The 2021 register-based census in Spain

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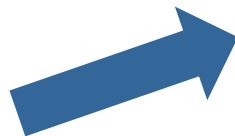**September 2023, UNECE**

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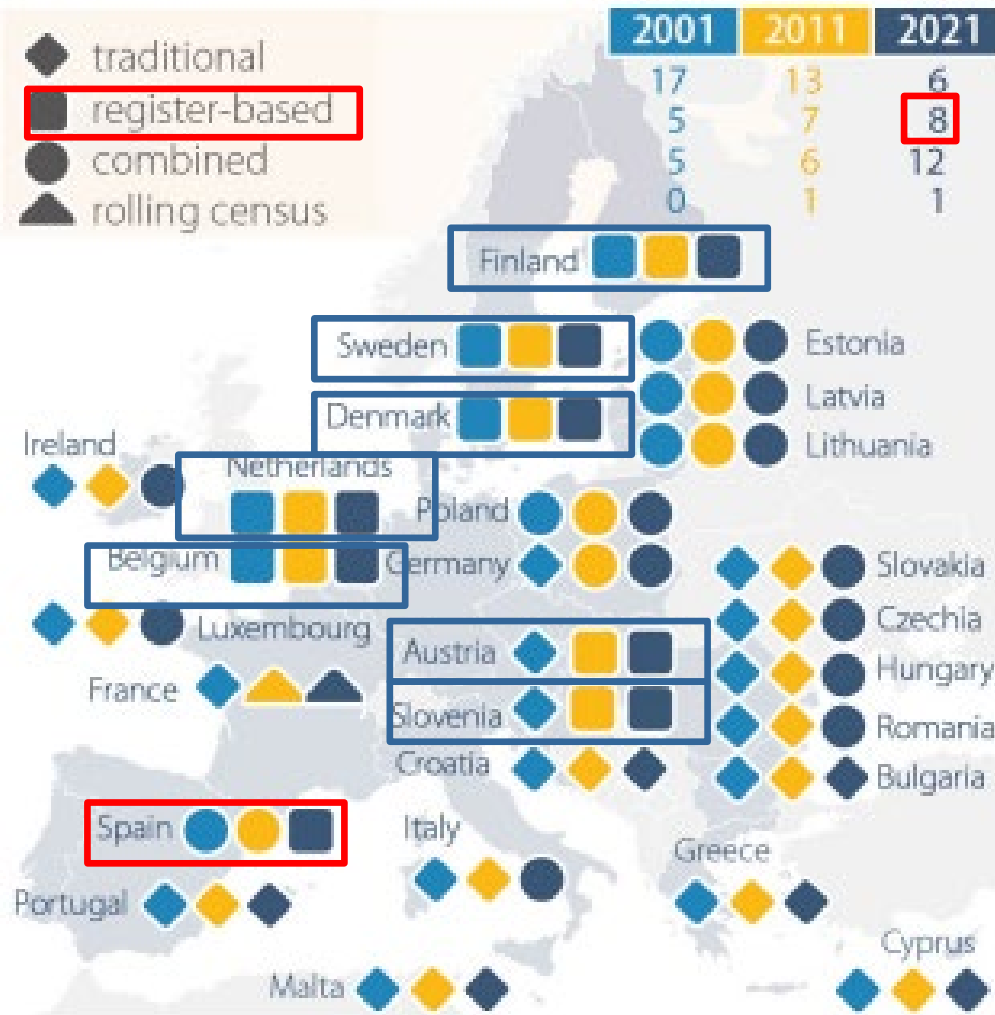
- Conclusions

A new method

2001
Traditional census

2011
Combined census

2021
Registered-based census

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Figure 2 – Census methods used in the EU-27 (2001-2021)

	2001	2011	2021
traditional	17	13	6
register-based	5	7	8
combined	5	6	12
rolling census	0	1	1

Source: EPRS, based on UNECE and NSI data.

Highlights:

- Only 8 countries in the EU

- Not affected by COVID pandemic

- Largest EU country > 47 million

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Requirements

1 | **A population file that serves as the skeleton**

… could be police files, or health card files, or tax registers

… an admin file as the skeleton for the housing census is also needed

In Spain: the *Padrón*

2 | **Good "thematic" administrative registers**

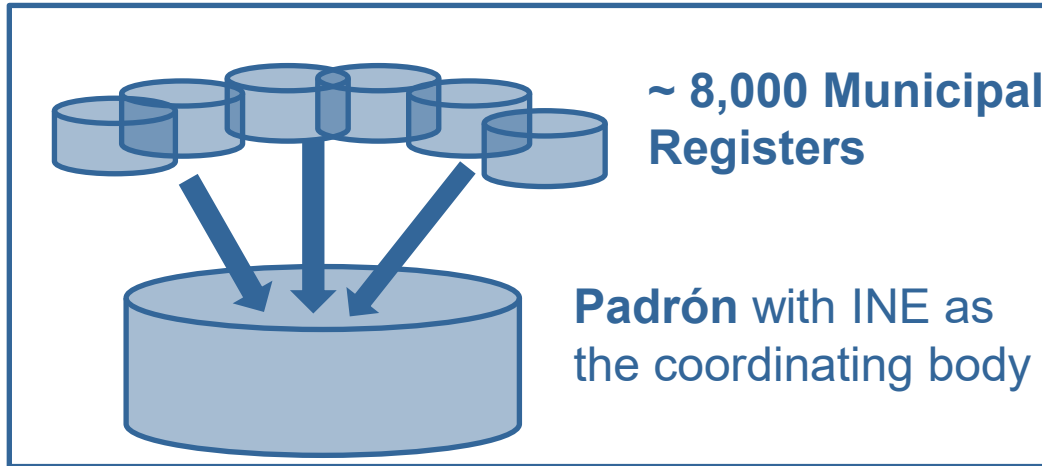Education, migration, housing, labour…

3 | **Legal access to registers**

- 1989 *Public Statistical Function* law allows access
- European census regulation

1 | **A population file that serves as the skeleton**

~ **8,000 Municipal Registers**
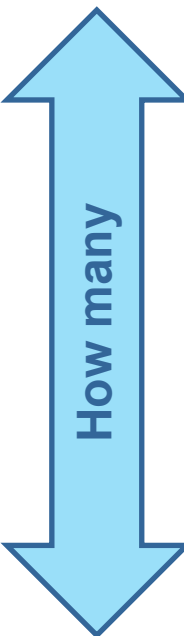
Padrón with INE as the coordinating body

- Residents are obliged to register

- Benefits of enrollment: proof of residence, social services, education, public health, municipal services…

- Periodic verification of residence and expiration policies

2 Good "thematic" administrative registers

Educational sources

Past Censuses

Tributary sources

Labor sources

Cert. Profesionalidad SEPE

MEyFP   Universidades

Matriculados / graduados

Censo 2001   Censo 2011

AEAT y HH.FF

Afiliados   Pensionistas

Demandantes   Contratos

Mutualidades, ISFAS y Clases Pasivas

DNI, RCE

Padrón

MNP   Inforeg

BADAS

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The census population figure and variables

Information about each person

How many

ID	Sexo	Edad	Nacionalidad	País de nacimiento	Años de llegada y lugares de residencia anteriores	Estudios en curso y nivel educativo	Relación con la actividad	Ocupación (actividad, situación profesional, …)	Lugar de trabajo o estudios	Estado civil	Relación con resto de miembros del hogar
1	M	43	Marruecos	Marruecos	XX-YY-ZZ	AA-BB	Ocupado	XX-YY-ZZ	HH	C	XX-YY-ZZ
2	M	68	España	España	XX-YY-ZZ	AA-BB	Jubilado	.	.	V	XX-YY-ZZ
3	H	52	España	Ecuador	XX-YY-ZZ	AA-BB	Parado	.	.	S	XX-YY-ZZ
4	M	6	Rumanía	Rumanía	XX-YY-ZZ	AA-BB	.	.	HH	S	XX-YY-ZZ
…											
…											
…											
…											
47 mill	H	83	España	España	XX-YY-ZZ	AA-BB	Jubilado	.	.	C	

The census population figure

How many

ID

1
2
3
4

47 mill
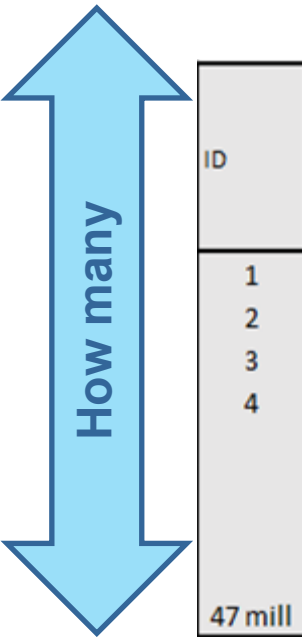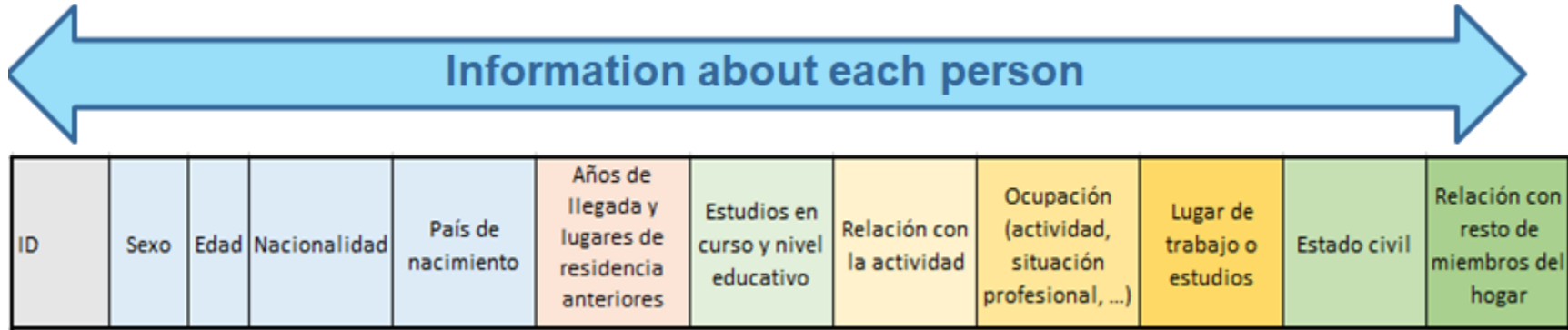
- Signs of life / signs of presence

- Starting point: the *Padrón*

- Evaluate the plausibility of residence looking for "traces"

- Foreign population who live in Spain but whose registration has expired ☑

- Foreign population who no longer reside in Spain but whose registration has not expired ☒

- It is a quality issue more than a quantity issue

The census variables

Information about each person

ID	Sexo	Edad	Nacionalidad	País de nacimiento	Años de llegada y lugares de residencia anteriores	Estudios en curso y nivel educativo	Relación con la actividad	Ocupación (actividad, situación profesional, …)	Lugar de trabajo o estudios	Estado civil	Relación con resto de miembros del hogar

- Basic demographics and migration variables are obtained by directly exploiting the data and variations contained in the *Padrón.*

- But for the rest of the variables in general there is no single source with all the neccesary information.

- See paper: Level of education, economic activity status.

Conclusions

- A fully admin register-based census was conducted in Spain for the first time in 2021.

- The *Padrón* is used as the skeleton of the population and the signs of presence method is applied for the final population figure.

- Many files from many different sources and institutions are needed to construct the census variables.

- Annual population censuses and housing censuses each 3-4 years.

Thank you for your attention!

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