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Session 1-Invited paper

**COUNTRIES' PLANS FOR THE 2010 CENSUSES: RESULTS OF THE ECE
QUESTIONNAIRE**

Submitted by the Office for National Statistics, UK *

1. CENSUS METHODOLOGY

1. The profile in **Figure 1** (see the annex at the end of the paper) illustrates how information on population is to be collected in the 2010 round of censuses compared with the methodology adopted in the 2000 round. The Figure shows a shift away from the traditional census approach that was adopted by the clear majority of countries in the 2000 round towards increasing use of administrative registers, either exclusively or supplemented with information from questionnaires or surveys. Though the majority of countries still intend to do so, ten fewer countries report that they are planning for a conventional population census in the 2010 round. Thus, despite this shift towards use of administrative registers, a clear majority of countries still envisage use of traditional methods to carry out their censuses.

* Paper prepared by Ian White on request by the Joint ECE-Eurostat Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses. The paper is based on the results of the ECE Questionnaire on Population and Housing Censuses, which was sent to ECE member countries in Spring 2004 to collect information on the extent to which they complied with the 2000 recommendations and on plans for the 2010 censuses. This paper should be read together with the other paper with same title and symbol (WP.2/Rev.1) prepared for the Joint UNECE-Eurostat Work Session on Housing Censuses (26 November 2004).

2010 round of population censuses

2. Of those that are abandoning the traditional approach, the majority plan to use existing administrative registers supplemented with survey- or questionnaire-based information. With Sweden moving to a solely register-based approach, five out of the seven countries adopting this method are in the Scandinavian/Baltic area.
3. And, even among those countries planning to continue with a fundamentally traditional approach, several (such as France, Israel, the US and the UK) will introduce significant methodological changes that will utilise additional sources of administrative data to develop information to support a conventional enumeration (see below).
4. It should be noted here that four countries – Albania, Estonia, Spain and Turkey – either did not report any plans for a population census on the 2010 round in response to the questionnaire or have not yet decided on the method of data collection.
5. **Figure 2** (see annex) shows that the means of data collection for information on households and on people is very similar for each country. Most countries will continue to collect information on both units through the same operation.
6. However, in 2000, Norway supplemented its register-based data on households with a mail-out questionnaire. And for 2010, neither Latvia nor Slovenia intends to rely on administrative registers as the sole source for this data as they do for population; both these countries plan to collect household data by supplementing their registers with information collected through a questionnaire.
7. In contrast to this, however, although Bulgaria and Israel intend to collect population information primarily through administrative records, they report that they will use a more traditional census approach to collect data on households in the 2010 round.
8. The questionnaire also sought more detailed information on the different enumeration methods used in 2000 and those to be adopted in 2010. **Table 1** shows the reported changes and illustrates the fact that countries do, of course, employ more than one method of data collection and these are thus ‘counted’ more than once in the summary of responses to the questionnaire (the responses for 2000 shown here are ranked according to the estimated percentage coverage of population by each method adopted by each country).
9. As has already been noted, there is a trend to move away from the more traditional approaches to data collection to one or more of a number of various alternative methodologies, but by no means entirely. Thus **Table 1** shows that of the 24 countries that reported using the most common means of enumeration in the 2000 round of population censuses (**interviewer and paper questionnaire**) 16 still intend to use this again, either as a main or secondary method, plus three further countries (Belgium, Malta and Moldova) that did not do so in 2000 but reported that they would be using this method in their next census.
10. Some 8 countries noted that they are planning to use an **interviewer and electronic questionnaire** methodology either as an alternative, or an additional, means of data collection. Only the US reported using an electronic form in 2000, and then only as a subsidiary means of data collection.

Table 1 Methodological changes for population censuses 2000-2010

Type of enumeration	Population censuses			
	2000, ranked importance			2010
	1	2	3 or lower	
Interviewer: Paper form	22	2	0	19
Electronic form	0	0	1	8
Enumerator: Self-completed form collected	9	4	0	12
Self-completed form mailed back	3	0	2	6
Mail-out: Collected by enumerator	1	2	0	3
Mail-back	2	0	1	6
Internet	0	1	1	9
Enumeration based on registers	5	0	0	12

11. More or less the same extent of use of **enumerator and self-completed** form will be adopted in 2010, as was the case in the 2000 round (if we consider both primary and subsidiary means of data collection). There will still be a greater emphasis on **enumerator** collection compared with use of **mail-back**. Nor is there significant evidence of any intention to adopt **mail-out** as the primary means for form delivery to any great extent – though this is one of the more significant methodological developments that are being considered in the UK Census in 2011 in an attempt to deploy limited field resources more effectively.

12. Only two countries (Australia and the US) reported using the **Internet** as a means of collecting population data in the 2000 round. But for the 2010 round a further seven countries have indicated that they are considering using this as one of a number of possible modes of data collection in the next round. However, none of these countries currently expect this option to be taken up by the general public as the preferred means of providing census information. There are still several major technical challenges to usability, establishing respondent identity, and data security that countries will have to overcome before this medium provides a universally acceptable means of data collection.

13. It may be worth noting here the scope for variation in the plans for the next round of censuses for a few particular countries that have reported significant change to their methodologies.

14. Germany, for example, reported that they will be generating household data in the 2010 round by a special programme combining individual data from the population register with individual data from a separate dwelling census collected through a questionnaire mailed out to owners of all buildings/dwellings.

15. France's innovative 'rolling' census will provide census-type information for any reference year from 2008 onwards. Starting in 2004, one fifth of communes with less than 10,000 people will be enumerated in a traditional way, together with 8 per cent of the population in larger communes. Together with the use of administrative data, combined with small area estimation techniques, France reports that this approach will allow reductions in response burden and more balanced costs over time, while achieving more frequent and regular statistical outputs.

16. Israel is moving to an ‘integrated’ census in 2008. Here the aim will be to utilise the benefits of the country’s long-established population register, updated with data from other administrative sources together with information from the field collected from a 20 per cent sample survey of households.

17. Within the UK, also, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has announced proposals to move towards an integrated population statistics system, which may obviate the need to conduct a traditional full census in the long-term. The core of the ONS vision would be the establishment of a population register linked to administrative data sources and national sample surveys at the person level to create a single comprehensive population statistics database. Plans to combine the five major ONS household surveys into one survey – the Continuous Population Survey – from 2008 is the first step along the road to this vision, but there will still be a need to conduct a traditional census in 2011 since it is not envisaged that an accurate population register could be fully established by then. But will this be the last traditional census in the UK?

18. In the United States, the Bureau of the Census has introduced a new nationwide survey designed to provide communities with a regularly updated look at how they are changing. It is an ongoing survey covering a small sample of addresses selected each month, and which will allow the Census Bureau to provide demographic data annually instead of every 10 years. The American Community Survey is a key element in the re-engineered US Census and will replace the census ‘long form’ in 2010, covering over 40 housing and population questions. Full national implementation is scheduled for January 2005. The Census Bureau will continue, however, to use the traditional ‘short form’ in the decennial census of population and housing to obtain full population counts and other basic demographic information.

2010 Recommendations

19. A number of methodological issues, identified by the Working Group as possible candidates for inclusion in the 2010 Recommendations, were separately listed on the questionnaire, and countries were invited to indicate whether or not these should be covered.

Table 2 Methodological activities to be covered in 2010 Recommendations

Methodological activity	Cover in Recommendations		No not include	No response
	Detail	limited detail		
Enumeration methods	21	12	4	10
Use of registers	20	14	5	8
Sampling techniques	15	17	6	9

20. All but a few countries suggested that 2010 Recommendations should cover enumeration methods, the use of registers and sampling techniques. Only Italy consistently responded to the questionnaire by suggesting that these issues need not be covered. Many countries, however, do not feel that it is necessary for these issues to be discussed in great detail.

21. Northern Ireland noted that the quality of available **address registers** was a key issue if countries were considering moving to a post-out method of enumeration. This issue is indeed one of particular current concern within the UK, which is considering post-out as the main means of

delivering forms for the first time in its 2011 Census, and is one which we would suggest should also be included in the Recommendations.

22. Proportionately fewer countries thought that issues relating to sampling need to be covered in great detail, but most still thought that this was important enough to be referred to in some limited way. Poland, in particular sought guidance from the new Recommendations on issues relating to the effect of sampling on the quality of responses to selected topics.

23. Table 3 shows that there was broad agreement that issues relating to the evaluation of **coverage** and **quality** should be also covered in the 2010 Recommendations. All but three of the responding countries thought so, and a good majority of these recorded that these were key issues that should be covered in some detail.

Table 3 Methodological activities to be covered in 2010 Recommendations

Methodological activity	Cover in Recommendations		No not include	No response
	Detail	limited detail		
Evaluation of coverage and quality	28	8	3	8
Quality control	25	10	3	9
Publicity campaign	13	11	11	12

24. However, the least number of countries felt enthusiastic about covering issues relating to **publicity** in any detail. The Recommendations should, perhaps, leave such arrangements to individual countries to determine.

25. The section of the questionnaire covering these particular issues also invited comments on other issues that had not been specifically listed. These resulted in a small number of written responses, but most of these have been covered by the specific issues noted above. However, the UK further identified the importance of establishing good user consultation processes in the planning and the design of national censuses and suggested that this topic, together with the benefits to be gained from wider international liaison, should be noted in the 2010 Recommendations.

2. CENSUS TECHNOLOGY

26. Table 4 shows that the inclusion of emerging technologies for **both data collection** (including, in particular, the use of **Geographic Information Systems**) and **data processing** was also identified as important by most countries.

27. Issues relating to **dissemination of outputs** are also seen as important, and only three countries of those responding to the questionnaire thought that the 2010 Recommendations should not cover this topic. There is, however, an equal balance between countries in the level of detail that need be included in the Recommendations on this issue.

Table 4 Methodological activities to be covered in 2010 Recommendations

Methodological activity	Cover in Recommendations		No not include	No response
	Detail	limited detail		
Use of GIS for data collection	23	12	3	9
Data processing technologies	22	13	1	11
Data collection technologies	19	12	4	10
Dissemination of outputs	17	17	3	10

3. TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 2010 ROUND OF CENSUSES

28. In the response to the Questionnaire, countries were asked to indicate those topics that they plan to cover in their next census, identifying those which are:

- to be included as recommended in the 2000 Recommendations;
- to be included with some changes;
- to be included with substantial changes; or
- not being included.

29. It should be noted, however, that the scores that are shown in the tables that follow only indicate current planning assumptions, which in many cases will be subject to further review once fuller assessments of national requirements are made during the intercensal period. It should also be added that although separate responses to the questionnaire was made by England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the analyses have been carried on the basis of a single response from the UK. Where there are likely to be significant differences in question content between the three countries the report refers to these.

30. It seems from the analyses of the responses to the Questionnaire received that the process to select the methodology for the 2010 round of censuses is at a far more advanced stage than the decision on the particular topics to be included.

3.1 *Places of usual residence and other geographic characteristics*

31. Responses to the Questionnaire suggest that, overall, the 2000 Recommendation are likely to be adopted by more than two thirds of countries for 17 out of the 29 core topics. However, Tables 3 shows that among these the questions on **place of usual address** and **place of residence 1 year before the census** are among the most likely to be subject to some revision. Nine countries reported that they are considering some changes to the question on **usual address**, and 7 countries are possibly changing the question on **address 1 year before the census**. The US Bureau of the Census, for example, includes a question on address 5 years ago on its long-form census, but it does include a '1-year' question in its new American Community Survey.

Table 5 Topics to be included in the 2010 round of censuses: Residence and other geographic topics

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
<i>Core topics</i>					
Place of work	34	3	1	1	8
Place of usual residence	31	9	0	0	7
Place of residence 1 year before	27	7	0	4	9
<i>Non-core topics</i>					
Place where found at census	31	9	0	0	7
Previous place of usual residence	24	5	0	8	11
Farm or non-farm residence	11	1	1	24	10
<i>Derived topics</i>					
Total population	36	4	0	0	7
Locality	29	7	1	3	7
Urban and rural areas	24	8	3	3	9

Key to table

R	To be included as recommended
C	Being included with some changes
S	Being included with substantial changes
N	Not being included

32. It is to be noted that, four countries reported that do not plan to include the ‘1-year’ question at all in their next census. These were Armenia, France, Israel, and Serbia/Montenegro. Of these France will clearly have less of a need to do so by adopting an annual ‘rolling’ census approach.

33. There is clearly a need to review the definitions of *usual address* and *resident population* in an attempt to improve overall coverage and to reflect the increasing tendency for people to live at more than one address – either because they own two residences, one of which may even be in another country - or because the children of separated spouses may live with each parent at different times during the week.

34. The definition of other population bases, such as daytime-population may also need to be included in the 2010 Recommendation. For this it would be necessary for countries to include a question on **place of work**. It is encouraging to see, therefore, that most countries (34 out of 47) reported that they propose to include such a question in the 2010 round that will conform closely to 2000 Recommendations.

35. Most countries report that will continue to have a need to collect additional information **on place where found at the time of the census** in order to obtain a ‘population present’ count. This question will be asked by 31 of the 40 responding countries but, again, nine of these report that they are considering some changes to the currently recommended question – though it should be noted they are not all the same countries that are changing the question on **usual address**.

36. The argument continues, however, as to whether a *de facto* or *de jure* population base provides the best methodological approach both for achieving optimum coverage and meeting user requirements for statistical results.

37. Producing information on **total population** would still seem to be the aim of most countries; none reported that they do not intend to derive this information in the 2010 round.

38. But fewer countries report that they will attempt to derive information on **locality**, and only half reported that they would classify populations by **urban and rural areas**.

39. Less than a half of responding countries see a need to collect specific information which distinguishes between **farm and non-farm residence**, and, not surprisingly, all are countries where there is a heavy economic dependence on agricultural industry - Canada and Sweden being the only ones that are not eastern European or former Soviet states.

3.2 *International migration and related characteristics*

40. Information collected on questions relating to **duration of residence**, previous **place of usual residence** and **year/period of immigration** are all important factors in building models for measuring population change and, particularly, international migration for the purpose estimating national and local intercensal population estimates. Surprisingly then, perhaps, significant numbers of countries report that they do not currently propose to collect this range information in the next census – although, as Table 6 shows, all but four will include the core question on **usual residence 1 year before the census**.

41. In particular, there may be an increasing need for importing countries such as the UK and Italy to reconsider whether questions aimed at obtaining a better measurement of migration will be necessary in order to assess the impact of increasing flows of asylum seekers and economic migrants, unless information from alternative sources such as international passenger surveys can provide reliably accurate estimates of migrant flows at the local area level. The 2010 Recommendations should perhaps set out more clearly the importance for Member States in collecting this sort of information.

42. In the meantime information from questions on **country of citizenship** and **country birth** will continue to provide proxy measures of immigration for most countries. Only Israel and the UK did not report plans to collect census-type information on **country of citizenship**, and only Kazakhstan reported that it does not intend to collect information on **country of birth**.

Table 6 Topics to be included in the 2010 round of censuses: International migration and cultural characteristics

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
<i>Core topics</i>					
Country of citizenship	34	3	1	2	7
Country/place of birth	33	6	0	1	7
Place of residence 1 year before	27	7	0	4	9
<i>Non-core topics</i>					
Previous place of usual residence	24	5	0	8	11
Ethnic group	25	3	0	10	9
Language	22	5	1	9	10
Year/period of immigration	21	7	1	9	9
Duration of residence	20	2	0	13	12
Religion	18	2	1	15	11
Citizenship acquisition	11	1	2	21	12
Place of birth of parents	6	4	1	25	11

Key to table

R	To be included as recommended
C	Being included with some changes
S	Being included with substantial changes
N	Not being included

43. Also important, in order to reflect an increasing tendency towards more culturally diverse populations, is the need to include questions relating to national or cultural identity. Many more countries propose include a question on ethnic group in the 2010 round, for example, than was the case in the last census, and 28 (almost two thirds of responding countries) now propose broadly adopting the 2000 Recommendations on this topic. It is recognised, however, that in some countries such as France and Belgium, there are legislative bars to seeking this sort of information in statutory censuses.

44. The 2010 Recommendations should, however, stress the need for questions on ethnicity to reflect dynamic cultural and regional patterns. In the UK, for example, where there is now a well-established and accepted tradition of including this topic in the census, there are proposals to extend and develop further the questions both to provide more inclusiveness among particular minority groups and to reflect the very different needs for information on identity that exist in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

45. Questions on language and religion provide alternative and/or additional indicators of cultural and ethnic diversity, though once again statutory prohibitions or respondent resistance may account for as many as 15 countries reporting that they do not propose asking a question on religion in the 2010 round.

46. It should be noted that the religion topic attracted a fairly high level of non-response to the questionnaire, with just under a quarter of all countries failing to report any plans at all on this particular topic. It is unlikely, however, that many of these non-responding countries plan to include such a question in the 2010 round.

47. Intentions to include language as a census topic are similar to those on ethnicity. But it should be noted that the purposes for collecting information on language may differ between countries. On the one hand such information can be used to refine the information collected on regional or cultural identity, such as the questions traditionally included within the UK, for example, on knowledge of Welsh language in Wales, on Gaelic in Scotland, and on Irish in Northern Ireland. On the other hand such questions may be included more as a means of measuring ability to speak the national language in order to measure, perhaps, the extent of necessary provision for language education. The difficulty of including such questions in a traditional census, however, is that the very people about whom such information is most required are the very people who most often find difficulty in responding to self-completion questions written in a language that is not their mother tongue.

48. As 1st or 2nd generation immigrants are ever smaller proportions of ethnic minority communities, the question on parent's country of birth is becoming increasingly less relevant as an indicator of ethnicity. This is reflected by the result that only 11 countries reported that they intend to include such a question in the 2010 round.

49. Slightly more countries, however, often where the populations includes significant proportions of naturalized citizens, propose adopting the 2000 Recommendations to some degree for collecting information on citizenship acquisition. In the US 2000 Census, for example, data on country of citizenship/previous citizenship were not sought, but currently, the Census Bureau is considering introducing into the new American Community Survey the response options to include 'non-US countries of citizenship' and 'year of naturalization'. More than half of responding countries report, however, that they do not intend to collect such information.

3.3 *Families and households*

50. The bulk of the characteristics relating to household and family structures are derived topics which rely on information collected by reference to the relationship between each household member and a nominated reference person - though the 2000 Recommendations do not specify who that reference person should be and leave this to the individual countries to decide. Table 7 shows that all but two of the responding countries reported that they would be collecting relationship information as a core topic in the 2010 round – the exceptions being Hungary and Norway.

51. An equally high proportion of countries propose including the core question on legal marital status. But slightly fewer though intend to cover the non-core *de facto* marital status topic with a specific question. It should be noted that *de facto* marital status can alternatively be derived from the information collected on relationship within the household and family and thus some countries may choose to provide information in this way rather than attempting to collect it directly with a separate question.

Table 7 Topics to be included in the 2010 round of censuses: families and households

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
<i>Core topics</i>					
Legal marital status	35	3	0	2	7
Relationship to reference person	31	7	0	2	7
<i>Non-core topics</i>					
De facto marital status	28	2	1	5	11
Type of institution	28	4	1	5	9
Number of live-born children	26	4	0	9	8
Living as an inmate	23	2	0	11	11
Date of current marriage	10	2	2	23	10
Date of first marriage	5	3	1	30	8

Key to table

R	To be included as recommended
C	Being included with some changes
S	Being included with substantial changes
N	Not being included

52. Responses to the question on **number of live-born children** will continue to provide useful information for measuring fertility, and as many as 30 countries report that they propose to include such a question in the 2010 round in some form – though far fewer, a small minority only, intend also including questions on **duration of marriage**. A question on the date of first marriage in the case of women who have been married more than once is only being included by 8 countries, almost all of which are Eastern European states. Many countries do, of course, rely on the details collected at the civil registration of births to provide this sort of information, and which, in some cases, may be linked to other administrative data.

53. It would seem from the figures in Table 8 that all topics derived from the **core** questions are to be included in the 2010 Census round by a large majority of countries; this indicates the relatively high dependence that most countries have on using the census as a prime source of information on household and family structures. Only the derived variable of **type of family nucleus** is not being included by more than a handful of countries.

54. And even the **non-core** derived variables shown in Table 9 seem to be well covered in comparison with many of the non-core variables covering other topics. It is notable that none are being omitted by more than half the responding countries.

55. Potentially, since most countries intend to collect information on the core relationship topic, the only limitation to adopting the 2000 Recommendations for these derived topics will be the extent of coding and cross-tabulation with other variables, such as **age** and **economic activity**, that countries propose to undertake.

Table 8 Topics to be derived from the 2010 round of censuses: families and households

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
<i>Derived core topics</i>					
Size of household	38	1	0	0	8
No. of children in family under specified age	37	0	0	1	9
No. of children in household under specified age	37	0	0	1	9
Size of family nucleus	36	3	0	1	7
Type of private household	34	5	1	0	7
No. of household members of retirement age	34	0	1	4	8
Household status	30	8	0	1	8
Family status	29	7	1	1	12
Type of family nucleus	29	1	0	10	7

Table 9 Topics to be derived from the 2010 round of censuses: families and households

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
<i>Non-core topics</i>					
No. of dependent members in household	21	0	2	12	12
No. of household members whose main livelihood is econ activity	21	0	0	13	13
No. of dependent members in family	20	2	1	13	11
No. of family members whose main livelihood is econ activity	19	1	0	15	12
Generational composition	18	3	0	15	11
Type of extended family (d)	16	3	2	15	11
Extended family status (c)	15	4	1	15	12

Key to table

R	To be included as recommended
C	Being included with some changes
S	Being included with substantial changes
N	Not being included

56. Essentially this comes down to the individual national requirements for information to be balanced against the costs of processing the data. What many countries may have indicated in their responses, therefore, is perhaps more the *ability* to provide the sorts of classifications that UN-ECE recommends, within the context of the range of questions being included, rather than their *intention* to do so in the 2010 round.

57. We note, in particular, that reference to **generational composition of households** should perhaps be covered in more detail by the 2010 Recommendations rather than simply referring back to the 1990 Recommendations.

3.4 *Employment*

58. The census clearly continues to be regarded as a prime source of information about the economic characteristics of the population. Table 10 shows that, almost without exception, all countries plan to include the employment-related core question in their next census. Only the question on **time usually worked** will not be universally included, where a surprisingly high proportion of the responding countries (over a third) reported that they do not propose asking this question in the 2010 census round

59. There is, however, generally far less conformity with the 2000 Recommendations in respect of the non-core questions on economic characteristics. Table 11 shows that for the countries that responded to these topics, only three of the questions – on **type of sector activity**, **main source of livelihood**, and **usual activity status** – are being included by the majority, and fewer than ten countries report that they are considering including questions on **income**, **providers of non-paid care**, and **secondary occupation**.

Table 10 Topics to be included in the 2010 round of censuses: economic characteristics (core)

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
Industry	34	2	1	1	9
Place of work	34	3	1	1	8
Occupation	33	5	1	0	7
Current activity status	31	6	0	1	8
Status in employment	31	6	2	1	7
Time usually worked	19	2	1	18	7

Key to table

R	To be included as recommended
C	Being included with some changes
S	Being included with substantial changes
N	Not being included

Table 11 Topics to be included in the 2010 round of censuses: economic characteristics (non-core)

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
Type of sector (industry) activity	19	2	2	15	9
Main source of livelihood	16	4	1	15	11
Usual activity status	16	2	2	18	9
Mode of transport to work	13	4	1	19	10
Dependency relationship	12	3	1	20	11
Duration of unemployment	11	0	4	21	11
No. of persons working at local workplace	10	3	1	22	11
Length/frequency of journey to work	9	5	1	22	10
Income	6	3	2	26	10
Providers of non-paid care	5	2	1	27	12
Secondary occupation (17)	5	1	1	29	11

Key to table

R	To be included as recommended
C	Being included with some changes
S	Being included with substantial changes
N	Not being included

60. A little surprisingly perhaps, in view of the value of the information obtained in assessing the needs for public transport provision, is that fewer than half the responding countries report that they plan to include questions relating to **mode of transport** and/or **length and frequency of journey to work**.

61. We see in Table 12 a spread of conformity with the 2000 Recommendations on the derived topics ranging from almost universal compliance for information on levels of the **economic activity of household members** down to only a third of countries who reported that they would record information on **socio-economic groups**.

62. Finally, some aspects of the new Recommendations that the Working Group may wish to consider is the fact that there is little or no current guidance with respect to a number of the derived variables, such as **socio-economic group**, **number of children under a specific age**, and **number of members whose source or livelihood is economic activity**. Greater clarity of definitions here may enable some countries to determine whether or not they can more readily adopt the Recommendations in future censuses.

Table 12 Topics to be derived from the 2010 round of censuses: economic characteristics

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
<i>Derived topics</i>					
No. of economically active household members	36	2	1	1	7
No. of economically active family members	32	1	1	5	8
No. of dependent members in household	21	0	2	12	12
No. of household members whose main livelihood is econ activity	21	0	0	13	13
No. of dependent members in family	20	2	1	13	11
No. of family members whose main livelihood is econ activity	19	1	0	15	12
Socio-economic group	16	0	3	14	14

Table 13 Topics to be included in the 2010 round of censuses: education

UN-ECE Recommendation	Response				No response
	R	C	S	N	
<i>Core topics</i>					
Educational attainment	31	9	0	0	7
<i>Non-core topics</i>					
School attendance	28	7	0	3	9
Educational qualifications	19	4	1	15	8
Literacy	18	2	0	18	9
Location of school	18	1	0	17	11
Field of study	17	3	0	18	9

Key to table

- R To be included as recommended
C Being included with some changes
S Being included with substantial changes
N Not being included

3.5 *Education*

63. All countries seem to be compliant when it comes to the education-related questions. Table 13 shows that no country plans to omit the core question on educational attainment, and the question on school attendance (or an equivalent question on student status) is being included by all but three of the countries that responded.

64. The questions on qualifications, field of study and literacy are being included in one form or another by over half the responding countries though the geographic spread of countries including a literacy question in 2010 is very distinct. Almost without exception the 20 countries who have reported planning such a question are Eastern European and Mediterranean states, whereas those that plan a question on qualifications are much more evenly spread across the whole ECE region.

3.6 *New topics*

65. The increasing trend towards including questions on disability had already been recognised by the Working Group and the questionnaire therefore had specific tick box response for countries to indicate any plans to include this topic. Table 14 shows that 13 countries reported either that they were planning to include this topic in the 2010 round, or had done so in their most recent census, plus Australia who reported plans to include a question in their mid-decade census in 2006. All these countries agreed that the topic should be covered in the new Recommendations.

66. Though the census can indeed be a valuable source of data for estimating broad levels of general health and disability at both the national and local area levels, simple self-completion questionnaires may not always collect information on specific disabilities with sufficient accuracy to be fit for purpose. In the UK for example, while questions on long-term illness and general health were included in 2001 Census, the pre-Census tests of the questions on disability that were being considered indicated that the quality of responses was poor. The population groups on whom information about disability would be the most useful are often among the groups that may have the greatest difficulty in completing the census form with accuracy – if at all.

67. Thus, while taking account of the guidelines set out in Revision 1 of the *UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, the new ECE Recommendations should, perhaps, also reflect the inherent difficulties of seeking this sort of information from simple self-completion questionnaires.

68. Five countries reported that they either include questions on agriculture in their census or, as in the case Poland, conduct separate agricultural censuses. However, although all suggested that the 2010 Recommendations should cover this topic, insufficient detail was given of the range of questions asked, and it is difficult to see how the new Recommendations could provide general guidance which would be helpful to those countries considering including these sorts of questions.

Table 14 New topics to be included in the 2010 round of censuses

Topic	To be included in 2010 census	To include in 2010 Recommendations
Disability	14	14
Agriculture	5	5
Informal employment	3	4
Other new topics	2	1

69. The Questionnaire also provided a specific response category for question designed to capture information on work in informal employment. Only Belarus and Poland indicated that they were planning to do so, and Canada reported that a question on unpaid work had been included in their 2001 Census. However, some countries may have been uncertain about what was meant by ‘informal employment’ and this might account for the low response.

70. Only two other topics were identified as further candidates for inclusion in the 2010 round. Canada reported that they will include a question on ‘life long learning/alternative training’ and Ukraine suggested that the Recommendations should cover ‘people who are on deportation’ which we take to mean intending out-migrants.

71. The likely trend, particularly for countries adopting the traditional census approach, is, however, to reduce the question content in an attempt both to improve responses and produce more timely results. This not only becomes more practicable as alternative sources of data become increasingly available, but also helps reduce both the respondent burden and the cost of data processing.

72. In the UK for example, although a range of additional questions may be suggested by census users (such as value of the home; access to a garden or yard; duration of residence at current address; distance travelled per year; provision for private education, health insurance and pensions schemes; and lifestyle) the likelihood is that the number of questions to be included on the 2011 Census form will be fewer than the 34 asked last time. The dilemma will not be in prioritising new topics but rather in deciding which previous questions to drop.

4. USE OF THE 2000 RECOMMENDATIONS CORE TABULATION PROGRAMME USED TO DEVELOP NATIONAL TABULATION PROGRAMMES

73. Finally, the questionnaire enquired of countries if the core tabulation programme suggested in 2000 Recommendations was used or was helpful, either to a greater or lesser extent, in developing national tabulations programs for the 2000 round of censuses.

74. As a background to this part of the questionnaire, it should be noted that the tabulation programme is limited to those that use the basic classification of core topics, and is primarily intended to provide an indication only of the major types of census data that are required to meet important international and national objectives. It is not intended to cover all the tabulations that would be required by countries and which are expected to be more extensive and detailed.

75. Some 14 countries (just less than a third) reported that they followed the ECE Recommendations to a greater extent in developing their own 2000 national tabulation programme, and a further third (16 respondents) found the Recommendations helpful as a basis for doing so. But, even though a significant proportion of countries, the remaining third, did not state specifically that they followed the ECE Recommendations in developing their national programs, many produced similar ranges of output classifications and tabulations based on the particular requirements of their own national organisations and users (cited by Slovakia, for example) or which followed the programme of tables recommended by Eurostat for its own Members States (such as Luxembourg).

76. Many other countries (such as Australia, for example) produce standard output tables which are focused on providing a wide range of data for all geographic areas from collection district upwards, with a customized table service allowing users to obtain tabulations according to their own specifications.

77. It is expected that the 2010 Recommendation will again make reference to Eurostat's programme of statistical tables, but if it should be the case that there is again an absence of EU census legislation for the 2010 round (in the form of either a Regulation or Directive) there will be no statutory provision which will require EU Member States to adhere to a common output programme. It is important, therefore that the Eurostat core requirements for the next decade can be broadly achievable across the newly extended region as a whole.

ANNEX

Figure 1- Enumeration methods: population, ECE Member States

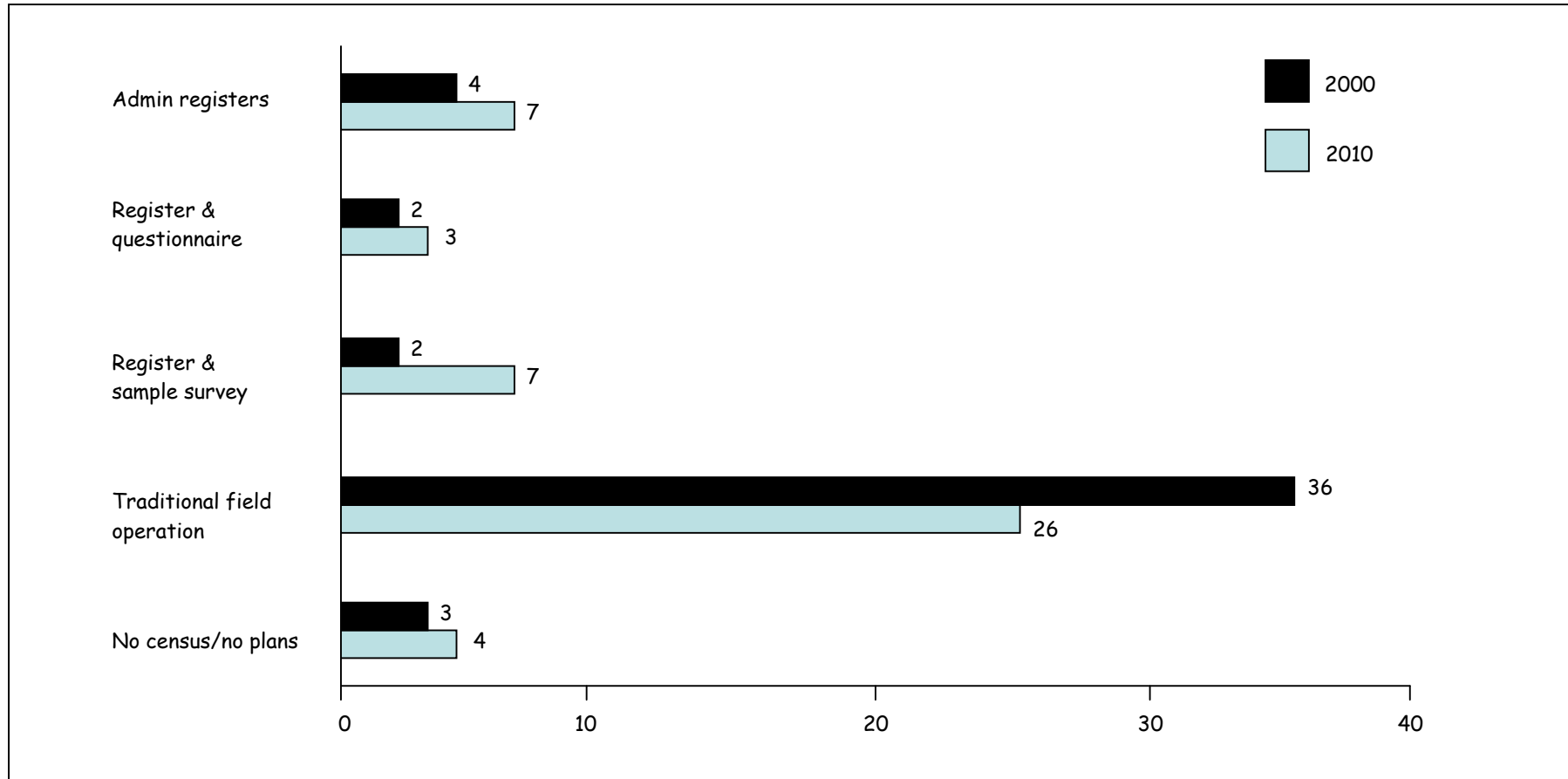


Figure 2- Enumeration methods: households, ECE Member States

