

UNECE Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses

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Outline

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Censuses in the UNECE region (1)



UNECE REGION

- Traditional census (full field enumeration without using data from registers; includes the rolling census)
- Combined census (data from registers + field data collection)
- Register-based census (data from registers only)



Censuses in the UNECE region (2)

Traditional censuses (37 countries):

- Without using register information (26 including no census)
- Supported by register data used only as frame or control (9)
- Yearly updates of characteristics on a sample basis (1)
- Rolling census = cumulative continuous survey (1)

Censuses in the UNECE region (3)

Combined censuses (10 countries):

- Register plus full field enumeration for selected variables (4)
- Register plus sample field data for selected variables (6)

Register-based censuses (9 countries):

- Register plus reusing existing sample survey data (3)
- Register data only (6)

Terms of reference

- CES Bureau conducted an in-depth review of diversification of population census methodology and sources in October 2015
- New Task Force on register-based and combined censuses was created in February 2016
- Objective is to prepare new UNECE Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses
- New Task Force reports to the UNECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses (that reports to the CES and its Bureau)

Available material

- UNECE Recommendations for the 2020 census round (adopted by the CES in June 2015), see <http://www.unece.org/publications/2020recomm.html>
- Register-based statistics in the Nordic countries, see http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/stats/publications/Register_based_statistics_in_Nordic_countries.pdf
- Papers collected at the UNECE website <http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/censuses/Collection+of+papers+on+transitions+to+new+census+methods>

Topics (1)

- Scope of the new UNECE Guidelines and definitions of register-based and combined censuses
 - Registers: a systematic collection of unit-level data organized in such a way that updating is possible;
 - Administrative data: data holdings that contain information collected primarily for administrative (not research or statistical) purposes;
 - Statistical registers: registers created for statistical purposes.

Topics (2)

- Quality of registers and administrative data to be used in censuses (to be worked out)
- Necessary conditions, advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and threats for register-based and combined censuses (to be worked out)
- Transition from traditional to register-based and combined censuses (to be worked out)
- Essential features and quality of register-based and combined censuses (to be worked out)
- Relevant literature (still to be added)

Timetable

- February 2016: Task Force established
- September 2016: Presentation of progress report at UNECE-Eurostat Expert Meeting on Censuses
- September 2017: Presentation of draft guidelines at UNECE-Eurostat Expert Meeting on Censuses
- December 2017: Submission of final draft guidelines for review by CES Bureau
- February 2018: Review of draft guidelines by CES Bureau
- April 2018: Endorsement by CES plenary session

Methods of work

Methods of work:

- English only
- By e-mail and teleconferences
- Meetings with substantial number of Task Force members in connection with census events

Membership

15 countries:

- Austria, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands (chair), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, United Kingdom and United States

3 international organisations:

- Eurostat, FAO and UNECE (secretariat)