

NEWSLETTER

EU Twinning Project on Statistics (phase II) in Armenia

N° 1

A quarterly newsletter published by the RTA Office of the EU-financed Twinning Project
"Strengthening of the National Statistical System of Armenia – Phase II"

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

This 24 month EU-funded project with a total budget of 1 million euro commenced in August 2015 and will be 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.

During the project a number of national stakeholders will be involved and benefit from the project.

The aim is to support the upgrade of official statistics of Armenia by introducing new methodologies on statistics closely aligned to European standards and enhancing dissemination of official statistics to the society.

On Tuesday, 15 September 2015 the project was officially launched at the Congress Hotel in Yerevan.

There were opening speeches by President of NSSRA, Stepan Mnatsakanyan, by Head of Cooperation Section of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Armenia, Hoa-Binh Adjemian, and by Head of the Statistical Cooperation Unit in Eurostat, Claudia Junker. Director of Statistics Denmark, Carsten Ulrik Zangenberg made a presentation on "Independence, knowledge and administrative data" in statistics. *"Statistics is a lighthouse in 'the information sea', and official statistics is what has great potential to generate knowledge"*, said Carsten Ulrik Zangenberg.

The details of the project were presented by MS Project Leader Charlotte Juul Hansen and RTA Peter Bohnstedt Anan Hansen, both from Statistics Denmark.

Around 80 people attended the opening ceremony, including high-level representatives from many Armenian ministries and various international organisations, as well as the press.

At the time of releasing this Newsletter, the project has already been running for the first quarter and assessment activities for four



Opening ceremony at Best Western Congress Hotel held in Yerevan on September 15 2015.

out of six of the main areas of the project have been carried out. These concern dissemination, demographic statistics, poverty statistics and innovation statistics.

For these four areas the current situation has been assessed and plans for making the next moves have been drafted and discussed between the MS experts and the NSSRA. As a general rule, all relevant stakeholders within each area of the project have been invited to take part in the most important presentations and discussions.

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

In the second project quarter, five project related activities will take place in Armenia.

For more information:

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Main topics of the Twinning Project

1. Dissemination of Statistics

Dissemination system improved; dissemination strategy developed; user satisfaction survey questionnaire updated, tested and published

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 in general as well as social exclusion of children will be introduced and calculated

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 account compiled

