2021 EU census programme

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Content

• Background to the 2021 census programme
• The 2011 programme and the existing framework regulation
  • Regulation (EC)763/2008
• Main principles underlying the development of the 2021 collection
• Updated implementing regulations
• Key changes from 2011
2011 EU census programme

- First time that a collection of harmonised European census data had been defined in such detail

  - Framework regulation setting common rules, key concepts and definitions for the decennial provision of data on population and housing
  - Definitions, breakdowns, cross-tabulations, metadata and quality reporting all defined in detailed implementing legislation

- Extremely large data collection

- Complete change from earlier decades – 1981-2001

  - Previously - legislation or informal agreements loosely defining a small, poorly harmonised, data collection
2011 as the basis for 2021

- 2013 – Directors of Social Statistics (DSS) agreed that the 2021 data collection should be based on the existing framework regulation (Regulation (EC)763/2008)
- A new set of implementing legislation was required for 2021
- The DSS asked Eurostat to define the 2021 data collection and prepare implementing regulations as soon as possible
- Task Force on future EU censuses began this work in parallel with its work on post-2021
Principles followed

- In-depth review of 2011 to identify areas where changes were necessary
- Simplify, where possible, the classifications
- Avoid optional categories in classifications
- Learn from experience of 2011 - for example, removing the cross-tabulations and/or dimensions that were little used
- Ensure that the census data remain relevant
- Focus on the priority needs of EU census users
- Recognise and preserve the uniqueness of the census as a source of multi-dimensional data, allowing analyses across different themes and topics that are not possible using other data collections.
Three new implementing regulations

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/543 of 22 March 2017 ... as regards the **technical specifications of the topics and of their breakdowns**

Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/712 of 20 April 2017 **establishing the reference year and the programme of the statistical data and metadata** ...

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/881 of 23 May 2017 ... as regards the **modalities and structure of the quality reports** and the **technical format for data transmission**, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1151/2010
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/543 of 22 March 2017 ... as regards the technical specifications of the topics and of their breakdowns

Technical definitions based on the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations

- Simplified definitions and breakdowns
- Most optional classifications removed
- Updated definitions and breakdowns to ensure statistics remain relevant
  - 'Current Activity Status' now reflects updated ILO recommendations for employment statistics
  - 'Legal Marital Status' updated to reflect widespread introduction of same-sex marriages and partnerships
Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/712 of 20 April 2017 establishing the reference year and the programme of the statistical data and metadata ... 

Consultations with key data users to

- identify high priority topics and cross-tabulations – to retain or expand relative to 2011
- target reductions on low priority or little used cross-tabulations

The table programme for 2021 retains the richness of the census as a data source and covers the priority issues (including migration-related topics), while reducing significantly the burden on NSIs

Confirms that the data will relate to a census date in 2021

Defines the textual metadata that must be supplied for the census topics
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/881 of 23 May 2017 ... as regards the modalities and structure of the quality reports and the technical format for data transmission, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1151/2010

Metadata and quality information to complement and complete the requirements for textual metadata

- Metadata based closely on the metadata defined for the 2011 data
- For 2021, a significant reduction in the size and complexity of the quality hypercubes
- Revisions to the quality information to better reflect changes to census methods
Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/881 of 23 May 2017 ... as regards the modalities and structure of the quality reports and the technical format for data transmission, and amending Regulation (EU) No 1151/2010 - continued

Data for both 2011 and 2021 to be kept until 1 January 2035

• allowing comparisons of data between the two census rounds.

Data to be based on the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange and SDMS standard

• dissemination using the Census Hub.
Census data geo-coded to a 1km² grid

A new and separate development for the 2021 census

- Not covered by the framework regulation (EC) 763/2008

Legal and technical proposals discussed later in the Expert Group meeting
Conclusions

• The main census data collection programme for 2021 is now fully defined with a clear legal base

• Relative to 2021
  • Simplification
  • Updated to ensure ongoing relevance of the data
  • Focus on priority data

• Implementing legislation is in place much earlier in the decennial census cycle
Thank you