

TWINNING CONTRACT
**Institutional Capacity Building for the Central Agency for Public
Mobilisation and Statistics (CAPMAS) and Developing the Legal
Framework for Statistics in Egypt**
EG/07/AA/F106



MISSION REPORT

on


4.12

Training on the PX Axis solution

Mission carried out by
Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen

Egypt Cairo, 25-28 October 2010

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		 STATISTICS DENMARK
Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics		Statistics Denmark

EG/07/AA/F106 Institutional capacity building for CAPMAS

PHARE 2005

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Executive Summary

The mission was a follow up to mission 4.10 and 4.11 requested by Capmas to further investigate the use of the PX-software family. As such activity 4.12 was not foreseen in the twinning contract but was made possible as other activities turned out to be cheaper than budgeted. PX-Web is now available in an Arabic translation and the staff of Capmas should be able to produce the necessary files and make adaptations to PX-Web so that it can be integrated into www.capmas.gov.eg if Capmas management decides so.

As continuously stressed in the other activities in component 4 the challenges in deploying output databases are not so much technical but are more about efficient organization of the production of aggregated data.

In preparation for the mission PX-Web was translated into Arabic. Although PX-Web now speaks Arabic the translation should be tested for user friendliness before it is eventually put into production. It is the hope of the consultant that other countries in the Arabic world will be able to benefit from the translation.

1. General comments

The objectives of the mission were:

- Provide training in PC-AXIS, PX-Excel, PX-Edit, PX-Make
- Translation of the user interface of PX-Web into Arabic
- Give recommendations for the continued work in this area

Follow up on the work done with PC-AXIS / PX-Make / PX-Web

Through the Twinning project Capmas has done a series of experiments with PX-Make / PC-Axis as recommended in the report from mission *4.10 Workshop on website upgrade with a dynamic output database*. In mission 4.11 Capmas continued to produce a number of PX-Files files in English.

2. Assessment and results

After mission 4.11 Capmas stated a wish for more dedicated training and an effort to translate PX-Web into Arabic.

The purpose of this mission was therefore to follow up on the activities and to provide more organized training. For this mission a class room like training session was conducted at the Capmas IT training facility. The number of participants was small by Capmas standards.

PX files covering from the subject areas foreign trade and industrial statistics was produced during the mission. These PX-files demonstrates various aspects and problems associated with aggregated output databases.

Tools used in the training

The different countries that use PC-AXIS, each uses different methods for the production of PX-files. PX-Excel, PX-Edit and PX-Make was introduced during the training. Each tool has its pro's and cons when it comes to the production of PX-files so there are no obvious choices for Capmas. The choice of tool will very much depend on the formats that the dissemination unit / web group gets the tables in.

PX-Excel, PX-Edit, and PX-Make can not be used alone but must be used together with PC-Axis for the final check of the files.

If Capmas decides to introduce PX-Web as a dissemination tool it could be most efficient for Capmas to develop its own software for producing PX files. A Capmas made software would fit into the way Capmas organized its statistical production.

Aggregation of data

The Capmas Datwarehouse (Tera Data) is an obvious source for aggregating individual records into either Excel or CSV files that can then be loaded directly into either PX-Excel or PX-Edit. PX-Make allows users to aggregated individual records stored in MS-Access files. Through the MS-Access software connections can be made to other databases through ODBC connections.

It can be argued that the aggregation of data should be done by the subject matter statisticians. The dissemination unit can then take the data and add the necessary meta data and produce the PX files.

Designing tables

Before PX-files can be published Capmas must make decisions on which tables that they actually would like to publish and which levels of aggregation that is most helpful to the users. External / Foreign trade at the most detailed level is an educative example. At the most detailed level more than 16000 commodities exist in the relevant international nomenclature and trade can be distributed on more than 250 countries adding time and import / export nearly a million observations will be need per year for monthly data. Such amounts of data can not be easily managed by excel. Before producing tables Capmas should therefore decide on the most used and relevant levels of aggregation for all its subject areas.

In order to have a consistent database Capmas will need to develop naming conventions for all its tables, their variables and the values of the variables.

Adopting PX-Web to Capmas web site

The twinning projects translator has translated the language file of PX-Web into Arabic so that Arabic speaking users will have no problems using the website. However the language file of the graphic presentation module (PxGraph) have not yet been translated into Arabic. Before Capmas makes a decision to actually use the PX-Web software there is no needs to spent time and resources on further translation.

If Capmas decides to use PX-Web on www.cpamas.gov.eg the translation should be tested for user friendliness and comprehension.

An extremely preliminary adaptation was done of PX-Web so that it shows the Capmas logo. PX-web is build using classic "ASP" technologies and CSS style sheets. Compared to work that

Capmas has put into developing the new www.cpamas.gov.eg website Capmas will have no technical problems making changes PX-Web.

Illustration: Selection of variables in PX-Web with Capmas logo

للمرجعة للنسخة السابقة اضغط هنا

الجهاز المركزي للتعبئة العامة والإحصاء
Central Agency for Public Mobilization And Statistics

قاعدة البيانات - الموضوع

جدول: Value of import by Country and Time
معلومات: معلومات تفصيلية, حوائج

منح علامة علي خديراتك و اختر بين الجدول الطاهر علي الشاشة و تنسيق الملف علامات التحديد.

Country	Time
إجمالي: 263, مختلف	إجمالي: 36, مختلف
الجمهورية العربية السورية المملكة الأردنية الهاشمية الجمهورية الديمقراطية الشعبية الجزائرية الجمهورية العراقية المملكة العربية السعودية الجمهورية السودانية الجمهورية الجنينية	201007 201008 201009 201010 201011 201012 200908
بحث <input type="text"/> بدأ نص	بحث <input type="text"/> بدأ نص

للمنتخبات المسأل إليها ◆ تحتاج إلى تحديد قيمة واحدة علي الأقل

Documentation

All relevant software and the related documentation for the PX platform is available from www.pc-axis.scb.se

Installation of PX-Web

As said in the TOR PX-Web was installed on computers at Capmas. This step took more time than initially expected as the virus protection at the Capmas IT training facility turned out to be very efficient preventing the locally installed Internet Information Server (IIS) in functioning. Although annoying for the training it should be easily solved in a production environment.

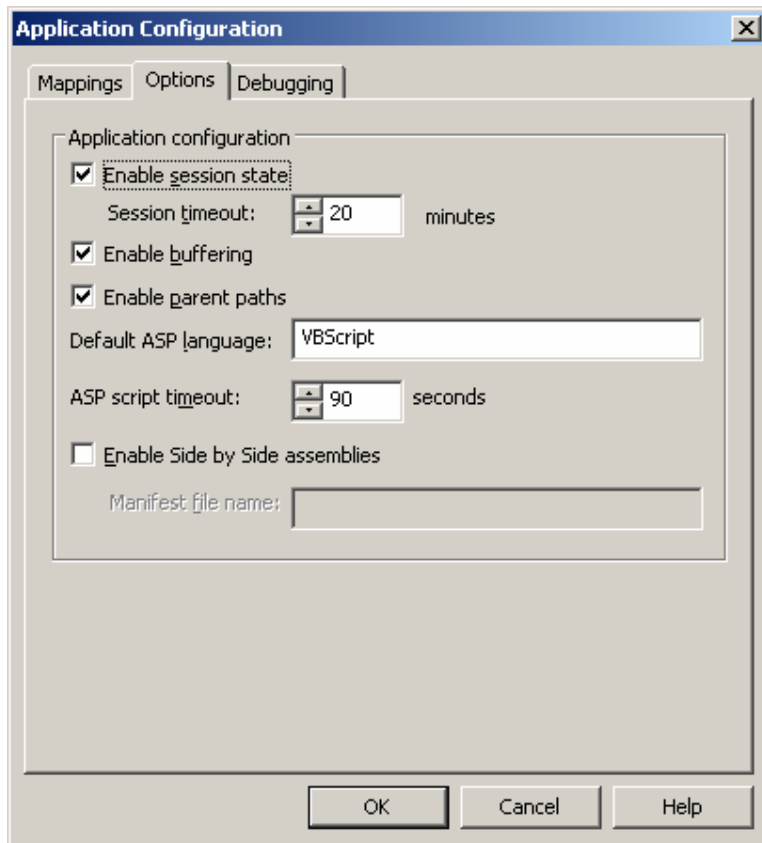
The procedures a generally describe in the PX-Web manual available from www.pc-axis.scb.se But in bullets the following steps should be completed:

- Install IIS (Internet Information Server) on the computer – make sure that support of classic ASP is installed. ASPX from the dot.Net framework is NOT relevant for PX-Web
- Install PC-Axis software
- Install PX-Web components
- Copy the Capmas version of PXWeb2008 to \inetpub\wwwroot\ so that you have a folder named \inetpub\wwwroot\pxweb2008
- Allow parents path on IIS
- Set permissions for PX-Web components – The anonymous internet account on the computer must be able to create files in \inetpub\wwwroot\pxweb2008 folder and below

The directory in which you have installed PX-Web in (\inetpub\wwwroot\pxweb2008) must allow relative references between directories. As a default this facility is turned of in the IIS on windows 2003.

From the IIS manager turn the directory in to an application

Properties -> Configuration -> Application configuration



Also Enable session state

Accept Enable parent paths.

Setting permissions

The internet account user must be allowed to write and modify files. This user was in the old days called everyone. For new installations of IIS the name of users varies and some system administrators may even have renamed or disabled the account totally for security reasons. So here it is important to talk with the computer / network administrator.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

It is therefore recommended that Capmas:

- Continue testing of PX-Web
- Translate the graph module into Arabic

- Further develop the look and feel of PX-web according to the design of the new version of www.capmas.gov.eg
- Investigate the production of PX-files through software written by Capmas
- Investigate if Microstrategy can be used for producing PX files
- Considers participation in the PC-Axis reference group

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

EG/07/AA/F106

Statistics Denmark, International Consulting

Terms of Reference
*for a short-term mission to the Central Agency for Mobilisation and
Statistics
On*

Activity 4.12 Training on the PX Axis solution

Background

CAPMAS and Statistics Denmark with partners have established a fruitful cooperation in the framework of Twinning. This twinning project is EG/07/AA/F106.

This activity is part of component 4, *Improved IT-Function*. The objectives for this component are to give recommendations for an integrated IT function for central and regional offices with MS operating system and MS office. Also for upgrading of statistical databases, including metadata and rules for statistical production and publishing are further elaborated. Dynamic and user friendly website with output database is implemented

Purpose of the mission

The mission is a training mission where the MS expert will train the BC experts in the PC Axis solution. The mission should be done as practical hands on training with a small number of staff having access to computers.

Expected Results

- CAPMAS staff have been trained in the use of PC Axis
- PX-Web is running on at least one computer inside CAPMAS
- CAPMAS staff aware of how to create and modify PX -files

Activities

A tentative schedule for the mission is:

Monday 25 October

Briefing with counterpart

Installing PX-Web and PC-AXIS and other relevant software on relevant computers

Discussions on relevant data

Tuesday 26 October

Training in PC-AXIS / PX-Web

What is an aggregated output file – how are they build – dissemination considerations

Dissemination metadata

The course will consist of a (short) theoretical briefing
Followed by practical exercises in PC-AXIS

Wednesday 27 October

Training continued (Issues not covered the day before)

Production of PX files. The expert and Capmas staff will together produce a number of data files. Thereby consolidating the knowledge from the training

Training on how to set up and customize PX-Web for the look and feel of new Capmas web site.

Thursday 28 October

Continued training on customization (if necessary)

Continued production of files

Any outstanding business

Final meeting

Debriefing with counterpart

Tasks to be done by CAPMAS to facilitate the mission

The beneficiary will arrange meetings with the relevant staff in CAPMAS. Make relevant staff and computers available for training. For the mission to be effective it is important that CAPMAS staff have access to computers with relevant software on the two training days.

Consultant and counterpart

The mission will be carried out jointly by:

Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen, Statistics Denmark

The beneficiary's counterpart will be:

Ms. Zeinab Gharib

Timing

The mission will be carried out during 25-28 October 2010 in Cairo.

Report

A final report from the mission should be made available not later than two weeks after the termination of the mission.