

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 first 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 3rd month of implementation. This Newsletter will inform about the activities that have been implemented in these intense first months.

> Project background

The EU funded Twinning project is running for 24 months 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. In other words 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



■ Picture taken during the kick-off, March 6, 2014

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 IT services available to KAS. As an example the project will work with KAS's website and aims to enhance its user-friendliness.

> Kick-off meeting

The project was officially opened 6 March 2014 with a kick-off meeting. There was an opening speech by Mr. Dren Zeka, from the Office of the Prime Minister. Mr. Ramiz Ulaj welcomed the project and were pleased that the EU supported this important area. Task Manager Ms. Angeliki Votsoglou, EU Office in Kosovo, Project Leader Mr. Ilir Berisha Kosovo Agency of Statistics and Member State Project Leader Mr. Jesper Ellemtose Jensen, Statistics Denmark presented their views of the project and highlighted the importance of statistics and the common European standards.

> 5 missions in 3 months

In the first 3 months the project has welcomed leading experts from Denmark and Lithuania, who have provided expertise on Quality Work, National Accounts and Business Statistics. The five completed missions focused on establishing a basis for the upcoming work in form of assessments and the design of roadmaps for three out of four components. An assessment mission for the last component – the IT-system – is scheduled for the end of March.

All MS and KAS experts involved have been working hard and the experience so far has been one of fruitful cooperation where skilled MS professionals have met with their colleagues from Kosovo on equal footing. For the next three months seven new missions are planned.

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Project information is available from,
the website
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This project is funded by the European Union



This project is implemented by Statistics Denmark