



Forwarding Armenian Statistics Through Twinning AM09/ENP-PCA/TP/04

Newsletter 1: 31 Jan – 20 May 2011

This is the first Newsletter from the EU Twinning Project, *Forwarding Armenian Statistics Through Twinning*. The EU funded project is implemented by National Statistical Service of Republic of Armenia (NSSRA) in co-operation with Statistics Denmark (lead partner), Destatis (junior partner) and with experts from Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden being part of the project as well.

The project is currently just about to finish its' 4th month of implementation, and this Newsletter will inform about the activities in these first intense months. Expect this kind of updating every 3-4 months!

Project background

For those who have only heard little about the Twinning project: it is a two year project with a total budget of 1 million euro. The project is concentrated on six so-called components with each their mandatory result (in short):

Component A. Quality Management – metadata and quality indicators

Component B. Business Statistics – response burden reduced

Component C. Exhaustiveness of GDP – coverage of national accounts improved

Component D. Agricultural Census – the census will be planned and rolled out

Component E. HICP – the harmonized consumer price index will be developed

Component F. ICT society – a survey of enterprises' ICT usage will be implemented

Opening Ceremony (kick-off)

The project was officially opened 16 March 2011 at the Congress Hotel in Yerevan.

There were opening speeches by Director General of NSSRA, Stepan Mnatsakanyan, by Head of EU Delegation to Republic of Armenia, Raul de Luzenberger, and by German Ambassador to Republic of Armenia, Hans-Jochen Schmidt.



Director General of Statistics Denmark was the main speaker with a presentation on the importance of statistics and of the possibilities of using administrative data for statistical purposes.

All in all, close to 100 people attended the Opening Ceremony, including press representatives. Two days later, the two project leaders, Stepan Mnatsakanyan and Lars Thygesen were interviewed for a programme for Armenian TV on the general co-operation between Armenia and EU.

Visit to the Deputy Prime Minister's office

The day before the Opening Ceremony, Mr. Mnatsakanyan and Mr. Plovsing had a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Armenia, Armen Gevorgian.



The meeting was, using the Danish experience, a chance to discuss the perspectives of using administrative registers for statistical purposes. including the possible implied long-run cost reductions as compared to traditional surveys and censuses. Afterwards, the meeting was reported on the Ministry's website, and some important stones may have been removed concerning NSSRA's possibilities to reach this strategical goal.

Successful first activities in each component

At the time of releasing this Newsletter, the second round of activities (missions) is just about to begin – that is, for each component the first activity has been carried through by now.

For the components E and F, both the initial fact-finding and the following detailed planning for the remaining project period, i.e. the next 20 months, has taken place in the double-activities that has taken place within these two components. Actually, also the other four components have started making the so-called roadmaps to be finalized during the second activity.

Otherwise, the first activities generally has focused on presentations from the component leaders and experts of NSSRA on the current status, while another general feature has been presentations from the member states countries on the relevant set of European Union regulations. As another general rule, all relevant stakeholders within each component have been invited to take part in the most important presentations and discussions.

What is very important so far is that good working relationships have been established between Armenian and Member States project participants within each component – so far it is a co-operation characterized by mutual faith and confidence. But one can also say, that now the hard work really begins - the results of the coming rounds of activities rely heavily on the work that has to be done in between missions!

More information – how to get it?

One possibility is to wait for the next Newsletter! Another one is to use the website for the project, www.dst.dk/armenia. You are alsom most welcome to contact directly – the daily management of the project is handled by the four of us, pictured below in



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And besides, Jesper Ellemose Jensen (jej@dst.dk) and Kenneth Høgsted Thomsen (kht@dst.dk) provide important back-up to the project from the home office in Statistics Denmark.