

# PRELIMINARY PROGRESS REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS CENSUS TASK FORCE ON ENUMERATION METHODS

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# TASK FORCE ON ENUMERATION METHODS

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The **Task Force on Enumeration methods** has members from Argentina, Armenia, France, Italy, Montenegro, Switzerland, United Kingdom, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Population Division (chaired by Jon Wroth-Smith, UK).

Activities of the Task Force:

- contribute to formulating questions for the relevant sections of a **survey of national practices and experiences** in the 2020 round
- **analyse the survey results**
- use these analyses, among other sources, to **prepare revised text** for the 2030 Recommendations.

# TF ON ENUMERATION METHODS SCOPE OF THE WORK

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- Enumeration methods are described in the section on 'Methodology approaches in the UNECE region' [Chapter I, Methodology]. Further references to enumeration throughout the *Recommendations* .
- Early work on reviewing the recommendations from the 2020 round highlighted that enumeration methods were relevant across a range of topic areas.
  - ✓ Methodology
  - ✓ Technology
  - ✓ Field operations
  - ✓ Communications and publicity

# UPDATING QUESTIONS FOR GATHERING MORE INFORMATION ON ENUMERATION METHODS

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- Task force members presented their experience of the 2020 round (overall design of each country's census and key lessons learnt).
- The impact of the COVID pandemic was varied and reflected the enumeration designs.
- TF members reviewed the questionnaire used to collect experiences from the 2020 round.

# DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR ENUMERATION METHODS

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- Taskforce members referred to the 2020 recommendations as being invaluable for preparing for that census round.
- Profound changes have been made across the UNECE region to enumeration methods → need to take into account different census designs used.
- Undertaking a census during a pandemic presented a unique set of challenges for member countries → need to capture the learning and innovation which resulted).
- A series of changes have been recommended reflecting discussions within the task force.

# NEED TO CAPTURE EVOLVING **METHODOLOGY**

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Increasingly broad range of approaches used ---> greater clarity needed for

- **describing the census design** (explicit reference made to countries who use a combination of census, survey and administrative sources)
- **describing the outcomes of the enumeration approaches**, including different forms of source data (census, survey, administrative data) and the mode of response used (mobile, tablet, laptop)

# NEED TO CAPTURE EVOLVING TECHNOLOGY

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- **Internet response option** (first contact modes; authentication methods).
- **Tablets and laptops** widely used (differentiate between technology used for the field operation process and for enumeration itself).
- Refinement of questions asked about technology used by enumerators (**visibility of screens, screen size**).
- Collect information on the use of **route optimization algorithms** to guide enumerators on which address to visit next.

# GREATER DETAIL ON FIELD OPERATIONS

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- Activities conducted to understand the completeness and accuracy of address information.
- Online training introduced as a response to the pandemic (different set of challenges).
- Greater clarity in relation to pre-collection activities (clearer distinction in reference to test, pilot and rehearsal activities).
- Post-collection activities (need to distinguish between post-enumeration surveys aimed at measuring coverage errors and those carried out to measure quality)
- What information are published on the evaluation of field activity



# GREATER IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICITY

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- Use of social media influencers (far more important than for the previous round).
- Online communities and working with research institutions (positive impact on enumeration levels).

# CONCLUSIONS

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- The Taskforce on Enumeration Methods has been broad in the scope of areas under consideration. This reflects not only the importance of enumeration in the quality of subsequent statistics but also the broad range of factors that influence enumeration.
- Experience of a range of countries has proved invaluable to understanding the key themes in these emerging trends and to identify how best to collect this information from all other UNECE countries.

# THANK YOU

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