



Task Force 5 on Population Concepts and Related Definitions

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Outline

1. Scope of the Task Force's work
2. Initial discussions
3. Main results from the questionnaire
4. Key proposals

Scope

- Chapter V of the 2020 Recommendations
- Ensuring ongoing relevance and feasibility of the main population definitions in the context of move to the use of administrative data sources
- Need to ensure compatibility with other areas of the Recommendations:
 - In particular, Migration and Household and family characteristics
- Consider additional/supplementary population bases – e.g. daytime population

Initial discussions of the Task Force

- Could / should the current definition of usual residence – based on a 12-months actual or intended stay – be amended?
- Some discussion but no clear alternative that could be easily adopted
- Usual residence definition
 - Fundamental to population statistics as a whole - widely used and understood
 - Coherence with recommendations and common practice for migration statistics

Key questionnaire results

- A large majority of countries listed the ‘usually resident population’ or a similar label as its main population count type. It was seen as important due to user demand, policy relevance and EU legislation
 - but definitions and actual implementation vary considerably
- Just under half of the countries that replied said that they fully complied with the definitions in the CES Recommendations – including 13 countries that make full or partial use of registers
- Most other countries met the CESR definitions as far as census procedures allowed (22%) or applied a definition based on legal or registered place of residence (20%)

Percentage of responding countries including certain groups in the usually resident population

Population group	Traditional %	Combined %	Register-based %
Homeless or roofless persons	100	93	91
Tertiary students who study in another country, but who return home every day or at weekends	100	79	64
Irregular or undocumented migrants	56	29	9
Asylum seekers	75	86	45

Use of assumptions

- For all census types, the majority of countries did not use assumptions when applying the criteria to decide on usual residence
- But assumptions were used slightly more frequently by register-based censuses

Proposals of the Task Force

- Key concepts and definitions
 - Usual residence based on a 12-months stay definition is retained as the central concept for international comparisons
 - As previously, the possible need to base this on place of legal or registered residence is acknowledged – with additional explanations in the text
 - Use of signs of life methods is noted
 - Possible need for supplementary (not alternative) population counts – workplace population, daytime population, term-time population

Deletions, changes and inclusions

- Changes to charts and text intended to clarify the recommendations
- Use of the term ‘family home’
 - The person concerned is central to the definition, rather than the person’s family. Therefore, this becomes ‘principal home’ – which may or may not be based on where family members reside
- Greater focus on excluding family members living abroad (for over 12 months) from the usually resident population
- Better explanation of ‘transferring’ persons temporarily present to their place of usual residence

Clarifications and updates

- Structure and wording adapted for clarity, to use more inclusive and equal language, or to separate conceptually different groups
 - ‘merchant seamen and fishermen’ becomes ‘seafarers and people working on fishing boats’
 - Irregular and undocumented migrants are listed separately from asylum seekers and refugees
 - The definition of place of usual residence in the case of children aged under 12 months is clarified

Conclusion & next steps

- Review any comments from Census Week and from any further consultations
 - Particularly in the context of the findings of the other Task Forces
- Finalise proposals to be included in the updated Recommendations

Thank you



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