



EU Twinning Project

IS12/ENP-APFI/o8

**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**

Component C

Coordination of Israel
National Statistical System

Activity C.6

Awareness about the
National Statistical System

Implemented by:

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Jerusalem

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List of Abbreviations

MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Member State
NSI	National Statistics Institute
NSS	National Statistical System
ICBS	Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics
ToR	Terms of Reference

1. General comments

This was another great experience of open discussions and commitment from ICBS partners and the MS Expert would like to express his thanks to all officials and individuals met for the kind support and inspiring discussions during the stay in Israel which highly facilitated the work.

The views and observations stated in this report are those of the MS Expert's, and do not necessarily correspond to the views of the European Union or Statistics Denmark.

2. Activities during the mission

The program laid out in the ToR was followed with full engagement from the top management. This included:

- Discussion about the plans for the rest of the component in the project
- A half-day workshop on the exact scope and contents of the recommendations on metadata system in component E4.1.
- The successful conduct of the Steering Committee, which was extra encouraging because of the strong support from the EU Delegation.
- A half-day workshop with the top management on how to strengthen the work with the long term strategy.
- Meetings with two partner producers of official statistics in Israel, the National Insurance Institute and the Ministry of Finance. The outcome of these meetings was agreement to work towards a better coordination and mutual assistance in fulfilling user needs. Work will continue towards a MoU with each of these partners.

3. Recommendations for activities in the coming months

The following recommendations were presented and accepted by the ICBS management:

3.1 Recommendations on NSS

ICBS started work with partners, trying to agree on MoU with each major partner. The beginning with the National Institute of Insurance and the Ministry of Finance during the mission was very promising. By the end of the project, there should be MoUs agreed with at least 3 important partners. Progress will be reviewed in September.

There seems to be a promising start for an efficient Public Council for Statistics. However, it has not yet convened for the first time. A subcommittee has been formed, and it seems it will try to propose a „Statistics Hub”, which should unite first macro data, subsequently even micro data, together with metadata, from many agencies. This is very promising and is encouraged.

ICBS should also work on a long term objective of being able, to a larger extent, to utilize micro data from partners. This should be one of the objectives in the Strategy.

3.2 Recommendations on Long term strategy

It was agreed to put more power to the strategy group, as progress has been slow; Yoel Finkel will now be the chair and responsible for driving the process.

There should be a Management Seminar outside the office regarding the long term strategy in June.

Before this event, the ICBS will prepare a draft that can fuel the discussions and make them concrete, leading to a full strategy, which must be agreed before the end of the project. Progress will be reviewed in September.

3.3 Recommendations on Organisation

The management will take steps to make the organisation clearer and make sure that all stakeholders in important positions in the organisation contribute constructively to the common strategy.

3.4 Recommendations on metadata

Management commitment for a common metadata system has been confirmed. The metadata strategy will be based on international content and technical standards, while taking national needs into account. This way the management will be guiding staff to help users and be effective.

The management will:

- Give direction to the work
- Invest resources, manpower as well as necessary IT infrastructure
- Adopt standards
- Make metadata part of the Strategy

It should be investigated if it is possible to have one more activity on metadata in the project.

3.5 Other issues

A strong interest in the Research Services of countries like Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden was recognised. Similar arrangements, giving researchers better opportunities to use detailed and tailor-made micro data to do important research, could be developed in Israel. It could be a subject of a coming Twinning Project. Statistics Denmark will as an inspiration send some material about the Danish service, which currently serves 1,400 researchers outside Statistics Denmark.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference



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Mandatory results and benchmarks related to activity C.6

Mandatory result	Benchmark
MR13. Enhancement of ICBS engagement in the National Statistical System	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mapping partners in the NSS and their possible contribution to the statistical system.• Pilot of coordination mechanism

Subject / purpose of activity C.6

The purpose of the activity is to meet with high level officials from the main partners of the National Statistical System.

Expected output from activity C.6

Mission report with recommendations on how to raise awareness of the NSS partners regarding their important role in the system and the derived implications for quality and use of international standards.

Participants

Statistics Denmark:

Lars Thygesen, Director of Sales and Marketing, Statistics Denmark

Annex 2. Programme: 18-20 March 2014

Date	Place	Time	Event
Tue 18/3	CBS	09:30	Project round-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Preparation for SCM3 - current status and on-going projects ○ Planning the future SCMs and the Closing Event (December) ○ Planning of the C.4 activity (<i>"Co-operation with users and data providers"</i>) in September: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exact dates ○ Topics ○ Preparation for meetings with NSS partners, incl. discussion of the template for Memorandum of Understanding (between CBS and the other NSS partners)
		12:30	Lunch
		13:30	Metadata – discussion of the E4.1 mission report and how to follow-up on the E4.1 activity
		16:00	End of day 1
Wed 19/3	CBS	10:00	SCM3 - Steering Committee Meeting
		12:00	Lunch
	CBS	13:30	The National Statistical System(<i>management</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow-up on the C.3 activity (<i>"Co-ordination and co-operation with statistics producers in the NSS"</i>). How is the NSS co-operation being enhanced and formalized, and what are the next steps? ○ Memorandum of Understanding with NSS partners
			Strategic planning in CBS (<i>management</i>)
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall strategy plan for CBS plus other strategies and their mutual co-ordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dissemination strategy ○ Metadata strategy ○ Quality strategy ○ IT strategy (incl. web-based data collection)
		16:30	End of day 2
Thu 20/3	NII	09:30	Meeting with the National Insurance Institute (NSS partner)
	MoF	11:30	Meeting with the Ministry of Finance (NSS partner)
	CBS	13:00	Debriefing and end of meeting

Annex 3. Persons met

Name	Organisation	Department
Danny Pfeffermann	ICBS	Government Statistician and DG
Yoel Finkel	ICBS	Associate Government Statistician
Pnina Zadka	ICBS	Deputy and Senior Director, Demography & Census
Brian Negin	ICBS	Legal Advisor
Oz Shimony	ICBS	Senior Director, Macro-economics
Tali Tal	ICBS	Senior Director, Economic- infrastructures
Yael Natan	ICBS	Director, Spokesmanship, Dissemination and Media Communication
Avigail Levy	ICBS	Senior Director, Business-economics
Batia Attali	ICBS	RTA Counterpart, International Relations & Statistical Coordination
Olivia Blum	ICBS	Project Leader, International Relations & Statistical Coordination
Daniel Gotlieb	National Insurance Institute	Deputy DG, Research and Planning Administration
Jacques Bendalak	National Insurance Institute	Research and Planning Administration
Eldad Shidlovsky	Ministry of Finance	Senior Director, Economics and Research and International Relations
Izzy Kaplan	Ministry of Finance	Economic and Research
Shaul Cohen	Ministry of Finance	Economic and Research
Moshe Bachar	Ministry of Finance	Wages and Labour
Natalie Mironichev	Ministry of Finance	Israel Tax Authority, Customs
Rami Harel	ICBS	IT
Yossi Nissim	ICBS	IT
Tom Caplan	ICBS	Government Statistician Office
Mirit Cohen	ICBS	Dissemination and Media Communication
Sigalit Mazeh	ICBS	International Relations & Statistical Coordination
Caril Feldman	ICBS	Public Order, Demography & Census