

Information on ICBS

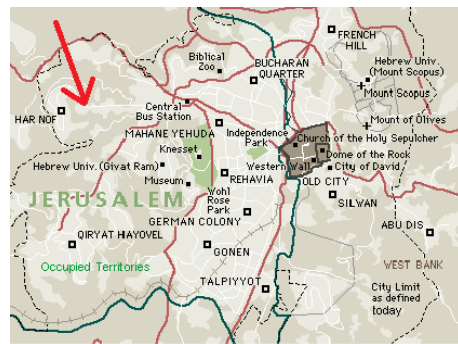
Central Bureau of Statistics

66-68, Kanfey Nesharim

Jerusalem 91342, Israel

www.cbs.gov.il

The Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) is located approximately 5 km West of the Old City and the Centre of Jerusalem. Because of traffic, the trip can easily take 30 minutes. Taxi may often be faster, and would cost around 10 EUR. Public transportation costs just over 1 EUR – tickets are valid for 1½ hours for all buses and the light rail.



Buses 74 and 75 from the Centre goes to ICBS. Another option is to go by the light rail in the Mount Herzl direction, get off at the Kiryat Moshe stop, and take bus 60 or 74 to ICBS - or walk approximately 20 minutes.

Contact information in Israel

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Statistics Denmark

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Mission Guide

May 2013

Support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics

in the development of

National Accounts, Education Statistics,
Survey Methodology, ICBS Website and
Coordination of Israel National Statistical System

An EU Twinning project implemented May 2013-October 2014 by

*Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics and Statistics Denmark
with the assistance of Statistics Netherlands*

Practical information about Israel

Time: GMT+2 hours, i.e. one ahead of Denmark and the Netherlands

Money: 100 NIS (New Israeli Shekels) equals approximately 21 EUR or 155 DKK

Tips: At restaurants, 10 per cent is expected if the service has been satisfactory

Climate: cold December to February – otherwise quite warm or even hot

Check-list before departure – make sure that:

- Terms of reference and agenda for the mission are agreed upon and expectations from each side are cleared;
- The time and place of the first meeting is clear to you;
- You have saved presentations and other documents on your computer and a USB-stick;
- You have your flight ticket and a hotel is booked;
- You have your passport (valid at least 6 months after the mission), credit cards, some cash and a portable computer including charger;
- It is important that your passport does not have stamps from Iran or other countries with which Israel do not have diplomatic relations. Please contact the RTA, if in doubt.

Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS)

Working hours will normally be 9.00-17.00 with lunch approximately from 12.00-13.15. The dress code is relaxed, but dress reasonably formal at least the first day.

The first meeting should include a short presentation of yourself, your area of expertise and a discussion of the Terms of Reference and agenda in order to ensure a common understanding of the purpose of the mission and the expected activities and results. It is always a good idea to confirm and agree on findings and positions. This should happen throughout your mission, e.g. every morning you can present the issues discussed the previous day but especially during the last day when you present the conclusions.

Code of conduct

The staff at ICBS is highly qualified, and you should expect challenging questions and discussions. Respect your counterpart. Remember that Twinning means cooperation between two equal partners, and that diplomacy works better than open criticism. Please bear in mind that due to religious affiliation not everyone will shake your hand.

Terms of Reference (ToR) and preparation

A necessary starting point for a successful mission is the ToR which contains information on the background and purpose of the mission, type of activities, related project benchmarks, and the expected outcome. The ToR should also contain information on your counterparts, date and venue of the mission and reporting requirements. A draft agenda for the mission would normally be enclosed.

Mission report

A mission report will have to be concluded and sent to the RTA no later than one week after the mission. The mission report template is obtained from the RTA. When finishing the mission it is preferable that most of the mission report is concluded, and that all conclusions and recommendations have been presented and discussed with the RTA and the ICBS counterparts. In particular, it is of importance that the work which ICBS is to conduct after the mission, in order to achieve the mandatory results of the project, are clear and agreed upon – and that possible consultation after the mission either by email or through the RTA is planned in mutual agreement.

Working method

The working method is based on dialogue with ICBS and other local stakeholders. You are not expected to fill in a whole week of presentations and lectures. Rather, you are in Israel to make consultations and advise on ways to solve the problems the beneficiary is facing. Twinning projects are a joint exercise with both sides being mutually responsible for the successful outcome.

Travelling to and from Jerusalem

The Ben Gurion International Airport is closer to Tel Aviv than to Jerusalem. There is approximately one hour's driving with taxi from the Airport to the Centre of Jerusalem. The standard rate with taxi to Jerusalem is 320 NIS, equalling 65 EUR. Alternatively, shuttle buses to Jerusalem leave approximately every 15 minutes from the airport.

SAS has direct planes between Copenhagen and Tel Aviv, currently on Sundays and Thursdays. Other options, i.e. on other travelling days, are Austrian Airlines (through Vienna) or Turkish Airlines (through Istanbul), normally with approximately 1-2 hours layover. From the Netherlands it is necessary to use connecting flights, eg. through Bucharest (TAROM) or Kiev (Ukraine International Air) – or combinations of these.

Entering and leaving Israel

There are no visa requirements to Israel. Be prepared to explain the purpose of your visit to Israel carefully in connection with the passport control.

You will receive a 3 month tourist visa in the form of a little paper slip. This slip is also documentation that you (the project) should not pay VAT to the hotel.

When leaving, please be aware that due to high level of security you need to be at the airport 3 hours in advance to start the check-in procedure. The security procedure can include many questions about your background, purpose of visit and visits to other countries as well as extra checking of your luggage.

Accommodation

There are plenty of hotels in Jerusalem. Almost all hotels are specialized in group tourism, and many of the hotels are, though not inexpensive, rather worn down. The RTA will help you find an adequate hotel depending on your preferences. A satisfactory and well located hotel with whom the Twinning Project has established contacts is the Prima Kings Hotel:

Prima Kings Hotel:

<http://www.prima-hotels-israel.com/jerusalem-hotels/prima-kings-jerusalem-hotel>

The address in Hebrew is: רח' המלך ג'ורג' 60, ירושלים (פינת רח' רמב"ן)

Documentation

You should send original boarding passes, invoice for flight ticket to Project Administration (Kenneth Thomsen) together with other documentation of costs. Mission reports will be uploaded on the project website: www.dst.dk/israel as soon as they are approved.