

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



The first meeting of the Twinning project's Steering Committee gave the project leaders a chance to reflect on their impressions after the first implementation months.

Every three months, the performance of the Twinning project is evaluated through the quarterly meetings of the Steering Committee. The first of these meetings were held in the beginning of September. We have chosen to use this Newsletter to give the floor to the two project leaders by quoting them from what was actually said during the meeting.

Olivia Blum, Israeli CBS

"The Twinning Project is addressing the Israeli statistical system on different levels; the challenges to official statistics are tackled on a global level and the Twinning is making CBS more responsive and adept to answer them. The atmosphere created in CBS is of productive development and of commitment to results within a tight time schedule.

During the Twinning project, the National Statistics System (NSS) is being defined. The partners of the NSS, mainly within the public sector, have already expressed their support and willingness to cooperate. The Bank of Israel, one of the main partners, has been directly involved in the project - especially in the National Accounts component. The RTA is taking part in monthly status meetings held in the Information and Statistics Department of the Bank of Israel. In addition, the Bank of Israel, on their own request and

expense, hosted and participated in activities, including a study visit of the Dissemination and Website component to Statistics Denmark.

On the individual level, the European-Danish experts, our 'twins', are true professionals and easy going people – these are the most important ingredients for such an endeavor. It is very functional for the establishment of demanding routines and for constructive interactions with the project partners.

We are very satisfied with the Twinning so far. It contributes significantly to the working routines and to the development pace of official statistics. Addressing current and future challenges in official statistics will have to be done on more than a single country level, so 'multi-sibling' projects will be more than welcome in the future."

Lars Thygesen, Statistics Denmark

"We have been received with enthusiasm and an inspiring will to discuss all problems which is already half a way to success of the project. I would like to note that on our side, Statistics Denmark and its staff benefit and learn from the cooperation in this particular Twinning Project.

An example of how the Twinning Project provides experience to Statistics Denmark is the planning of a big event aiming at enhancing the National Statistical System (NSS). Mapping of around 40 institutions playing a part in the NSS has been undertaken and invitations already sent out. This kind of mapping is something that would also be of great value if implemented in Denmark."

Photo from the first meeting of the Steering Committee. Left to Right: Olivia Blum (Project Leader, Central Bureau of Statistics), Lars Thygesen (Project Leader, Statistics Denmark), David Nezer (EU Cooperation Programmes, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel), Sébastien Lorion (Project Manager, Delegation of the EU to Israel), Luigi Pratolongo (Head of Economic and Trade section, Delegation of the EU to Israel)

For on-going project information and more photos, please follow the link to join us on [Facebook](#)

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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, where also mission and study visit reports, as well as other project materials will be stored.

