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

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Basic information about the last census in Poland

- The frames of the 2021 population and housing census subject matters, its scope, form, mode, statistical obligations limits were described in two basic legal acts: Act of August 9, 2019 on the National Population and Housing Census 2021 and Act of June 29, 1995 on Official Statistics.
- Census was conducted from April 1 to September 30, 2021, as of March 31, 2021.
- Census 2021 was preceded by two trial censuses carried out in Poland in October 2019 and April 2020.
- PES was conducted after the census in November 2021.
Basic information about the last census in Poland

Explanation of abbreviations: NSP 2021 - National Population and Housing Census 2021, PSR 2020 – Agricultural Census 2020
Data sources

- The information scope of the 2021 census was collected about the entire population to be surveyed using **combined approach**, i.e. from **administrative registers** and data collected directly from respondents using different CAxI methods.
- Approximately 35 major registers and information system were used in the census.
- Additionally data from non-administrative data sources were used, i.e. from operators of public telecommunication networks, enterprises selling and distributing electric energy, collective sewage disposal, water supply etc.
Admin data

It was considered that proper administrative registers and systems would be used as:

- direct source of data,
- source of information for creating a list of entities to be enumerated in the census (personal/address/housing list),
- source of information for imputation, data estimation, comparison and data quality determination.
Data collection channels for the census

The census was carried out using the following methods:

- **Internet Self-Enumeration (CAWI)** – 1 April to 30 September 2021,
- **Telephone Interview (CATI)** – 4 May to 30 September 2021,
- **”Census on request”** – 1 April to 30 September 2021,
- **Direct Interview (CAPI)** – 21 June to 30 September 2021.
The 2021 census used an electronic-only form.

The census was conducted without the use of paper forms, using only an interactive form application, prepared in 4 language versions (Polish, English, Ukrainian and Russian).

The obligatory form of participation in the census was an online self-enumeration. Complementary methods were telephone or face-to-face interviews, conducted by census enumerators.

The ’Census on request’ option on the census helpline was also made available. This option was available to everyone, during the working hours of the helpline.
Collection of census data based on interactive app

- Interactive application was created to collect data and consisted of different parts: data of the person, persons in a dwelling, personal questionnaires containing questions on demographic-social, migration, religion, labour market, questions on the description of the dwelling and the building etc.
- The census app has been adapted for persons with disabilities.
- Logging into the self-enumeration application was carried out using different methods: trusted Profile, online banking, Personal ID (PESEL) number and mother’s maiden name, email address and defining an individual access password.
Monitoring of data collection during the census
Comparison of the 2011 and 2021 censuses

2011

- 18 000 enumerators
- 0 forms
- 0 tons of paper

- 2 types of census forms:
  - full survey (15 questions),
  - sample survey (100 questions).

- Cost of census:
  - 395 mln zł (83,1 USD)

- Data from 27 registers were used

2021

- 16 000 enumerators
- 0 forms
- 0 tons of paper

- Single census form (58 questions):
  - personal questionnaire—25 questions
  - housing questionnaire—12 questions

- Cost of census:
  - Plan 386 mln zł (81,2 USD)
  - Realisation of a plan 273 mln zł (57,5 USD)

- Data from 35 registers were used
Experiences from the 2021 census as recommendations for the next census

- conducting further work on the development of census solutions in terms of electronification,
- greater use of telephone interviews than face-to-face interviews,
- providing respondents with free online self-enumeration stations,
- providing a demo version of the online form application to allow respondents to familiarise themselves with the electronic form and the range of questions before taking the actual census,
- increasing the share of the 'Census on-request' method, which was much more popular than expected,
- providing a free helpline for respondents (due to mandatory participation in the census).
Thank you for your attention!