

A Quarterly Newsletter published within the European Union's ENPI programme for Israel
EU Twinning Project IL/12/CRIS 2015/370-467

Enhancing Official Statistics

The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) has partnered with Statistics Denmark to implement a 24 month Twinning Project with the assistance of other EU partners. The project began on March 2016 and will conclude on March 2018 with a budget of 1,200,000 Euros. Throughout the project experts from EU Member States will participate in the project activities.

The present quarterly Newsletter will inform you about the objectives as well as the activities that have been implemented in these intense but fruitful first three months.

Objectives

The overall objective of the Twinning Project is for the ICBS to align official Israeli statistics with standards, guidelines, and best practices with the European Union and with international organizations like the OECD. During the project a number of national stakeholders will be involved and benefit from the project.

The Twinning Project has four components:

A. Quality management of official statistics- As part of this Twinning Project, ICBS will foster quality management and assessment of official statistics in Israel.

B. Micro-data services to researchers- ICBS will establish a streamline system that will make micro-data access for researchers simpler without compromising the confidentiality and privacy of data.

C. Infrastructures for agricultural statistics- The ICBS and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) will upgrade the agricultural statistics infrastructure in order to prepare for the upcoming census.

D. Methodological and geo-spatial tools for improving the quality and the efficiency of field surveys- ICBS will improve the quality and efficiency of data collection in field surveys by implementing geo-spatial and other methodological tools



A: From the Opening Ceremony: Representatives of the EU Delegation, Foreign Ministry, ICBS and Statistics Denmark. From left: Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen, Ms. Signe Biering Nielsen, Mr. Carsten Zagenberg, Mr. Yoel Finkel, Mr. Sándor Szelekovsky, Ms. Yaffa Ben-Ari.

B: Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding: Mr. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, Director General, National Insurance Institute of Israel and Mr. Danny Pfefferman, Government Statistician of Israel

The EU-Israel Twinning Project kicked off successfully in Jerusalem on 13 April 2016 with its Opening Ceremony.

The Opening Ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Project participants and partners from the ICBS, Statistics Denmark and from the National Statistical System in Israel celebrated the launch of the Twinning Project.

The Opening Ceremony was particularly honored by the participation of Mr. Sándor Szelekovsky, the First Counsellor and Head of the Trade and Economics Section in the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Israel, Ms. Signe Biering Nielsen, the Deputy Ambassador of Denmark to Israel, Prof. Shlomo Mor-Yosef, the Director General of the National Insurance Institute of Israel, and Prof. Danny Pfeffermann, the Government Statistician of Israel, as well as senior representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and many other ministries, and directors from Statistics Denmark and ICBS.

In addition to the opening ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding between the National Insurance Institute and the Central Bureau of Statistics was signed. The Memorandum of Understanding is one of the outstanding achievements of our previous Twinning Project that ran from May 2013 to December 2014.

In the first 3 months the project has welcomed leading experts from Denmark, who have provided expertise on Quality Management, Micro-data services and Methodological tools for improving the quality and the efficiency of field surveys. The three completed missions focused on establishing a basis for the upcoming work. June and July will be two busy and exciting months for the Twinning Project since four more Mission will take place at ICBS including an assessment mission for the last component – Infrastructures for agricultural statistics.

Project management

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Further information

The project brochure can be downloaded from the project's website: www.dst.dk/israel, where activity reports will also be stored.