

Housing characteristics

Preparing the 2030 census recommendations

Conference of European Statisticians task force on housing characteristics

Fiona Willis-Núñez, UNECE

UNECE Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses
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Task Force membership



- Armenia: Gohar Meliksetyan
- Austria: Katrin Schöber
- Eurostat: Fabian Bach, Ferenc Galik, Sixten Thestrup
- Germany: Anja Krause, Alexander Tatzel
- Romania: Dragoş Alexandru Mondiru
- Slovakia: Lucia Vanišová
- Switzerland: Christoph Popp, Marc Spörri
- University of Coimbra, Portugal: Mónica Rodrigues
- UNECE (chair) Fiona Willis-Núñez



- Check continued relevance & descriptions of variables described in Housing Characteristics chapter of CESR2020
- Concepts and definitions used for **types of housing** and **occupation status of dwelling**
 - Sharing time between two or more dwellings
 - Dynamic interplay between housing & household
- Consider possible need for new parts on **dwelling quality & ecological standards**

Housing topics covered in the 2020 Recommendations



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- Type of living quarters
- Housing arrangements
- Occupancy status of conventional dwellings
- Characteristics of secondary, seasonal & vacant dwellings
- Type of ownership
- Occupancy by number of private households
- Number of occupants
- Useful floor space and/or number of rooms
- Density standard
- Type of rooms
- Water supply system
- Toilet facilities
- Bathing facilities
- Hot water

- Sewage disposal
- Kitchen
- Type of heating
- Main type of energy used for heating
- Availability of electricity
- Availability of piped gas
- Availability of air-conditioning
- Accessibility to dwelling
- Position of dwellings within the building
- Type of building
- Number of floors in building
- Lift
- Period of construction
- Materials of the building
- State of repair of building

Structure of our work



1. Questionnaire review
2. Review of existing content of CESR2020
3. Review of wider context:
 - Changes in classifications, standards etc
 - Technological & methodological changes impacting measurement
 - Social changes influencing demand
 - Policy imperatives

Questionnaire review



- Maintained or slightly modified:
 - Which concepts from CESR2020 were used
 - Whether CESR definitions were used & if not, how different
 - Main data sources for each one used
 - Whether housing census included people not usually resident
 - Density standard (useful floor space and/or rooms per occupant)

Questionnaire review



- Removed:

- Whether characteristics of unoccupied dwellings collected
 - Only register-based can realistically collect detailed characteristics
 - Remains important to identify unoccupied dwellings, but characteristics are a step further
 - Not clear what implications this information would have for the Recs
- Subjective and hypothetical questions about future plans, expected limitations etc.

Questionnaire review



- Added:
 - Whether methodology for housing census is the same as for population census
 - New follow-up question on **type of ownership** (refers to the status of a dwelling) and **tenure status of household** (which refers to the household): to find out reasoning if not collected separately
 - Whether any of the following, non-CESR topics, were collected:
 - Information on entire buildings intended for habitation;
 - Energy efficiency of buildings or dwellings (e.g. based on national efficiency classification or annual energy consumption);
 - Indoor air quality or related topics (e.g. presence of mould);
 - Characteristics of neighbourhood or local environment;
 - Subjective perceptions of housing quality;
 - Subjective perceptions of neighbourhood quality;
 - Any other housing topics not listed in the 2020 Recommendations.

Considerations for the 2030 recommendations



1. Reasons for which society demands info about housing, & associated policy needs, are evolving
2. Need to clarify distinction between characteristics of a household and of a dwelling
3. Need to reassess indicators of material quality of life
4. Need to revisit which housing topics are designated as core or non-core

1. Info demands and policy needs



- International frameworks for monitoring and responding to environment, climate and sustainable development, health, disaster resilience
 - SDGs, Green Deal, Paris climate agreement, Sendai framework, etc...
- New impetus from Covid responses
 - Task Force work stream dedicated to identifying these new policy drivers

2. Household vs dwelling



- Close consultation with TF 8 on Household & Family characteristics
- Tenure status; durable consumer goods; availability of cars; parking spaces; phone and Internet connection

3. Indicators of material quality of life



- Indicators of material well-being intended to be proxies for quality of life
- Prevalence of their inclusion in countries' censuses important in deciding what should be in CESR
- Do they serve a useful discriminatory function?
- Are there some missing?



4. Core vs non-core topics

- A 'core' designation amounts to a strong Recommendation on the part of CES that something should be collected
 - Interpreted by some as an instruction to do so
 - If incorporated into national or regional laws or regulations, becomes a legally-binding requirement
 - So we have to be careful what we recommend!
- Examples: availability of electricity, hot water...



Questions, ideas,
suggestions.....

.... want to join the Task
Force?

Fiona Willis-Núñez

fiona.willis-Nunez@un.org

