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**Session I - Supporting paper**

**THE SSORM AND THE CENSUS OF POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS  
AND DWELLINGS 2002: SPECIFICS AND CURRENT SITUATION<sup>1</sup>**

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**I. CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE CENSUS WAS PREPARED AND CONDUCTED**

1. The Census of the population, households and dwellings was planned to be conducted in the spring, 2001. Unfortunately, in this period, in the country there weren't even minimum conditions for conduction of this action, regarded that on a part of the its territory were a war activities and was not possible to guarantee the security of the participants in the Census. Also, a large number of people who live in that part of the country was forced to leave their houses and to move in the other parts of the country or abroad.

2. From these reasons, the Parliament was compelled to change the term for the conduction of the census, several times, by changing of the articles in the Census Law, were this term was regulated.

3. With the signing of the Framework agreement in Ohrid and with the acceptance of the Constitutions amendments, slowly the peace started returning in the parts of the country comprehended with the war activities and with that, to procreate the conditions for the conduction of this statistical operation. However, the articles of the Framework agreement, which were implemented in the Constitutional amendments, enjoin the qualitative changes of the Census Law, in the articles which were defining the census units, in the articles which were given the definitions of the particular terms, very important for the census operation, in the articles which were regulated the participants in the Census, the use of the languages during the conduction of the Census, as well as the articles which determined the documents needed to be presented for the enumeration. With these changes, the final term for conduction of the Census was determined and as a critical moment was fixed the midnight between October 31 and November 1, 2002.

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<sup>2</sup> Paper prepared by Donco Gerasimovski and Apostol Simovski, State Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia.

4. These changes in the Census Law has to be implemented in the Census Methodology, and have an extremely influence on the design and the content of the census questionnaires. Regarded that, from the last change of the Census Law to the term of the conduction of the Census, were very short time, the preparatory activities become more complicated and the cost of the whole operation arise. Because of that and the limited budget, the State Statistical Office was obliged to organize a donator meeting, to provide an additional sources for successive condition of the Census.

5. The aforesaid circumstances were not the only, which complicate the conduction of the Census. A years ago, a great political pressures exists, from different political subjects, in order to use the population census (which can not be anything else than statistical operation) in function of realization of the daily-political goals. So, in 1991, on the call of the political party, the biggest part of the Albanian ethnic community, refuse to be enumerated, and with this Census were not provided complete data for whole country and it was necessary to organize a new census in 1994 with participation of the international expert group in all census phases (preparation, conduction, data processing and dissemination of the census results) and with international monitoring of the conduction of the Census. The results of this Census, regardless of the fact that had an international verification, are still derogated by some political subjects.

6. To avoid any possibility for mistrusting of the census results of this Census, the competent international monitoring was provided again, which was leaded by the High-level Expert Group and Steering Comity.

7. Unfortunately, even this, last Census was not exempted from the political pressures. During the adaptation of the Census Law, in its content was inserted an article which regulate that, the Census have to be conducted on the competence of the State Census Commission in co-operation with the State Statistical Office. The State Census Commission is a political body, formed by the Government, that got extremely wide authorities in direction of adaptation of all relevant decisions for the organisation and conduction of the Census, and also in its responsibilities in managing with the Census budget, according to the Census Law. The State Statistical Office (even that by the Law for state statistics is the only institution which can organise and conduct the population census), was put in the role of service to the State Census Commission, with minimum competencies during the adaptation of the decisions for the preparation and conduction of the Census.

8. This is the first case in our history, and we are sure in all democratic countries, the preparation, the organisation and the conduction of the population census to be steered by the political body.

9. With the last change of the Census Law, from the census units were excluded the citizens who are working or staying abroad more than one year even this category was not planed to be calculated in a total population of the country. The data, which were planed to be compiled in this category, are very important for many subjects, principally for the research of the migration flows from the country, its directions, the periods when they had bigger intensity etc. For a significantly emigration area, when there are no other good data resources, the data from this Census were invaluable important.

10. However, the political populism, the desire of some ethnic communities to be exhibited much bigger than really are, and to provide with that some political goals, on the detriment of the country and its all citizens (the representatives of the international monitoring had an opportunity to be assured for this, during the conduction of the Census), leaded to the appearance of the persons who are abroad for a years to be enumerated as a temporary absent (less than a year) or as a present into a country. This was especially expressed in the northwest part of the country where is the most concentration of the population of the Albanian ethnic community.

## II. THE METHODOLOGY AND THE CENSUS CONDUCTING METHOD

11. The Methodology for the preparation, organization and conduction of the Census of population, households and dwellings, 2002, as a most important census document, according to the Census Law, is the only document which adopting and prescribing was in competence of the State Statistical Office and was completely adjusted with the UN/ECE and EUROSTAT Recommendations, as well as with the standards appointed by the relevant international institutions for the fields about the data collected with the Census. According to the Methodology, it was provided to be collected a data: for the number of the population (persons with the place of usual residence in the country, its territorial distribution and its structures by the demographic, sociological, educational, ethnic and economic topics, a data for the number of households, its territorial distribution and its structures by the number of the household members, by the number and types of families, by the disposal and utilization of the agricultural founds and by the ascertained sociological and economical topics, as well as a data for the number of dwellings, its territorial distributions, size, equipment with the subsidiary rooms and specific installations.

12. The Methodology provides the Census to be conducted on the traditional method, an interview face to face, on paper census forms, by previously trained enumerators. Each enumerator was conducted the enumeration in a frame of defined territorial unit (census district) with strictly defined borders. The Census Methodology provides the enumeration, depending of the enumerated persons wish, to be done at six different languages (Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish, Romas, Vlachs and Serbian) and on three tips of forms (onelingual, bilingual and fivelingual).

13. The possibility of the population, to be enumerated on its own mother tongue, allude that, in the frame of the enumerators obviously had to be a representatives of the bigger ethnic communities that lives in the country and in other situations where there were settlements with mixed ethnic construction of the population and also for the most of the census districts, two, three or four enumerators from different ethnic communities to be engaged for one census district. On the other side, a number of enumerators that excellent speak the languages of ethnic minorities were provided, and were used in the phase of enumeration and sent to make enumeration in each household that wanted to be enumerated on their own language, when the enumerator delegated to make enumeration at those district didn't speak those language. With this organization, totally was ensured the right of each person to be enumerated on the chousen language.

14. According to the Census Law and the Census Methodology, the Census was organized in 39 census regions, where a separate Regional Census Commision was appointed for each census region by the State Census Commision, in order to organize and conduct the census on the territory of the census region. These were the bodies, appointed mainly from the representatives of the local selfgovernments and from the representatives of the bigger ethnic communities in the census region, but unfortunately in the selection of the representatives, the policy has a dominate role, when as a representatives in these bodies, a political party's representatives were chousen and not a specialists from the local units of separate ministries that has to ensure a solid logistics and create a complete conditions for successful conduction of the Census.

15. On the other hand, according to the Census Law, the State Statistical Office has to appoint one or more state instructors (professional statisticians) for each census region, which task was to take care about a wholly implementation of the Census Methodology during the conduction of the Census.

16. As it was mentioned before, the enumeration was provided to be realized by the skilled enumerators, under the guide and controll by the skilled, so-called, regional instructors (about the coverage and the quality of enumeration). Each regional instructor was responsible for aproximately ten enumeration districts and has an obligation to observe the work of the enumerators in those enumeration districts.

### III. CONDUCTION OF THE ENUMERATION ACTIVITIES

17. The Census activities started on November, 1, 2002 at 8 o'clock in the morning and lasts till November, 15, 2002. For each person that became unenumerated from different reasons in this period, there was a possibility to be enumerated in the Regional Census Commission, in the period from 16th till 20th November, 2002. The critical moment of the Census was the midnight between October, 31 and November, 1, 2002. 9012 enumerators, 785 region instructors, 381 members of the regional census commissions and 120 state instructors participated in the census activities.

18. For providing better organization and observing the census activities, the territory of the country was divided on 39 census regions, for which separate regional commissions were appointed. Each of the census regions cover several municipalities, so there weren't any division of one municipality in two or more census regions.

19. Before the conduction of the regular enumeration, in the period from 1st till 10th of October, 2002, in the Army units and in the sentence-reformatory institutions, the previous enumeration was done, for the persons that are serving military obligations as well as for the persons that at the moment of Census were taking a prison or reformatory measures. The census forms filled up with this previous enumeration were sent on the home addresses of these persons and were given to the enumerators by the representatives of their's households.

20. As it was mentioned before, the enumeration was conducted on a traditional method, interview face to face, on separate census forms. During the census, the following forms were used: Questionnaire for the household and dwelling (Form P-2) and Questionnaire for the person (Form P-1), and also additional forms from which as a most important the Control Form (Form P-4) can be pointed out. The enumeration, Beside on Macedonian language, the enumeration was conducted also on Albanian, Turkish, Romas, Vlach and Serbian language.

21. Parallely, with the enumeration in the country, the State Statistical Office was organizing the enumeration for our citizens, that are on temporary work or stay abroad (but no longer than one year), through the Ministry of External Affairs in the countries where our country has situated a diplomatic offices or other types of agencies.

22. All of these activities were taken in order to provide wholly coverage of the census units, taking into account the most quality data of required features. From all of these, we can see that the whole organization of the census was forced toward realizing the opportunity of each person to be enumerated by giving the data individually, taking into account that only on this way the better quality of the answers in the census can be reached.

23. The Census was realized successfully, although the separate difficulties and problems (to include a persons in the Census which are not census units and also insufficient respectness of the law obligation to present a strictly defined documents), for which confirmation was given by the representatives of the international monitoring who was observing the whole census activities.

### IV. CONDUCTION OF THE POST ENUMERATION SURVEY

24. After finishing the directly enumeration, in the period from 16th till 20th of November 2002, the independent Post Enumeration Survey was conducted for controlling the coverage and the quality of the answers obtained with the Census. This survey was conducted on double-stage, incidently chosen, defined sample of 80 enumeration districts in all enumeration regions. At the same time, only the person that was preparing the enumerating districts for this survey, knows which districts has to be controlled in post enumeration survey.

25. In the Post Enumeration Survey, two types of forms were used i.e. for the control of the coverage of the census units and for the control of the quality of the answers in the Census. Also,

as in the Census, in the Post Enumeration Survey, the enumeration was conducted on Macedonian language and on the languages of bigger ethnic minorities.

26. The Post Enumeration Survey was conducted by the best enumerators and regional instructors, according to special Methodology, and for the organization and whole conducting of the methodological notes, one person from the Regional Census Commission and one state instructor (from the state instructors of the Census, but from other census region) were responsible. Also, as in the Census Methodology, the Methodology of the Post Enumeration Survey was prepared according to the international standards for these types of surveys, and was reached a whole harmonization between these two methodologies.

## **V. INTERNATIONAL MONITORING OF THE CENSUS**

27. In order to avoid any doubts regarding the census results and possibility of eventually boycotting the census itself or in other words, to create a complete confidence at the population, the Government asked for organizing of an expert's international monitoring for all census stages: preparation phase, conduction phase and census data processing phase. The monitoring was organized by the European Commission and the Council of Europe and two bodies were created: the Steering Committee and the High Level Experts' Group as an organizational and professional body managing the monitoring itself. During the Census conduction fifty monitors from number of statistical institutions came to our country, and also a group of IT experts was formed in order to follow the Census data processing.

28. In the Report of the international observers was stressed, that the conditions for conducting the Census in the whole territory of the country were favourable and was conducted in a good atmosphere, much better than those in 1994, but also some irregularity were found in some regions were the try to influence on the number of enumerated persons, by using a photocopy documents to make enumeration of persons absent of the country more than a year, who were not an enumeration units etc. In the process of monitoring, the Post enumeration survey was included, too.

## **VI. PUBLISHING THE CENSUS FIRST RESULTS AND PROCESSING OF THE CENSUS MATERIAL**

29. According to the Census Law, the First results from the Census of population, households and dwellings, 2002, were published on January, 1th, 2003. These results mean aggregated, unprocessed data obtained directly from the written data in the Control forms (forms P-4) for each enumeration district, to which only data gathered within the Census Regional Commissions for the enumeration units were added (on municipality level) and the number of the enumerated units gathered with the Census conducted abroad (also on municipality level). So, these results while using, have to be accepted with certain reserve, because until their publishing, checking of data accuracy within the questionnaires was not done, nor was done any kind of checking of the accuracy of the codes for presence/ absence, or checking of the multiply enumeration.

30. According to the first results, the number of the enumerated population was 2.061.800 persons from which the total population counts 2.038.059, the number of the enumerated households was 557254, and the number of the enumerated dwellings was 690762.

31. Especially one should pay attention, the number of the persons staying and working abroad for a period up to one year (46.166), that even for the people not having any close knowledge of demography and demographic statistics, at least is amazing, disregarding the fact that our country is expressive emigration area (all analyses and estimations show that the annual level of emigration from the country abroad is around the number of 10.000 persons).

32. Starting from the delivering of the census material itself to the State Statistical Office, the legal procedure started for admission of persons that will be engaged for the census material

processing. With regard to the technical and spatial conditions the State Statistical Office disposes with, it was decided 160 persons to be engaged on a part time contract, who will conduct the procedure of processing the census material. During their engagement one omission was done, that was not a common practice during the previous censuses, within the published announcement for applications of persons for the need of processing the census material, among other skills required it was not mentioned that participation in the census activities as a enumerator or regional instructor was obligatory. This has burdened to a great extent the training of these persons (it is quite understandable that the rules for processing the census material can be more easily and faster acknowledged and accepted by persons that already know the census Methodology).

33. The processing of the census material means several phases: including the enumeration forms of the persons enumerated within the Regional Census Commissions as well as enumeration forms from the Census conducted abroad in the basic census material; checking the completeness of the census material and coding part of the answers in the enumeration forms; entering to the media for electronic processing; logical control and control of the contingency as well as control of the multiply enumeration. After finishing of all of these phases, one could expect the final census results.

34. Processing of the census material has started on March, 1th, 2003, and with the first two phases (including the enumeration forms of the persons enumerated within the Regional Census Commissions as well as enumeration forms from the Census conducted abroad in the basic census material; checking the completeness of the census material and coding part of the answers in the enumeration forms), and the phase of census data entering within the media for electronic processing started on April, 1th, 2003 (short period of time was needed to gather enough quantity of coded census material in order to avoid any slowdown of the work).

35. Although, according to the Census Law, the result from the census should be published till October 31th, 2004, at the latest, efforts are making for the first tables to be published until the end of November, 2003, due to the urgent need for data by the domestic users as well as the users abroad.

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