



Towards a single population base in the EU

**21st meeting of the
UNECE Group of Experts on
Population and Housing Censuses**

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Background

- *Methodological changes for the post-2020 censuses and expiration of the EU regulation on demographic statistics*
- *Discussion on the future architecture of population statistics in the European Statistical System*

Recommended population definitions in census rounds from WWII

- *1950 – 1960:*
 - **(modified) *de facto* population**
- *1970 – 1980:*
 - **National definitions**
 - **Growing relevance of 'usual residence' concept**
- *1990 – 2010:*
 - **Development of ECE version and progressive emphasis on the usually resident population**
- *2020:*
 - **Still depending on national needs in global recommendations**
 - **Full endorsement of the usually resident population in the ECE region (with a "registered" variant)**

Discussions in Europe in the 2010s

- *Higher attention to the population bases and related concepts*
- *Discussion on various additional population bases:*
 - **Registered population**
 - **Legal population**
 - **National population**
 - ...
- *Eurostat proposal on 'annual resident population'*

Critical features of 'usual residence'

- *Various interpretations of the place of 'usual residence'*
- *Different assessment criteria for duration of stay*
- *Undefined moment of change of usual residence*
- *Difficult application of the 'intention of stay'*
- *Timeliness*
- *Problematic cases and hard-to-reach groups (e.g., persons in irregular migratory status)*
- *Further factors hampering international comparability: different census practices, different reference times, no data exchange, no higher authority for controversial cases, non-consistent application for vital events, etc.*

Additional issues

- *Alternatives to 'usual residence'?*
 - **De facto population**
 - **De jure population**
 - **Population of national citizens**
- *Users' perspective:*
 - **Lack of international comparability**
 - **Timeliness**

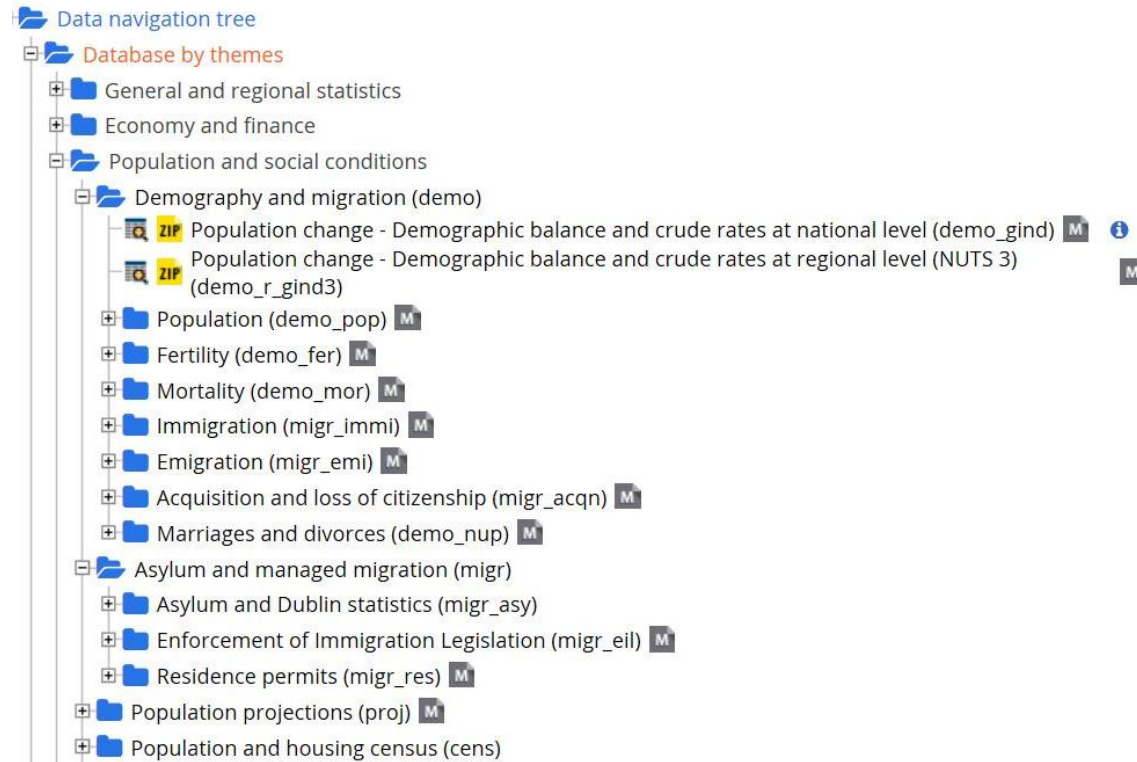
Discussions in the ESS

- *'Usual residence' difficult to apply according to several EU MSs (feasibility studies)*
- *DGs of EU NSIs call (Budapest Memorandum):*
 - **"...develop and implement common population and migration related definitions. This should take into account...the growing use of administrative data sources."**
- *Various proposals of alternative definitions examined in the Eurostat TF on Future Censuses*

State of play

- *Latest draft proposal: the 'recognized population'*
“**The population is composed of the recognized present persons whose declared main residence is in the geographic territory of interest**”
- *Currently being discussed:*
 - **Who decides the 'main' address?**
 - **Should 'presence' be a mandatory feature?**
 - **Which duration for eligibility to residence?**
 - **Consistency with other statistical frameworks**
 - ...

DATABASE



Thank you for the attention!

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