

A Quarterly Newsletter published within the European Union's ENPI programme for Israel  
**EU Twinning Project: Support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics**

**EU-Israel Twinning project on statistics has kicked off**

The EU-Israel Twinning Project on statistics kicked off successfully in Jerusalem on 28 May 2013 with its Opening Ceremony.

The Opening Ceremony took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' impressive Auditorium. Project participants and partners of the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) from within the National Statistical System celebrated the launch of the 18 months Twinning project "Support to the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics". The project will be implemented jointly by the CBS and Statistics Denmark with the support of Statistics Netherlands.

The Opening Ceremony was particularly honoured by the participation of the Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Raphael Schutz; Deputy Head of the EU Delegation, Sandra de Waele; and the Deputy Ambassador of Denmark to Israel, Anders Bjørn Hansen.

After the welcome addresses and presentation of the project, Government Statistician of Israel and Director of CBS, Professor Danny Pfeffermann, Deputy Governor of Bank of Israel, Dr. Karnit Flug, and the Twinning project leader from Statistics Denmark, Lars Thygesen, took part in a panel discussion, on the future of official statistics. The discussion was chaired and facilitated by project leader, Olivia Blum from CBS.

The panel concluded that statistics are increasingly important as a "lighthouse in the information jungle". However, not all statistics can be considered as official, *per se*, and not all producers of statistical information can be considered official. Therefore, National Statistical Offices along with their close partners should stand guard over the quality via persistent use of internationally approved standards, such as the EU regulations on statistics.



**Some Twinning Project background**

During the 18 months, the Twinning project will feature 40 activities, of which 8 study visits to Statistics Denmark or Statistics Netherlands.

The project has five components. They are National Accounts, Education Statistics, Strategic Planning and the National Statistical System, Survey Methodology, and Dissemination and Website.

The National Accounts component is divided into separate sub-components, i.e. Financial Accounts (including Government Accounts and Balance of Payments), Environmental Accounts, and Social Accounts.

The first three activities have already been successfully implemented – one study visit to Statistics Denmark on the issues of Dissemination and Website, and two missions to CBS on Financial Accounts and Strategic Planning, respectively.

With this Quarterly Newsletter we look forward to updating you on the project's progress. In the meantime, you are very welcome to contact any of us in the project's daily management group.

*From the Opening Ceremony: (left to right) Olivia Blum and Lars Thygesen, the two project leaders; Danny Pfeffermann, Government Statistician; Sandra de Waele, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Israel; and Livia Stella, Head of Operations Section, EU Delegation to Israel.*

**Project contact information**

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**Brochure and other information**

The project brochure, Hebrew and English, can be taken from the project's website: [www.dst.dk/israel](http://www.dst.dk/israel), where also mission and study visit reports, as well as other project materials will be stored.

