

**Distr.
GENERAL**

**CES/AC.6/2005/2
7 February 2006**

Original: ENGLISH

**STATISTICAL COMMISSION and
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE**

**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
(EUROSTAT)**

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
STATISTICIANS**

Joint UNECE/EUROSTAT Meeting on
Population and Housing Censuses
Geneva, 12-16 December 2005

REPORT

Note by the secretariat

INTRODUCTION

1. The Joint UNECE-Eurostat Meeting on Population and Housing Censuses was held in Geneva from 12 to 16 December 2005. The meeting was organized in cooperation with UNFPA who facilitated the participation of census experts from selected countries.
2. The meeting was attended by delegates of Albania, Armenia, Australia (via videoconference), Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uzbekistan. The European Commission was represented by Eurostat. The Council of Europe, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the CIS, the Food And Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), United Nations Population Fund Kazakhstan and the United Nations Statistics Division were also present.

3. Ms. Rosemary Bender (Canada) was elected as Chairperson of the meeting.

ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

4. The following substantive topics were considered in separate sessions at the meeting on the basis of a draft version of the “Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing” which was distributed prior to the meeting:

- 1: Census methodology
- 2: Emerging census technology
- 3: Geographic characteristics
- 4: Demographic characteristics
- 5: Economic characteristics
- 6: Education characteristics
- 7: International and internal migration characteristics
- 8: Ethno-cultural characteristics
- 9: Disability
- 10: Household and family characteristics
- 11: Agriculture
- 12: Living quarters, Dwellings and Housing arrangements (Housing topics)

5. Information sessions were presented on the following census activities:

- a). Revision of the UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses. Information was provided on the process established to develop the revised Recommendations and on the progress made in developing a new draft document as well as a new census tabulation programme.
- b). Relationship between the CES Recommendations and the UN Principles and Recommendations. The meeting recognized the existing differences between the two sets of draft recommendations concerning core topics. Participants took note of these differences and in the relevant sections they reconciled differences where possible. At the end of the meeting a number of differences still existed¹. This is because the CES Recommendations reflect the particular needs and situation of the region. It was also noted that the draft tabulation programme for the UN Principles and Recommendations is still under review and is expected to be finalized in June 2006.
- c). Presentation of the preliminary results on the use of registers for censuses, from the Nordic report on best practices in the use of registers for statistical purposes. The participants expressed interest in the results of the project and supported the promotion of further work in this area.
- d). UNECE Website on census forms and other material related to 2000 censuses. The UNECE informed countries that they will be asked to verify the information currently available in the draft website before it is made available to the public.
- e). Publication on national practices in the 2000 round of censuses. A draft version of the publication was distributed to meeting participants. Feedback was requested on the publication, and countries were asked to verify the information presented in the publication and inform the UNECE Secretariat of possible omissions or errors.

6. All papers for the meeting were posted on the UNECE website at the following address:
<http://www.unece.org/stats/documents/2005.12.census.htm>

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

7. The discussion on the draft publication was very lively and rich during the five days of the meeting. The main conclusions reached by the participants are described in this section of the report. Only substantive conclusions having a major impact on the revision of the draft CES Recommendations are presented. Editorial changes were noted for each chapter and task force chairs and the editors were asked to ensure that these changes were incorporated in the relevant chapters.

8. Following substantive changes with reference to the chapters and paragraphs of the draft CES Recommendations were agreed:

General Comment

- Where appropriate, clarify what are “recommendations” and what are not.

Chapter 1: Census Methodology

Para. 5 and Appendix 3: Fundamental principles of Official Statistics

- Incorporate the text officially endorsed by UNECE.

Para. 10: Essential features of a census

- Incorporate 5 essential features: Individual enumeration, simultaneity, universality, small area data, defined periodicity.
- Small area data to include mention of production of data related to small population groups.
- Independent coverage check should be a recommendation under Universality.

Para. 29.a to 29.f: Relation between population and housing censuses and agriculture censuses

- Acknowledge timing issues between population and agricultural censuses.
- Add relevance of population census to agriculture census when agriculture census is household based.

Para. 30: Methodology approaches in the ECE

- Mention rolling census.

Para. 33: Issues that data collection should take into account

- Add notion of public understanding and public acceptance.

Para. 37: Individual data

- Expand to emphasize use of data about individuals and households.

Para. 38-39: Extent of use of enumerators and self-completed forms, reference to Appendix 2

- Acknowledge impact of new technologies on proxy reporting.

Para. 68: Outsourcing

- Strengthen by explicitly saying that a turn key approach is not recommended.

Appendix 2: Alternative approaches to census taking

- Rewrite to correct the imbalance between register based and other methods.

Chapter 2: Census Technology

Para. 113: Technical issues to be considered when using hand held devices

- Add notion of security of the data.

Chapter 3: Geographic Characteristics

Para. 136-158: Population to be counted

- These paragraphs should be presented in a new Chapter 3.

Para. 159-182: Geographic Characteristics

- These paragraphs should be presented in a new Chapter 4.

Para. 137: Place of Usual Residence (core topic)

- Continue to use 12 month concept and explain that it is likely to give rise to difficulties especially for register based countries.
- Retain intention of staying for at least one year acknowledging operational difficulties this may present for some member countries.

Para. 140: Place of usual residence: special cases

- In para. 140.3 the following text on third level students should be added: "Some countries may consider the family home as the place of usual residence for third level students who are studying away from home within the country".
- Add sub-paragraph on children in joint custody arrangements.

Para. 145: Temporarily present persons

- Convert this paragraph to footnote (primarily intended for short term migration flows).

Para. 147: Temporarily absent persons

- Add text to take into account persons who return home regularly as per Para. 140.1

Para. 153-154: Illegal immigrants and asylum seekers

- Revise text to better explain that all people in the defined territory should be counted regardless of their legal status, though the objective is not to explicitly identify illegal immigrants and asylum seekers. Also recognize difficulty of including these persons.

Para. 174: Location of place of work (core topic)

- Remains core topic.
- Remove ‘outside the home’.

Para. 178.4: Mode of transport to work (non-core topic)

- Add boat, ferry explicitly.

Chapter 4: Demographic Characteristics**Para. 190-192: Legal marital status (core topic) - Registered (legal) partnerships**

- Redraft text in Para. 192, to reflect that in countries with legal provision for registered partnerships and for registers with same-sex partnerships, the classification in Para. 190 can be expanded to include categories related to registered partnerships, same-sex registered (legal) partnerships.

Para. 196: De facto marital status (non-core topic) - Classification

- Current categories are not mutually exclusive.
- Recommended classification:
 1. Living in a consensual union
 2. Not living in a consensual union
- Mention subcategories for same-sex couples to be consistent with chapter on families and households.

Chapter 5: Economic characteristics**Para. 230: Time Usually worked**

- Change to non-core topic.

Para. 255: Type of place of work

- Change to non-core topic.

Para. 302: Population by socio-economic group

- Keep text, but delete appendix on classification of socio-economic population, stating that countries may use their own classification.

Chapter 6: Education Characteristics**Para. 306: Educational attainment**

- Revise to provide more guidance on age of persons modeled around Para. 330.

Chapter 7: International and internal migration**Chart 2: Venn-diagram of population groups**

- Chart 2 and discussion should reflect persons with one native-born parent and one foreign-born parent.

Para. 345: Country/Place of birth

- First sentence should now read: “Place of birth can be collected according to the geographical unit in which the birth took place or according to the place of usual residence of the mother. Countries should collect the information according to the criteria that better suits their data output needs. Some countries may collect information according to both criteria”.

Migration topics

- **Internal and International Migration core topics:**

Para. 356: Year of arrival in the current place of usual residence

Para. 357: Previous place of usual residence

Para. 358: Ever- resided abroad and year of arrival

The text should acknowledge that some countries may wish instead to ask Para. 351 “Place of usual residence one year prior to the census”, now presented as a non-core topic.

Chapter 8: Ethno-cultural characteristics

Para. 408: Religion

- Remove Para. 408.

Para. 411: Religion - Classification

- Categories listed to be reviewed, including that of Anglican and Jehova’s Witnesses.

Chapter 9: Disability

Para. 412: Introduction

- Identify disability as a non-core topic expressed in the same manner as in other chapters

Para. 432: Additional domains

- Remove mental functioning as already part of cognition domain

Para. 433: Census Questions

- Include notion of proxy reporting

Chapter 10: Household and family characteristics

Para. 448: Institutional households

- Add hotels as a category.

Para. 494: Type of Family Nucleus (derived core topic)

- For reconstituted families (5.0) indicate that some countries may not collect this information.

Chapter 11: Agriculture

No substantive revisions suggested.

Chapter 12: Living quarters, Dwellings and Housing arrangements (Housing topics)

Terminology

- Remove term conventional from Conventional Dwellings and Conventional Main Residences.

Para. 577: Overcrowding (derived core topic)

- Recognize that together both floor space and number of rooms are preferable to evaluate overcrowding. Countries are recommended to include at least one of these criteria in their census.

Para. 589: Kitchen

- Change to non-core.

Para. 594: Classification of Water Supply System (core topic)

- Change category 3.0 (No piped water available) to 2.3, and 2.0 would be “no piped water in the housing unit”.

Para. 598: Classification of Toilet Facilities (core topic)

- Change categories to enable at 1 digit level to distinguish between flush toilet in the housing unit and flush toilet NOT available in the housing unit.

Para. 604: Heating

- Change categories to enable at 1 digit level to distinguish between 1.0 “central heating” and 2.0 “no central heating”, including 2.4 “no heating at all”.

Para. 630: Type of building (core topic)

- 1.4 Indicate that for row houses each of its houses must be counted separately (consider text in 2000 recommendations).

Para. 632: Type of building (core topic) Classification

- Redrafted to indicate that when possible it should be basic at the 2 digit level. Possible difficulties in distinguishing categories at the second digit level should be recognized in the text.

Para. 622: Position of dwelling in the building (non-core topic)

- Expand classification to reflect apartments on more than one floor.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

9. Work program to complete 2010 CES census recommendations:

- a). Task force leaders are required to revise chapters in the light of discussions and recommendations from the meeting. These revisions need to be provided to the UNECE secretariat as soon as possible or by January 15th, 2006 at the latest. The revised text will also include a number of editorial changes agreed at the meeting.
- b). The UNECE secretariat will edit and check the document, and will forward a copy to member countries in mid February to ensure that the document reflects the discussion at the meeting. The steering group will meet in late February to consider the document.
- c). The document will then be finalized and translated for submission to the 12-14 June 2006 plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians in Paris.

Future CES Activities on Population and Housing Censuses.

10. The delegates discussed the future of this group created to update the CES Recommendations for the 2010 round of censuses of population and housing. The group suggested that the twelve task forces no longer continue, though it was recognized that some of these task forces may continue to operate in other fora. It was also suggested that the steering group continue to coordinate the CES work on population and housing censuses. Countries will be approached to confirm their interest in participating in the group.

11. The Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses was asked to prepare for consideration by the CES bureau a proposal for a longer term program of activities in the field of population and housing censuses. Some of the topics that were suggested for consideration by the Steering Group in the proposal were the experience of countries conducting mid-decade censuses using new technologies, the creation of a task force on the output program and the coordination of the ECE census program in Central Asia.

12. The Chair of the meeting was asked to update the Working Paper 4² based on the outcome of this meeting and share it with the World Expert Group on population and housing censuses in order to provide inputs from this region into the recommended set of global tabulations by February 2006.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

13. The participants adopted the report of the meeting at its closing session.

ENDNOTES

¹ The following topics were considered “core” in the UN Principles and Recommendations and “non core” in the CES Recommendations: religion, language, ethnicity (at least one of the three topics should be treated as a core topic); children born alive; school attendance; literacy; disability status; housing: sewage connection, amount of rent paid, Information and Communication Technology.

The following topics were considered “core” in the UN Principles and Recommendations and were not present in the CES Recommendations: duration of residence in the locality; children living, children born alive in last 12 months, deaths in last 12 months; housing: furnished and unfurnished.

The following topics were considered “core” in the CES Recommendations and “non core” in the UN Principles and Recommendations: year of arrival in the current place of usual residence; previous place of usual residence; ever- resided abroad and year of arrival in the country; housing: housing arrangements, number of occupants, occupancy status of conventional dwellings, kitchen, bathing facilities, type of building, period of construction.

The following topics were considered “core” in the CES Recommendations and were not present in the UN Principles and Recommendations: housing: type of heating, location of living quarters.

² “2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses - Meeting of Technical Subgroup 1-3 on “Core Set of Outputs and Tabulations for International Dissemination” – Follow-up note to UNECE”.
