS should include a goal on the creation of a full scale macro statistical database, see below.

The process for the long term Strategy (MR13) should be to produce a final draft by December 2014.

In 2015:

- ICBS should seek acceptance of such a strategy in PCS.
- Internal processes should be organised in order to ensure general acceptance and ownership.

### **3.2 Short and long term planning (MR14)**

The procedure of work is in place.

By December 2014 ICBS should describe this in a short paper.

### **3.3 Statistical Database**

The MS Expert's recommendations are:

- Decide to set up database as part of the strategy
- Make a plan for building a fully-fledged all-inclusive database by end-2015
- Prepare recommendations on good cubes
- List all multi-dimensional cubes by topic
- Prioritize taking most important subjects first
- A small group of dissemination/ information experts should then work with subject matter divisions on creating the cubes for each domain.

A suggested architecture for the statistical system leading to building an all-inclusive database includes the following components:

- Data Collected – from computer assisted interviews, registers, administrative files
- Clean databases and statistical registers (Goldmine), identified
- Sum database – aggregated database, analysis, cubes (not for the public) – basis for all dissemination
- Dissemination – Databank, cubes (for the public), publications...
- The goldmine is also the source for tailor-made data sets, individual data sets for researchers and privileged users, law model (measuring the potential impact of possible laws)

The MS Expert does not recommend to rely on a home-grown solution, which would involve uncertainty and costs of development and maintenance. Instead it will be effective to steal as much as possible from others and use a standard tool that has proven successful elsewhere. Such a standard solution will benefit from being maintained, meaning that it will be further developed according to new trends, e.g. mobile devices.

ICBS can be sure it works. If a solution is chosen that millions of users elsewhere love, there is no reason to believe that Israeli users are very much different. ICBS will be a member of an international user community of professionals that will give inspiration to the work.

The MS Expert strongly recommends to reconsider PC-AXIS/PX-Web because:

- There is a huge community of 50 agencies
- PX-Web has proven to be easy to implement and fill with data
- Users love it

It is realistic to implement such a solution within a year.

### **3.4 Enhancing NSS (MR15)**

It is recommended to follow the path outlined by ICBS and use PCS to get acceptance:

- Set up a subcommittee to the PCS with the task of preparing better coordination of the NSS
- Discuss a sharper legislation that clearly defines responsibilities of coordination
- Implement the Ordinance: Setting up a National Plan for official statistics in 2015
- Branding: Elaborate a system of branding of Official Statistics no matter where it is produced. Branding would require fulfilment of quality standards similar to those of ICBS and the CoP, and secured budget.

It is also recommended to continue the good work on MoUs. It would be advisable to have an almost final draft with the Insurance Institute by December 2014.

### **3.5 Closing event**

The date of the event is fixed at 17 December 2014. Before that date ICBS should:

- Make sure all results are documented
- Including how to ensure that results are sustainable in future
- It would be ideal to be able to present tangible user-oriented results in event
  - E.g. pilot of the new web site
  - Or a pilot of macro database based on cubes

## Annex 1. Terms of Reference



### EU Twinning Project IS12/ENP-APFI/o8

Support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics in the development of National Accounts, Education Statistics, Survey Methodology, ICBS Website and Coordination of Israel National Statistical System

#### Terms of Reference (**DRAFT 1**)

##### **Component C**

Coordination of Israel  
National Statistical System

##### **Activity C.5**

Review and discussion on  
long-term strategy and its adoption

**3-6 November 2014**

Mandatory results and benchmarks related to component C

<b>Mandatory result</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
<b>MR13.</b> Establishment of a long-term strategic plan for Israeli official statistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Long term strategic plan drafted by 6<sup>th</sup> project quarter</li></ul>
<b>MR14.</b> Establishment of a system and procedures for long- and short term planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Planning procedures established by 6<sup>th</sup> project quarter</li></ul>
<b>MR15.</b> Enhancement of ICBS engagement in the NSS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mapping of partners in the NSS by 6<sup>th</sup> project quarter, including the partners' possible contribution to the statistical system and a coordination mechanism</li></ul>

##### **Subject / purpose of activity C.5**

Review and feedback on a draft long-term strategy; discussion and decision on how to move forward with the adoption of the strategy

##### **Expected output from activity C.5**

Feedback received on the draft strategy; mission report on recommendation for improving the draft long-term strategy.

## Annex 2. Programme: 3-6 November 2014

Date	Time	Event
Mon 3/11	09:00	Preparations for SCM5
	10:00	SCM5 – Steering Committee Meeting
	12:00	Lunch
	13:00	Follow-up on SCM5: Component D
	14:00	Follow-up on SCM5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Component E - including planning of E5 (Dissemination Strategy)</li> <li>• Component C – preparations for Tuesday and Wednesday</li> </ul>
	16:30	End of day 1
Tue 4/11	09:30	Discussion of <b>MR13</b> and <b>MR15</b> : the long-term strategic plan for Israeli official statistics <i>and</i> the enhancement of ICBS' engagement in the National Statistical System ( <i>coffee break around 11:00</i> ): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ICBS overall strategy – discussion of draft including the relation to other strategy work on dissemination, quality and metadata</li> <li>• The ICBS overall strategy and the strategy for “Israeli official statistics”, cf. the formulation of MR13</li> </ul>
	12:30	Technology supporting the statistical process: Meeting with Shahar Katz
	13:30	Lunch
	14:30	Follow-up on SCM5: Component A
	15:30	Follow-up on SCM5: Component B
	16:30	End of day 1
Wed 5/11	09:00	Discussion of <b>MR13</b> and <b>MR15</b> (cont.). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is ICBS' role in the NSS enhanced, and what will be final output regarding the mapping of NSS partners' and their contributions to the system, cf. the formulation of MR15 and its benchmark?</li> </ul>
	12:00	Research Room - Discussion
	13:00	Lunch
	14:00	<b>MR14</b> : long and short term planning procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics Denmark: planning in Statistics Denmark, and its relation to the strategy and the strategic objectives</li> </ul> <u>Discussion:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How would the planning in ICBS be connected to the strategic objectives of the strategy plan, cf. MR13?</li> <li>• For what purposes does, or should ICBS use short and long term planning?</li> <li>• What tools would be useful, how would the evaluation take place, and what follow-up procedures could be appropriate?</li> </ul>
	16:30	End of day 3
Thu 6/11	09:00	Ad-hoc meetings
	12:00	Debriefing
	13:30	End of meeting

### **Annex 3. Persons met**

ICBS Management

Components Leaders

Research Room Coordination Forum