



BALTIC POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS SEMINARS AS COOPERATION MODEL TO STUDY EXPERIENCES AND TO DEVELOP FUTURE STRATEGIES FOR CENSUSES IN ESTONIA, LATVIA, AND LITHUANIA

Note by Statistics Estonia, Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia and Statistics Lithuania¹



¹ Prepared by Diana Beltadze, Peteris Vegis, Dalia Ambrozaitiene

Contents

2



- Introduction
- The first steps of cooperation, preparation for the 2000 Census round (1995–2003)
- The second stage of cooperation, 2011 Censuses in the Baltic States (2006–2011)
- Current (third) stage of cooperation, preparation for a register-based 2021 Censuses (2012–2017)
- Conclusions

Introduction



3

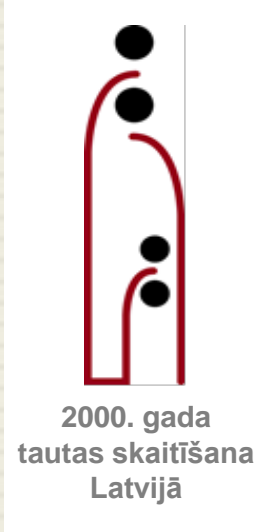
- International cooperation – an integral part of the daily activities of NSIs of all three Baltic States
- The Baltic Census Seminar (BCS) – crucial form of cooperation for the Baltic States in Census area after the restoration of independence during early 1990ies
- The BCS – excellent possibility to highlight the significance of various Census-related aspects in the society and to be aware of era-specific technological and methodological advancement
- Throughout decades, cooperation has been a subject for improvement of both technical skills and competences, listening to different parties, learning from good practices, etc.

History:

4



Seminar No	Location	Date	Duration, days
1	Palanga, Lithuania	12–16 June, 1995	5
2	Jurmala, Latvia	19–23 August, 1996	5
3	Tallinn, Estonia	8–12 September, 1997	5
4	Trakai, Lithuania	7–11 September, 1998	5
5	Jurmala, Latvia	23–27 August, 1999	5
6	Tallinn, Estonia	10–12 October, 2000	3
7	Kaunas, Lithuania	17–18 September, 2001	2
8	Riga, Latvia	19–20 September, 2002	2
9	Tallinn, Estonia	25–26 September, 2003	2
10	Vilnius, Lithuania	18–19 May, 2006	2
11	Riga, Latvia	27–28 September, 2007	2
12	Tallinn, Estonia	12–13 November, 2008	2
13	Vilnius, Lithuania	2–3 December, 2009	2
14	Riga, Latvia	9–10 December, 2010	2
15	Tallinn, Estonia	10–11 November, 2011	2
16	Riga, Latvia	25–26 November, 2012	2
17	Tallinn, Estonia	13–14 November, 2013	2
18	Vilnius, Lithuania	17–18 December, 2014	2
19	Riga, Latvia	30–31 March, 2016	2
20	Tallinn, Estonia	26–27 April, 2017	2



First steps of cooperation, preparation for the 2000 Census round (1995–2003)

5

In Estonia and Latvia censuses were carried out in 2000, in Lithuania – 2001



UNECE Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses.
Cooperation models among countries.

4–6 October 2017



1st seminar, 1995 Palanga, Lithuania



2nd seminar, 1996 Jurmala, Latvia



3rd seminar, 1997 Tallinn, Estonia



- The aim – ensuring high quality of the censuses and their compliance with the recommendations of the United Nations
- The first seminars were financed under the PHARE programmes, Nordic Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the UN Population Fund development programmes, state budgets of Baltic countries and NSIs
- Basic knowledge was obtained as regards the new Census, cost-efficiency, data quality, concepts, comparability and fieldwork mainly based on Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) and Ireland experiences
- Representatives of other national authorities of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania responsible for preparation of administrative data and maps, main users of census data, representatives of science society were invited, too



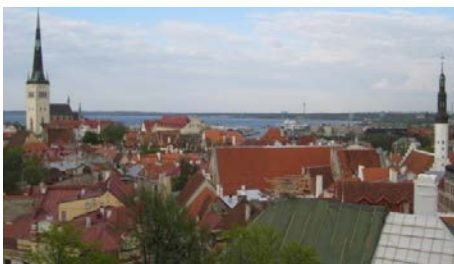
4th seminar, 1998 Trakai, Lithuania



5th seminar, 1999 Jurmala, Latvia



6th seminar, 2000 Tallinn, Estonia



- Contents of the Census programme, tabulation programme, complicated Census concepts such as family, household, and economic activity, management of fieldwork and post-enumeration survey, Census coverage, etc. important issues were discussed in detail
- Annual reports were presented on preparation for 2000 Census round in all three Baltic States
- Coming closer to 2000 Census round discussions were concentrated on GIS technologies for census mapping, Census data processing software, quality estimation of Census results, usage of PC-AXIS for the dissemination of Census results, publicity campaign



7th seminar, 2001 Kaunas, Lithuania



- In addition from 2000 up to 2006 Finnish Population Registers Centre organized special seminars to share experiences and best practice in relation to government registers, national information systems and the development of public services
- In 2001 the most significant and biggest part of work had already been done, that is, the population had been interviewed, the questionnaires had been filled in, results had been obtained, and data processing in the countries' NSIs was ongoing
- In Estonia and Lithuania Census was organized in traditional way, but in Latvia it was combined Census as part of data was taken from the Population Register
- The discussion, led by experts from Finland and Sweden, was about data and metadata dissemination, GIS usage



8th seminar, 2002 Riga, Latvia



- In 2002 seminar it was decided that cooperation among all three countries should be continued in the form of seminars, conferences, and joint publications



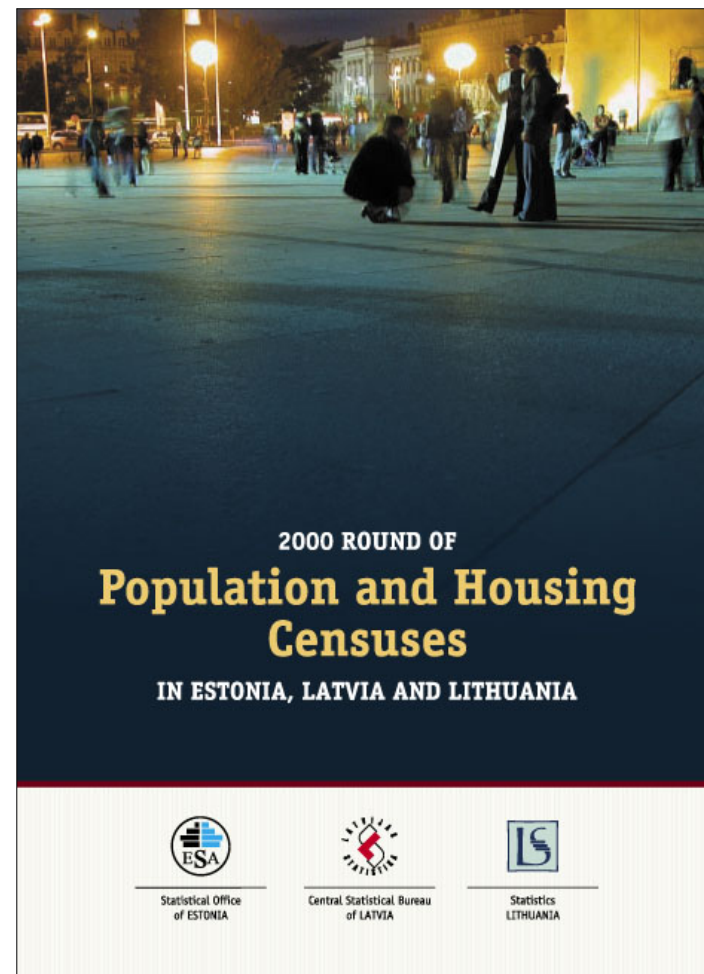
- The seminar in 2003 finalised the first stage of Baltic States cooperation. A discussion with experts from Finland and Sweden covered the analysis of the quality of the Population Register and minimum requirements for a register-based Census as introduced by Eurostat

9th seminar, 2003 Tallinn, Estonia





- NSI's of the Baltic States were very grateful to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for kind assistance and financial support expressed to the offices regarding the preparation and printing of the publication and understanding of the importance of Censuses 2000 round in the Baltic States.
- The joint publication was highly appreciated by the main Census data users in all three countries.





10th seminar, 2006 Vilnius, Lithuania



11th seminar, 2007 Riga, Latvia



12th seminar, 2008 Tallinn, Estonia



- The second stage of the Baltic co-operation, started in 2006, gave a positive outcome moving from a traditional to a combined Census in all three Baltic States
- Co-operation with experts from Nordic countries continued
- Problems with administrative data availability and quality were recognized, but improvement of situation was expected before 2011 Census
- Discussion about how to guarantee high quality of outcomes of the 2011 Census
- Important discussion as regards the recent changes in the society (birth rate, migration, etc.) that influenced the usage of Census data and the role of the Census



13th seminar, 2009 Vilnius, Lithuania



14th seminar, 2010 Riga, Latvia



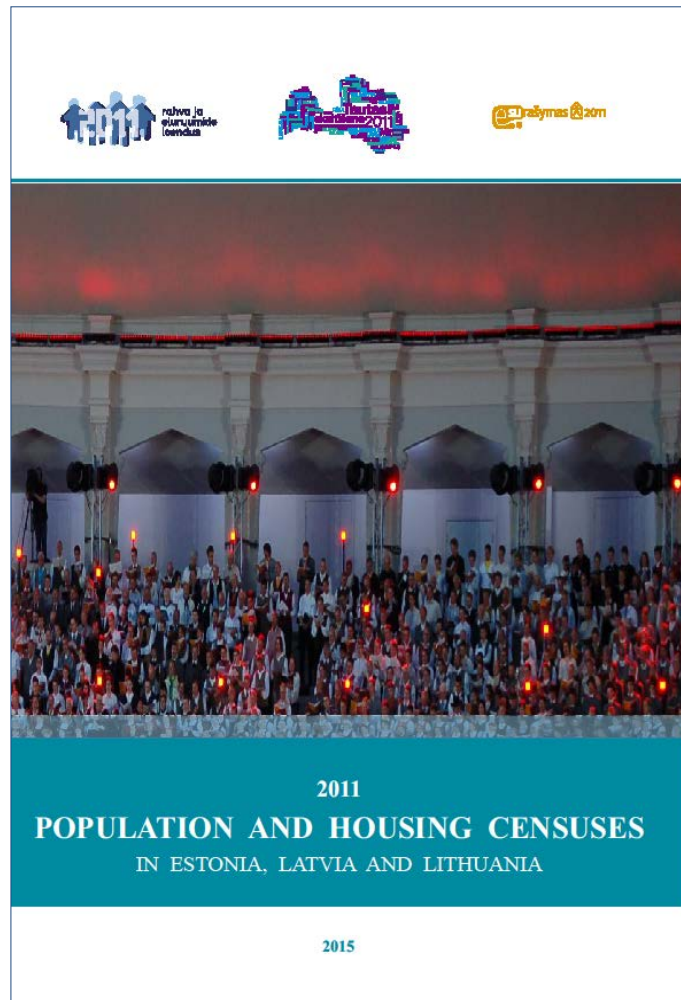
15th seminar, 2011 Tallinn, Estonia



- Co-operation was widened by inviting experts from Poland, Luxembourg and Spain
- Discussion included following important issues:
 - legislative and financial base for the 2011 Census
 - Census mapping
 - IT issues, especially as regards creation of Census data base and data collection system on base of CAWI and CAPI
 - pilot Censuses
 - enumeration of hard-to-count population groups
 - organization of a publicity campaign
 - preparation of the Census Programme
 - communication with Census partners
 - Organization of fieldwork
 - Data and metadata dissemination, including hypercubes and GIS solutions



- Possibility to learn from each other, to organise closer cooperation between seminars – to find quick solutions for problems occurring during the preparation for and organisation of the Census
- Discussions on main lessons learned during the organisation of the Census in Latvia and Lithuania (Census date 31st of March 2011) helped to introduce some organizational improvements for Census in Estonia (Census date was 31st of December 2011)
- The first discussion regarding plans to have a register-based Census in 2021 initiated
- The second common Baltic States Censuses data publication, which was prepared by Census experts electronically and located on all three countries' NSIs' websites



Current (third) stage of cooperation, preparation for a register-based 2021 Censuses (2012–2017)



15



UNECE Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses.
Cooperation models among countries.

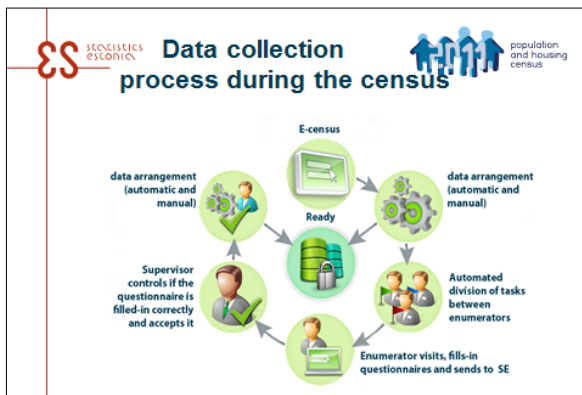
4–6 October 2017



16th seminar, 2012 Riga, Latvia



- More active steps towards preparation for a register-based 2021 Census made in all three Baltic States (2010 in Estonia, 2012 in Latvia, 2016 in Lithuania)
- The 16th Baltic Census Seminar organised back to back with bilateral consultations between the CSB of Latvia and Statistics Netherlands on use of administrative data for statistical needs
- The main issues of the seminar:
 - the practice of the Dutch Virtual Census based on registers and existing sample surveys
 - data sources
 - combining sources, including micro-linkage and micro-integration
 - conditions facilitating the use of administrative sources



Diana Beltadze's Report



17th seminar, 2013 Tallinn, Estonia



- The 17th Baltic Census Seminar was organised back-to-back with the 25th Conference of the Estonian Statistical Society “Demographic processes in the Baltic Sea region in the 21st century”
- The Conference featured a discussion about the 2011 Census results
- The seminar was partially dedicated to the lessons learned during the 2011 Census
- The main area for discussion in the seminar was on common problems of confidentiality in data integration (experts from the Netherlands and Slovenia)
- It was a good input to the preparation for a register-based Census



18th seminar, 2014 Vilnius, Lithuania



19th seminar, 2016 Riga, Latvia



- The main item for discussions in 2014 – data availability and quality in most important administrative data sources:
 - Population Register
 - Real Estate Cadastre
 - Address Register
- Institutions responsible for the registers participated
- Plans for the 2021 Censuses in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania were discussed in detail
- 19th seminar’s discussions were mainly on:
 - extraction of administrative data
 - building of data warehouse in Estonia and Latvia
 - data quality
 - Address Register
 - participation in Eurostat VIP.ADMIN grant projects
 - Methodological issues (place of usual residence, family formation)



20th seminar, 2017 Tallinn, Estonia



- The 20th Baltic Census Seminar was held with participation of Census experts from Israel and the Netherlands
- Information was given about the current stage of preparatory work for the 2021 Census in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, followed by information of the situation in Israel and the Netherlands
- The next issues discussed were extraction of administrative data, data quality and data confidentiality
- The issue of indices as a methodology for solving different demographic problems was presented by Estonia
- Information about ongoing Eurostat VIP.ADMIN grant projects, a feasibility study on the definition of usual residence, ESSnet on quality of multisource statistics and Micro-Census results in Latvia was provided
- A discussion on issues concerning household and family formation, educational attainment and place usual residence was organized

Conclusions

20



- Successful Censuses at the beginning of the new millennium (2000 Census round):
 - preparation of Census legislation
 - organisation of fieldwork
 - processing and dissemination of Census results in accordance with high international standards
- Development of new methods and technologies for a more effective process of the combined 2011 Census
- Topical issue of register data discussed from 1995 – a base for national developments to prepare for register based 2021 Censuses in all three Baltic States:
 - the substantial/legal/technical feasibility of a register-based Censuses ensured
 - methods for determining the Census population worked out
 - a framework for quality improvement that would ensure the coverage, accuracy, and regular updates of register data is on the way to be created

Conclusions



21

- Necessary information provided on improving accuracy, organisation, data quality, and other issues when preparing for the Censuses
- Register based Censuses – opportunities to cut the costs for the NSI-s
- Attempts to develop a sustainable information infrastructure for NSIs by using available budgetary means
- Rapid advancement of technologies allowing introduction of CAWI and CAPI and creation of data warehouse for wider use in Social Statistics afterwards
- Representation of experts from Baltic States in various Task Forces (TF) of Eurostat and UN ECE is very important as for preparation to 2021 Census as for future of Censuses afterwards:
 - opinion of all three Baltic States given during TF meetings
 - results provided during Baltic Census Seminars



Thank you for your attention!

