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## **Polish experiences in statistical data collection including the use of mixed and multi-mode approaches**

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### ***Abstract***

In order to obtain reliable statistics that meet user expectations one has to take into account a number of factors, such as the type of data sources used, the method of data collection, proper survey organisation, the appropriate application of survey methodology, availability of qualified staff, the type of information technology used or the appropriate application of statistical methods to produce the final outputs. What is particularly important for official statistics is that data are collected to ensure their high quality, because the accuracy of collected data has a direct impact on the reliability of final results and the confidence of data users. This requires careful planning, the development of appropriate data collection methods and measures to ensure that the final results are not biased.

In the presentation, the authors will focus on the experience of Polish official statistics regarding the process of data collection, with emphasis on various factors affecting the quality of statistical information and its usefulness for end users. Topics covered in the presentation include the use of different ways of collecting data from a variety of sources, which are expected to reduce survey costs and respondents' burden, eliminate any delays in survey administration or improve information coverage. The above topics will be discussed in the context of the 2021 Census, in which four modes of data collection were used: online self-enumeration (CAWI), computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI), interview on request and direct interview (CAPI). Since the 2021 Census was held during the pandemic, efforts were made to reduce or avoid direct contact with respondents as much as possible. A certain degree of flexibility was ensured by combining or substituting various modes of data collection as needed. The experience gained during the last census indicates that organisational emphasis in statistical surveys, including the next census, should be placed on acquiring data by electronic means, which will enable all surveys to be carried out in various conditions and make them less likely to be disrupted by unpredictable events. Given the development of information and communication technologies and the society's growing reliance on digital devices, electronic modes of data collection have the potential of streamlining the organisation to censuses and other surveys, reducing their costs and eventually perhaps even eliminating the involvement of interviewers.