

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



The EU Twinning project with the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics held its Closing Ceremony on 17 December 2014 in the Bible Lands Museum of Jerusalem, and celebrated its results with partners of the National Statistical System as well as with users of statistics.

More than 100 people took part in the event which marked the successful fulfillment of the project's objective to improve the quality and comparability of Israeli official statistics.

The Government Statistician, professor Danny Pfeffermann, opened the Closing Ceremony by stressing the very strong influence of the project which had been felt throughout the whole organization during the implementation period.

The Head of the EU Delegation to Israel, Lars Faaborg-Andersen congratulated both partners, the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) and Statistics Denmark, on the implementation and the results achieved. He emphasized the importance of having reliable statistics available for policy and decision making.

The project leader from Statistics Denmark, Lars Thygesen, focused on the particular nature of this Twinning project having inspirational discussions at a very advanced level, for the benefit of EU experts as well as for the Israeli experts in development of their daily work.

The project leader from ICBS, Olivia Blum who was the Chair of the event, read a letter of congratulations from Claudia Junker, Head of Eurostat's

Statistical Cooperation Unit and compared the project's focus on establishing an Israeli National Statistical System (NSS) with the similar steps being taken in EU these years.

The project's RTA, Thomas Bie, gave an overview of the results achieved, and Batia Attali, the RTA counterpart, described the mode of action and the value of the Twinning partnership in a philosophical manner.

The users' perspective was brought by Dr. Shirley Avrami, director of Research and Information Center in the Kneset, spoke about the Center's use of statistics as one of the cornerstones in serving the information needs of all Kneset members as well as the public at large.

The Bank of Israel (BoI) is, as a producers of official statistics, one of ICBS's main partners in the National Statistical System. BoI has played a part in several of the project's components, and Tzahi Frankovits, director of Statistics and Information Department in the BoI, mentioned in his speech the first-ever inclusion of statistics in BoI's annual work programme. This new status of statistics was brought about by the Twinning project and the work on the National Statistical System..

The Associate Government Statistician, Yoel Finkel, concluded the event by referring to the importance of the Twinning project to the coordination within ICBS, and between ICBS and its partners in the NSS. The commitment of ICBS staff to reach the goals according to the project timetable was a key factor to its success.

Left. Government Statistician, Danny Pfeffermann and project leader, Lars Thygesen listen to the welcome introduction by Head of the EU Delegation to Israel, Lars Faaborg-Andersen.

Second from left. Director Shirley Avrami from the Research and Information Center of the Knesset, representing the statistics users' point of view.

Third from left. Head of Statistics and Information Department, Tzahi Frankovits from Bank of Israel, one of the major partners of the National Statistical System of Israel.

Right. Project leader, Olivia Blum reads the greetings from Claudia Junker from Eurostat (depicted on screen).

Project contact information

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Brochure and other information

The project brochure, Hebrew and English, can be taken from the project's websites: www.dst.dk/israel/ or http://www.cbs.gov.il/twinning/twinning_h.html from where also mission and study visit reports, as well as other project materials, are available.

The video on the project and the general importance of statistics can be seen on youtube using this [video link](#).

