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ACTIVITIES OF SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES IN ARMENIA

The European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) are co-financing a large project on strengthening the conditions for small and medium-sized enterprises in Armenia. As part of the project "Support to SME Development in Armenia", also known as EU-SMEDA, Statistics Denmark in cooperation with Statistics Lithuania has in the past year provided assistance to the Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia in further developing statistics on SMEs.

The cooperation looked into SMEs' share of the Armenian economy, sole proprietorships as well as struc-

tural business statistics with a focus on SMEs. In July 2018, the Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia released its first publication on SMEs presenting statistics on the value added by SMEs in different sectors of the Armenia economy. In total, SMEs make up a share of 25.4 % of the Armenia economy. A second publication with additional data is expected to be released in November 2018.

The work on statistics has now been completed but the project is still ongoing. For more information about the project, please visit <https://www.smeda.am/>



A VISIT TO GHANA - INVESTIGATING CONCRETE FIELDS FOR COOPERATION



Foto: Statistics Denmark

In April 2018, a team from Statistics Denmark visited the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) in Accra. The visit was the result of communication between the two institutions about the possibility of starting a partnership. These discussions have taken place over the past year and a half. The aim of the visit was to get to know each other's institutions better and investigate concrete fields for a cooperation.

During the 4 days in Accra, the GSS team had arranged for meetings with a large number of data-producing ministries and government institutions. Among them were the Ministry of Health, the National Identification Authority, the Ministry of Education, the Ghana Immigration Service as well as the Registry of Births and Death. This gave the Danish team a unique chance to learn about the National Statistical System of Ghana and receive first-hand input from data producers.

High on the list of discussion topics during the visit was the topic of administrative data and its potential to be

used for the statistical production in Ghana. A variety of data in Ghana already exists in electronic form in the various government institutions. The future work would try to identify some of these areas and test the actual usability of the administrative records for statistical production.

Also, Ghana is in the process of introducing national identity cards that have a unique identifying number. Since Denmark has a similar system, sharing of experiences in setting up the system as well as using the identity card data for statistical production was discussed.

The cooperation between GSS and Statistics Denmark, and between GSS and the other Ghanaian government institutions could be presented on regional level. There is already a high level of cooperation between a number of countries south of the Sahara. Ghana Statistical Service could use this network to share some of the experiences and skills acquired during the work with Statistics Denmark.

THE TWINNING PROJECT IN ISRAEL HAS SUCCESSFULLY ENDED

August 31, 2018 was the final day of the Twinning project between the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) and Statistics Denmark in cooperation with a number of other EU national statistical institutions (see last paragraph). The project has been going on since 2016. The closing ceremony was conducted in May, when ICBS celebrated the inauguration of the National Statistical System (NSS) in Israel with a one-day conference. The event drew nearly 200 participants from ICBS and other ministries and authorities who constitute the NSS in Israel.

Speeches from EU Ambassador Emanuele Giaufret, Signe Bjerring Nielsen, from the Danish Embassy and Director Carsten Zangenberg from Statistics Denmark all congratulated the Twinning project and stressed the need for trustworthy, independent statistics in a time of "fake news". Karnit Flug, Director of the Bank of Israel gave a key note speech on "Data as basis for informed decisions making". Seven high level directors from the NSS took part in a panel discussion on "What's Hurting? Challenges in Coordinating the Statistical System"





Photo: Danny Pfeffermann, National Statistician, ICBS and Emanuele Giaufret, Head of EU Delegation to Israel

About the twinning project

The Twinning Project worked on four topics:

1. Quality Management of Official Statistics
2. Micro Data Services to Researchers
3. Infrastructures for Agricultural Statistics
4. Methodological and Geo Spatial Tools for Improving the Quality and Efficiency of Field Surveys.

The project and its accomplishments are described in a booklet prepared for the Closing Ceremony which you can find [here](#).

Additional information is available on www.dst.dk/israel and the project's facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StatisticsTwinningProject>.

As usual, Statistics Denmark was supported in the project by a number of other national statistical institutions (NSIs) from within the EU. For this project, Statistics Denmark and ICBS highly appreciate the contributions and participation of the following NSIs and their staff: Statistics Netherlands (CBS), Central Statistical Office of Poland (CSO), Statistics Sweden (SCB), the UK Office of National Statistics (ONS), the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA), the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT) and the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies France (INSEE).

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