

UNITED NATIONS
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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN STATISTICIANS

STATISTICAL OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION (EUROSTAT)

Group of Experts on Population and Housing Censuses
Geneva, Switzerland, 18–20 September 2019

CALL FOR PAPERS

I. EXPLANATORY NOTES ON THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION TOPICS

A. Results of tests with regard to methodology, technology, participation, and other aspects

In this session, countries will present test results on innovative methodology, technology, new data sources, and other aspects of the census. With regard to a traditional census, the issues to be discussed also include factors that might influence participation and what countries are doing to mitigate this risk. Countries that have already carried out a census in the 2020 round will share their experience.

In the 2020 census round, a significant number of UNECE countries are planning or considering the adoption of innovative census technologies, particularly for data collection. They include the Internet response option, which in some countries will be the main enumeration method, and the use of tablets or other handheld devices for field data collection.

B. Measurement of the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses (progress report by the Task Force)

In February 2018, the CES Bureau established the Task Force on Measuring the Quality of Administrative Sources for Use in Censuses. The task force will present at the meeting the progress of its work and seek feedback. Countries will also have the opportunity to share their experiences in measuring the quality of administrative sources for censuses with reference to past censuses or the preparations for the 2020 round.

C. Research on the use of administrative data for censuses

Available information on plans for the 2020 census round show that a considerable number of UNECE countries, particularly in Western Europe, will increasingly adopt alternative census

methodologies, often making use of data from administrative and multiple sources. In this session, countries will present the results of research on the use of administrative data for censuses, in the framework of register-based or combined censuses.

D. Future censuses beyond 2020 (progress report by the Steering Group)

The future of censuses beyond 2020 was discussed at the UNECE-Eurostat expert meetings in 2017 and 2018. Consensus emerged that providing data on a decennial basis will no longer be acceptable, and that more frequent updates will be necessary. In February 2018, the CES Bureau requested the UNECE Steering Group on Censuses to prepare in-depth analysis on the future of population and housing censuses after the 2020 round. The Steering Group will present at the meeting the progress of its work and seek feedback.

E. Dissemination

The dissemination of census results should be given prominent importance in all countries regardless of their census methodology, because “only used statistics are useful statistics”. Considering the huge resources normally spent to conduct the census and produce the most relevant and accurate results, it is fundamental that adequate resources are invested and appropriate means are identified to disseminate the census results.

Countries will have the opportunity to share information on their plans for census dissemination, including different media to be used and products to be developed to satisfy the needs of different categories of users.

F. Geo-spatial information and censuses

Over recent years, in most countries, the demand for geo-referenced census data has increased significantly. At the same time, the technology available to produce and disseminate geo-referenced statistical data has improved rapidly, and the costs have often decreased, making this technology relatively affordable for an increasing number of countries.

Some countries have already accumulated experience in producing and disseminating grid or other geo-referenced statistics as outputs of their censuses, while others still have limited experience. The session will provide an opportunity to exchange experiences, present results, and discuss opportunities and challenges.

G. Big data and censuses

The possible use of “big data” either as a direct source of census data or for improving the coverage and quality of address lists will be discussed in this session. The results of tests, when available, will be presented, so that the experiences of single countries will be discussed and possibly compared with those from other countries.

H. Leaving no one behind – Dealing with hard-to-count and vulnerable population groups in the census

The pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is to leave no one behind and to endeavour to reach the furthest behind first. Censuses are a fundamental tool for achieving this, since they permit disaggregation by sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability or geographic location, at a level of granularity not permitted by other sources. Such information is essential for producing meaningful SDG indicators to monitor commitments and design policies. Some vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, however, are particularly hard to count in the census – either because they are hard to reach, such as the homeless, undocumented immigrants or older people living in institutions, or because they are hard to identify, such as gender minorities who are not identifiable in most current census questionnaires. Countries using registers face additional challenges in dealing with hard-to-reach and hard-to-count groups. This session will look at how censuses need to adapt to fulfil the 'no-one left behind' commitment and the role of censuses in SDG monitoring and evaluation.

II. INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES

Participants are welcome to submit a paper for any topic on the agenda. Papers can be submitted in English, French or Russian. Papers will be translated if submitted by the deadline indicated below, and within the limits of the translation capacity available.

All papers submitted will be disseminated on the meeting web page. However, it may not be possible for all papers to be presented at the meeting, to leave sufficient time for discussion. The UNECE Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses will review the papers submitted and select the papers to be presented. Any papers not selected for presentation will be summarized by the chair or a discussant.

The following deadlines and requirements apply:

- Meeting participants who intend to contribute a paper should inform the UNECE secretariat by **15 May 2019**, indicating the tentative title, the agenda item to which the paper refers, and attaching a short abstract (between 100 and 200 words).
- The papers should be prepared using the templates available on the meeting web page: <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50817>
- The full final versions of papers, not exceeding 15 pages including charts, annexes and references, should be sent to UNECE in Word format by **5 June 2019**.
- Presenters are encouraged to use Powerpoint presentations, and to send them to the UNECE Secretariat by 10 September 2019.
- All submissions should be addressed to the UNECE Secretariat, Mr. Paolo Valente, e-mail paolo.valente@un.org with copy to social.stats@un.org

Contributors are reminded that the success of the meeting depends upon the ability to translate materials in advance and the opportunity for participants to read the papers before the meeting. Therefore, these deadlines must be strictly adhered to.

Papers will be made available on the website of the UNECE secretariat at the following location:
<http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50817>

III. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

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