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(EUROSTAT)

Joint UNECE/EUROSTAT Meeting on  
Population and Housing Censuses  
Organised in cooperation with UNFPA  
(Geneva, 12-16 December 2005)

Supporting paper

**2010 WORLD PROGRAMME ON POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES  
DRAFT REPORT OF MEETING OF TECHNICAL SUBGROUP 1-3 ON  
“CORE SET OF OUTPUTS AND TABULATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL  
DISSEMINATION”  
(Dublin 13-14 October, 2005)**

submitted by United Nations Statistics Division

**1. Attendance**

Rosemary Bender (Statistics Canada), Gregor Kyi (Eurostat), Srdjan Mrkic (UNSD), Bob Pember (ILO) and Aidan Punch (Central Statistics Office, Ireland).

**2. General discussion**

The subgroup reviewed its **terms of reference**. In particular it reminded itself that the focus in this part of the work was very much on the outputs to be achieved leaving the choice of collection methods to countries.

On **terminology** it was agreed to adhere to the term “optimum set of tables” for those which would be likely to meet the needs of most users. The basic set of tabulations should now be called the recommended set of tabulations. The objective of these tables is to meet basic needs of most countries. The subset of the recommended tables, which was formerly called “core”, should now be called the “basic essential set of tabulations”. These constitute the minimum priority set of tables to be produced by countries especially those which may be experiencing difficulties with their statistical systems, for example because of war or famine.

With a view to **minimising the burden on national statistical offices** in the production of tables it was strongly suggested that all relevant international agencies should fully subscribe and adhere to the recommended set of tables. The main organisations in question are the UN, ILO and Eurostat. It was recognised, however, that some of these organisations may have additional requirements over and above the recommended set of tables.

It was agreed that protocols will have to be put in place in relation to **data exchanges** between the national statistical offices and international organisations. The use of pre-determined formats should minimise the burden on both the sender and receiver of the data. These formats should take cognisance of the common table production software in use throughout the world.

Given the focus on outputs it was agreed that **appropriate metadata** was absolutely essential to enable users make a qualitative assessment of the data produced. In addition to general metadata describing the census or survey instrument used it was agreed that each table would also require specific metadata. The census recommendations will need to refer to best practices currently in place for the **dissemination of data** combining the use of hard copy, CDs and internet. Both of these issues will have to be addressed by the WG on dissemination.

### 3. Proposed set of tabulations for population and housing censuses

The numbering follows that set out in the UN document “Draft Proposed Set of Basic Tabulations for the United Nations Revision 2”. Clearly, if a table is basic essential ‘B’ it is also recommended ‘R’. Optimum tables are denoted by ‘O’ and their numbering corresponds to the 1998 P&R document.

As a general point, for all tables containing an age analysis by five-year age group, it was agreed to extend the 85+ category to include 85-89, 90-94, 95-99 and 100+.

Table	Category	Comments
P1.1	B	Tables refer to total population. Metadata has to describe what this means. The column detail to be tidied up i.e. urban/rural breakdown to be inserted after minor civil division A2 etc.
P1.2	B	Size distribution to be extended at upper level to include categories 500,000-999,999, 1,000,000-4,999,999 and 5m+. A column to be added to the table entitled “Number of localities”.
P1.3	R	Substitute “Both Sexes” for “Total” in table title.
P1.4	B	This table at the level of detailed geography risked possible disclosure of confidential data. However, this is a general point which will have to be picked up later on.
P1.5	B	This table will need to be critically reviewed. Headings need to be made clearer through the use of bolding and indentation. Reverse the order period of residence. Both sexes, males and females.
P2.1	B	The relationships will have to reflect the recommendations of the relevant WG with particular attention to the treatment of cohabitants. The “not stated” category to include /institution.
P2.2	B	Same comments regarding relationship.
P2.3	B	No comment.
P3.1	B	No comment.
P3.2	B	No comment.
P3.3-3.5	R	It was agreed that these three tables have assumed an increasing importance. For that reason they should be treated as a package with a recommendation that <b>at least one of them needs to be basic essential.</b>
P3.3		The comments re disclosure apply particularly here.
P3.4		The portion of the title in brackets should be put in a footnote. The metadata needs to be explicit on which of the concepts is being used.
P3.5		Need for a footnote drawing the distinction between nationality as used here and citizenship.
P4.1	B	Title and headings to be reviewed to make them as easily understood as possible for the non-specialist reader (e.g. by amending “by sex” to be “by sex of child” and changing the title of the last column to be “Total number of children of respective sex ever born alive”)
P4.2	B	Delete “(or dead)” from title and column headings.
P4.3	R	No comment.

P4.4	R	Amend "Total" to "Both sexes" in column headings.
P5.1	B	Title to be amended to refer to population aged n years and over, by educational attainment, age and sex and whether they attend school or not. [The stub to be amended accordingly.]
P5.2	B	No comment.
P5.3	R	No comment.
P6.1	B	Educational attainment to be substituted for marital status. It will be interesting to get country feedback on this proposal.
P6.2-6.4	B	Amend title to be "Usually (or currently) active population and employed population ...". With this information, and making allowance for first time job seekers, it should be possible to derive the relevant information for unemployed persons. Some further thought needs to be given as to whether this indirect method of deriving the information for unemployed persons classified by relevant characteristic in last job is best or whether it should be sought directly.
P6.5-6.6	R	Ditto P6.2-6.4
P6.7 (old 6.19)	B	This table refers to the "population not usually active". Alternatively, the currently inactive population classified by primary reason for inactivity, age and sex may be used.
P6.7 (old)	R	For electronic reproduction only. 2 digit industry by 2 digit occupation.
New	O	Current activity status by usual activity status. BP to specify.
P6.8-6.12	O	The observation under P6.2-6.4 above applies equally well here. In P6.8 the classification is by type of place of work.
P6.13	O	Amend "Currently active population" to "Employed population". Amend "by number of works worked" to "by number of hours usually worked".
P6.16		Amend "Usually (or currently) active population" to "Employed population". Amend "by place of work" to "by type of place of work".
P6.22 (old)	O	Amend "by number of usually (or currently) active members" to "by number of usually (or currently) employed household members".
P6.23	O	Amend "under 15 years" to be "under ... years" (as in table P6.21 etc).
P6.14, 6.15, 6.17 to 6.21, 6.23, 6.24	O	No comment.
P7.1	R	No comment.
P7.2	B	The detail in the stub is considered excessive i.e. detailed country of birth by detailed country of citizenship. While detailed country of birth should be distinguished for the foreign born population it should be cross-classified by three categories of country of citizenship i.e. country of tabulation, country of birth and other country.
P7.3	R	Amend title to be "Usually (or currently) active foreign-born population and usually (or currently) employed foreign-born population". We need to be clear whether first or last period of

		arrival in the country is what's intended. Table title to specify this. (Period since last arrival is preferred.). Amend "by occupation" to be "by main occupation".
P7.7	O	Consider classification by usual (or current) activity status.
P8.1	B	The inclusion of this table as a basic essential topic needs to be given careful consideration pending the recommendations of the Washington Group.
Old 8.1-8.7		Should these be deleted?
H1 etc		Primary concern here is on the living conditions of households occupying housing units.
H1	B	Title should be Households in occupied living quarters... Four tables are required: households, living quarters, families and persons.
H2	B	Again four tables: (a) households, (b) housing units, (c) families and (d) persons. At least one of (a) or (b) and (d) should be taken, while (c) can be taken as optimum.
H3	B	Households and persons are the targets. The stub of H5 can be taken. The footnote should substitute "should" for "may".
H4	B	The geographical classification should be included in the box text.
H5	R	This is based on the housekeeping concept. The number of households per housing unit to be considered as optimum.
H6	B	Three tables: (a) type of occupied housing unit, (b) households and (c) persons. Emphasis should be on (c) and either (a) or (b).
H7	B	As for H6.
H8	B	Both households and persons to be provided. Need for WG to consider distinction between public and private.
H9	R	Households only.
H10	R	Scale will vary from country to country. The real issue is around the distinction between furnished and unfurnished. Refer back to WG for considered opinion.
H11	R	New. Issues such as rental as distinct from ownership of landline phones and a breakdown of access to internet other than in the home need to be considered by WG.

#### 4. Initial discussion on core set of topics

The subgroup proposed the retention of the term "Core" to denote those topics which are required to produce the recommended tables. On the basis of the recommended tables above the following should be specified as core topics.

Theme/topic	Derived topic
<i>A. Geography and internal migration (3)</i>	
1. Place of usual residence or place where person is at time of census	1. Total population
	2. Urban/rural
	3. Locality
2. Place of birth	
3. Duration of residence	

<i>B. Household characteristics (1)</i>	
4. Relationship to reference person	4. Household composition
	5. Family nucleus
<i>C. Demographic and social (6)</i>	
5. Age/Date of birth	
6. Sex	
7. Marital status	
8. Religion	
9. Language	
10. Ethnicity	
<i>D. Fertility and mortality (4)</i>	
11. Children born alive	
12. Children still living	
13. Children born alive in the last 12 months	
14. Deaths in the last 12 months	
<i>E. Educational characteristics (3)</i>	
15. School attendance	
16. Educational attainment	
17. Literacy	
<i>F. Economic characteristics (4)</i>	
18. Usual (or current) activity status <sup>1</sup>	
19. Occupation	
20. Industry	
21. Status in employment	
<i>G. International migration (2)</i>	
22. Citizenship	
23. Period of arrival	
<i>H. Disability characteristics (1)</i>	
24. Disability	
<i>I. Housing characteristics (9)</i>	
25. Living quarters	
26. Number of rooms	
27. Water supply	
28. Toilet and sewage	
29. Tenure	
30. Ownership	
31. Rent paid	

<sup>1</sup> Including “functional category” (if on usual basis) or “primary reason for inactivity” (if on current basis).

32. Furnished/unfurnished	
33. ICT services	

## 5. Future work

The following action points were agreed.

- The draft report to be finalised by 21<sup>st</sup> October – observations to be back by 28<sup>th</sup> October with a view to finalising the report by the end of October. (AP)
- Report to be circulated to WG1 by 1<sup>st</sup> November (SM)
- Cross-tabulation of usual and current activity status to be provided (BP)
- Material to be prepared for December meeting of UNECE (RB)
- Review of Eurostat/UN position (GK)
- Final draft of tables on the basis of the agreed report (SM)

## 6. Conclusion of meeting

The meeting concluded on Friday afternoon ahead of schedule.

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