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

**THE 2000 ROUND OF CENSUSES - A REVIEW OF MAJOR ISSUES**

Submitted by the Central Statistics Office, Ireland<sup>1</sup>

**INVITED PAPER**

**SUMMARY**

1. The paper highlights the main issues likely to arise in the 2000 round of censuses, as discussed during the two and a half days of the joint ECE-EUROSTAT work session on Population and Housing Censuses, which took place in Dublin during 9-11 November 1998. The paper focuses in particular on those topics in which the use of information technology (IT) plays a major role. As the paper is written from the perspective of a census manager it necessarily reflects the preoccupations of a user of IT services rather than a provider of them.

2. The paper commences with a consideration of some of the strategic issues confronting national statistical institutes (NSIs) as they prepare for the 2000 round of censuses. Their level of preparedness from an IT and organisational perspective represents the main focus of attention. The next section considers

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<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Aidan Punch.

some of the implications of a wholesale changeover from key to disk data capture techniques to the use of scanning and imaging. How this technology impacts on the way census processing is carried out is also considered. The final section deals with the undoubted gains to be achieved through the use of technology in the all-important dissemination phase.