

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 fourth 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.

The project has just finished its first year of implementation. Each newsletter developed on quarterly basis will give a brief overview on activities undertaken during the quarter, in this case covering September, October, and November 2014.

Project background

The EU funded Twinning Project is running for 24 month until December 2015 and has a total budget of EUR 1.5 million. 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.

> Teaching statistics

In Component 4, IT and Dissemination, with the support from two Danish member state experts, KAS has arranged a mission, called Improvement of Dissemination – Direct User Communication. The concrete objectives of the mission were to prepare and conduct a training course for students at the University of Pristina. Statistics Denmark has very good experiences with this kind of User Communication. The students of economics, who attended the meeting are seen as the future key users of statistics. In cooperation with Professor Rahmije Mustafa, Faculty of Economics, University of Pristina, the agenda was discussed and the course was conducted on 4 December 2014. In the faculty an auditorium of over 200 students of economics followed the presentations by employees of KAS, as well as the two Danish experts. The training course covered sources for European Statistics, available statistics for Kosovo, how to understand statistics, how not to use statistics. The training course was very well evaluated by the students and the employees of the university. The university is interested in continuing the cooperation and a new training course is planned to take place in autumn 2015.

> 15 missions in the last quarter

A total 37 missions have now been completed. During the past 3 month, 15 mis-



■ Direct user communication activity.

sions have taken place. The project is progressing well and missions within all four components have been completed. In relation to the development of National Accounts at KAS, the Twinning Project has supported one staff member to attend the Eurostat training course on National Accounts within the framework of the European Statistical Training Program (ESTP). In November 2014, 5 KAS staff members participated in a study visit on Business Statistics at Statistics Denmark. The study visit covered several subjects, such as the Statistical Business Register, Statistical Methodology, Structural Business Statistics and Short Term Statistics. During the visit the two Twinning partners exchanged professional experience concerning Business Statistics and KAS staff member could gain an insight into the production processes of an EU MS statistics office.

In the past 12 month experts from Denmark, Finland, Italy and Lithuania have been involved in the project and the fourth quarter has been a very busy period. 32 activities are planned for the next two quarters - again within all four components.



■ Direct user communication activity.

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Project information is available from,
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