

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

Fourth Steering Committee

Budget no 6.1 Project Co-Ordination Costs

Mission carried out by
Søren Brodersen, Statistics Denmark
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Table of contents

1. General comments	4
2. Assessment and results	4
3. Conclusions and recommendations	6
Annex 1. Terms of Reference	7
Annex 2. Programme for the mission	8
Annex 3. Persons met	9

List of Abbreviations

BC	Beneficiary Country
CAPMAS	Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics
EU	European Union
MS	Member State
PAO	Programme Administration Office, Ministry of International Cooperation
RTA	Resident Twinning Advisor

1. General comments

This mission report was prepared within the Egyptian-Danish Twinning Project „Institutional capacity building for the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation And Statistics”. It is the fourth Steering Committee of the project and aimed at monitoring the activities undertaken and benchmarks achieved.

The concrete objective of the mission was:

- To hold the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee to review progress, lessons learned and results achieved

The Project Leader would like to express his thanks to all in CAPMAS and other individuals met for the kind support and valuable information which were received during the stay in Egypt, and which highly facilitated the work.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the Project Leader and do not necessarily correspond to the views of EU, CAPMAS or Statistics Denmark.

2. Assessment and results

2.1 Meeting with RTA and Team

Meetings were held the first and second day to discuss the work of the project in general; any open issues; coordination; and the fourth quarterly report to be presented at the Steering Committee.

On a general note, the RTA Team, consisting of the RTA, assistant and interpreter/translator, is still very well-functioning. The Team is as usual busy coordinating the many missions but seem to be on top of the planning.

CAPMAS has expressed a need to ensure quality and consistency in the use of experts. Future missions will be planned and evaluated with this in mind. However, it is important to be aware that one expert might find it difficult to commit herself/himself to several missions.

The per diem issue has been discussed with PAO who is positive about raising the per diem rate to EUR 175 within the budget frame.

2.2 Meeting with different CAPMAS staff

The Project Leader did not have meetings with CAPMAS staff outside the Steering Committee Meeting – partly due to short working hours during the Ramadan and partly because there was no urgent need for it.

2.3 Meeting with MS experts for the Workshop on improving quality of education and health statistics used in national accounts.

During the meeting discussions on the focus points of the workshop was held, and the importance of clear and practical recommendations as a result of in depth discussions at the workshop was stressed. The importance of acceptance of recommendations by BC experts participating in the workshop was underlined.

2.4 Steering Committee

The fourth Steering Committee of the project was held on September 14, 2009. The Danish RTA presented the progress of the project and its results so far.

Overall assessment:

The general progress of the project is good with a percentage of

- 53% of the activities are done
- 48% of the working days have been completed
- 26% of the benchmarks have been reached

Results are reached in all areas:

- Ten activities postponed from the 4th project quarter, three of these more than three months delayed and eight benchmarks not reached yet.
- 45 different experts used so far in 42 missions, more than half have been on only one mission.

Issues and recommendations:

- it is important to get results from the project regarding the job qualifications for statistical personnel and training path for different statistical jobs as they need the project advice and new vision regarding this matter.

- the mission reports should be concrete, clear and relevant.

- a work shop for the public use files which is concerned with micro data could be done within the planned activities shared between the statistical awareness and the IT component.

- benchmarks should be approved and signed by the component leader, then approved and signed by the project leaders from both sides.

- there should be a link between the benchmarks numbering and the activities.

- quality of experts should be assured in cooperation with CAPMAS.

- the recommendations given from the experts should be accurate and relevant and CAPMAS should also give a reply to those recommendations. In addition the recommendations should be discussed within the workshop before the experts leave.

- Regarding the quarterly report an overview for the benchmarks, the original, the revised, planned and the actual dates, what's achieved, and who is responsible for finalising each (either MS or CAPMAS) would be helpful.

- the revised work plan presented is more realistic than the original work plan.

- the eighth quarter should be free of missions if possible to leave it for finalizing the project. Any missions during the last quarter should be within the first month.

For details about the fourth project quarter, please see the Fourth Quarterly Report of this Twinning project.

Next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for December 14, 2009.

3. Conclusions and recommendations

The main conclusion of the fourth monitoring mission of the Danish Twinning project is that the project has been progressing in the fourth project quarter. Results are under way in most areas. To date 53% of the project activities are done, 48% of the working days have been completed.

26% of the benchmarks have been reached and delays are mainly due to postponement of activities.

Efforts will be made to follow the recommendations of the Steering Committee.

Furthermore, the working relation between the different partners is still very positive.

Next meeting of the Steering Committee is scheduled for December 14, 2009.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference

There were no terms of reference for the Steering Committee.

Annex 2. Programme for the mission

13 September 2009

A: Meeting with RTA and Team

Agenda

Discussions about work in general; open issues; coordination; and the fourth Quarterly Report

B: Meeting with MS experts for Workshop on improving quality of education and health statistics used in national accounts.

Agenda

Discussions on the focus points of the workshop, the importance of clear and practical recommendations and the acceptance from BC participants.

14 September 2009

C: Meeting with RTA and Team

Agenda

Follow up of discussion about work in general and preparation of the fourth Steering Committee meeting.

D: Steering Committee Meeting

Agenda

- 1) Presentation from RTA on project status
- 2) Discussion of 4th Interim Quarterly Report and conclusions
- 3) Revision of work plan
- 4) Website
- 5) Date of next Steering Committee Meeting
- 6) Other business

Annex 3. Persons met

A: Meeting with RTA and Team

Mr. Peter Ottosen, RTA
Ms. Marwa Gomaa, RTA assistant
Mr. Mohamed Osman, Translator/interpreter

B: Meeting with MS experts on Workshop on health and education sectors in National Accounts

Mr. Martin Rasmussen, Danish Expert
Mr. Martin Hørdam Ausker, Danish Expert

C: Follow up meeting with RTA and Team

Mr. Peter Ottosen, RTA
Ms. Marwa Gomaa, RTA assistant

D: Steering Committee Meeting

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From CAPMAS:

- Dr. Bahy El Din Mortagy - BC Project Leader and Head of IT sector
- Mr. El Sayed Yasser - Project Coordinator, CL 3 and Head of Central Department for IT Training
- Ms. Amira Gamal El Din - CL 1 and Head of Central Department for Statistical Training
- Mr. Nabil El Houty - CL 2 and Head of Central Department of Information System
- Ms. Zeinab Gharib - CL 4 and Head of Central Department for Computer
- Ms. Awatef Abou Gendy - CL 5 and Head of Central Department for General Statistics
- Ms. Nadia Farid - General Manager for Foreign Trade and Transportation
- Ms. Magda Mahmoud - General Manager for Financial Statistics
- Ms. Iman El Hitta - General Manager for Economic Census
- Ms. Azza Taher - General Manager for trade and indicators software
- Ms. Amani Adel - Senior Specialist
- Ms. Soad Mohamed - Manager of Indices Department
- Ms. Salwa El Shazly - Marketing Manager and Technical secretariat

From PAO:

- Ms. Dalia Salem - Programme Deputy Director
- Mr. Ahmed Rizkallah - Assistant Project Manager

From EU Delegation:

- Ms. Neveen Ahmed - Programme Manager
- Mr. Felipe de la Mota - Programme Manager

From Statistics Denmark and Twinning Project Office:

- Mr. Soren Brodersen - MS Project Leader
- Mr. Peter Ottosen - Resident Twinning Adviser
- Ms. Marwa Gomaa - Assistant Resident Twinning Adviser