



# Current status of the 2021 Census in the EU

*David Thorogood*  
*Eurostat*

# Brief overview of the EU census programme

- European statistical legislation defines in detail an output harmonised exercise
  - Data and metadata – variables, definitions, breakdowns, structure of the tabulations, quality standards and reporting, reference year, deadlines for data supply
  - **Does not define data sources or exact reference date**
- Data sources used
  - Administrative data sources – 11
  - Combined – 11
  - ‘Traditional’ enumeration - 5

# Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

- Type and severity of impact on the census varies greatly between countries
  - 5 Member States classed impact as severe/critical – either combined or traditional censuses
  - 9 classed impact as negligible – all using administrative data sources

# Main challenges

- Mobility restrictions on staff
- Difficulties in distributing census equipment and documents
- Training difficulties – online rather than face-to-face
- Census operations staff being forced to work only from home
- Local authorities unwilling to allow or assist in census activities during the pandemic period

# Adaptations

- Changes to methods and data source
  - Internet response, CATI, greater use of administrative data
- Changes to staff training and equipment (including issuing PPE)
- Extension of the data collection period
- Postponement of data collection
- Change to the reference date

# Expectations

- In the great majority of cases, all required data will be available for dissemination by the required deadlines – and in some cases considerably earlier
  - Population grid data (1 km square) - 31 December 2022
  - Full data for dissemination – 31 March 2024
- Quality of the data will be maintained despite challenges and adaptations changes due to the pandemic
  - Extensive metadata also required under the census legislation

# Thank you



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