Housing characteristics

Preparing the 2030 census recommendations

Conference of European Statisticians task force on housing characteristics
Fiona Willis-Núñez, UNECE
Task Force membership

- Armenia: Gohar Meliksetyan
- Austria: Katrin Schöber
- Eurostat: Fabian Bach, Ferenc Galik, Sixten Thestrup
- Germany: Anja Krause, Alexander Tatzel
- Romania: Dragoș Alexandru Mondiru
- Slovakia: Lucia Vanišová
- Switzerland: Christoph Popp, Marc Spörri
- University of Coimbra, Portugal: Mónica Rodrigues
- UNECE (chair) Fiona Willis-Núñez
• Check continued relevance & descriptions of variables described in Housing Characteristics chapter of CESR2020

• Concepts and definitions used for **types of housing** and **occupation status of dwelling**
  • Sharing time between two or more dwellings
  • Dynamic interplay between housing & household

• Consider possible need for new parts on **dwelling quality & ecological standards**
### Housing topics covered in the 2020 Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of living quarters</th>
<th>Sewage disposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing arrangements</td>
<td>Kitchen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy status of conventional dwellings</td>
<td>Type of heating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of secondary, seasonal &amp; vacant dwellings</td>
<td>Main type of energy used for heating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of ownership</td>
<td>Availability of electricity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy by number of private households</td>
<td>Availability of piped gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of occupants</td>
<td>Availability of air-conditioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful floor space and/or number of rooms</td>
<td>Accessibility to dwelling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Density standard</td>
<td>Position of dwellings within the building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of rooms</td>
<td>Type of building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water supply system</td>
<td>Number of floors in building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet facilities</td>
<td>Lift</td>
</tr>
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<td>Bathing facilities</td>
<td>Period of construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot water</td>
<td>Materials of the building</td>
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</tbody>
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- State of repair of building

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Structure of our work

1. Questionnaire review

2. Review of existing content of CESR2020

3. Review of wider context:
   • Changes in classifications, standards etc
   • Technological & methodological changes impacting measurement
   • Social changes influencing demand
   • Policy imperatives
Questionnaire review

• Maintained or slightly modified:
  • Which concepts from CESR2020 were used
  • Whether CESR definitions were used & if not, how different
  • Main data sources for each one used
  • Whether housing census included people not usually resident
  • Density standard (useful floor space and/or rooms per occupant)
• Removed:
  • Whether characteristics of unoccupied dwellings collected
    • Only register-based can realistically collect detailed characteristics
    • Remains important to identify unoccupied dwellings, but characteristics are a step further
    • Not clear what implications this information would have for the Recs
  • Subjective and hypothetical questions about future plans, expected limitations etc.
Questionnaire review

• Added:
  • Whether methodology for housing census is the same as for population census
  • New follow-up question on type of ownership (refers to the status of a dwelling) and tenure status of household (which refers to the household): to find out reasoning if not collected separately
  • Whether any of the following, non-CESR topics, were collected:
    • Information on entire buildings intended for habitation;
    • Energy efficiency of buildings or dwellings (e.g. based on national efficiency classification or annual energy consumption);
    • Indoor air quality or related topics (e.g. presence of mould);
    • Characteristics of neighbourhood or local environment;
    • Subjective perceptions of housing quality;
    • Subjective perceptions of neighbourhood quality;
    • Any other housing topics not listed in the 2020 Recommendations.
Considerations for the 2030 recommendations

1. Reasons for which society demands info about housing, & associated policy needs, are evolving
2. Need to clarify distinction between characteristics of a household and of a dwelling
3. Need to reassess indicators of material quality of life
4. Need to revisit which housing topics are designated as core or non-core
1. Info demands and policy needs

- International frameworks for monitoring and responding to environment, climate and sustainable development, health, disaster resilience
  - SDGs, Green Deal, Paris climate agreement, Sendai framework, etc...
- New impetus from Covid responses

→ Task Force work stream dedicated to identifying these new policy drivers
2. Household vs dwelling

- Close consultation with TF 8 on Household & Family characteristics
- Tenure status; durable consumer goods; availability of cars; parking spaces; phone and Internet connection
3. Indicators of material quality of life

- Indicators of material well-being intended to be proxies for quality of life
- Prevalence of their inclusion in countries’ censuses important in deciding what should be in CESR
- Do they serve a useful discriminatory function?
- Are there some missing?
4. Core vs non-core topics

• A ‘core’ designation amounts to a strong Recommendation on the part of CES that something should be collected
  • Interpreted by some as an instruction to do so
  • If incorporated into national or regional laws or regulations, becomes a legally-binding requirement
  • So we have to be careful what we recommend!

• Examples: availability of electricity, hot water...
Questions, ideas, suggestions.....

.... want to join the Task Force?

Fiona Willis-Núñez
fiona.willis-Nunez@un.org