NEWSLETTER

EU Twinning Project on Statistics (phase II) in Armenia

7th project quarter

This is the seventh Newsletter from the EU Twinning Project, *Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II.*

In the 7th project quarter the following activities have been implemented:

Demographic Statistics (IT): Study visit to Denmark:
The study visit was well organized and productive, and focused on IT security, server capacity, data warehouses, IT organization in Statistics Denmark etc. Discussions between Armenian and Danish colleagues were active and fruitful, and the Armenian delegation was impressed by the overall IT organization in Statistics Denmark.

Labour Market Statistics:
The aim of this fifth mission on Labour Market Statistics was to continue development of Labour Cost Survey (LCS) and Labour Cost Index (LCI) in Armenia, and to follow-up on the ongoing pilot-collection of structure of earnings data. Work on all areas is on track according to the time schedule. The experts also introduced a software for seasonal adjustments called Demetra. A successful meeting with key stakeholders was held.

Poverty Statistics:
Survey results from the ILCS data collection 2016 were analyzed, and the quality of the collected data seemed very good and coherent with other background information on households. During the mission, a constructive meeting with UNICEF was held, and some preliminary international comparisons was made, as well as some drafts of output tables to be further discussed at the next and final mission.

Innovation Statistics:
Two missions were carried out during this project quarter focusing on the results of the pilot survey on innovation activities implemented within the project. The survey questionnaire, its main modules and possible changes in the future was discussed, as well as tables to be published. Methodological guidelines for the production of innovation statistics was developed in cooperation between NSSRA and the experts.
On the last mission, it was concluded, that NSSRA is now fully equipped to produce innovation statistics in the future, which was the purpose of the component.

Water Accounts:
An expert from Statistics Denmark visited NSSRA with the aim to assess the ongoing compilation of water accounts, and to share the Danish experience of compiling water accounts. During the mission the expert presented the Danish approach and challenges to the staff of NSSRA and key external stakeholders, followed by discussion and questions from the participants.

Working situations during 7th quarter of the project.

A month later another mission with Italian experts took place to continue the initiated work, taking into account the inputs from the Danish expert. The work was put into the final stage of development. During the mission, indicators of the compiled tables on water accounts were discussed with the aim to reflect both on internationally comparable figures, as well as on country specific elements.

As the project progresses, relevant documentation and presentations are uploaded at the project website in English and Armenian. The project also has a Facebook page which is updated regularly - links to the website and Facebook can be found below.

In the eighth project quarter, eight activities will take place in Armenia. Since the project is closing in August 2017, the closing ceremony of the project will be held as well.

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Main topics of the Twinning Project

1. Dissemination and Quality of Statistics
Dissemination system improved; dissemination strategy developed; user satisfaction survey questionnaire updated, tested and published; recommendations made on quality management assurance

2. Demographic Statistics
Vital statistics and migration statistics improved; strategy for electronic data collection mechanisms developed (transition from paper sources to administrative registers)

3. Labour Market Statistics
Labour cost index calculated and published; structural statistics on wages calculated and published

4. Poverty Statistics
Social exclusion will be introduced and calculated (in cooperation with UNICEF)

5. Innovation Statistics
Innovation statistics introduced; methodology on innovation statistics developed; plan for regular production and publication developed

6. Water Accounts
Methodology for water accounts developed in cooperation with central stakeholders; water accounts compiled