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**STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (EUROSTAT)**

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

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

Study topic 3

PREPARATIONS FOR PILOT CENSUS

Supporting paper submitted by the Central Statistical Office of Poland ²

Summary

1. The census will be carried in April 2001. It will be preceded by a pilot census, which has been planned for April 1999.
2. Like for previous censuses, the Central Statistical Office carried wide-spanned social consultations aimed at identifying the information needs of a wide group of Polish data users. Consultants were acquainted with goals of the census, topics covered by previous population and housing censuses as well as topics of the future census recommended by UN/Eurostat. Documents were distributed to 261 institutions throughout Poland.
3. All suggestions presented by users of census-derived data were discussed by the Census Programme Commission, appointed by the CSO President in 1997. The Commission is an assessing and consulting body dealing with census-related issues. As a result of its operations, the Commission developed methodological guidelines for the census and draft census questionnaires, which will be presented to the Polish Parliament for further discussions.
4. The census questionnaire covers 66 questions: 42 on population, 13 on housing units and 11 on buildings. It explores all issues recommended as core topics and the majority of non-core topics. The census will be accompanied by two complementary surveys: sample surveys on fertility rate and internal migration in the inter-census period (i.e. in the years 1989-2000).

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 Marlena Kuciarska-Ciesielska.

5. 2001 population and housing census will be carried out by traditional method; employing face to face interviews with the population specially selected and trained enumerators. It will be a complete census, which will assure the possibility of obtaining basic information on population and housing resources on the lowest level of territorial division (locations).

6. In case of people inhabiting institutional households the census will employ the existing population registration systems and data will be supplemented by interviews.

7. The homeless will be registered on an abbreviated questionnaire, which covers basic data on place of residence, sex and age of interviewees, if possible.

8. A Pilot census has been planned for in April 1999, two years before the population and housing census.

9. The goal of the pilot census is testing the scope of topics to be covered by the census, editing questions, testing suggested methodological solutions, in-field preparations for the census, census organisation, testing the outcome of training for enumerators. The results obtained from the pilot census will be used for testing assumptions for processing census output.

10. In preparation for the 2001 census, CSO purchased scanners and OCRs, which allow for fast data registration, even without preliminary stages.

11. It has been forecast that preliminary census output covering basic demographic and socio-professional data on population as well as data on housing conditions will be developed in 9-12 months after completion of the census. Final results, including data by territorial units, should be available 18 months after the census.

12. Results of the census will be distributed by: source materials (tables) in Poland, regional studies - containing basic data on various levels of Poland's administration division as well as analytical publications.

13. Results of the survey will be registered on electronic data carriers. They will be paid and made available according to required arrangements, depending on users needs.