

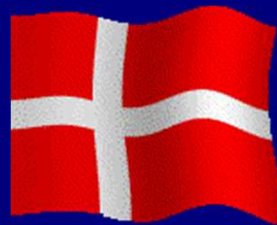


הלשכה המרכזית לסטטיסטיקה
Central Bureau of Statistics
دائرة الإحصاء المركزية

EU-Denmark-Israel

Twinning kick-off, May 28th, 2013

Jerusalem, Ministry of Foreign Affairs



*The Relevance of the Twinning project
to Israel Official Statistics*

The Relevance of the Twinning project to Israel Official Statistics:

Quality and international comparability

- Needs of statistical development;
- Means to answer these needs.

Needs: Statistical development engines

- *Growing awareness*
- *Technological enablers*
- *Structural changes; globalization*

Growing awareness of –

- statistics as a tool to objectively reflect reality (**to know ex-ante**);
- the advantages of evidence based policy making (**to act**);
- the need to empirically measure changes (**to monitor**);
- statistics as a tool to provide information regarding the impact of policy taken (**to evaluate ex-post**).

Technological enablers

- to collect data and to use alternative data sources (administrative)
- to process data and produce statistical information
- to store, retrieve and transfer statistics
- to communicate knowledge and information
- to access statistical information

Structural changes; globalization

- The international arena introduces additional users;
- Voluntary membership in the international milieu, implies compulsory supply of statistical information;
- International organizations take over functions previously held by national bodies, by defining needs on a global level, using international comparisons, and by defining the direction of statistical development as a derivative of a global decision making;
- There is an embedded tension between local needs and international requirements, because of limited resources.

Derived operational objectives

- **Harmonization** of existing data and metadata with international definitions;
- **Standardization** of data, metadata and paradata:
Development of new statistics according to international standards;
- **Coordination** of statistics production on the national level, vis-à-vis internal and external users.

Challenges introduced

- How to Influence “global” **decision making** regarding development, in order to narrow the gaps between the local and the international agendas?
- How to build the relevant **infrastructures**, including human capital?
- How to acquire the knowledge and the **expertise**?
- How to implement development policy under an **effective limitation of resources**?

The Twinning tool tackles these challenges by-

- 1- **Global orientation** of the EU to support its neighbors in adopting values and goals, and not only means to achieve them – narrowing gaps that are embedded in culture, history, and current national (statistics) situation.
- 2- Twinning, as a tool of **two-ways influence**, enables not only the sharing of accumulated experience in the different national arenas, but also to direct the synergies created to a joint development – decreasing *future* gaps.

- 3- The twinning tool is extremely instrumental to ICBS, in trying to **accelerate the pace** of quality improvement of official statistics, while improving the international comparability of the information produced, since it is based on the know-how; the **experience and expertise** already accumulated in Statistics Denmark.

- 4- The Twinning Project is a very **structured implementation tool** with an external monitoring, reflection and feed-back processes. It allows the statistics system to enjoy the merits of having an objective judgment and reflection of the existing internal processes and products, vis-à-vis the wanted and needed ones. The outcome is an efficient and effective guidance.

The parties involved in the Twinning project

- The **EU Delegation** to the State of Israel, as representative of the European Union which is financing the project, and
- **Statistics Denmark**, with the support of the Netherlands CBS, implementing the project on behalf of the EU
- Israel **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** as the Project Administration Office
- **ICBS**, as the instigator and the beneficiary institution
- And, indirectly, **the public at large**,
 - informed through the internet sites of the parties and the media
 - as the main beneficiary of the project, being able to use better quality statistics and more reliable international comparisons.

Other Israeli partners involved in the Twinning project

- **ICBS staff** in the relevant units, on all levels, from senior management to implementation level, from surveys' design to statistics development and production.
- **The partners in the NSS** relevant to the selected components, co-producers or complementary producers of official statistics
- **The Public Advisory Council for Statistics**, as a supporting partner in statistical decision making at the national level, anchored in the Statistical Ordinance
- **The main users of ICBS statistics**, in providing information needed for *Strategic Planning*
- Representatives of the **Academic and Research community**, for analysis of the cognitive aspects in questionnaire design.

The Twinning project in numbers

- 5 components, 3 subcomponents (NA)
- 18 months
- 38 activities - 31 missions (4 days), 7 study visits (3 days)
- More than 100 ICBS staff
- 28 Danish and 2 Dutch experts will make together 52 visits to Israel
- 31 Israelis' visits to Europe
- A majority of activities (25) with participants external to ICBS, 4 of which with more than 20 participants
- Bank of Israel, the Ministry of Finance, the Public Advisory Council for Statistics and Government Ministries are invited to the activities (among them, the Ministries of Education, Economy and Trade, Health, Social Affairs and Social Services, Internal Affairs, Agriculture, the National Insurance Institute, the Council for Higher Education.)

Future interaction between Israel NSS and Eurostat

- Israel as an ENP country will be better equipped to supply **reliable and comparable** statistics to Eurostat and to other international organizations;
- Commitment to Quality will be strengthened as a **value**, and the use of Israel's statistics will expand;
- EU-Israel relations will have the opportunity to further lean on empirical quality information.

Thank You!
Tusind Tak!
תודה רבה!

