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Session I – Invited paper

**DOCUMENTATION OF THE 2000 ROUND OF POPULATION AND HOUSING
CENSUSES IN THE EU, EFTA AND CANDIDATE COUNTRIES**

Submitted by Eurostat¹

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The extensive documentation of national population and housing censuses of the present census round has been completed. It is, by far, the most extensive documentation of national censuses carried out by Eurostat so far. It covers 36 countries while in the previous census round only 19 countries were concerned.

2. The documentation will be published by Eurostat as a Working Paper within a few months. It will be available at Eurostat website together with additional material gathered, which is not included into the paper publication.

II. CONTENTS OF THE DOCUMENTATION

3. The documentation for the 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses² covers the European Union Member States³, the European Free Trade Association Member States⁴ and countries that are presently Candidates for accession into the EU⁵ as well as some of the remaining countries of the Western Balkans⁶. Apart from the country reports, which are a new element, this

¹ Paper prepared by Aarno Laihonon.

² A round of population and housing censuses or simply 'census round' is said to be the ten year period over two decades (e.g. 1995-2004). From here on, as stated in the title of the report, each census round is identified by indication of the year ending in '0' (2000 for the current round). This follows the UN practice, even if Eurostat uses the term "2001 census round", which is the reference year of the Community Census Programme.

³ Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden, the United Kingdom.

⁴ Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland.

⁵ Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Turkey.

⁶ Albania, Croatia, Serbia-Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

documentation represents a continuation of similar work undertaken by Eurostat after the 1980 and 1990 census rounds⁷.

4. The study was prepared on behalf of Eurostat by an international research team at the Laboratory of Social and Demographic Analysis (LDSA) of the University of Thessaly (Volos) under the direction of Prof. Byron Kotzamanis. It is the main output of a comprehensive collection of information concerning the conduct of national censuses. In the framework of this project a broad range of material was gathered from countries - the result depending on the census method applied, the survey timetable and the level of dissemination. Further information was obtained from international organisations and from the proceedings of conferences. Most of this material has been assembled on an electronic platform, to be made available to users through an internet site.

5. The documentation is divided into three main sections:

- an overview of the population and housing census programme and its international aspects;
- a comparative analysis of the most important aspects of the 2000 censuses in the project countries; and
- a set of individual country reports.

6. Further information is presented in the annexes. In addition, the electronic version of the publication contains a large selection of:

- census questionnaires as used in the different countries, (facsimiles, normally in English or French), and
- documents on the legal framework for the conduct of the census in each country (census laws, statistical laws, other regulations).
- It is important to note that the national data were mostly collected from spring to autumn 2002. As a result of this and the widely differing census dates in the countries covered here - from November 1995 (Malta) to May 2002 (Poland) - the information collected refers to national censuses that are in different stages of completion.

7. The comparative analysis is mostly based on a survey questionnaire prepared by the LDSA (hereafter 'LDSA questionnaire'). A total of 26 National Statistical Institutes responded. Three countries (Germany, Sweden and Iceland), having not implemented a census, were unable to complete the questionnaire, while three others (Netherlands, Liechtenstein and Romania) did not respond. For all the questions concerning directly the census process and treatment, the tables used for the comparative analysis don't include Liechtenstein and obviously Germany, Sweden and Iceland.

8. The country reports were prepared during the second half of 2002. Most of the reports follow a similar structure, but country-specific paragraphs (e.g. for Spain and Italy, on the comparison of census results with data from population registers) or formats (e.g. Switzerland) are also present. For countries not undertaking a census, alternative reporting formats have been chosen.

9. The table of contents of the whole report is in the annex.

⁷ Ref: Eurostat (1992 and 1996).

ANNEX

Table of contents

Part I - Overview on population census and its international aspects

1. Origin and evolution of censuses
2. The census as a varying and evolving concept
3. International activities and transition to the 2000 Census Round
4. Census methods around 2000
5. Towards the 'best method'?

Part II - Comparative analysis of selected topics

1. Frequency and typology of the census
2. Legal framework
3. Preparatory phases
4. Publicity and information campaign
5. Field work and data collection
6. Comparability of census contents as regards international recommendations
7. Data capture, data processing and the application of ICT technologies
8. Publication and dissemination
9. Costs of the censuses
10. Conclusions and future plans

Part III – Country reports

European Union

Belgium

Denmark

Germany

Greece

Spain

France

Ireland

Italy

Luxembourg

Netherlands

Austria

Portugal

Finland

Sweden

United Kingdom

European Free Trade Association

Iceland

Norway

Switzerland

Candidate countries

Bulgaria

Czech Republic

Estonia

Hungary

Latvia

Lithuania

Poland

Romania

Slovak Republic

Slovenia

Cyprus
Malta
Turkey

Annexes

1. List of abbreviations and acronyms
2. Population and Housing Census dates in the world at 1990 and 2000 Rounds
3. Country reports for the Western Balkans
 - Albania
 - Croatia
 - Serbia - Montenegro
 - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
4. Main references
5. NSI addresses and census units
6. LDSA survey questionnaire (including the Eurostat Table Programme)
7. Census questionnaires (facsimiles)*
8. Documentation on legal framework*

(* *in the electronic version only*)