

TWINNING NEWSLETTER

Support to the State Statistical Committee and the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy to strengthen collection, harmonization, analysis, publishing and dissemination of business statistics

Issue No.2, December 2020

Topics in this Issue

- ✓ Work Plan for Component 2 and 3
- ✓ Activity on data transmission process and update process of SRSU
- ✓ Activity on requirements for data management standards
- ✓ Activity on current and target state of SME indicators
- ✓ Steering Committee Meeting No.2

Looking Forward

- ✓ Activity on enterprises and enterprise groups (EG)
- ✓ Workshop on data sources and EG creation
- ✓ Seminar on business demography
- ✓ Activity on current and target state of Structural Business Statistics (SBS)
- ✓ Identifying data sources for SME indicators
- ✓ Activity on utilizing AD in SBS
- ✓ Preparations for training in Component 3

Project Overview

The EU funded Twinning Project (AZ/16/ENI/ST/01/19 (AZ/53)) is implemented by a consortium led by Statistics Finland with Statistics Lithuania and Statistics Netherlands acting as Junior Partners. Additional expertise will be given by Statistics Denmark and The Finnish Institute of Public Management Ltd.

The main beneficiaries are the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy, and the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Agency.

The overall objective of the Twinning project is to increase capacity among local operators to collect, process, harmonize, analyze, publish and disseminate business statistics measuring the performance of the private sector/SMEs in Azerbaijan.

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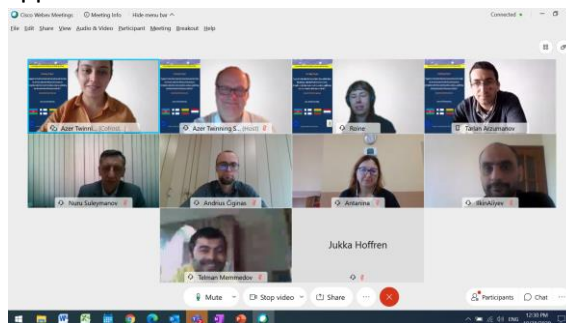
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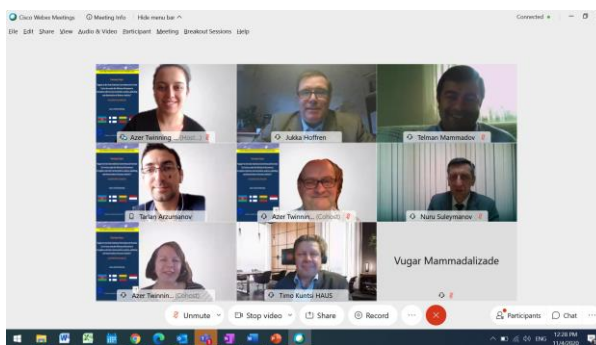
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Project News

Activity 2.0 within the Twinning Project occurred on 2nd-28th of October 2020. During four remote sessions, the Short Term Experts from Statistics Finland and Statistics Lithuania- Ms. Saara Roine, Ms. Antanina Valiulienė and Mr. Andrius Čiginas together with key players from the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SSC), the State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy (STS) and the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Development Agency (SME) worked on developing the work plan for Component 2 and its sub-components. As a result of this activity, the current situation regarding business statistics and their data collection process, imputation and estimation processes and current challenges were reviewed and a list of activities with verifiable indicators for Result 4 and 5 was prepared and approved.



Activity 3.0 Developing a Work Plan for Component 3 and its Subcomponents was conducted by Dr. Jukka Hoffren from Statistics Finland and Mr. Timo Kuntsi from the Finnish Institute of Public Management (HAUS). During four Remote Sessions the experts had discussions with their counterparts from the SSC, the STS and SME Agency on improving the capacity of beneficiary institutes staff on statistical design, analysis, reporting and dissemination. Six Activities are to be implemented, three on-site training activities and three study visits to EU member states.



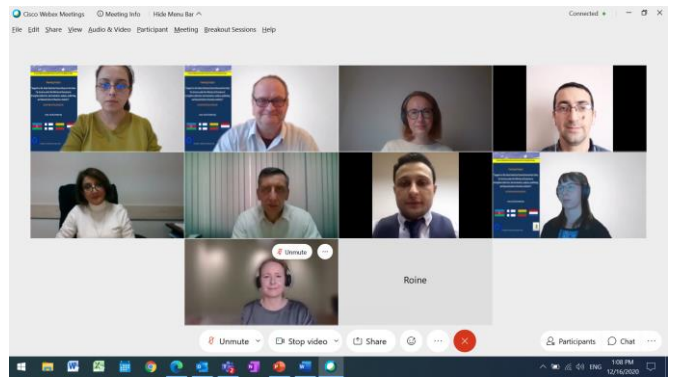
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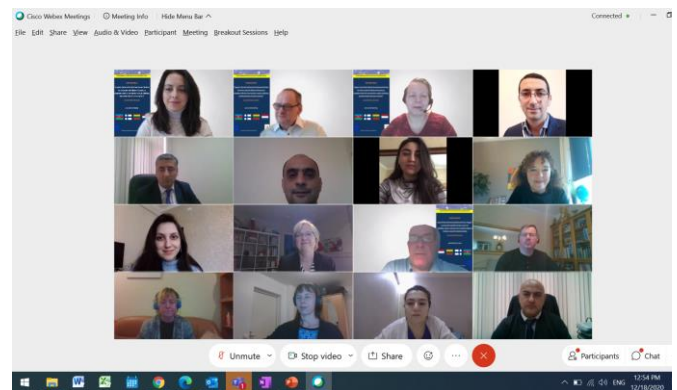
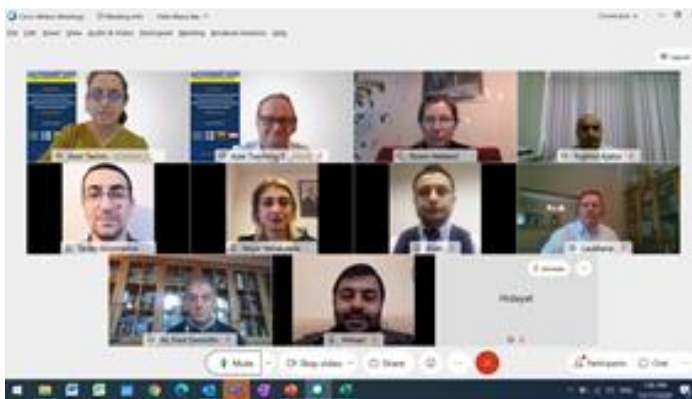
Activity 1.1.A and **Activity 1.2.A** of Component 1/Result 1 were delivered in eight remote sessions between 3-24 November and 1-17 December 2020 by the STE's Mr. Fred Demollin (Statistics Netherlands), Ms. Daliute Kavaliauskiene (Statistics Lithuania) and Mr. Timo Laukkanen (Statistics Finland). The purpose of activity 1.1.A was the expert assessment of the current situation as regards the STS data transmission process and the update process at the State Statistical Committee of the State Register of Statistical Units. At the end of the activity the STE's prepared recommendations for improved cooperation between Administrative Data providers and receivers, especially the STS and the SSC as well as harmonization of the use of classifications. The purpose of activity 1.2.A was to develop working methods for the use and updating of common standards in all statistical production bodies. After four remote sessions, the Short-Term Experts prepared and presented recommendations for the Beneficiary Administrations concerning reaching agreement between the State Statistical Committee and State Tax Authority on expanded data exchange, data exchange quality improvements and other work methodologies.



The second steering committee meeting of the project was conducted via teleconference with participation of EUD representative, project leader, component leaders, Resident Twinning Adviser and counterpart and related stakeholders. The following issues were on the agenda:

- 1) Project Status report
- 2) Short update on C&V plan
- 3) Presentation and discussion on activities planned for the next period of the project
- 4) Introduction of proposed new MS project leader Ms. Hannele Orjala

Moreover, members discussed other project-related issues such as travel restrictions, a possible extension of the project, budget and reallocation suggestions and adding a new section on the e-newsletters about activities planned in the upcoming quarter.



The first activity of Component 2-**Activity 5.1.A** was conducted by experts of Statistics Finland, Ms. Ulla Virtanen and Ms. Merja Myllymäki. The purpose of the activity was to expand SME indicators with a list of indicators in line with EU/OECD definitions. STEs and beneficiary officials discussed the current state and challenges of SME indicators and the target state of SME indicators in Azerbaijan. As a result of four remote sessions a list of new SME indicators to be pursued in the short and middle term was drafted. The list was based on recognized user needs, EU requirements and the potential availability of data.

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