

Housing



UNECE to participate in 6th World Urban Forum in Naples

With over half of the world's population living in cities, we have truly entered the "urban age". By the middle of this century it is expected that seven out of every ten persons on the planet will be urban dwellers. The 21st century will therefore be known as the century of the city.

What will our urban future look like? This is the theme of the sixth World Urban Forum, taking place from 1 to 7 September in Naples, Italy. Over 10,000 participants from across the world are expected to participate in this premier conference on cities and urban issues organized by UN-Habitat. The four focus areas for discussion this year are: Urban Planning - Institutions and Regulations; Equity and Prosperity - Distribution of Wealth and Opportunities; Productive Cities - Competitive and Innovative Cities, and Urban Mobility, Energy & Environment.

The UNECE Housing and Land Management Unit will contribute to these discussions with two side events:

- "Housing Agendas in Transition: UNECE Country Profiles and their impact on housing policies in countries in transition".
See: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30706>
- "Energy-efficient Housing as a participatory effort between policies, private sector and the people in the wider European region", a joint networking event by the City of Vienna, UNECE and UN-Habitat.
See: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30708> □

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Open day



UNECE to participate in Open Day at Palais des Nations - Saturday 15 September

UNECE will participate in the Open Day organized by the United Nations Office at Geneva on Saturday 15 September 2012. On that day, the Ariana Park and part of the Palais des Nations will be open to the public from 11: a.m. to 18:00 p.m. The event is organized under the high patronage of the UNOG Director-General, Mr. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, with the support and cooperation of the Swiss Confederation, the Geneva Canton, the City of Geneva and the "Fondation pour Genève".

It will be the ideal occasion for a fun day while learning more about the United Nations in Geneva, its Member States and partners from International Geneva.

A wide range of activities will be on offer, for all tastes and all ages, including:

- Cultural activities, dance, music, story-telling, films and ceremonies
- 10th anniversary of Switzerland's membership in the UN International
- Day of Democracy
- Sustainable Energy for All
- Stands and demonstrations
- Exhibitions and Guided Tours
- Activities for the younger ones

UNECE will have an information booth and videos about some of its activities will be projected, alongside films produced by other United Nations bodies, other international organizations and Member States, in Cinéma 1 (Room XI) and Cinéma 2 (Room XIX).

So, save the date! □

For more information on the program, including practical information, please visit: <http://www.unog.ch>

2010 round of population censuses: Europe leads methodological change

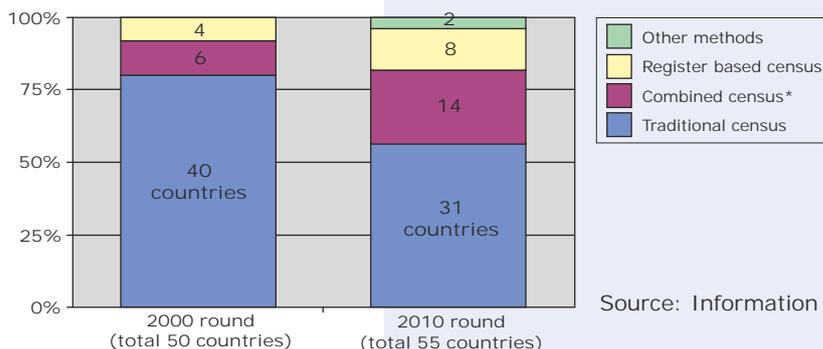
Many countries in the UNECE region, including all EU countries, conducted the population census in 2011. It is expected that by the end of the 2010 census round (in 2014) all UNECE countries but one will have conducted at least one census, as requested by the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This is a significant progress compared to the 2000 round, when six UNECE countries did not conduct a census.

With regard to the census methodology used, many countries moved away from the traditional approach based on the direct count of all individuals conducted in a limited period using paper forms. In particular, the number of countries using register data for the census (either as the unique source or combined with other data sources) passed from 10 in the 2000 round to 22 in the 2010 round. The traditional approach, however, was still used by 31 UNECE countries (56% of the total), including all those in Eastern and South-eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

In the 2010 round, 16 countries offered the possibility to complete the census forms on the internet compared to just 4 in the 2000 round. Internet was the main mode to fill the census forms in Estonia (64% of the households), Canada (54%) and Portugal (50%). These innovations brought benefits in terms of reduced costs, improved data quality, timeliness of results and reduced burden on respondents. On the other hand, new challenges emerge in evaluating the quality of the data produced with the new methods and in comparing results over time and across countries.

For over 50 years, UNECE has been leading international work on population and housing censuses in its region, in cooperation with Eurostat. On 21-25 May, census experts from member countries gathered in Geneva for three meetings on different aspects of census methodology. They agreed on the work plan to review the 2010 census round and produce by 2015 a revised set of recommendations of the Conference of European Statisticians for the 2020 census round. □

Census methods used in UNECE countries in 2000 and 2010 census rounds



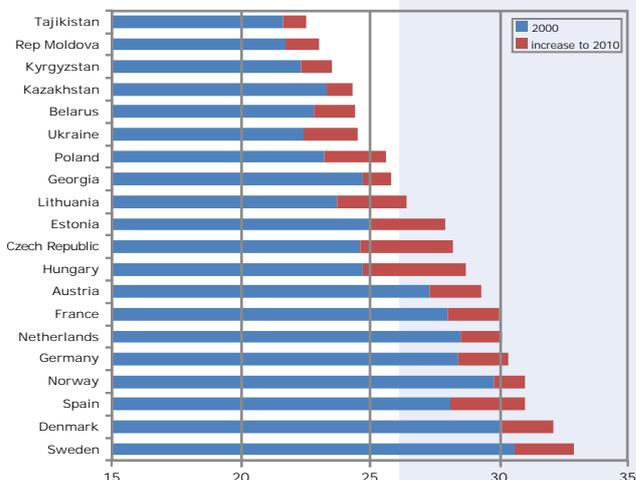
* The "combined census" is defined as a method where data from registers are used in combination with other sources, which may include a full field enumeration, ad hoc sample surveys, or data existing sample surveys.

Source: Information collected by UNECE from member countries.

Facts and Figures

Regional divide in women's mean age at first marriage

Mean age at first marriage, women



Source: UNECE Statistical Database.

In all UNECE countries, the age at first marriage has been rising over the past ten years. The factors behind this trend include the general postponement of family formation as well as increase in the incidence and duration of cohabitation. Indeed, in many countries couples frequently live together for a long time before getting married. However, some differences persist across the region.

Marriages are the earliest in countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia where the bride's average age at first marriage ranges between 22 and 25 years.

In most countries of Central Europe and the Baltics, women first marry after the age of 26. In Northern, Western and Southern Europe women usually marry around the age of 30.

Sweden has the highest mean age at first marriage (32.9), followed by other Nordic countries and Spain. □