



NEWSLETTER

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Enhancing Official Statistics

The EU-Israel Twinning Project on Statistics has moved from the assessment phase to the implementation phase. During the implementation phase, the focus is on long-term sustainability of results.

The project has concluded its sixth month. This newsletter is meant to inform about the project's progress and the activities that have been implemented within the last three months.

Project progress Within the last three months, four missions in Israel have been completed. In all cases the activities were defined by a Terms of Reference (ToR). The well-prepared ToRs enabled the project partners to focus on the desired results. Improving statistics through adaptation of EU and other international standards and best practices was in focus in all activities.

The missions consisted of seminars, hands-on exercises, technical discussions, as well as discussions of best practices in terms of day-to-day problems.

However, a significant and very important part of the project implementation was carried out between the missions through a constant dialogue between member states experts and ICBS experts as well as the production of guidelines, dialogue with stakeholders etc.

A. Quality Management of Official Statistics The Statistics Code of Practice (CoP) for the ENP-South countries was formally adopted by the ICBS in 2014. The CoP consists of 16 fundamental principles ensuring comparable user-oriented and independent statistics. The second mission was dedicated to practical hands-on exercises and feedback on tools supporting the implementation of the CoP such as the quality assurance framework (QAF) and the General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM). Before the mission, the QAF and the GSBPM were translated into Hebrew and tested as a provisional model for self-assessment and an audit process of five selected statistics. The participating staff members were highly motivated and engaged. Positive feedback was received, and the participants noted that the exercise gave them a good understanding of the CoP principles and of what they, as subject units, can do in order to meet the principles of the CoP.



A: Activity D3 - Janusz Dygaszewicz (Poland) and Anna Binstok-Cohen (ICBS) discussing the use of geo-spatial tools for Field Surveys. B: Activity A2 - Larisa Fleishman, Alla Proskorovsky and Merav Yiftach (ICBS) at the audit meeting with the Danish experts Rasmus Anker Kristiansen and Karin Blix (DST)

B. Micro-data Services to Researchers

Making micro-data accessible to researchers depends on technological infrastructures supporting procedures and processes, as well as strict security measures. The second mission was dedicated to IT infrastructures and information security. Several solutions for remote access were drafted. Advantages and disadvantages of each solution were discussed, and budgets for network designs were outlined. In the coming months, ICBS will work with the research community to better understand their needs and expectations.

C. Infrastructures for Agricultural Statistics.

Accurate and reliable agricultural data are of importance for ICBS as a producer of official agricultural statistics as well as for various stakeholders, e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). At the mission, representatives from MARD and ICBS worked closely together with the experts on evaluating the current situation, including discussing the quality of existing administrative files. All partners agreed on the importance of conducting an agricultural census in Israel in the near future. The question of funding for such a census remains, however, unsolved.

D. Methodological and Geo-spatial Tools for Improving the Quality and the Efficiency of Field Surveys

The overall purpose of this activity was to present and discuss optimal management of the fieldwork by using geo-spatial tools. It was found that the necessary pre-conditions for introducing such tools were met in Israel.

Steering Committee

The Steering committee met for the first time in June 2016. The Steering Committee will meet every quarter and follow the project's implementations closely. The Steering Committee consists of representatives from the Delegation of the EU to Israel, the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) and Statistics Denmark (DST).

The ICBS Project Webpage

Please be aware that the ICBS has now launched a Twinning Project webpage in Hebrew and English: www.cbs.gov.il/twinning.html

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Further information

The project brochure and activity reports can be downloaded from the project's websites: www.dst.dk/israel and www.cbs.gov.il/twinning.html

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