

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses
Geneva, Switzerland, 21-23 September 2022

CALL FOR PAPERS: revised version to extend submission deadline

- [Inform secretariat of intention to submit paper](#) as soon as possible
- [Submit written paper using this template](#) by **4 July** (for official translation) or by **10 August** (no guarantee of translation)
 - [Register](#) by **26 August**

I. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EXPERTS AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. The meeting of the Group of Experts will serve as a platform for statistical offices to exchange experience among countries; to increase knowledge of issues related to planning and conducting population and housing censuses; and to promote the development and implementation of the CES Recommendations for the Censuses of Population and Housing. The principal target audience is census managers and experts responsible for all aspects of census planning and management in national statistical offices, as well as census experts in international organizations.
2. To make a contribution to the meeting of the Group of Experts, please inform the secretariat of your intention to submit a paper either by email to social.stats@un.org or using [the online form](#) as soon as possible and **no later than 1 June**. You may select the most relevant session or indicate if your proposed contribution does not fit in any of these sessions. Those who have already been in separate communication with the secretariat about submitting papers need not complete the form.
3. You can start preparing your paper straight away. Please use [the template](#) available on the [meeting webpage](#) and follow carefully all the instructions included in it. Papers must be submitted to social.stats@un.org as soon as possible. **Only those papers received by 10 June 2022 can be considered for official translation.** Other papers must be received by 10 August.

4. The working languages of the meeting are English, French and Russian. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in these languages. Papers and presentations may be prepared in any of these three languages. Submitted papers and presentations will be translated within the limits of the translation capacity available and subject to adherence with deadlines.
 5. The UNECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses will review all submissions and, if need be, select the papers to be presented at the meeting. Instructions and deadlines for preparing presentation slides will be sent by email to the selected presenters in due course.
 6. Logistical information will be made available on [the meeting webpage](#) and emailed to all participants who register by the deadline.
 7. Contributors are reminded that the success of the meeting depends upon the ability to translate materials in advance and the opportunity for discussants to study the papers. Therefore, all deadlines must be strictly adhered to.
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II. EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE THEMATIC SESSIONS

Lessons learned from censuses of the 2020 round

A majority of countries in the UNECE region have now completed their censuses for the 2020 round. Every census gives rise to learning—what went well, what could have been done better, what might be done differently in the future. This is even more true for the 2020 round than for most, given the unprecedented challenges faced by many countries in 2020 and 2021. Lessons learned can also include learning from the results themselves—what have we discovered about the populations of our countries? Are any of the findings unexpected? This session invites contributions on all kinds of lessons in any aspect of census planning, operations and engagement, and/or key findings from census data, insofar as they can offer valuable insights for the international community which may help shape censuses of the future.

Delaying a census due to external crises: impacts and lessons for the future

At the height of the upheaval caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, many countries took the decision to delay their censuses. This applied primarily but not exclusively to those using direct enumeration. Other external crises, including disasters and political events, have also led to decisions to delay data collection either across a whole territory or parts of it. Several international census events in the past two years have explored the immediate impacts of the pandemic on census-taking. This session will focus specifically on the medium- and long-term repercussions of delaying a census. Contributions are invited to share findings about the impacts on data quality and comparability (over time, within and between countries); observations about the operational consequences of delaying a census; impacts on public and political support when a census is delayed; and thoughts on how future censuses could be

made more resilient—either to avoid the need for delays in crisis situations, or to minimize adverse effects of delays.

Upcoming censuses in the UNECE region

A small number of countries will not yet have conducted their census by the time of the Meeting of the Group of Experts. These countries are invited to share information about their final planning and expectations, including how the results of pilot studies have impacted plans. In particular, countries are encouraged to share with the international community any innovative approaches that they plan to employ in their upcoming censuses.

Transitions in census methodology; plans, experiences and innovations

Trends towards increasing use of administrative data, either as a source of census data or to support census operations, continue to gather pace, accelerated beyond expectations by the Covid pandemic. Other moves towards modernization, such as employing electronic devices, harnessing the power of machine learning and artificial intelligence, and integrating geospatial information into census activities also continue to improve the efficiency of censuses. This session invites contributions on existing experience, ongoing research or future plans, in all areas of innovation and modernization of census methodology. Submissions could cover planning a census, conducting the census, processing data, disseminating results, or communicating with respondents and with users.

The long-term future: censuses of the 2030 round and beyond

As one census cycle comes to an end, the next one begins, sometimes leaving little or no space in-between for deep reflection that could stimulate major changes of strategy and direction. The Group of Experts and its Steering Group have proactively facilitated such reflection in past years, with panel discussions at Meetings of the Group of Experts and surveys of member States, resulting in thought pieces such as the paper *New Frontiers for Censuses Beyond 2020*. As the 2020 census round draws to an end for many countries, it is an ideal juncture to look far into the future once again. This session invites contributions that offer either speculation or concrete plans for censuses in 2030 and beyond. Contributions could also share ideas for integrating horizon-scanning mechanisms into the core work of census offices.

Revising the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses for the 2030 round

The terms of reference for 13 task forces to review and update the regional census recommendations were endorsed by the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians in 2021. The groups have been formed and their chairs identified. In this session, selected task force chairs will share initial proposals for the revisions in their corresponding area of the recommendations.