

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 fifth 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.

Project implementation has now been running for one year and three months. A newsletter is developed on quarterly basis to give a brief overview of activities undertaken during the quarter, in this case covering December 2014 as well as January and February 2015.

Project background

The EU funded Twinning Project was originally planned to be running for 24 month until December 2015 and has a total budget of EUR 1.5 million. Following discussions with Kosovo Agency of Statistics on further support, the project has been extended by 3 months and will now end in March 2016. 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 proj-

ect 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.

> National Accounts Study visit to Statistics Denmark

As part of the working plan of the Twinning Project study visits are arranged in all four components. In Component 2, National Accounts, a study visit was arranged for the National Accounts staff from Kosovo Agency of Statistics. In January 2015, five KAS staff members were visiting Statistics Denmark in Copenhagen, Denmark for four days. A comprehensive agenda was arranged for the study visit. It covered subjects like: Main outputs of NA-products and links between them, Quarterly National Accounts, and Commodity-flow system and compilation of Danish Supply and Use tables. During the visit the experts from the two institutions exchanged experiences concerning National Accounts and KAS staff member could gain an insight into the production processes of an EU MS statistics office.

As a result of the study visit it was agreed that KAS will start working on the compilation of Supply and Use Tables for Kosovo. For this several missions are arranged during the remaining project time. Balanced Supply and Use Tables will greatly enhance the quality of National Accounts in Kosovo.



■ Picture taken during NA study visit in Copenhagen

> 14 missions in the last quarter

A total of 51 missions have been completed. During the past 3 month, 14 missions have taken place. The project is progressing well and missions within all four components have been completed. In relation to the development of National Accounts at KAS, the Twinning Project supported KAS in publishing the first version of Quarterly National Accounts. In Business Statistics the project has had special focus on Structural Business Statistics and on developing the Statistical Business Register. In the dissemination component the focus has been on having the databanks ready for public access, which will be achieved soon.

In the past 15 month experts from Denmark, Finland, Italy and Lithuania have been involved in the project and the fifth quarter has been a very busy period. 18 activities are planned for the next two quarters - again within all four components.



■ Picture taken during NA study visit in Copenhagen

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