

A Quarterly Newsletter published within the European Union's ENPI programme for Israel
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Enhancing Official Statistics

The EU-Israel Twinning Project on Statistics has completed its eight project quarter and successfully fulfilled the first 17 indicators of achievement.

Since the last newsletter the Twinning Team and dedicated implementation teams have worked intensively in order to ensure successful embedding of the Twinning Project within the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS).

Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM): In January 2018 our Twinning Project was given the opportunity to undergo a result oriented monitoring. In the course of one week, a Monitoring Expert from Moldova performed 35 interviews with staff from the EU Delegation to Israel, the Twinning Team, ICBS Staff members, Israeli stakeholders and Short Term Experts from EU Member States. Based on the evaluation, the Monitoring Expert recommended the EU Services to consider this project as best practice and to disseminate the following used practices in Israel to other Twinning Projects: thorough preparation of the Terms of References for Short Terms Expert Missions; project transparency; flexibility of design; involvement of additional EU Member States; involvement of the working level staff; thorough monitoring of the action; turning of outputs into effect during the project life and wider developments based on the project outputs.

A. Quality management of official statistics – Steering Committee of the National Statistical System (NSS): Following the seminar that took place in November 2017, the ICBS established a Steering Committee for the NSS in Israel and held their first meeting on 14 February 2018. At the meeting the principles of the quality framework for the NSS were discussed. It was generally agreed that, the Steering Committee will work in cooperation with the ICBS in formulating a vision of official statistics in Israel, propose an organizational structure and mechanisms for coordinating statistical quality assurance in the NSS. Prof. Moshe Pollak, Chief Scientist of the ICBS, serve as Chairman of the Committee.

Training course in coordination and quality management of official statistics: The Twinning Project is proud to announce that a course on coordination and quality



A: Activity B7 – Meeting between ICBS participants and experts from Statistics Denmark
B: Activity D7 – Group photo with ICBS participants and experts from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies of France

management of official statistics will take place on 13-15 March 2018. The course will be taught by international experts from the Italian Statistical Office (ISTAT), which is one of the most experienced countries in Europe on the subject of statistical quality management. For further details contact Ms. Ilanit Gabay lanitg@cbs.gov.il

B. Micro-data services to researchers – Data catalogue for researchers: In January 2018 an activity devoted to building and integrating a data catalogue and documentation for researchers took place. During the mission, pilots were carried out in order to test the suitability of the Danish framework for a data catalogue. In the near future the newly established Research Service Unit will begin to build the catalogue and initiate a mapping of available data in the ICBS. The framework for the catalogue introduced common naming standards and documentation of the contents of the data following international standards and best practices. Based on the outcome of the pilots and the mapping, the component leader will present the project description of the data catalogue to the ICBS Management. In addition, the ICBS has worked on amendment to the Statistics Ordinance in order to improve and clarify the legal framework that allows access to de-identified micro data for research purpose.

C. Infrastructures for agricultural statistics – Work on planning the Agricultural Census continues: The planning of the agricultural census continues to progress according to the plan with the pilot planned for April 2018 and the actual census planned to begin

in July 2018. The Steering Committee for the Agricultural Census has also initiated the work on outlining follow up surveys to be carried out after the census. The plans will be further discussed with Italian and Danish experts in early June 2018.

D. Geo-spatial tools for improving the quality and the efficiency of field surveys – Specification for a Multi Survey System: The ICBS Team has continued to work intensively on specifying their vision for a Multi Survey System, an IT system that will combine all the needs of all collections stages incorporating GIS tools. Most lately, input given by experts from the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies France assisted in filling in some of the current gaps in the system in particular on sampling design and workload allocation of interviewers in a multi-survey approach taking enumeration areas into account.

Project management

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Further information

Activity reports can be downloaded from the project's websites: www.dst.dk/israel and www.cbs.gov.il/twinning.html

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