

## **Preface – Head of the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies**

The *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem* has been published by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies (JIIS) and the Municipality of Jerusalem since 1982. JIIS is an independent, non-profit think tank that produces updated and reliable data on Jerusalem, comprehensive background materials, position papers and professional analyses for all – from policy and decision makers through to the general public. The Institute's research projects center on three primary themes – contemporary Jerusalem, environmental policy, and the many angles of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Research on Jerusalem's myriad faces has stood at the center of our work since the Institute opened its doors in the 1970s. In that time, JIIS has built, expanded and enriched its databases. We have produced scores of books and policy papers, as well as drafting master plans, that address all aspects of life in Jerusalem. Of late, we have been focusing on community and society, education and health, with the aim of assisting in policy formulation and offering indicators of future directions in the city's developments in these fields. And now the Institute has added a new database to its "stock," as we collect and compile quantitative and qualitative information on East Jerusalem – an area for which, to date, comprehensive and broad-ranging information has not been readily available.

Also recently, JIIS began work on the government's major Merom Plan for the economic development of the city. The five-year plan addresses tourism, biotechnology, higher education and Jerusalem's migration issues; it is being implemented by the Jerusalem Development Authority (JDA) together with the Municipality. Our role will be to assist JDA in consultation, research, monitoring and evaluation.

This year as we go to press year, JIIS is putting the finishing touches to its Community Services Master Plan for the Municipality's Community Services Administration, as well as to a Conservation Card Index for three of the city's neighborhoods, as requested by the City Engineer.

The *Statistical Yearbook* continues to serve as a rich resource on many matters pertaining to Jerusalem. As always, it is our hope that it will assist in promoting the city's development and its status as the capital of the State of Israel.

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