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Topic (iv): The technologies and methods in the implementation of the 2000 round of Censuses

PRINCIPLES OF THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POPULATION CENSUS IN 2001

Submitted by the Czech Statistical Office¹

SUMMARY

1. The Act on State Statistical Service of the Czech Republic prescribes that the population censuses have to be carried out according to a special Law on the Census. The draft Law on the Census 2001 has been prepared by the Czech Statistical Office (CSO). It specifies the scope and date of the Census, Census program, the tasks of the CSO, local administrations, and other government institutions, the obligation of natural persons and enterprises to provide data, requirements for data confidentiality, conditions and methods of data use and archiving, and sanctions for violation of the Law on the Census.

2. The **basic principles of the Census implementation** are the following:

- The Census questionnaires will be filled in by the persons to be counted (self-counting);
- The questionnaires will be prepared in a form enabling electronic data capture using OCR and ICR technology;
- Data input will be implemented using optical reading and following

¹ Prepared by Ebbo Petrikovits and Dusan Loutocky.

- digitalization of the data;
- Logical checking procedures, corrections and auto-corrections of the entry data will be made at the specialized work place of the CSO;
 - The clean data will be stored in the central database of the Census under the Oracle RDBMS;
 - The outputs of Census data will be made in the following forms: (i) printed standard tables, (ii) electronic dissemination on the Internet and on the CD-ROM, and (iii) producing ad hoc outputs within the coming years using the census data bank;
 - All technological operations will be carried out by the CSO, except optical reading and digitalization of the input data, which will be performed by a specialized company;
 - Strict protection of all individual data in the course of census data processing based on the Act on State Statistical Service and on the EU Directive 95/46/EC.

3. The highest responsible body for the **management of the Census organization** will be the Central Commission for the Population Census. Its main task will be to coordinate activities of the public administration and self-government who participate in the Census preparation and implementation. **The CSO, namely the Division of Population Censuses, is the main executive body** for the whole Census project. This unit is responsible for the detailed methodological, organizational and technical tasks. Executive components in the process of Census implementation are the central workplace of censuses in Prague and the network of about 90 regional centres in districts. The regional centres are responsible for the selection, appointment and training of census enumerators and their supervisors. The lowest executive components are enumerators, on-place interviewers in the individual enumeration districts. It is expected that about 50 thousand census enumerators will be involved.

4. The **preparation and implementation of the Census project in the CSO** will be carried out by project teams. A steering committee has been established consisting of the heads of units participating in the project. Its members are representatives of the population census division, informatics, processing units and regional statistical workplaces. Their main task is to coordinate activities of the project teams and to take decisions on conceptual questions. For concrete tasks, the steering committee sets up project teams, comprising specialists from different units of the office.

5. The software "Projektman" (developed within the CSO) will be used for documenting the technical specifications of the Census project. The documentation will be maintained in the database and will be accessible by users electronically. This product will be used to coordinate all activities related to the preparation of the population census.