

## **The Mayor's Foreword**

The *Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem*, published by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Jerusalem Institute of Israel Studies, has proved itself over many years to be an essential resource in our never-ending work to strengthen and improve Jerusalem. The wealth of information contained within each *Yearbook* contributes not only to policy planning but also to the ability to efficiently monitor performance and implementation. Moreover, it assists us to create and promote effective data-based policy and also provides indicators with which to measure success.

For the Municipality, correct management is key to advancing Jerusalem, and this must be based on excellent data, supervision and constant re-assessment. This approach is yielding fruit: the city has of late become much more attractive to young people, visitors and entrepreneurs. We can see clear evidence of that in the data published in this new edition of the *Yearbook*.

There is more news to be found within these pages as well: 2013 saw a 20-year record for the construction of new housing units – 3,442 in all! This well reflects the wind of change that Jerusalem has been experiencing of late. Furthermore, after about 15 years of falling numbers, 2013 marked the fourth consecutive year in which the number of children in the state and state-religious school systems has grown. In the last two years alone, there has been almost a 7% rise in the number of students in the city's Zionist sector.

Reforms in education that were introduced rather recently are showing positive signs too, as the number of children eligible for matriculation certificates has also risen again.

Education is not the only sphere claiming some new records. Areas of economic development are taking strides forward as well. Tourism, for example: in 2008, some 2 million tourists visited Jerusalem; the last year saw some 4 million overnight stays, representing a significant increase. The new figures for overnight stays, hotel occupancy and business revenues in this sector point to the fact that Jerusalem is becoming increasingly attractive, both to domestic and foreign tourists. Indeed,

Jerusalem is marching forward as a vibrant and fascinating city, which is good to its residents as well as to its visitors.

The seeds we have sown in recent years to attain these positive developments are indeed reaping fruit – we can see this in all walks of life in the city. And we will continue to improve, to expand and to nurture the many areas that together comprise this unique city.

The 2014 *Yearbook* marks another year of close cooperation between the Municipality and JIS on this major project. *Yishar koach* – kudos – to those involved in its production, led by chief editor, Dr. Maya Choshen, the *Yearbook* steering committee and the many individuals and entities that contributed to this venture.

בן-צור

Mayor of Jerusalem