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Joint ECE-EUROSTAT work session
on Population and Housing Censuses ¹
(Dublin, Ireland, 9-11 November 1998)

Study topic 2

OCR APPROACH TO CENSUS 2001. DATA EDITING

Supporting paper submitted by the Federal Statistical Office of Yugoslavia ²

SUMMARY

1. The Statistical Information System must be equipped with the most contemporary computer and other electronic/optical machines. But what happens when this task has been fulfilled? Data editing, which is essential in the Data Phase of every Census can be done in a complete automative mode. The first stage, after the field work, or even *in the field* with hand-held computers, is characterized by the Optical Character Recognition Process (OCR). How to implement Intelligent OCR, satisfying national character exemptions? What impact does it have in the organizational sphere? Is it cost effective to implement OCR, based on ultra-fast scanners, for more than 14 million questionnaires? These are some of the main dilemmas that this paper deals with, decisively trying to answer them all.

1 The papers which are prepared for this work session will be treated in the same manner , as papers that are prepared for seminars.

2 Prepared by Mr. Dragisa Bjeloglav.