

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 second 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 6th month of implementation. This Newsletter will inform about the project's progress and the activities that have been implemented since project start.

> 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 supporting 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



■ Picture taken during the Second Steering Committee meeting

improve KAS's IT systems and the quality of the dissemination of statistics from KAS. Another project with SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) is working within the same fields, but a good cooperation scheme has been established to prevent overlapping between the two projects' activities. The SIDA project is concentrating on IT and the Twinning project will be responsible for the dissemination part of Component 4.

> Steering Committee

The project, which started 9 December 2013, has established a steering committee which met for the first time in March 2014. The Steering Committee will meet every quarter and follow the projects implementation closely. Steering Committee members are: Mr. Isa Krasniqi, Chief Executive KAS (Chairman), Ms. Angeliki Votsoglou, Task Manager, EU Office in Kosovo, Ms. Burbuqe Kelmendi, Twinning Coordinator, EU Office in Kosovo, Ms. Hakile Xhaferi, Head of Statistical Council at KAS, Ms. Valmira Rexhëbeqaj, representative of Ministry of Finance in the Statistical Council, Mr. Kastriot Halili, Ministry of European Integration, Mr. Ilir T. Berisha, KAS Project Leader, Ms. Teuta Zyberi, RTA counterpart at KAS, Mr. Lars Thygesen, Member State Project Leader, Statistics Denmark, Mr. Jesper Ellemose Jensen, Member State Deputy Project Leader, Statistics Denmark, Mr. Per Knudsen, Resident Twinning Adviser, Statistics Denmark, Ms. Nora Zogaj, RTA Assistant and Ms. Catrin Karling, SIDA (observer)

> 16 missions in 6 months

As a total 16 missions have now been completed. During the past 3 month 10 missions have taken place. The project is progressing well and there have now been missions within all four components. KAS and experts from member countries have worked with subjects like: Statistical workplan, Quality Guidelines, Quarterly National Accounts, Structural Business Statistics, Industrial Production Indicators, Short-term Statistics, the Statistical Business Register and a Dissemination Database. In the past 6 month the project has worked with leading experts from Denmark, Finland, and Lithuania, who have provided expertise on Quality Work, National Accounts, Business Statistics and IT & Dissemination.

The second project quarter has been a very busy period, and all Member State experts and professionals from Kosovo Agency of Statistics involved have been working hard. For the next 6 months 25 new missions are planned. - Again working within all four components.

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Project information is available from,
the website

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