2022 PHC in the Republic of Serbia
- Innovations and Challenges -

Meeting of the Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses
Geneva, 21-23 September 2022
Outline

▪ Introduction

▪ Preparations for 2022 PHC
  ▪ Pilot
  ▪ Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic
  ▪ Design and development of information system
  ▪ Challenges
  ▪ Current state of play

▪ Towards 2031 register based census
Introduction

- 2022 Census – 28th to be carried out since 1834
- Field data collection: 1-31 October 2022
- Reference day: 30 September 2022
- National legal frame: Law on Official Statistics and Law on 2022 PHC
- Financed from the IPA 2018 National and the budget of RS
- Traditional method (Door-to-door)
  - SORS investigated possibility to change census methodology
- Modernization of the traditional census operation as far as possible and as much as allowed by available capacities
  - Paperless
## 2019 Pilot Census

### Tested novelties

- CAWI
- CAPI (in-house development of CAPI app and monitoring system)
- Outsourcing: development of software for up-dating/collecting geospatial data and preparation of electronic maps
- Dual System of Estimate in PES

### Findings

| X | CAWI - low response rate (5.4%) and inability of monitoring the coverage |
|   | Fisible (further up-grade) - laptops |
| ✓ | Production of census data geo-referenced to 1km² grid |
| ✓ | Developing necessary technical components in-house including collection of geospatial data |
| ✓ | Fisible |
Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

- Postponement of census implementation
  - 1-30 April 2021 ➔ 1-31 October 2021 ➔ 1-31 October 2022

- Changes in legal frame:
  - Law on Amendments to the Law on the PHC 2022

- Introducing CATI as alternative mode

Opportunities
- Tuning of applications
- Updated satellite images (from 2020/2021)
Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

- Analysis on how possible deviations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic can affect the upcoming Census results

- Analysis of improving access to the population during the 2022 Census with recommendations and preparation of training for trainers and enumerators with special reference to the COVID-19 pandemic

- Realized with UNFPA support
Design and development of information system

- In-house development of numerous applications (for data collection, monitoring, data processing, logistic support and organisation)
- CAPI app (Census and PES) were developed under the System of integrated data processing (IST) developed by SORS
  - IST will be used for data collection, synchronization and data processing
  - IST had to be upgraded and several additional functions were developed
Design and development of information system  
- CAPI application -

- Off-line mode (Internet connection is necessary for everyday synchronisation and transmission of data to the central database)
- Encrypted sensitive data
- Address data from Address Register are incorporated in CAPI app
- Geospatial data for objects that are not included in Address Register will be collected using QGIS software
Monitoring system

Created in a hierarchical way depending on the roles and responsibilities of the staff

Census management

Supervisors

Regional coordinators 20

Municipal coordinators 160

Instructors 2 200

Enumerators 15 000
Monitoring system

- Monitoring the daily progress of enumeration based on:
  - Overview of entered data
  - Predefined reports
  - Power BI
    - Dashboards
  - Reports
  - Electronic map
Recent and ongoing activities

- Selection process was followed by intensive media campaign to ensure the sufficient number of instructors and enumerators

- Cascade training
  - Professional lectures for inexperienced trainers as well as 2 video guides and supporting material for trainers and enumerators were realized with UNFPA support

- Established Help desk (technical support)

- Preparations: PES (in November, 260 EAs)
  - Info center (for public)

Take part in Census - Leave your trace
Challenges

Caused by modernization

- Building capacity for designing and implementing field operation
- In-house development of numerous application solutions
- Creating conditions for production of census data geo-referenced to 1 km² grid
- Ensuring required number of field staff
- Training of staff skilled enough to use laptops for data collection
- Data protection
- Public trust in data security and confidentiality
Challenges

Caused by postponement

- Additional funds
  - Renting the space for laptops
  - Training of a larger number of enumerators and instructors to increase back-up staff
  - Procurement of protective equipment and disinfectants
  - Engagement of additional staff for the implementation of epidemiological measures
  - Expanding media campaign
  - Increase in travel costs during the fieldwork
  - Increasing remuneration for enumerators and instructors in order to approach the average salary
Benefits owing to the use of CAPI method and longer time for fieldwork (four instead of two weeks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011 (PAPI)</th>
<th>2022 (CAPI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enumerators and Instructors</td>
<td>41 000</td>
<td>17 200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printed material</td>
<td>300 t of printing materials 12 million of filled in main questionnaires</td>
<td>550 000 main questionnaires (to be used in extraordinary situations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginning of dissemination</td>
<td>12 months after the end of fieldwork</td>
<td>5-6 months after the end of fieldwork</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beyond 2022 PHC

SORS continues to take steps to create the conditions necessary to conduct the 2031 Census on the basis of administrative sources

- „Simulation“ of register based census (results will show the shortcomings in terms of availability, coverage, content and quality of the data)
  - Preparation of the Road map (targets and necessary steps)
  - Organization of the national workshops
  - Development of the Action plan
- Establishing Statistical Population Register
- Rounding off the legal framework by adopting the new Official Statistics Law
Thank you for your attention

Suzana Stanojković
Snežana Lakčević

www.popis2022.stat.rs