NEWSLETTER

EU Twinning Project on Statistics (phase II) in Armenia

8ᵗʰ project quarter

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

The EU Twinning project with the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSSRA) held its Closing Ceremony on 7 July 2017 at the Erebuni Plaza Business Center in Yerevan and celebrated its results together with participants in the project, users and stakeholders.

Around 100 people took part in the event, which marked the successful conclusion of the project and the fulfillment of its key objectives: to support the upgrade of official statistics of Armenia by introducing new methodologies on statistics closely aligned to European standards, and to enhance dissemination of official statistics to the society.

The President of NSSRA, Mr. Stepan Mnatsakanyan opened the Closing Ceremony stressing the tangible and remarkable achievements for the NSSRA and the positive cooperation among all partners involved in the project.

Deputy Head of Cooperation Section of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Mr. Gregory Tsouris stressed how statistics is the key to knowledge for the society, and he congratulated the parties involved in the project for a job well-done.

First Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Investments of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Garegin Melkonyan highlighted the value of the Twinning instrument as a tool to upgrade standards in public institutions.

Director of Statistics Denmark, Mr. Søren Schiønning Andersen made a presentation on "The value of administrative data for statistics – and for Armenia in general". *"The National Statistical Institution serves the country as being part of the foundation for democracy and the economy. And administrative data should be viewed not as a cost to the state but as a valuable asset"*, said Søren Schiønning Andersen.

Finally, Project Leader Ms. Charlotte Juul Hansen and RTA Mr. Peter Bohnstedt Anan Hansen presented in detail the main results of the project.

Statistics Denmark would like to thank everyone involved in the project for their dedicated efforts in achieving the mandatory results and for making this project a success!

Closing Ceremony at Erebuni Plaza Business Center held in Yerevan on 7 July, 2017

This 24 month EU-funded project with a total budget of 1 million euro commenced in August 2015 and was implemented by the National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia (NSSRA) in co-operation with Statistics Denmark as lead partner and experts from the national statistics institutions in Finland, Italy and Lithuania being part of the project as well.

38 missions in Armenia, 7 study visits to EU member states, a very committed beneficiary institution, and 28 highly qualified and dedicated EU experts were the main ingredients in the project.

During the project a number of national key stakeholders were involved. NSSRA have developed close and fruitful co-operation with stakeholders involved in all components of the project.

All relevant documentation and presentations produced during the Twinning project are uploaded at the project website in English and Armenian. The project also has a Facebook page, which has been updated regularly throughout the project lifetime - links to the website and Facebook can be found below.

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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