

Implementation of the National Population Census 2021 in Poland

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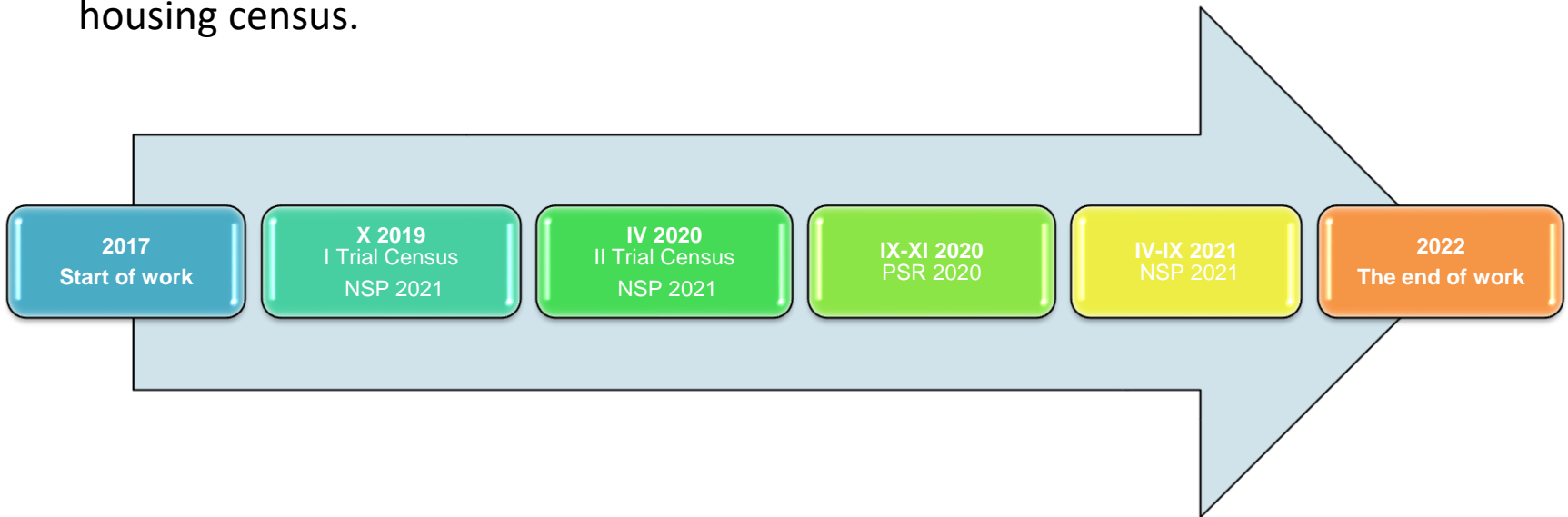
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Narodowy Spis Powszechny
Ludności i Mieszkań 2021

I. INTRODUCTION (1)

- The Polish calendar for the implementation of the censuses included two trial censuses at short intervals before the population and housing census. Also the agricultural census was treated as a general test before the population and housing census.



- **Trial censuses were a testing ground also for the agricultural census and main solutions tested in the agricultural census were also used in the census of population and housing.** The only deviation from the described scheme was the methodology of the censuses.

I. INTRODUCTION (2)

- **Particularly noteworthy is the fact that in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the withdrawal from the second trial census was considered.** However, taking into account the instability of the epidemic situation in the following months and the possibility of a recurrence of the pandemic during the implementation of the agricultural census conducting between September and November 2020, as well as the population and housing census 2021,



a decision was made to conduct a second trial census.



It was one of the key operational decisions that contributed to the success of these censuses.



1 April – 30 September, 2021

24:00, as of 31 March 2021

(in accordance with the Act on National Census 2021)

II. Data collection channels (1)

Computer Asisted Web Interview (CAWI)

1 April – 30 September, 2021

Computer Asisted Telephone Interview (CATI)

4 May – 30 September, 2021

„Inventory on request”

1 April – 30 September, 2021

Computer Asisted Personal Interview (CAPI)

21 June – 30 September, 2021

II. Data collection channels (2)

- **The Internet self-enumeration was a mandatory census form of census participation.**
- If someone failed to do it online, being interviewed by the enumerator became mandatory.
- The “Census on request” option was prepared. By calling the census helpline, the respondent contacted a telephone enumerator who was able to conduct the survey on the spot.

II. Data collection channels (3)

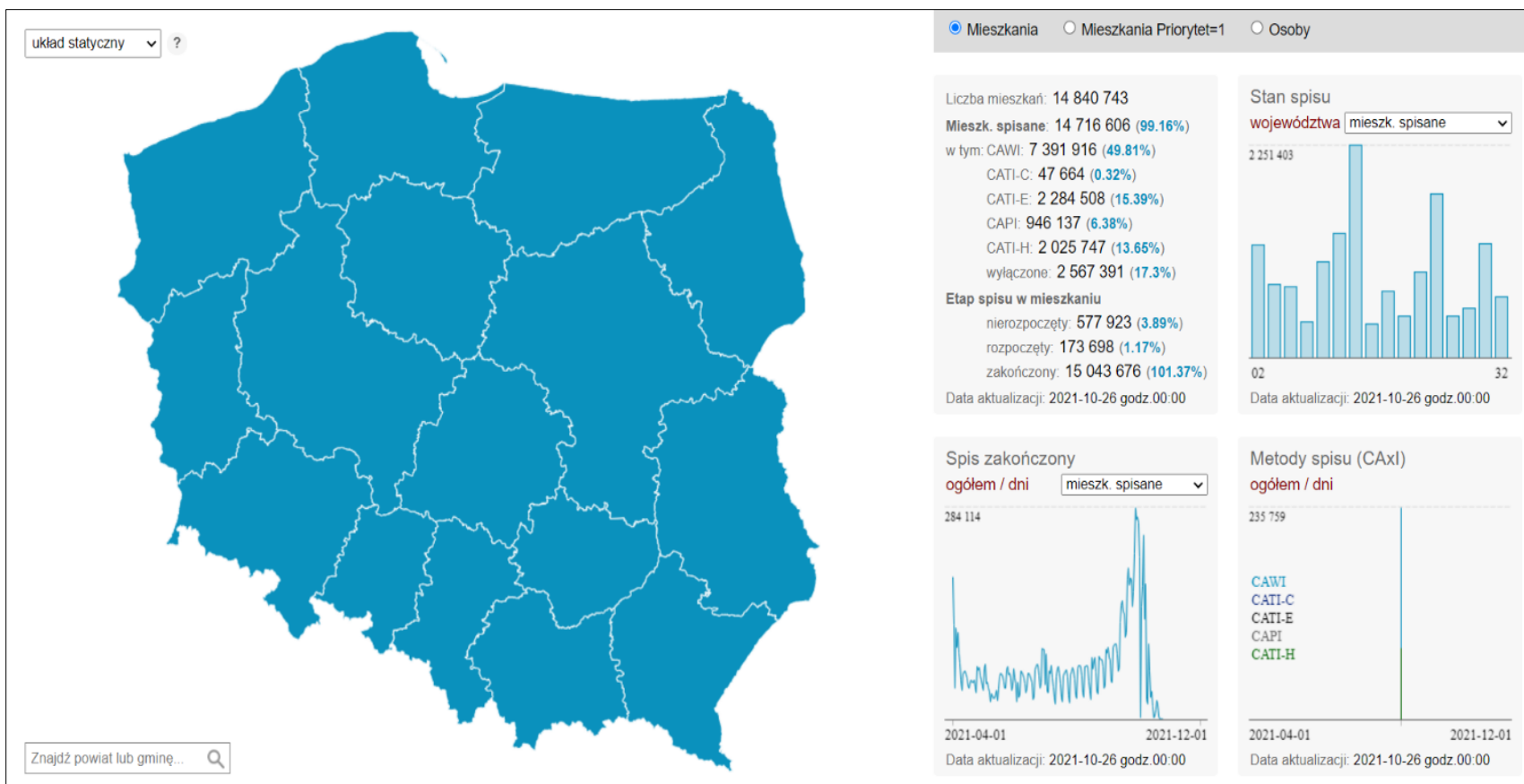
- **New methods and tools for confirming the identity of census enumerators were introduced:**
 - an application was prepared for the verification of the enumerator;
 - taking into consideration those with limited Internet access, the identity of the enumerators could be verified by calling the census helpline at **22 279 99 99**;
 - an additional element of verifying the identity of the enumerator during an established telephone conversation was giving by the enumerator, at the request of the respondent, one freely chosen digit of the respondent's personal ID number.

II. Data collection channels (4)

- **The online self-enumeration application was available in 4 languages: Polish, English, Ukrainian, Russian** at a dedicated website, as well as in the form of a link on the website of the Central Statistical Office and on the census website.
- Logging into the self-enumeration application was carried out using 3 methods:
 - **National Node of Electronic Identification** – logging in using electronic identification means (Trusted Profile, online banking),
 - **Personal ID (PESEL) number and mother's maiden name**, which required the respondent to define immediately an individual access password,
 - **email address and defining an individual access password** – this method was intended for foreigners without a PESEL number.
- The census dispatchers could **monitor the census progress at the national and local level (information dashboard)**. The dashboard was also used to calculate daily targets, i.e. the number of households that should be listed by census enumerators in municipalities, voivodeships and generally for Poland.

II. Data collection channels (5)

Figure 1 View of the dashboard screen



III. Pandemic changes COVID-19 (1)

- **The organization of enumerator's work was prepared in such a way as to enable remote or direct work**, e.g. by providing the enumerators with the appropriate equipment to conduct interviews.
- It was important to properly plan the implementation of direct interviews and guarantee safe telephone interviews in municipalities where the risk of COVID-19 was increased.
- **Greater flexibility was ensured in the use of CATI and CAPI channels** through the possibility of conducting telephone and direct interviews by the same enumerator, using the same mobile device.
- **Census applications and systems were adapted and equipped with additional functionalities**, enabling remote work and telephone interviews by field enumerators.
- In order to maintain precautionary measures and in accordance with the applicable sanitary regulations , the census enumerators were equipped with personal protective equipment.

III. Pandemic changes COVID-19 (2)

- At the time when the highest number of cases was recorded, **the work carried out for the census was performed remotely, as in the case of remote recruitment of candidates for enumerators or remote training.**
- **The amendment to the act on the census allowed to extend the duration of the census by three months,** which in turn made it possible to flexibly manage census methods, e.g. depending on the wave of the disease.
- All trainings were conducted remotely, using Lync/Skype or Webex communicators.
- **Prior to the commencement of work by the census enumerators in the field, the principles of conducting the census by means of direct interview in the field were developed.**
- Before starting field interviews, the census enumerators absolutely had to familiarize themselves with these rules (including pandemic rules) via the e-learning platform.

IV. Changes introduced during the census (1)

- ❑ **The 2021 census was the first in history that allowed people with hearing disabilities to actively participate in it.**
- ❑ Deaf people could use the online self-enumeration application. **The application was preceded by an electronic contact order form in sign language.** It was made available on the websites of statistical offices.
- ❑ People who did not have access to the Internet could use the census points at the nearest commune office (where in accordance with the Act on Sign Language and Other Means of Communication, **respondent services were also provided in sign language**).
- ❑ Blind and partially sighted people could also use the census helpline. **Information materials for them were also prepared in Braille.**

IV. Changes introduced during the census (2)

- ❑ **Special events were organized throughout the country.** In order to enable the respondents to perform the census obligation at unusual times when the census points were closed (e.g. late afternoon, evening, night hours on Sundays), actions such as:
 - „Open days in municipalities”;
 - writing down until midnight on the last day of the census, i.e. 30 September, 2021;



- “Census night”, was carried out on 25 September, 2021; The event was preceded by an appropriate promotional and information campaign; Very high interest in the action among the respondents.

V. Recommendations for future censuses as lessons learned from the 2021 census (1)

The electronisation of the census, in Poland started in 2011, developed in the 2021 census, turned out to be an excellent “cure” for random events that exclude direct contacts.

Poland would probably have had to postpone the census - pending the end of the pandemic, had it not been for the CAxI data collection methods developed earlier.

V. Recommendations for future censuses as lessons learned from the 2021 census (2)

Enumerators universality (in the field of telephone or direct interviews, depending on the epidemic threat).


Adaptation of mobile devices to the possibility of conducting both telephone and direct interviews.

The use of interchangeable telephone and direct interviews (depending on pandemic conditions). **25% of information obtained from respondents comes from the telephone channel.**


Census on request- the census method chosen much more often than expected by the census organizers.

V. Recommendations for future censuses as lessons learned from the 2021 census (3)


Recruitment and training of candidates for census enumerators remotely.



Calculation and transmission of daily targets for implementation in the field - it allowed for precise planning of individual census actions.



Sharing points for self-enumeration by all field census offices, with the provision for respondents both in using the computer and filling in data in the electronic form application.



Conducting a wide census popularization, focused mainly on the online self-enumeration.

Share of individual methods in the implementation of the census



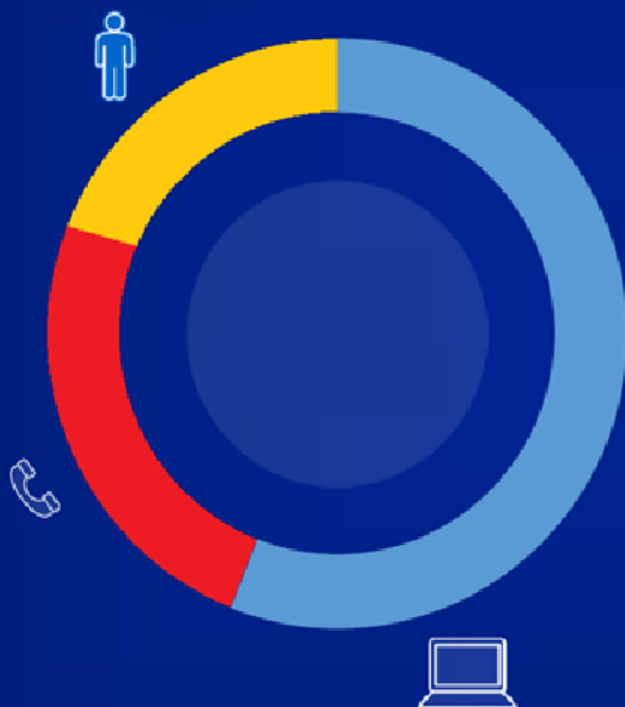
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Share of individual methods – taking into account enumerated persons in the NSP'21

About 60% - online respondents

About 25% - telephone interview respondents

About 15% - direct interview respondents

**the above data is still being analyzed*

Thank you for attention

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