2nd trial census in Poland and the plans for the census in 2021

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In March 2020, two weeks before launching the second trial census, strict restrictions on physical contacts in Poland were introduced in connection with Covid-19 pandemic. At that time, census systems for CAxI data collection had already been prepared, members of the census organization team were prepared to perform their tasks, public communication activities had been carried out and procedures of the census enumerators' recruitment had been implemented. Despite the concerns about enumerators' and respondents' health, it was decided to implement extraordinary precautions and to conduct the trial census using modern methods of data collection. It was decided not to use the CAPI method and instead to collect the data using only CAWI and CATI methods. The necessity of reorganizing and reconstructing the census tools under conditions of remote work was an additional challenge. In official statistics, this mode of work was used for the first time on such a large scale and required a change in the mentality of both Statistics Poland employees and enumerators. Census information systems also had to be adapted to this mode of operation.

The trial census was carried out successfully, allowing the verification of individual processes and determining the scope of changes to be introduced into 2021 census. The changes, which are currently being introduced mainly in the organization of the census and the IT activity, consist of:

- building a network of universal enumerators capable of carrying out the census using the CAPI and CATI methods
- adaptation of mobile devices for the enumerators to CAPI and CATI methods
- providing training in the form of online meetings
- enabling the census "on request" initiated by the respondent's phone call to the census hotline
- increasing the awareness of the possibility of self-enumeration, encouraging the respondents to self-enumerate in the face of a pandemic.