THE CURRENT STATUS OF CENSUS OPERATIONS IN ARMENIA

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Prior to the aggravation of the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic situation in Armenia, the RA 2020 population census preparations were carried out according to the planned schedule, but then the chances of normal implementation of the scheduled census preparations, were significantly reduced.

Taking into account this circumstance, the term of conducting the census in 2020 was postponed by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia to be conducted in October 14-23, 2021. In accordance to which the schedule of the preparation and conduction of census activities was also revised.
What are the news in 2021 Population Census

• The Census 2021 will be conducted in a **combined method** for the first time

• **Administrative data** will be used to obtain the minimum set of variables of the population census (personal code; name, surname and patronymic, if certified documents are presented; status /residence or refugee/; actual registration address; sex; citizenship; ethnicity; date of birth /day, month, year/ and birth place;

• **A sample survey** will be conducted to collect all the **variables** defined by the census program

• The data will be collected with **tablets** (using CSPro package)
Before the general census, a Pilot Population census was conducted to test the *methodological, organizational principles, processing programs and technology*.

It was carried out in October 3-12, 2019 in 2 Marzes (regions) of the RA (Kotayk and Shirak), covering 1% of population.

The base information was received from the Population Register, which was then updated with the information available from the BMIS and other available registers, combined with the data collected through 25 % sample population, using tablets.
CURRENT STATUS OF THE CENSUS ACTIVITIES

• The experience of pilot Census conducted in October 2019 revealed that for the combination of Population Register and Boarder Management Information System for the conduction of Population census in the Republic of Armenia, it is necessary to develop and introduce a system consisting of software and server means.

• Since the beginning of the year, Armstat, with the support of the partners maintaining these administrative registers, initiated the development of a technical task for the procurement of the Software Development Services and then the procurement process.
Currently (at mid September) the program is finalized and Armstat has access to the data from the population register, matched with the data from the border management information system, with the possibility of daily update.

This developed system gives the possibility to assess the quantitative indicators of the population of the Republic of Armenia from the Population Register, as well as the data on foreigners and citizens of the Republic of Armenia, including the nominal data available in the SPR by gender, age distribution and others.

Though the main program has been launched, but there are still works to be done to correct some missing or incorrect information by means of other registers that are not yet connected to the general system.
POPULATION CENSUS PROGRAM (CONTENT OF QUESTIONNAIRE) AND OUTPUT

• Now we are in the phase of finding the best solution on how to combine administrative data and census database from the collected sample information for the creation of census dataset.

• The census questionnaire is also being revised after the pilot census. It was sent to various institutions of the Republic of Armenia, as well as to international organizations. Various suggestions are received, and now the questionnaire is in the final stage of revision.

• Expert assistance was expected at the first half of the year, especially with some technical issues of the CSPro and sampling, but due to the pandemic it was postponed.
Thank you!

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