

A Quarterly Newsletter published within the European Union's ENPI programme for Israel  
**EU Twinning Project IL/12/CRIS 2015/370-467**

## Enhancing Official Statistics

The EU-Israel Twinning Project on Statistics has just finished its third project quarter and successfully fulfilled the first seven indicators of achievement.

Within the last three months, four missions have been carried out at the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) and the first study visit during this Twinning Project has taken place in Stockholm and London.

**Successful embedding of the Twinning Project within the ICBS:** Interdisciplinary cooperation is a prerequisite for successful implementation of the project. This requires engagement not only from the Twinning Team, but also from numerous ICBS departments as well as from the top management. Over the course of the Twinning Project, all relevant departments and internal committees have been highly engaged in Twinning activities and their enthusiasm and input are some of the key elements for the successful achievement reached within the first three project quarters.

**A. Quality management of official statistics:** The third mission was dedicated to quality reporting in the ICBS. During the mission, the practical implementation of quality reports was discussed and hands-on exercises on the Danish model for quality report were tested for five selected statistics. In preparation for the mission, the Danish Guidelines and templates were translated into Hebrew and assisted the work. Since then the work on drafting a roadmap for the work ahead has been initiated in close cooperation with the Metadata Steering Committee.

On the first study visit, the Israeli delegation met with Statistics Sweden, the UK Office of National Statistics and the UK Statistics Authority. The study visit served as a necessary step to proceed with the already initiated work related to quality management of official statistics. The main topics covered were legislative and organizational frameworks governing coordination and quality assurance in the National Statistical System, the role of the National Statistical Institute (like the ICBS) as well as work processes and the required resources. The study visit gave the Israeli delegation a wealth of valuable ideas and inspiration for future development of quality management of official statistics in Israel.



A: Study Visit A4 – ICBS participants at the study visit in London with UK experts  
 B: Activity B3 – ICBS participants listening to experts from Denmark  
 C: Activity A3 and C2 - Sightseeing tour in Jerusalem organized by RTA Assistant after a busy day at ICBS

**B. Micro-data services to researchers:** The third mission was devoted to organizational structure, procedures and processes. Presentations by MS Experts were followed by active discussions and comparative analysis between the current situation at the ICBS and the Danish approach to researcher's access to micro-data. Based on the knowledge gained, the ICBS and the experts discussed a long-term plan for allowing researchers remote access to micro-data in Israel. It was concluded that regular monthly meetings with the subject units are essential in the transition phase from the current situation toward a more central organizational structure and improving the services provided to researchers today.

**C. Infrastructures for agricultural statistics:** The second mission in September focused on methodology for implementation and maintenance of the farms frame. Findings confirmed that a census is necessary in order to identify the population of farmers and establish a reliable farm register. The typology concept was introduced as a tool to describe the agricultural farms by their specialization into different farm activities. In addition, the generic statistical business process model (GSBPM) was presented as a tool to standardize the framework and to harmonize terminology, by describing a set of business processes.

**D. Geo-spatial tools for improving the quality and the efficiency of field surveys:** The subject of the mission was to build methodology to allocate interviewers' workload in multiple field surveys. The mission started from a good platform due to extensive preparation of a pilot simulation model prior to the mission. During the mission, the model was adjusted according to recommendations from the Polish expert. The adjusted model demonstrated that a significant reduction in travel cost can be achieved by reorganizing the allocation of interviewers from a single survey to working on multiple surveys in a designated geographical area. The contemplated reorganization will change the future allocation of interviewers to surveys.

### Project management

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### Further information

Activity reports can be downloaded from the project's websites: [www.dst.dk/israel](http://www.dst.dk/israel) and [www.cbs.gov.il/twinning.html](http://www.cbs.gov.il/twinning.html)  
 Please be sure to start following our Twinning Project on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StatisticsTwinningProject](http://www.facebook.com/StatisticsTwinningProject)

