



Alternatives to traditional

Census :

The new Census in France

Guy DESPLANQUES

INSEE - France



The French perspective

- Objectives of the Census
- Main users
- Results
- Why modernise ?
- The new Census methods
- Advantages et drawbacks



Objectives of the censuses

- Production of an official count of population for every « municipality »
- Characterization of the population at a very low geographic level
- Sampling base and optimisation of the results of surveys.



Main clients

- Municipalities and local agencies
- Advisers
- searchers



Expected results

- At the end of each year (Y) :
 - legal populations of communes and administrative areas (in fact : situation of 1/1/Y-2)
 - Detailed results for a situation on 1/1/Y-2 for every part of French territory
 - Estimation on 1/1/Y on large areas



Why changing Census ? (1/3)

- The french context (1)
 - No population register
 - A lot of surveys, with data dissemination at NUTS2 level, at best
 - Administrative data more and more used
 - No file interconnection

Why changing Census ? (2/3)

- The french context (2)
 - Till 1999, no legal or constitutional obligations to carry on a Census
 - No periodicity
 - Collaboration with « municipalities »
 - Deposit / withdrawal of forms

Why changing Census ? (3/3)

- Main objectives :
 - Producing, each year, fresher Census-type data
 - Implementing a regular and more professional schedule
 - Taking advantage of technical progress to optimise the process
 - Measuring the quality of the results

Nouveau recensement : méthodes (1/3)

- About municipalities (« communes » ; NUTS 5 level)
 - 36610 « communes » in France
 - Half of them have less than 400 inh.
 - Half of the population is living in the 897 communes over 10000 inh.

Nouveau recensement : méthodes (2/3)

- Smaller communes (< 10000 inh.)
 - Traditional Census
 - Rotating Samples of communes over a five-year period
- Larger communes
 - Buildings Register
 - Each year
 - Dwellings Census of 1 address over 5
 - Survey for 40% of the households
- Use of administrative data



Un Répertoire d 'Immeubles Localisés (RIL)

- Sampling base for the new Census in the municipalities of 10000 inh. or more
- Coverage : every adress
- Updating with administrative files, and informations from municipalities and field controls



Using administrative data

- Updating Census Results
- Creating and updating the Buildings Register
- Quality of the data collection
- For now : local tax file (TH)



Advantages

- Fresh detailed data (3 years about)
- more results for a same expenditure
- annual results and estimations
- quality control in large cities, thanks to the sampling base
- an updated sampling base for households and individuals surveys



Risks and drawbacks

- Quality of the Buildings Register
- Response rate in large
« municipalities »
- Precision of results on small areas
- Black box process ?