

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 sixth 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 six months. A newsletter is developed on quarterly basis to give a brief overview of activities undertaken during the quarter. This issue covers March, April and May 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 KAS on further support, the project has been extended by 3 months and will now end 8 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 project 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.

> KAS launches a new publicly available databank

As part of the working plan of the Twinning Project component 4, IT and Dissemination, a new databank has been developed. The Databank, named askdata, has been made publicly available and users can find it at KAS's website. The databank contains a lot of statistical information already. All information is in the three official languages (Albanian, English, and Serbian). Over 200 tables have been added to askdata and more will follow. This is a major step forward for dissemination of statistics from KAS. You will find the databank at the KAS website www.ask.rks-gov.net

New Member State Project Leader

The Member State Project Leader Mr. Lars Thygesen retired from Statistics Denmark at the end of February 2015. He is now replaced by Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen. Mr. Ellemose has been working for the International Consulting Division of Statistics Denmark for many years.

8 missions in the last quarter

A total of 59 missions have been completed. During the past 3 month, 8 missions have taken place. The project is progress-



■ Mr. Ellemose Jensen and Ms. Wulff working with Mr Limolli from KAS on the databank

ing 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 investigating the possibility of implementing Supply and Use Tables in Kosovo. It was decided that SUT implementation is possible and more missions will follow to cover this important issue. The missions on the Statistical Business Register (SBR) continued to help KAS in developing a new version of the SBR and associated software. Furthermore, in May 2015, three employees from KAS participated in hands-on training at National Institute of Statistics, Romania to get acquainted with the SBS production system. In the IT and Dissemination component several mission have now focused on developing the dissemination database, askdata.

In the past 18 months experts from Denmark, Finland, Italy and Lithuania have been involved in the project and the sixth quarter has been a very busy period. For the next two quarters 22 activities are planned - again within all four components.



■ Study visit to Statistics Denmark on Quality & IT and Dissemination

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Project information is available from,
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