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REBASING THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX IN GHANA

In May 2019, the first expert mission in the new cooperation project between Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), the Danish Embassy and Statistics Denmark has taken place. The focus of the mission was the Ghanaian Consumer Price Index (CPI).

The current Ghanaian CPI has 2012 as reference period, when the CPI in Ghana was rebased the last time. Consumption patterns usually change over time. For

example, a plastic box of rice on the local market could have increased from 2 Cedi in 2012 to 3 Cedi in 2019.

Also, the consumption pattern behind the current CPI has most likely changed since 2012. Therefore, the aim of the mission was together to start rebasing the CPI, in order to bring a more recent consumption pattern into the calculation. Once the rebasing is carried out, a more precise CPI can be produced.



Photo: Statistics Denmark



Photo: Statistics Denmark

The Danish CPI experts spent four days with the Ghanaian CPI team, together going through the price and weight data for each of the former ten regions in Ghana. A change to the new 16 regions will be a next step in updating the CPI. At the end of the week, a roadmap for the next few months as well as for the future cooperation on CPI has been developed. The next mission is under planning.

This mission has taken place in the context of the new Strategic Sector Cooperation project that Statistics Denmark is engaged in with GSS, other Ghanaian Authorities and the Danish Embassy in Ghana. There are 39 projects in 18 countries under the Strategic Sector Cooperation Programme of the Danish Foreign Ministry. This is Statistics Denmark's first project in Ghana, and in West Africa.

OFFICIAL LAUNCHING OF EU TWINNING PROJECT IN GEORGIA

On 24 June 2019, the official opening event of the EU financed Twinning Project between the National Statistics Office of Georgia and Statistics Denmark took place. Director of Economic Statistics, Kirsten Wismer represented the senior management of Statistics Denmark and briefed the participants on the System of National Accounts 2008 (SNA08). The changes to SNA08 and other improvements to national accounts together with modernization of the Georgian External Sector Statistics are important pillars in the project as they encompass an important part of the Association Agreement and the Deep and Comprehensive free trade agreement between Georgia and the European Union. Business and social statistics will also be addressed in the project.

Statistics Denmark is partnering with the national statistical offices of Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary and Lithuania. Together, we will implement 60+ short-term activities and a number of study visits to EU member states.

Technical reports from the project are available from www.dst.dk/georgia

You can follow the project on <https://www.facebook.com/EUTwinningGeostat>



Director General for European Integration from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Mr. Archil Karaulashvili, addresses the opening ceremony. Photo: Statistics Denmark



Mr. Catalin Gherman, the Deputy Head of Cooperation from the EU Delegation to Georgia speaks to local media on the importance of strengthening the statistical system. Photo: Statistics Denmark

THERE IS ALWAYS TIME FOR CAKE

In the February edition of our Newsletter, we informed about the three new Strategic Sector Cooperation projects financed by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the new EU-financed Twinning project in Georgia. To celebrate these new projects, the International Consulting unit invited all colleagues in Statistics Denmark to a combined information and celebration event on 13 March 2019.

A representative from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs talked about Danish foreign policy and the aim of the projects, while we introduced the countries and projects to our colleagues.



Resident Twinning Adviser, Steen Bielefeldt Pedersen prepares to cut the cake together with Executive Director of Geostat, Gogita Todradze. Photo: Statistics Denmark

Of the approximately 550 staff working at Statistics Denmark, more than 120 found the time to hear about the projects and their possibilities to contribute to the capacity building efforts.

A bakery had made four different cakes for the event. One with each country's flag. Can you guess the countries?

A month later, the Resident Twinning Adviser, Steen Bielefeldt Pedersen, invited the staff from Geostat to a similar event in Tbilisi to celebrate the beginning of the EU Twinning Project, which started 1 April 2019.

CONTACT

Statistics Denmark
Sejrøgade 11
DK-2100 Copenhagen
www.dst.dk/consulting
vhf@dst.dk

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