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Experiences with using data from the 2010 round of censuses for measuring migration

Population and housing census from Republic of Moldova in 2014. Methodological aspects of recording migration

Note by the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova

The population and housing census was carried out during the period May 12 – 25, 2014. The development of the methodology and census documentation were in accordance with national legislation the Law no. 90 of 26.04.2012 on 2014 population and housing census in the Republic of Moldova, Government Decision no. 967 of 21.12.2012 and also Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing.

As well, the National Bureau of Statistics during the preparation period of the census was assisted by an International Technical Assistant Board coordinated by UNFPA, in order to ensure proper preparation and execution of statistical work of national importance.

In the Republic of Moldova a traditional census was carried out through enumerators, hired and trained for directly interviewing the population. Data on population, buildings and dwellings were collected via self-determination of enumerated persons i.e. on voluntary statements made by persons, unsupported by documents.

This exercise was conducted in the Republic of Moldova in 37 rayons (about 1500 localities), without administrative-territorial units of the left bank of Dniester (Transnistria). For the census almost 13,000 persons were selected and trained as temporary staff. The amount of work for an

enumerator was 110 dwellings in rural areas and 130 dwellings in urban localities. This work capacity was tested at the pilot census carried out in April 2013, which resulted to be sufficient.

Next, in order to better present the process of preparation and conducting of the census in 2014, we will make a short presentation about this activity and we will focus on the details that relate to the topic of migration.

Methodological principles applied in census 2014

The population and housing census is the only operation of official counting of population within the country and its smallest geographical sub-regions. The population census is held every 10 years, in conformity with art. 17, paragraph 2 of the Law no. 412 of 9.12.2004 on Official Statistics in Moldova. In addition to counting, information on a selected number of demographic, economic and social features of the population are collected and processed. Within the same exercise are also collected and produced information about households, housing stock and living conditions.

The *purpose* of the population and housing census is to create information resources about the population of the country, its territorial distribution according to demographic, socioeconomic, national and linguistic features, level of education, as well as the housing stock and living conditions of the population.

The *aim* of the census in the Republic of Moldova, as in other countries, was to obtain comprehensive aggregated quality information to substantiate government policies in the demographic, social and economic fields, for academic and business research.

The "census moment" was at 00:00 of 12th May, 2014.

At the PHC 2014 were covered persons, households and housing units that were defined as enumeration units in the Law no. 90 of 26.04.2012 on census and in "Basic methodological and organizational principles".

Regarding the population subject, which is the key element of the migration process, at the census were enumerated all persons (regardless of citizenship) who live on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, present in the country or absent, as well as those temporarily staying in Moldova, as follows:

- **all citizens** living in Republic of Moldova who at the census moment were:
 - present in their place of residence;
 - absent from their place of residence in another locality in the Republic of Moldova because of work, study or other reasons;

- absent from their place of residence abroad because of work, study or other reasons, irrespective of duration of the absence;
- absent from their place of residence abroad because they are staff of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Republic of Moldova or as family members of those persons;
- **all foreign citizens in Republic of Moldova** who at the census moment were:
 - living in the Republic of Moldova, regardless are present or absent from their place of residence;
 - temporarily residing in the Republic of Moldova.
- **persons without citizenship** who at the census moment were living or temporarily residing in the Republic of Moldova
- **persons without place of residence or homeless persons found at the time of the Census in Republic of Moldova**

In the census were not enumerated:

- persons working in foreign diplomatic missions, consular offices and international organizations as well as their family members who at the time of the Census were located in the Republic of Moldova;
- staff of foreign armed forces, who at the time of the Census were located in the Republic of Moldova;
- foreigners found at the time of the Census in Republic of Moldova, who arrived for vacation, holidays, visiting friends and relatives, business, medical treatment or religious pilgrimage (tourists).

This census for the first time used the notion of “usual residence,” which is *the place where a person usually spends the daily period of rest, which may be the same, or different from the registration in the ID*. Place of usual residence is the locality where a person lives (resides) permanently, regardless of temporary absences (vacations, holidays, visits to friends and relatives, business trips, medical treatment, religious pilgrimages etc.).

Enumeration of persons was carried out at their place of usual residence by an enumerator based on statements made by mature household members and writing them in census questionnaires.

In the Census, for enumeration of the census units the following questionnaires were used:

- Questionnaire 1CL “ Questionnaire on dwelling and household”
- Questionnaire 2P “Person Questionnaire”

- Questionnaire 3SCL "Collective leaving quarters"
- Questionnaire 4S " Questionnaire for persons with temporary residence"

Questionnaires were printed and filled in Romanian and Russian languages, and the correctness of the filled declared data was confirmed by signature of the respondent and of the enumerator at the end of the census questionnaire.

In every housing unit (for ex: individual house, apartment, a room in collective dwelling) all persons with usual residence were enumerated for calculating resident people, as well as those that were absent at the moment of the census, including persons absent for more than one year to calculate migrants declared by a present member of their households. Households members absent abroad or absent in other locality of the Republic of Moldova because of work, study or other reason were recorded at the address of their place of residence before leaving, from the declaration of an adult member of the household.

Persons with temporary residence in the Republic of Moldova, for a period of up to 12 months (work, studies and other purposes), having permanent residence in another country, were enumerated under a short procedure (questionnaire 4S) in dwellings where they stayed at the time of census.

The data collected in the population and housing census during the period 12-25 may 2014 were aggregated in summary sheets, that were completed for the each enumerated area, than for each section, district and for the whole rayon. Based on these data National Bureau of Statistics will present in December this year the preliminary results. Now the bureau is performing the pre-processing stage and for this reason next we will refer to the data from the census pilot in 2013 and the same areas from the PHC in 2014.

Migration one of the most important subjects of the PHC 2014

Migration in Moldova continues to be one of the basic problems that after the collapse of the Soviet Union always concerns governments and academia in order to find viable solutions to solve problems generated by it.

From 1998, when intense increased external migration was recorded, up to now, different methods have been used to try and measure it, including the census. Although PHC 2014 aim was to count resident population, special attention was given to record absent persons who had relatives at home to declare them. On this subject insisted Moldovan diaspora residing abroad, who wanted to be counted even through electronic questionnaires, which could not be realized due to the lack of a legal mechanism and technical possibilities, for this kind of recording method.

As mentioned above, PHC purpose is to collect reliable and detailed data on the number, distribution and population structure for the government to be able to plan and implement effective development policies and strategies for the future. Demographic processes reflected in the census data collected presents the reality of the country and helps us appreciate their size.

At the population census in 2004 were recorded 273,000 persons residing in Moldova, but many were absent abroad for different periods of time, as reported by other household members. Of those abroad - 47.7% were absent more than one year. The highest percentage of them were persons aged between 20 and 29 years (38%), followed by those aged between 30 and 39 years (23.1%). Among persons temporarily absent 76% had secondary education level or general compulsory. Of the total population enumerated, the share of persons temporarily absent was 8.1% and in 12 rayons of the country the percentage of persons absent abroad was from 10 to 12%.

The fact that migration in Moldova had economic characteristics even in that period is shown by the 2004 census results were persons temporarily absent from work reason, or looking for a job was 88.7%, education reason - 6 5%, for another reason - 4.8%.

The 2004 census highlighted also the main directions of external migration (CIS and EU states), thus, 56.2% were left in Russia, 19.4% in Italy, 3.9% in Romania, 3.5% in Portugal, 3.1% in Ukraine, and 3.0% in Turkey.

At the 2014 census migration was one of the most important topics of the demographic part. In this respect according to Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing, and to UNFPA international experts, were developed a set of questions that were to record the basics of both internal and external migration.

Useful data were collected on migration census documents: 1CL, 2P and 4S. The most consistent data were collected in person 2P questionnaire, which is divided into five parts and contains 43 questions. The "demographic" part contains 22 questions, almost half of the questionnaire and the responses to these questions are useful for understanding migration phenomenon.

14. **Frequency of returning to the place of residence:** 2 monthly } 5 once a year } 22
 1 weekly → 16 3 every 3 months } 6 once in 2-3 years }
 4 several times in a year } 7 rarely }

15. **In the last 12 months (may 2013-may 2014) you were mostly present:** 1 in RM 2 abroad

16. **Is the person living in the present place (settlement) of residence since his/ her birth (without interruptions)?** 1 yes → 19 2 no → 17

17. **Since when the person is living in the present place (settlement) of residence?** (month is to be filled for persons that settled in 2013)

18. **Where from the person moved in the present place (settlement) of residence ?**
 1 From other settlement from RM
 Rayon/municipality _____
 2 From other country

19. **Has the person ever continuously reside outside the Republic of Moldova for one year or longer?** 1 yes → 20 2 no → 22 3 still resides → 22

20. **Last foreign country in which the person resided**

21. **Year of arrival/ return in RM**

22. **Citizenship** 1 Republic of Moldova → 23 3 another country → 22a
 2 RM and other country → 22a 4 no citizenship → 22a (indicate the country of the last citizenship)

22a **Country**

The most recent data we have are the summary sheets of pilot census in 2013 and PHC in 2014 from which we can extract only data on external migration. Even though the data are limited, they permit us to view some aspects of migration.

Although for the pilot census in 2013 we had a more detailed summary sheet, at our international expert advice and because 2014 is an election year, we decided to shorten it. Thus we can compare the summary sheets of data collected on the selected dwellings for the pilot with the same dwellings from the census itself. In Chisinau municipality we've recorded 1567 dwellings at the pilot and 1563 at the census in 2014. In Causeni rayon, Zaim commune – 1555 dwellings at the pilot and 1557 at the census in 2014.

Table 1

Pilot Population and housing census in 2013

	Dwellings		Households	Persons in households	of which:		Persons absent abroad (from col. 4)	Persons enumerated by 4S
	total	of which unoccupied			men	women		
Mun. Chisinau, Buiucani sector (partially)	1567	585	989	2272	1036	1236	<u>35</u>	1
Causeni rayon, Zaim commune	1555	162	1395	4288	2105	2183	628	

Table 2

Population and housing census in 2014

	Dwellings		Households	Persons in households	of which:		Persons absent abroad (from col. 4)	Persons enumerated by 4S
	total	of which unoccupied			men	women		
Mun. Chisinau, Buiucani sector (partially)	1563	643	952	2126	973	1153	47	1
Causeni rayon, Zaim commune	1557	177	1380	4397	2150	2247	580	

Figure 1

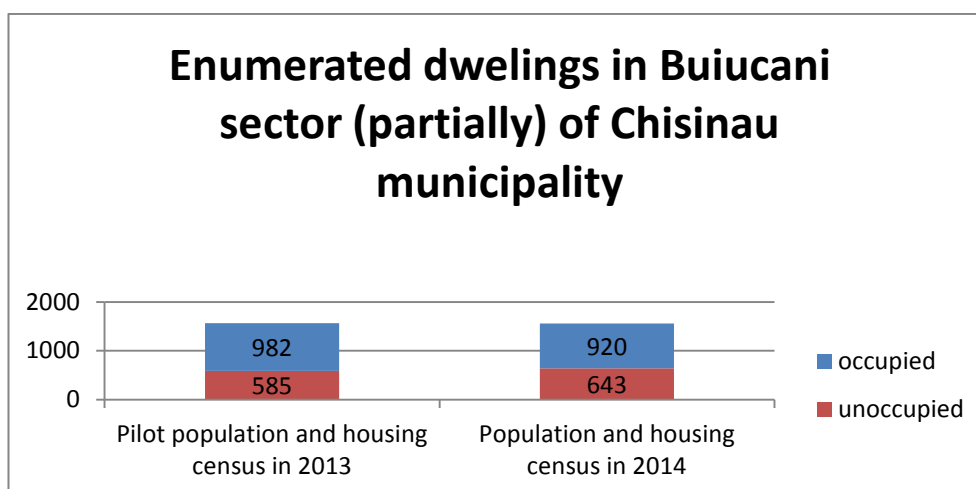
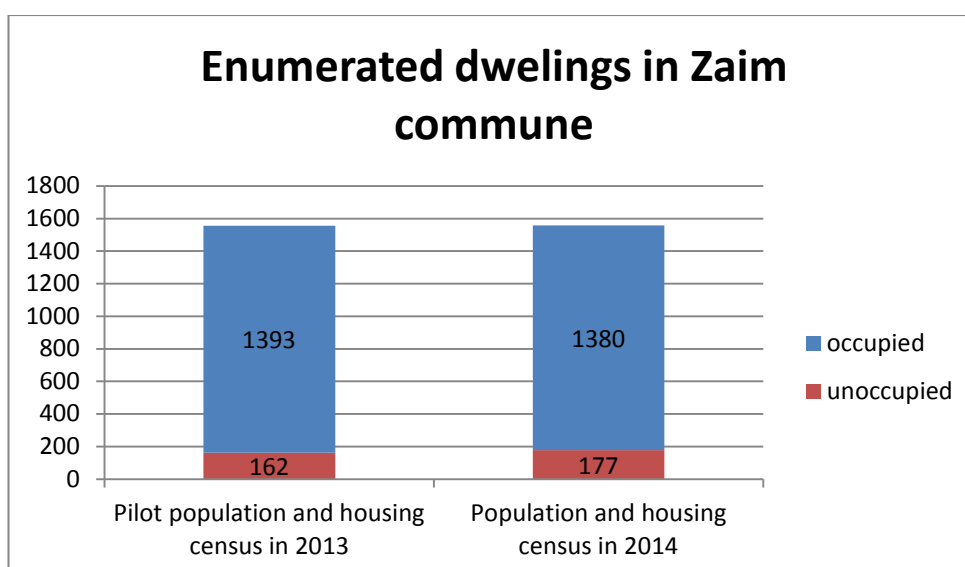


Figure 2



Speaking in percentage at the census pilot in Chisinau there were 62,7% occupied dwellings and 37,3% unoccupied and at the census itself we had, according to summary sheets 58,9% occupied dwellings and 41,1% unoccupied. For the Zaim commune we had at the pilot according to summary sheets 89,58% occupied dwellings and 10,42% unoccupied, for the census in 2014 – 88,63% occupied dwellings and 11,37% unoccupied.

Figure 3

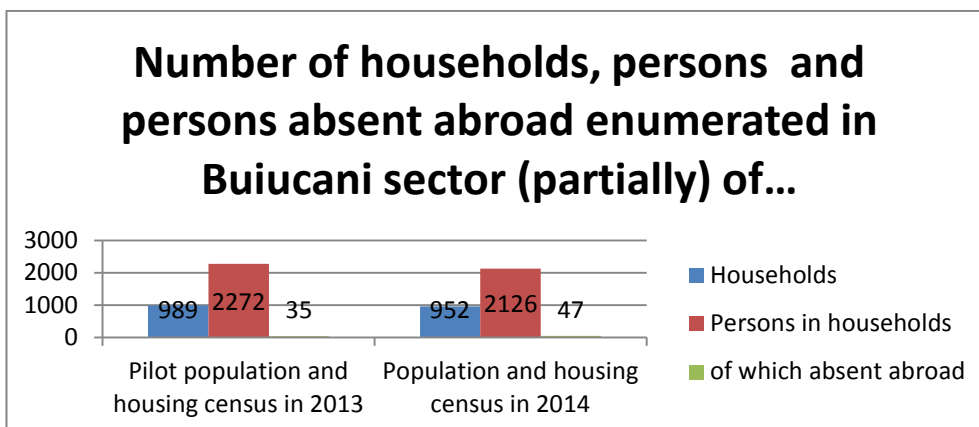


Figure 4

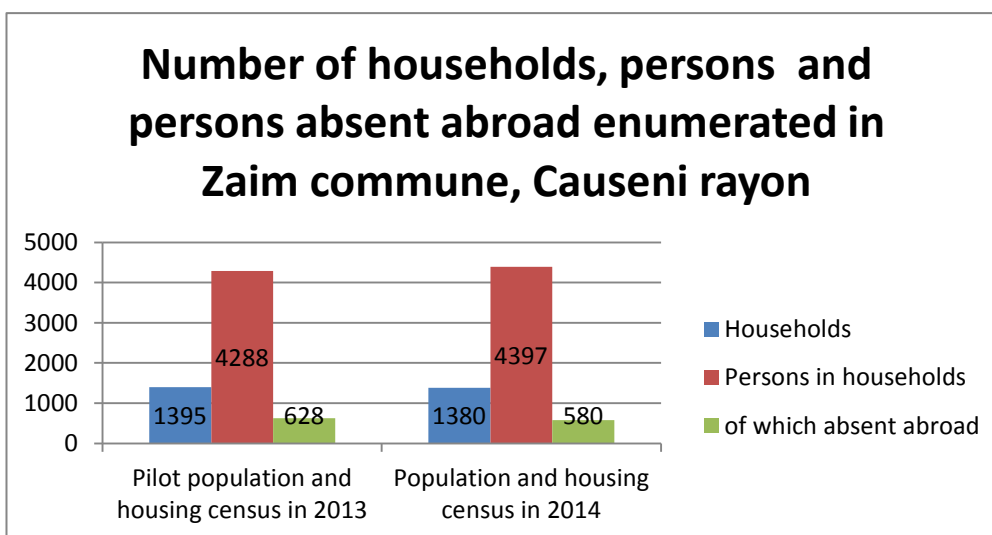


Figure 5

