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Census 2001

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What is Census and what is its purpose?

The census of population, households and dwellings is a regular statistical survey which is carried out every ten years.

Since the last Census in 1991, significant changes occurred concerning the territorial arrangement and the structure of population, households and housing stock. These changes were caused by the war and socio-economic changes. International recommendations, except that about determining that censuses should be carried out every ten years, say that the Census should be conducted either at the end or at the beginning of the decade (1999, 2000 or 2001). This results in decreasing the "dispersion" of the census data, which allows for aggregating of data of approximate years, that is, without effect on accuracy. The Republic of Croatia conducts it in a year ending in digit one.

There have been fourteen censuses since 1857 on the present territory of the Republic of Croatia and after the Second World War there were seven censuses. Censuses were carried out in 1857, 1869, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1921, 1931, 1948, 1953, 1961, 1971, 1981 and in 1991.

The Census of Population, Households and Dwellings 2001, the first one in the independent Republic of Croatia, is planned to be conducted in the period 1 – 15 April 2001. The so called "census day" will be 31 March 2001 at 24.00 hours, which means that the Census will be conducted according to the situation at that moment.

While preparing the Census, the Central Bureau of Statistics followed two principles:

1. The Census 2001 must follow international recommendations in order to obtain data that would be internationally comparable. The contents of enumeration questionnaires were designed according to "The Recommendations for the 2000 Censuses of Population and Housing in the ECE Region; EU Economic Commission for Europe and the EU Statistical Office; Statistical Standards and Studies No. 49". The said Recommendations offer detailed and precise definitions of enumeration units, characteristics and modalities, prescribing them as obligatory (basic), the so called "core topics" as well as optional ones, the so called "non-core topics". In line with the Recommendations, the Central Bureau of Statistics has taken over the complete obligatory content, which should be done by all Member States of the UN/ECE region in order to collect and process all necessary information as foreseen in the tabular programme jointly defined by the UN and EUROSTAT. In addition, 50% of optional contents (additional characteristics or unobligatory content) has also been taken over.
2. The Census 2001 must be, to the greatest possible extent, in continuation with the Census 1991 so that all changes that occurred in that period may be evaluated and considered.

The Census is the biggest statistical survey in the Republic of Croatia in which, in 2001, some 27 000 people will participate, of which some 22 000 as enumerators.

The Census is the most complete source of socio-demographic data that are collected for the whole country with the situation on the so called "Census day" (31 March 2001), which facilitates comparison and shows differences between different areas of the Republic of Croatia more accurately.

Data collected in the Census are used for planning of the number and allocation of kindergartens, schools, hospitals and other health institutions, pensioners' homes, of future needs in the field of the public transport and other. Therefore, the data collection is used by the state government bodies, economic subjects and by other organisations and individual persons.

As the Republic of Croatia does not dispose of the data on the number of persons with particular types of invalidity, the Committee for Labour, Social Welfare and Health Service of the Croatian National Parliament (based on the proposition of the Croatian Union of Associations of Body Invalids) has proposed to the Parliament to add a question on invalidity into the Census 2001. It would allow for the collection of both the number of persons with invalidity and also for particular types of invalidity together with the data on physical mobility of invalid persons.

The Census 2001 is the first census containing questions on invalidity, which is a practice in some developed countries as well.

