

**Speech of ☉Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst, Head of Delegation of the  
European Union Delegation to Lebanon**

**Launching of the EU-funded new publications 'Statistics in Focus'**

**Under the Twinning Project 'Support to the Central Administration for Statistics'**

**Hotel Radisson Blu Martinez - Beirut 10 May 2012**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A complete, objective and regulatory updated set of statistical data has an impact on better governance, deeper democracy and rule of law.

This is why the *European Union* publishes a vast amount of facts and figures, on multiple and diverse matters such as economy, population and social conditions, industry, trade and services, agriculture, environment, transport or science, etc.

Statistics are important; they provide us with an objective and down-to-earth way of measuring how we all live.

This is why the *European Union* supports the reinforcement and the improvement of statistics provision in our partner countries. Promoting better statistics in the Mediterranean region is a way of bringing the European Union and our neighbors close to finding solutions to common challenges.

I am very pleased to be here with the Central Administration of Statistics (CAS) of Lebanon to share with you some of the most visible achievements of our joint cooperation, the newly published 'Statistics in Focus'. These short, straight-forward publications highlight interesting facts about Lebanon's population, education and labour market.

- Did you know that Lebanon has the largest proportion of senior citizens (more than 65 year' old) in the entire Mediterranean region and at the same time the lowest proportion of children (less than 15 year' old)?
- Did you know that in 2009-2010 there were many more women (53%) than men (47%) enrolled in universities in Lebanon?
- Do you know that there is a gap between the average salary for women and men in Lebanon? This gap is as high as 38% in transport, post and telecom sectors and around a 10% difference in the trade sector.

Our friends from the CAS will present these findings in a moment in more detail.

Since 2010 the European Union has provided € 0.9 Million support to the Central Administration for Statistics'. This is through Twinning with an equivalent institution from a European Union Member State. In this case, the Lebanese Central Administration for Statistics is working jointly with the Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency with Northern Ireland Co-Operation Overseas.

The objective is to enable the Central Administration for Statistics to deliver National Accounts, Trade Statistics and Social Statistics, using international nomenclature and collection methodologies. Long term and structural working relationships, as well as professional networking have also been established.

It is important for Lebanon to have an independent and efficient Administration of Statistics. The CAS must have sufficient physical and human resources to successfully implement its various functions and provide the public service

expected. This is why I would like to mark again the importance of ensuring in the shortest possible timeframe a fully-staffed CAS.

We look forward to continued cooperation.

• أتمنى لكم قراءة ممتعة وشكراً.