

**High-level Seminar  
on Population Censuses and Migration Statistics in CIS Countries**

**The 2009 population and housing census in Belarus**

Elena Kukharevich, Deputy Chair, National Statistical Committee

Population and housing census in the Republic of Belarus was conducted on October 14-24, 2009 in the framework the 2010 Population and Housing Censuses Round.

The census was conducted in a traditional way. Personnel employed for the period of census was collecting personal data by questioning every adult respondent and by filling in questionnaires during door-to-door campaign. For the first time an option of providing personal data at indoor census premises was introduced.

Special division into census districts (distribution of districts, cities, urban settlement by trainers and enumerators districts) was introduced in order to secure full coverage of population. The schedule of the census was prepared in the electronic format which allowed to use it for editing address section of questionnaires and to develop a bar-code system for enumerators' suit-cases that were used during data processing.

The procedure of personal data processing changed significantly in comparison to the year 1999. Technologies of in-line scanning, tags recognition and intelligent character recognition in questionnaires were used for personal data input. It resulted in automated input process, reduction of time spent on data editing and the number of employees engaged in data processing.

Centralizing of personal data processing at the statistical office contributed to application of uniform policy of personal data processing and data protection at every stage.

In 1999 census results were disseminated in hard copies only, whereas in 2009 census returns were available in the electronic format. Special system of access to census results via Internet allowed users to find the necessary information by topic sections of population census.

The future population census of the Republic of Belarus will give priority to paperless technologies – tablet-PCs for enumerators and filling in of electronic questionnaires by respondents in the Internet.

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