



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**

Component C
**Strategic Planning and
Coordination of Israel National Statistical System**

Activity C.3
**Coordination and cooperation
with statistics producers in the NSS**

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Other annexes produced for the mission (external to the report)

Annex C3.5	Overview of Quality Work in Statistics Denmark (Power Point Presentation, Kirsten Wismer)
Annex C3.6	NSS-26.11.2013 - The Danish Statistical System – experience of coordination (Power Point Presentation, Kirsten Wismer and Lars Thygesen)
Annex C3.7	Quality Work at Statistics Denmark (Power Point Presentation, Lars Thygesen)
Annex C3.8	The European Statistical Law – in preparation (Power Point Presentation, Kirsten Wismer and Lars Thygesen)
Annex C3.9	The concept of Strategic Planning (Power Point Presentation, Kirsten Wismer)
Annex C3.10	Debriefing 28 November – Conclusions and Recommendations (Power Point Presentation, Kirsten Wismer and Lars Thygesen)
Annex C3-11	NSS-26.11.2013 - The Israeli NSS - Toward a Coordinated System (Olivia Blum)
Annex C3-12	NSS-26.11.2013 - Legal aspects of the National Statistics System (Brian Negin)
Annex C3-13	NSS-26.11.2013 - Official Statistics and Core Statistics (Tom Caplan)
Annex C3-14	NSS-26.11.2013 – The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Inbar Grinstein Decker)
Annex C3-15	NSS-26.11.2013 - The Ministry of National Infrastructures, Energy and Water Resources (Nahum Yehoshua)
Annex C3-16	NSS-26.11.2013 - Ministry of Construction and Housing (Ariela Masband)
Annex C3-17	NSS-26.11.2013 - Ministry of Transport, National Infrastructure and Road Safety (Nissim Levi)
Annex C3-18	NSS-26.11.2013 - National Insurance Institute of Israel (Jacques Bendelac and Sarah Gargi)
Annex C3-19	NSS-26.11.2013 - Ministry of Health - Department of Occupational Health (Tunie Dweck-Schorr and Meyrav Marom)

- Annex C3-20 NSS-26.11.2013 - Ministry of Economy - Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, (Hana Kupfer)
- Annex C3-21 NSS-26.11.2013 - Municipality of Jerusalem (Shani Kiderman)
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- Annex C3-24 NSS-26.11.2013 - Bank of Israel (Liran Kalif)
- Annex C3-25 NSS-26.11.2013 - The Collaboration between the Income and Expenditure Survey Sector in ICBS and the National Insurance Institute, (Yafit Alfandari)
- Annex C3-26 NSS-26.11.2013 – ICBS Foreign Trade Sector: Working with partners in the NSS - Patterns and Challenges (Helen Brusilovsky)
- Annex C3-27 NSS-26.11.2013 – A Multi-Source Data Environment (Evyatar Kirschberg)
- Annex C3-28 NSS-26.11.2013 – ICBS Welfare and Public Order Statistics Sector: Working with partners in the NSS - Patterns and Challenges (Carole Feldmann)

List of Abbreviations

BC	Beneficiary Country (Israel)
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics (Israel)
CoP	European Statistics Code of Practice
GSBPM	Generic Statistics Business Process Model
ICBS	Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics
MS	Member State
NSI	National Statistics Institute
NSS	National Statistical System
QAF	European Statistics Quality Assurance Framework

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the EU Twinning Project between the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Denmark. It was the second mission to be devoted to component C: Strategic Planning and Coordination of Israel National Statistical System

The objectives of the mission were:

- To discuss the role of ICBS in the National Statistical System (NSS) and how to establish the NSS Coordination Committee
- To present the new EU legislation on coordination of official statistics (Statistics law).

The MS Experts would like to express their thanks to 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 Experts and do not necessarily correspond to the views of the European Union or Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and results

During the mission the following activities took place, cf. *Terms of Reference (Annex 1)*:

- A meeting with ICBS Senior Directors concerning a discussion of the National Statistical System
- A seminar with representatives from partners in the NSS
- A meeting with the managers forum concerning the National Statistical System
- A meeting with the Steering Committee for quality and Excellence
- A meeting with the ICBS Senior Directors concerning the role of management in times of change at Statistics Denmark.

National Statistical System and Official Statistics

ICBS has several activities in place in order to strengthen the coordination in the National Statistical System. The Public Council for Statistics has a new chairman in place, and he is together with the management in ICBS planning to take bilateral contact to all members of the council in order to define the content and the functioning of the statistical system. In ICBS an internal committee is now in place with the task to define the core statistics, which should be the center of the system.

As a preparation for the new activities of the statistical system a one day seminar with the partners was held. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce each other to the statistical work which is done in the system, and the MS Experts presented experience of coordination in Denmark and in EU. The presentation is Annex C3.6 to this report. 60 people and 41 institutions identified as partners of the statistical system were present, and 12 institutions presented their work.

This activity should be the start for further cooperation in order to identify statistical needs to be provided and look for common interest. Mapping existing statistical activities and products has been started in order to address efficiency and quality on the NSS level for the long run and for the short run.

ICBS presented the work done to find the definition of the core statistics for a country. There is no common organization of the statistical system across countries, and countries are working

differently with the definitions agreed on. UK, Columbia and Australia for example, have developed their own roadmaps to define official statistics which will be used as inspiration for ICBS' work to define Israel's core statistics.

The NSS partners presented examples of their statistical activities, listed in Annex C3.4.

Conclusions from the seminar were that there is already a good cooperation with ICBS, but there was some demand for ICBS to serve as the statistical methodology expert and to promote common guidelines for concepts and production methods. There was also a demand for more access to data from all producers, and in that connection guidelines for confidentiality. Furthermore there was a wish for expanding the cooperation between the local governments and ICBS.

A list of possible tools was presented by the MS Experts and discussed at the seminar:

1. Total centralisation
2. Common standards
 - Certain central statistical concepts
 - Standards for output data
 - Standards for Metadata
- 3 Guidelines
4. Sharing of (micro) data, without or with ID
5. Common dissemination
 - Users shouldn't need to care
6. Metadata portal
7. Certification by the NSI
 - Label "Official Statistics"
 - Must comply with standards and quality requirements

The NSS participants expressed some wishes:

- Ÿ One integrated web platform, e.g. based on GIS
- Ÿ The ICBS could conduct surveys for others
- Ÿ Work life balance, other soft data
 - Perhaps use Social Survey?
 - Well-being indicators
- Ÿ Statistics on SMEs (from ICBS) incl. environmental impact
- Ÿ Fulfill requirements together collectively (e.g. OECD)
- Ÿ More access to data
 - Data have to be for statistics only
 - Data have to be "sufficiently" reliable
- Ÿ ICBS wish: Strong leadership of the Public Council

ICBS concluded that they do not produce all statistics, and that they will ask NSS to find the best solution concerning statistics for Israel. A differentiation should be made between coordination and cooperation. There is room for a strong leadership role for the Public Council for Statistics (PCS) and the Government Statistician. All mechanisms are in place and issues of standards and guidelines are to be taken care of by the PCS. ICBS will take an active role and visit every organization together with the Chair of the PCS.

Discussions with the Managers Forum confirmed that there is a good cooperation with partners in the statistical system. Three examples of cooperation were presented; with the Customs Authority, with the National Insurance Institute and with the Council for Higher Education. Conclusions were also made regarding the less successful cooperation with the administrative

data suppliers. ICBS could improve both efficiency and quality if they in practice could use all the administrative data which are created in other Government bodies free of charges.

Quality

The MS Experts presented the quality work in Statistics Denmark based on the European quality framework. The presentation is Annex C3.5 to this report. The discussion was concentrated on the possibility to use the conceptual framework in Israel.

The Role of management at a time of change

The MS Experts presented the concept of strategic management and the concept was discussed based on concrete ideas for long term goals. The following goals were discussed:

- Full and free access to administrative micro data. A precondition for this is to work with confidentiality and data security in order to be seen as a trustworthy partner in the system. Furthermore the question of payment for these data has to be dealt with.
- Digital dissemination
- Metadata system.
- Quality talk should start from the top down.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

The seminar about the National Statistical System was successful. Many actors participated in a good atmosphere of cooperation.

The development of a NSS

Keep up the good work with partners. It has been a promising start that may enhance the functionality and efficiency of the Public Council.

Long term objective:

ICBS to utilize micro data from partners. ICBS have legal right of access but in reality it's not without challenges. It is a worthy objective for the Strategy. To accommodate this objective, the data security and data confidentiality should probably also be a strategic goals for ICBS.

Long term strategy

It seems progress is too slow. It is necessary to put more power to the strategy group and set up long term objectives

One member of the very top management should take the lead and should be responsible for driving the process- Establish a small Strategic Group of around 4 members from top management who have to meet regularly to ensure progress.

The Strategic Group should define the strategic objectives and possible actions. Meetings with team leaders and selected staff from strategy areas should be established. The secretary would digest the interviews and take the results of these consultations back to the Strategy Group.

4. Roadmap: work programme and time plan

The mission C4 was tentatively agreed to take place on 10-13 March 2014.

Before the next mission, ICBS should:

- Prepare seminar with all segments of users to take place during the mission,
- Prepare a draft long term strategy to be discussed during the mission.

Annex C3.1 Terms of Reference

Component C

Coordination of Israel National Statistical System

Mandatory result of the component

Establishment of a long-term strategic plan for Israeli official statistics.
Establishment of a system and procedures for long- and short term planning.
Enhancement of ICBS engagement in the National Statistical System.

Activity C.3

Coordination and cooperation with statistics producers in the National Statistical System

Terms of Reference

Subject / purpose of the C.3 activity

Discussion on the role of ICBS in the National Statistical System (NSS) and how to establish the NSS Coordination Committee.
Presentation of new EU regulation on coordination of official statistics (Statistics Law).

Expected output of the C.3 activity

Mission report on recommendation on how ICBS should move forward with strengthening its role within the NSS and how the NSS Coordination Committee could be established.
Meeting held with producers of official statistics.

Annex C3.2. Programme, 25-28 November 2013

Date	Place	Time	Event
Mon 25/11	ICBS	10:00	Twinning Team – preparing the week’s meetings
		13:00	Lunch break
Management Hall		14:30	Meeting with ICBS Senior Directors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC: Introduction to the Activity (including the preparatory stage) • MS: What constitutes the National Statistical System: Actors, input-output including the content of official statistics, structure and significant others • MS: Mechanisms to establish and maintain the NSS (branding statistics, regulations, bilateral agreements, joint projects) and discussion • BC (<i>Yoel Finkel, Brian Negin, Tom Caplan, Olivia Blum</i>): Overview of relevant on-going projects in ICBS (Official statistics, Public Council for Statistics, Strategic planning, Statistical Ordinance) • Discussion: The role of ICBS in the NSS
Tue 26/11	ICBS Golan Hall	09:30	Seminar with representatives from the partners in the NSS Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yoel Finkel</i>, Associate Government Statistician • <i>Olivia Blum</i>, Director, Twinning Project Leader, ICBS
		09:40	What defines national statistical systems – Danish and EU experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Kirsten Wismer</i>, Director, Statistics Denmark • <i>Lars Thygesen</i>, Director, Twinning Project Leader, Statistics Denmark
		10:30	BC: The Israeli NSS - overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Olivia Blum</i>, Director, Twinning Project Leader, ICBS • <i>Brian Negin</i>, Legal Adviser, ICBS • <i>Tom Caplan</i>, Economic Research, ICBS
		11:15	Coffee Break
		11:30	Work done in the NSS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Inbar Grinstein Decker</i>, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development • <i>Nahum Yehoshua</i>, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources • <i>Ariela Masband</i>, Ministry of Construction and Housing • <i>Nissim Levi</i>, Ministry of Transport, National Infrastructure and Road Safety • <i>Sarah Gargi</i>, National Insurance Institute • <i>Meyrav Marom</i>, Ministry of Health
		13:00	Lunch break
		14:00	Work done in the NSS – presentation of the partners (<i>continued</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Hana Kupfer</i>, Ministry of Economy • <i>Shani Kiderman</i>, Municipality of Jerusalem • <i>Julie Sade-Zeltzer</i>, Manufacturers Association of Israel • <i>Orna Matzner</i>, Ministry of Environmental Protection • <i>Yaron Felus</i>, Survey of Israel • <i>Liran Kalif</i>, Bank of Israel
		15:30 –	Discussion – looking forward. The NSS future.
		16:30	Moderators: <i>Kirsten Wismer and Lars Thygesen</i> , Statistics Denmark

Wed 27/11	ICBS Golan Hall	09:00	Managers Forum MS: General introduction to the National Statistical System BC: Presentation of experience accumulated in ICBS (relations with partners): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Yafit Alfandary</i>: Micro-economics Department • <i>Helen Brusilovsky</i>: Macro-economic Departments • <i>Evyatar Kirshberg</i>: Business and Economics Department • <i>Carole Feldmann</i>: Demography and Census Department MS: Discussion
		10:45	Coffee Break
		11:00	+ Steering Committee for Quality and Excellence in ICBS MS: Quality in Statistics Denmark
		12:30	Lunch break
		13:30	ICBS Senior Directors MS: The role of management at a time of change
Thu 28/11	ICBS Arbel Hall	10:00	Steering Committee Meeting – SCM2
	Golan Hall	12:00	Debriefing: Conclusions, recommendations and roadmap for component C

Annex C3.3 Persons met

NSS representatives on seminar on 26 November 2013

Bank of Israel: Liran Kalif, Yair Haim
Israel Hotel Association: Yossi Klieger, Pnina Ben-David
Manufacturers Association of Israel: Julie Sade-Zeltzer
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development: Inbar Grinstein Decker
Ministry of Construction and Housing: Ariela Masband
Ministry of Economy: Hana Kupfer
Ministry of Energy and Water Resources: Rachel Zaken, Daniel Merom, Nahum Yehoshua, Marina Mogerman
Ministry of Environmental Protection: Orna Matzner
Ministry of Health: Meyrav Marom, Tunie Dweck-Schorr
Ministry of Social Affairs: Miri Bensimhoun
Ministry of Tourism: Esther Sultan
Ministry of Transport, National Infrastructure and Road Safety: Sarit Levi, Zeev Shadmi, Nissim Levi
Municipality of Haifa: Hava Nir
Municipality of Jerusalem: Moriel Azulay, Shani Kiderman
Municipality of Rishon Le-Zion: Esther Levy
Municipality of Tel Aviv-Yafo: Etel Friedman, Lea Ashuach
National Insurance Institute: Sarah Gargi, Jacques Bendelac
Survey of Israel: Yaron Felus
The Israel Electric Corporation Company: Lyne Hyams
The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies: Yair Assaf-Shapira
The Knesset: Yuval Vurgan
Chamber of Commerce: Aviad Taub
Israel Police: Rafi Nechemia
Israel National Road Safety Authority: Irit Krupchik

Central Bureau of Statistics

Danny Pfefferman, Government Statistician
Yoel Finkel, Associate Government Statistician
Olivia Blum, Director of International Relations and Statistical Coordination
Yael Nathan, Head of Dissemination and Communication
Oz Shimoni, Head of Macro-economics Department
Batia Attali, RTA Counterpart

ICBS managers present at seminar on 27 November 2013

Micro-economics: Merav Yiftach, Idit Ofek, Yafit Alfandary, Ruth Visner
Macro-economics: Arkady Shnaider, Nava Brener, Helen Brusilovsky, Miri Ben-Tulila
Business-economics: Avigail Levy, Evyatar Kirshberg
Demography and Census: Naama Rotem, Ari Paltiel
Chief Scientist: Nurit Dobrin
Government Statistician: Tom Caplan, Sima Assaf, Mirit Cohen, Nili Bibi-Karshai, Odelya Elisheva Shmuelov, Sigalit Mazeh

Annex C3.4 Statistical activities presented at the seminar

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Produces many kinds of statistics, as example whole market process, farms applying for foreign workers and statistics on basis of application forms. International standards are only used for statistics to international organisations. They are constantly exchanging data with ICBS. They find a need for standards and transparency. More data collections are needed.

Ministry of Energy and Water Resources. Fuel and gas administration: The Ministry produces statistical information on fuel consumption, gas stations, import and export of crude oil and its products in Israel, prices of regulated and non-regulated fuel products and LPG. ICBS uses the statistics in their production. Micro data is not published but used in administration.

Ministry of Construction and Housing: The Ministry produces statistical information on Participation in rents payment, housing loans, area subsidies, public housing, increasing supply for construction, unique marketing methods, urban renewal, social reconstruction of development of neighborhoods. They are missing statistical guidance of economic and social studies, for construction indices and ongoing international comparison of data for construction industry and housing market.

Ministry of Transport, Administration of shipping and ports. Statistical activity covers ships visits in Israel ports, active merchants fleet officers, small vessel and craft register in Israel, and for Ports: maritime commerce, container movement of service levels.

National Insurance Institute, Research and planning administration. The National Insurance Institute has much administrative information concerning benefits and collections for pension. Furthermore they use other administrative data for their statistical production: tax information, population register from Ministry of Interior and manpower surveys from ICBS. They produce many products. NII transfers statistical information and regular reports to ICBS concerning occupation and wages, unemployment, insured, receipts and payment benefit recipients, and NII uses the ICBS survey framework. NII has established a research room for researchers to use data.

Ministry of Health, Department of occupational health. The Ministry uses the following data sources for their statistical production: health risk and needs assessment by data collected from computerized questionnaire, work place data via computerized questionnaire to employers, occupational disease incidence survey by questionnaires to workforce by using existing surveys, health promotion in workplaces data from a sample of organisations in Israel, sickness absence data from employees data bases. They make analysis on existing databases of ICBS and has a fruitful cooperation with them.

Ministry of Economy, Equal employment opportunities Commission: The Ministry investigate grounds of discrimination, diversity in recruitment of the civil service, the gender pay gap, inclusion of the Arab population in the workforce. They are preparing a survey on discrimination toward LBGT (lesbian, bisexual, gay and transsexual). Not in cooperation with CBS.

Municipality of Jerusalem. The Municipality of Jerusalem showed examples of dash boards. They use existing statistics and own surveys. Do not have cooperation with CBS since they need more detailed data.

Manufacturing Association of Israel. Manufacturing Association of Israel monitors economic development using data from ICBS, but produces also statistics of their own as for example expectations of industry, NIS currency appreciation effect, transferring activities abroad, small and medium size enterprises index, multinational companies index, difficulties in recruiting

professional employees, and credit difficulties indicators. They take part in the NSS and is a member of different professional ICBS committees. Looking forward to strengthen the cooperation with ICBS.

Ministry of Environment Protection. Ministry of Environment Protection collects data on environmental resources, pollution and environmental damage, waste collection and treatment. Main data sources are monitoring, ministry's permits, reports to the ministry, calculations e.g. on data from CBS, surveys and research projects. Cooperates with ICBS in most areas, and transfers data to ICBS. They participate in the SEIS project in EU.

Survey of Israel. Survey of Israel is responsible for mapping as one out of many subjects. They are producing Israel national spatial database with ten layers. One of the layers, land cover, is developed in cooperation with ICBS.

Bank of Israel. Information and Statistics Department. Established in 2008. Focus on financial statistics: direct reporting, commercial banks and custodians, ICBS, ministry of finance, stock exchange and others. Sends data to ICBS. Cooperation is based on the MoU.