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ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRAL RESEARCH SERVICE UNIT IN ISRAEL

One component of the EU-financed Twinning project with the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) has as its goal to set up a remote access service to statistical micro-data for researchers.

The vision for this service for researchers is to provide micro-data in a secure, professional, user-friendly and competent manner. The vision is also to increase effectiveness in order to reduce the time spent by ICBS from when a request is placed until access to data can be obtained. The plan is to develop the services step-by-step rather than all at once. The order of each step will take outset in the researcher's needs, available resources within the ICBS and the legal framework by which access to data is provided to researchers.

ICBS has been on study visits to Denmark and the Netherlands to see examples of remote access facilities for researchers. Also, meetings have been held with members of the research community to learn about their needs. An Advisory Committee has been set up to assist in establishing the service. The National Economic Council of the Prime Minister's Office has reached an agreement with ICBS for establishment of a Central Research Service Unit under the International Relations and Statistical Coordination Department.

The agreement ensures the recruitment of a Manager for the Central Research Service Unit as well as two staff members for a trial period of two years after which the work and progress will be evaluated. The manager of the Central Research Service is being recruited at the time of writing this article and the two additional staff members are expected to start in the beginning of 2018.



Foto: Statistics Denmark

Another component of the project focusses on agricultural statistics. It has as its aim to develop a plan for a farm register as the frame for agricultural statistics. Good progress has been made and the Twinning Project has served as a platform for enhancing the already close cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). Most recently this cooperation has resulted in funding for the agricultural census by the Ministry of Finance, a major achievement for the future work on infrastructures for agricultural statistics.

The project is implemented by the ICBS and Statistics Denmark as leading partner with assistance from the Central Statistical Office of Poland, Statistics Netherlands, Statistics Sweden, the UK Office of National Statistics, the UK Statistics Authority and the Italian National Institute of Statistics. Implementation started in April 2016 and will continue until August 2018. Currently a total of 21 actives out of 38 activities have been completed.

VISIT FROM THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE OF CUBA

In the end of May 2017, ONEI, the National Statistical Office of Cuba visited Statistics Denmark for three days to hear about the Danish Statistical Business Register.

The ONEI delegation consisted of 7 people with different backgrounds from management to IT. ONEI presented the status of the Statistical Business Register in Cuba and lively discussions took place with the Danish colleagues. They in turn introduced the Danish Business Register System and more generally the system of administrative registers. The visit was part of an Exchange Programme between Cuba and the EU which is



implemented by the International and Ibero-American Foundation Administration and Public Polices and DevStat.

STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING AT THE UN WORLD DATA FORUM 2017

In January 2017, a delegation of Statistics Denmark participated at the UN World Data Forum in Cape Town, South Africa. Together with the National Insti-

tute of Statistics and Censuses of Argentina, Statistics Denmark chaired the session on North-South Approaches to Capacity Building.



During the session, representatives from the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the National Statistical Offices of Mexico, Armenia, Somalia, Palestine, Norway, Sweden, Argentina and Denmark presented their experiences in the field of capacity development.

Next to discussing approaches to capacity development in statistics, other Danish presentations given at the UN World Data Forum focused on the advantages of using administrative data for official statistics.

MORE THAN ONE YEAR OF COOPERATION WITH ROSSTAT AND THE WORLD BANK

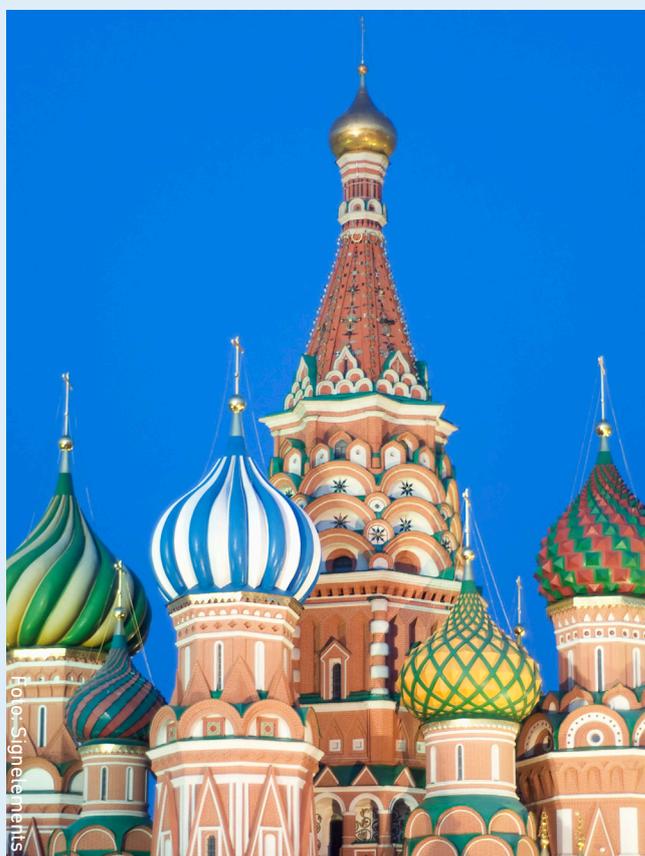
Since April 2016 the Federal State Statistics Service of the Russian Federation (Rosstat), the World Bank and Statistics Denmark have been working together in the project "Strengthening Statistical Expertise in the Russian Federation". Other partners in the project are the National Statistical Offices of France, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and Finland.

So far 27 activities have been implemented with involvement of all above-mentioned partners.

One of the latest activities focused on Enterprise Groups and Profiling of Large and Complex Enterprises.

A team of Dutch and Danish experts visited the Russian colleagues and discussed international best practice on the basis of concrete examples. Further investigation of the topic is planned, including a study visit to either the Netherlands or Denmark to see examples of the work in practice.

Upcoming activities in the second half of 2017 will among other things focus on macroeconomic assessment of natural resource productivity, quality management, Big Data and health statistics. The project is expected to run until April 2018 with the possibility of extension.



EXTENDING THE USE OF ADMINISTRATIVE DATA IN ARMENIA

The use of administrative data for producing statistics has been a key issue in the EU Twinning project in Armenia. In the field of demographic statistics, the project supported this process by setting up a system for using administrative data from the newly established Civil Register, which is managed by the Ministry of Justice.

The transmission of electronic data to the National Statistics Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSSRA) is now in place and NSSRA can every month download files related to births, deaths, marriages and divorces registered during the previous month.

To ensure consistency between administrative and survey data results of the 2010 Demographic and Health Survey were analyzed concerning under-coverage of birth and death registration. The results were compared with data elaborated from the 2011 Population Census. Also, telephone interviews with municipality offices of rural communities were carried out to complement and update previous results, and to raise awareness about the issue of under-coverage in vital registrations.

In order to raise awareness of the importance of high quality registrations in the administrative databases, a 2016 Desk Calendar for civil registration officials was produced. All civil registration offices in Armenia received the calendar. Its purpose was to remind the civil servants of the importance of their job in entering correct data for producing correct information on Armenia.

Demographic statistics based on administrative data were published for the first time by NSSRA in December 2016.

Besides demographic statistics, within the areas of labour market, poverty, innovation and water resources the project aimed at introducing new statistics and improving existing ones according to EU standards. The project also covered the dissemination of statistics, IT and quality of statistics.

The project was implemented from August 2015 to August 2017 by Statistics Denmark in cooperation with Statistics Finland, Istat of Italy and Statistics Lithuania. In total, 45 activities were implemented with assistance from 28 experts from these four institutions.



Foto: NSSRA

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