

Terms of Reference

EU Twinning Project IL/12 CRIS 2015/370-467

11-14 April 2016

Component A: Quality Management of Official Statistics

Activity A.1: Vision, mission, policy and strategy for quality

0. Mandatory results and benchmarks for the component

Mandatory results:

- *The establishment of an organizational system (organizational unit and work processes) responsible for the Quality Management of official statistics in ICBS and in the NSS. (February 2018)*

Benchmarks:

- **IA1:** *Working procedures, scope of statistical products, methods and tools defined for all interfaces (Ultimo November 2016)*
- **IA2:** *Formal organizational structure including a designated unit, referents in ICBS and in the NSS, task forces and committees (with well-defined mandates) proposed to the Public Council for Statistics (Medio February 2017).*
- **IA3:** *Staff trained to evaluate the quality of processes and statistical outputs generated in ICBS and in the NSS (Ultimo June 2017)*
- **IA4:** *Proposal drafted regulating the quality assurance of statistical products or organizational units in the NSS (such as the Information and Statistics Division in the Bank of Israel), as complying with the required national quality standards for official statistics (Ultimo August 2017)*
- **IA5:** *Draft raising awareness strategy formulated (Ultimo August 2017)*
- **IA6:** *Training program on quality policy and on the implementation of quality standards in the relevant bodies in the NSS (Ultimo November 2017)*
- **IA7:** *Multi-year national work plan for the implementation of the quality principles in the NSS elaborated (Ultimo November 2017)*

1. Purpose of the activity

Presentation of the current situation in ICBS and in the NSS, presentation of EU experience in different member states with different challenges presented by the structure of statistical production in the NSS.

- *ICBS staff will brief the MS on status and visions for Quality Management of Official Statistics at ICBS and NSS*

- *MS experts will present Quality Management of Official Statistics in an International perspective*
- *BC and MS will have a workshop with External Stakeholders*

2. Expected output of the activity

- *Activity report*
- *Recommendations for updated quality policy*
- *Recommendations for ne /updated quality strategy*
- *Recommendations for a clear and operational definition of a statistical product subject to quality assurance*
- *Preparation of draft NSS policy and strategy to be discussed in the Public Council for Statistics and approved by ICBS management.*

3. Participants

ICBS management and Staff Members besides the Twinning Staff

- **Ari Paltiel**, The Government Statistician Dept, Ari@cbs.gov.il
- **Larisa Fleishman**, Head of Geographical Methodology Sector, Microeconomic Dept, and Government Statistician Dept, larisaf@cbs.gov.il
- **Elana Dror**, Head of quality and Excellence Sector, HR Dept elana@cbs.gov.il
- **Luisa Burck**, Director, Methodology Dept, Louiza@cbs.gov.il
- **Mirit Cohen**, Web content manager, Communication and Spokesman Division, mirite@cbs.gov.il
- **Brian Negin**, Legal Adviser at ICBS, briann@cbs.gov.il
- **Tom Caplan**, The Government Statistician Dept, tomc@cbs.gov.il
- **Amit Yagur-Kroll**, amitk@cbs.gov.il
- **Limor Louie**, Head of Sector in the IT Dept, limorl@cbs.gov.il
- **Arie Aharon**, Associate Director of Administration and Human Resources Department, aharon@cbs.gov.il
- **Avigail Levy**, Director of Business-Economics Department, avigaill@cbs.gov.il
- **Brian Negin**, Legal Advisor, briann@cbs.gov.il
- **Danny Pfeffermann**, Government Statistician, MsDanny@cbs.gov.il
- **Louiza Burk**, Director of Statistical Methodology Department, louiza@cbs.gov.il
- **Merav Yiftach**, Director of Micro-economics Department, meravo@cbs.gov.il
- **Olivia Blum**, Director of Demography and Census Department, blum@cbs.gov.il
- **Orit levin**, Head Accountant, Oritl@cbs.gov.il
- **Oz Shimony**, Director of Macro-economics Department, ozs@cbs.gov.il
- **Rachel Gur**, Director of Survey Department, Rachelg@cbs.gov.il
- **Shahar Katz**, Director of Information Technology Department, shahar@cbs.gov.il
- **Tali Tal**, Director of Economic Infrastructures Department, tali@cbs.gov.il
- **Yosef Gidanian**, Director of Education and Teaching Staff Department, gidanian@cbs.gov.il
- **Eran Ropalidis**, ICBS Spokesman and Director of Communication and Media Department, eranr@cbs.gov.il

External Stakeholders (including external stakeholders from the Opening Event)

Top management representatives of the Ministries (Kick-off and Thursday morning)

Representatives of the NSS partners from Academia (Thursday morning)

MS experts

- **Ms. Karin Wenche Schytte Blix**, Chief Advisor Department of Methodology and Analysis, Statistics Denmark, MS Component Leader for component A; kwb@dst.dk
 - *Specialist knowledge:* Quality Management, Broad experience from different subject areas: prices, environmental, education and trade statistics
- **Mr. Lars Thygesen**, International Consultant on Official Statistics with experience in advising top management of National Statistical Institutes of 25+ countries since 1992; lthygesen@gmail.com
 - *Specialist knowledge:* Management of a statistical organisation, Register based statistics, Quality in statistics, IT and dissemination strategy, Standards and metadata, User needs and user dialogue.

Twinning Staff

- **Mr. Yoel Finkel**, BC Project Leader, Associate Government Statistician, yoel@cbs.gov.il, assisted by **Ms. Sigalit Mazeh**, Director, International Relations and Statistical Coordination Department, sigalit@cbs.gov.il
- **Ms. Batia Attali**, RTA Counterpart, BC Component Leader for component A, International Relations and Statistical Coordination Department, batia@cbs.gov.il
- **Ms. Charlotte Nielsen**, Resident Twinning Adviser cln@dst.dk , CharlotteN@cbs.gov.il
- **Ms. Tamar Rand**, Resident Twinning Adviser Assistant, TamarRa@cbs.gov.il

4. Current Status of Quality Management in Official Statistics at ICBS (quotes from the Twinning contract)

Official statistics in Israel is mainly produced by ICBS, but also by Ministries and national institutions that form together the NSS. However, since statistics is not core business of other institutions than ICBS they often lack the power to engage their top management in investing resources in statistical development. They use their administrative data generated via their daily functioning and not designed for statistical purposes. Moreover, the statistics produced is not always in line with international standards.

A lesson learned in the previous Twinning project is that there is a need for ICBS and its partners in the NSS to develop infrastructures, in order to engage modernization of the production processes of official statistics. European and international standards should be adopted – inter alia, the European Statistics Code of Practice (ES CoP), which has been formally adopted by ICBS top management in 2014. At the same time, following the State Comptroller's report, ICBS management started promoting mechanisms for coordination of the NSS, to streamline and ensure the quality of official statistics produced.

As part of this Twinning project, ICBS is willing to foster quality management and assessment of official statistics in Israel, both in ICBS and in the NSS. The main objective is to bring the NSS partners to acknowledge the need for the NSS to act as one system, adhering to agreed-on quality standards.

Moreover, the Statistics Code of Practice for the European Neighborhood South countries, approved in Luxembourg in May 2015, refers to all producers of official statistics in the NSS as follows:

Principle 4: Commitment to Quality. *The National Statistical Institute and other producers of official statistics are committed to quality. They systematically and regularly identify strengths and weaknesses to continuously improve process and product quality.*

Principle 16: Coordination and Cooperation. *Coordination and cooperation in statistics contribute to the improvement of the quality of official statistics in the national statistical systems of the ENP-South countries.*

Furthermore, on May 19th 2015, the Amendment of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European Statistics, COM(2012) 167, has been adopted reinforcing the principles of professional independence, coordination of the national statistical systems and the need to establish commitments on confidence.

Abbreviations:

BC = Beneficiary Country (Israel)

MS = Member State (Denmark)

ICBS = Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics

IT = Information Technologies

CoP = Code of Practice

SIMS = Single Integrated Metadata Structure

GSBPM = The Generic Statistical Business Process Model

DDI= Data Documentation Initiative

CSPA = Common Statistical Production Architecture

OSIMM = The Open Group Service Integration Maturity Model

GAMSO= The Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organizations

Material to be prepared and sent before the Activity:

Presentations.