UNECE Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses

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Outline

– Censuses in the UNECE region
– Terms of reference
– Available material
– Topics
– Timetable
– Methods of work
– Membership
Censuses in the UNECE region (1)
Censuses in the UNECE region (2)

Traditional censuses (37 countries):
– Without using register information (26 including no census)
– Supported by register data used only as frame or control (9)
– Yearly updates of characteristics on a sample basis (1)
– Rolling census = cumulative continuous survey (1)
Censuses in the UNECE region (3)

Combined censuses (10 countries):
– Register plus full field enumeration for selected variables (4)
– Register plus sample field data for selected variables (6)

Register-based censuses (9 countries):
– Register plus reusing existing sample survey data (3)
– Register data only (6)
Terms of reference

- CES Bureau conducted an in-depth review of diversification of population census methodology and sources in October 2015
- New Task Force on register-based and combined censuses was created in February 2016
- Objective is to prepare new UNECE Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses
- New Task Force reports to the UNECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses (that reports to the CES and its Bureau)
Available material

- Papers collected at the UNECE website http://www1.unece.org/stat/platform/display/censuses/Collection+of+papers+on+transitions+to+new+census+methods
– Scope of the new UNECE Guidelines and definitions of register-based and combined censuses
  - Registers: a systematic collection of unit-level data organized in such a way that updating is possible;
  - Administrative data: data holdings that contain information collected primarily for administrative (not research or statistical) purposes;
  - Statistical registers: registers created for statistical purposes.
Topics (2)

– Quality of registers and administrative data to be used in censuses (to be worked out)
– Necessary conditions, advantages, disadvantages, opportunities and threats for register-based and combined censuses (to be worked out)
– Transition from traditional to register-based and combined censuses (to be worked out)
– Essential features and quality of register-based and combined censuses (to be worked out)
– Relevant literature (still to be added)
Timetable

– February 2016: Task Force established
– September 2016: Presentation of progress report at UNECE-Eurostat Expert Meeting on Censuses
– September 2017: Presentation of draft guidelines at UNECE-Eurostat Expert Meeting on Censuses
– December 2017: Submission of final draft guidelines for review by CES Bureau
– February 2018: Review of draft guidelines by CES Bureau
– April 2018: Endorsement by CES plenary session
Methods of work

Methods of work:
- English only
- By e-mail and teleconferences
- Meetings with substantial number of Task Force members in connection with census events
Membership

15 countries:
  – Austria, Canada, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands (chair), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, United Kingdom and United States

3 international organisations:
  – Eurostat, FAO and UNECE (secretariat)