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Factors affecting countries' ability to respond to *Demographic Yearbook* data requests - The case of Hungary

By

Árpád Mészáros
Hungarian Central Statistical Office

A. Commitment

1. In Hungary demography looks back upon old traditions. The first full-scope population census – meeting even today’s requirements – was held in 1869, and subsequently, regular population censuses have been conducted once every ten years. Parallel with the census, the vital statistics system was launched in 1876, which has regularly presented results since then. Hungarian statisticians have been traditionally proud of these demographic achievements and the publicity of their results. They consider that an etalon of their work is -- how much policy makers and scientists make use of their data, and to what extent they can meet the data requirements of various international organisations.

B. Participation in international scientific life

2. Statisticians dealing with demography in Hungary regularly take part in the activities of international organisations and scientific forums on demographic issues. These events make it possible to sustain their interest towards new phenomena in demography, and to participate in discussions on the causes and consequence variables. Through international contacts, information on not only changes in population growth, but also on new methods of survey and analysis, can be accessed. As a result, statisticians follow up changes in concepts, classifications, using them for planning and conducting surveys, giving priority to recommendations of the United Nations.

C. Framing of the data collection and data processing systems

(a) System of data collection

3. Vital statistics-supply operates along with the system of traditional registration of vital events. At the settlement level, the person who keeps the register is responsible for supplying vital statistics. Specifically, vital statistical questionnaires are filled up in the hospitals (in case of births, deaths, induced abortions, foetal losses), at the courts (in case of divorces) and at the Registrar Offices (in case of divorces). The completed questionnaires are sent to the local (county) offices of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office (HCSO) within days after the occurrence of the vital events. At the county statistical offices, the statisticians check the completeness of the completed questionnaires, and make the data-entry. The data-entry is made in the county offices, but the entered data are stored in the central database (which is located not in the county offices, but in the Central Office in Budapest).

4. The completeness of data collection is assured through continuous control over the vital and registered events at individual level. (Because of the legal consequences and priorities

these events are registered shortly after occurrence). Local county offices of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, working in 20 administrative units of the country collect, control and process the vital statistical information.

(b) Speed of data preparation

4. The county directorates of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office receive the completed vital registration forms on a continuous basis, and check the entries for completeness and accuracy. Through controlled data-entry, the data are directly transferred to the central database. Annual datasets can be considered completed on 31st March of the next year. After controlling the data and defining or creating the relevant variables the database is completed by mid May. Datasets are stored in ORACLE database. Statisticians and other users can then access all vital statistical databases containing micro-data SAS programming system.

(c) Flexible data access

5. A user-friendly database with micro-data is accessible on-line. This way, all data requests can be met; depending on whether or not the survey collected the relevant information, and whether or not the methodology used followed international recommendations. Given that data collection takes into account international recommendations, availability of data to meet data requests is not a problem. Providing the requested data in a timely manner is assured by flexible data retrieval possibilities.

D. Systematisation of data supply

6. Each year, several data requests on vital statistics are received from regional and international organisations, including the United Nations, Eurostat, Council of Europe, WHO-Europe, and WHO-Geneva. Some of the requests are through harmonised data collection arrangements involving some organisations, while others are from organisations that contact the Hungarian Central Statistical Office directly. In some cases, the Office does not exactly know what type of data have been acquired by different organisations (mainly because of arrangements between organizations in data redistribution, exchange and transfer). It may be regarded as a shortcoming if data, available in the country, are not published in publications of international organisations. International organisations could follow Eurostat's practice of regularly informing its member countries of the kind of data that exist in the Eurostat database on the country and relating the available data to those that were requested. (Annexes 1 and 2 respectively present examples of these data sheets). With this approach, data-supplying countries have an opportunity to view what data are missing from the database of the

international organisation and make efforts to fully meet data requests of international organisations.

7. In the view of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, the main factors affecting countries' ability to respond to *Demographic Yearbook* data requests are:

- commitment to publish demographic data for wide use,
- knowledge on main demographic processes and determination to make the data collection system responsive to emerging demographic questions,
- ability and possibility to organize a data collection and data processing system, which covers all events, use the internationally accepted concepts and classifications, and to produce data in reasonable time,
- capacity to provide the data in timely fashion.

Annex 1

Hungary (HU)

TABLE A. Key totals and indicators for previous years

Totaux et indicateurs clefs pour les années antérieures

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Population on 1st January - Males / Population au 1er janvier - Hommes					
Population on 1st January - Females / Population au 1er janvier - Femmes					
Total fertility rate / Indicateur conjoncturel de fécondité					
Mean age at childbearing / Age moyen à la maternité*					
Total first marriage rate - Males / Indicateur conjoncturel de primo-nuptialité - Hommes					
Mean age at first marriage - Males / Age moyen au premier mariage - Hommes **					
Total first marriage rate - Females / Indicateur conjoncturel de primo-nuptialité - Femmes					
Mean age at first marriage - Females / Age moyen au premier mariage - Femmes **					
Life expectancy at birth - Males / Espérance de vie à la naissance - Hommes					
Life expectancy at birth - Females / Espérance de vie à la naissance - Femmes					
Infant mortality rate / Taux de mortalité infantile					
Live births / Naissances vivantes					
Marriages / Mariages					
Divorces / Divorces					
Deaths / Décès					

* **Based on rates and not on events / Calculé sur les taux et non sur les événements**

** **Based on rates, and not on events, and limited at age 50 / Calculé sur les taux, et non sur les événements, et limité à 50 ans**

TABLE B. Missing, provisional data or estimates or apparent inconsistencies in the figures

Données manquantes, provisoires ou estimées ou apparentes incohérences dans les données

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
T01. Total population by sex and age on 1st January					
T02. Single (never married) population by sex and age on 1st January					
T03. Married population by sex and age on 1st January					
T04. Widowed population by sex and age on 1st January					
T05. Divorced population by sex and age on 1st January					
T06. Live births by month and day					
T07. Live births by marital status, age and year of birth of the mother					
T08. Live births by sex					
T09. Live births by order, age and year of birth of the mother					
T10. Marriages by month and day					
T11. Marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom					
T12. First marriages by sex, age and year of birth					
T13. Divorces by duration of marriage reached during the year					
T14. Total and infant deaths (deaths under 1 year of age) by month					
T15. Infant deaths by age and sex					
T16. Deaths by sex, age and year of birth					
T17. Late foetal deaths by age of the mother					
T18. Legally induced abortions by age of the mother					

M = missing table / tableaux manquants I = inconsistencies / incohérences P = provisional / provisoires E = estimates / estimations

Annex 2

Status of data requested from Eurostat Member Countries

NEW CRONOS: LIST OF DATA NEEDED

T01 : Population by age at 1st January
 T02 : Single population by age at 1st January
 T03 : Married population by age at 1st January
 T04 : Widowed population by age at 1st January
 T05 : Divorced population by age at 1st January
 T06 : Live births by month
 T07 : Live births by age (Total) *
 T07 : Live births outside marriage by age (NMAR) *
 T07 : Legitimate live births by age (MAR) *

COUNTRIES / TABLES	T01	T02	T03	T04	T05	T06	T07 Completed	T07 Completed	T07 Completed
BE BELGIUM							1958 to 1960, 1961 to 1982, 1988-1989		
DK DENMARK									
DE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY									
GR GREECE									
ES SPAIN									
FR FRANCE									
IE IRELAND							2000	2000	1991-1992, 2000
IT ITALY							1992 to 1997, 1999-2000		
LU LUXEMBOURG									
NL NETHERLANDS									
AT AUSTRIA									
PT PORTUGAL									
FL FINLAND									
SE SWEDEN								All available years	1978
UK UNITED KINGDOM	1972 to 1989, 2001						2000		1998
IS ICELAND									
LJ LIECHTENSTEIN	1998								

NEW CRONOS: LIST OF DATA
NEEDED

T07 : Live births by age (Total) *
 T07 : Live births outside marriage by age (NMAR) *
 T07 : Legitimate live births by age (MAR) *
 T08 : Live births by sex *
 T09 : Live births by birth order and age *
 T09 : Live births by birth order and age *
 T10 : Marriages by month *
 T11 : Marriages by previous marital status of bride and groom *
 T12 : First marriages of men by age *

COUNTRIES / TABLES	T07 Reached	T07 Reached	T07 Reached	T08	T09 Completed	T09 Reached	T10	T11	T12 Completed
BE BELGIUM	1954 to 1989			1950 to 1982, 1984, 1985, 1993 to 2001					2000
DK DENMARK	1950 to 1989							1970	
DE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY				1950 to 1990, 2001				1960 to 1989	
GR GREECE				1950 to 1982					
ES SPAIN	1971 to 1975			1950 to 1982, 1984 to 1986					
FR FRANCE				1950 to 1979, 2001					
IE IRELAND				1950 to 1982, 1985					1980, 1987-1988, 1995-1996
IT ITALY				1950 to 1982, 2001				1974, 1997	
LU LUXEMBOURG				1950 to 1979					
NL NETHERLANDS				1950 to 1982					
AT AUSTRIA				1950 to 1982					
PT PORTUGAL				1950 to 1982	True birth order 1990 to 1998	True birth order 1990 to 1998			
FL FINLAND	1960 to 1974			1950 to 1979, 1982					
SE SWEDEN				1950 to 1982					
UK UNITED KINGDOM				1950 to 1982				1970, 1988, 1989	
IS ICELAND				1950 to 1979					
LJ LIECHTENSTEIN				1950 to 1979, 1998 to 2001					

NEW CRONOS: LIST OF DATA
NEEDED

T12 : First marriages of women by age *

T13 : Divorces by marriage duration and year of marriage

T14 : Deaths by month of occurrence for total deaths

T15 : Infant deaths by sex and age

T16 : Deaths by age *

T16 : Deaths by age *

T17 : Late foetal deaths by age of the mother

T18 : Legal abortion by age of the mother

COUNTRIES / TABLES	T12 Reached	T13	T14	T15	T16 Completed	T16 Reached	T17	T18
BE BELGIUM		1969 to 1972, 1974, 1975, 1977		1996 to 1998			1988	1992-1994
DK DENMARK								
DE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY				1963 to 1974		1990	1970-1971	1992
GR GREECE								
ES SPAIN		1981 to 1995		1960 to 1974				
FR FRANCE							1971	
IE IRELAND				1984 to 1985		1997	1988-1989	
IT ITALY		1972		1998				1980 to 1993
LU LUXEMBOURG					2000			
NL NETHERLANDS								1991
AT AUSTRIA								
PT PORTUGAL							1971, 1979 to 1994, 1999-2000	
FL FINLAND						1985, 1996 to 1999	1980	
SE SWEDEN							1970	
UK UNITED KINGDOM				1993, 1997, 2001	1965 to 1988		1980, 1987-1988, 1990-1994, 1999	1970, 1992, 2001
IS ICELAND				1962, 1994	1962 to 1968, 1970 to 1975, 1977-1978, 1980 to 1984	1998		1994, 1996
LJ LIECHTENSTEIN								

NEW CRONOS: LIST OF DATA
NEEDED

T01 : Population by age at 1st January
 T02 : Single population by age at 1st January
 T03 : Married population by age at 1st January
 T04 : Widowed population by age at 1st January
 T05 : Divorced population by age at 1st January
 T06 : Live births by month
 T07 : Live births by age (Total) *
 T07 : Live births outside marriage by age (NMAR) *
 T07 : Legitimate live births by age (MAR) *

COUNTRIES / TABLES	T01	T02	T03	T04	T05	T06	T07 Completed	T07 Completed	T07 Completed
<i>NO NORWAY</i>									
<i>CH SWITZERLAND</i>									
<i>BG BULGARIA</i>									
<i>CY CYPRUS</i>	2000-2001						1989-1990, 1992		
<i>CZ CZECH REPUBLIC</i>	2000								
<i>EE ESTONIA</i>							1989 to 1999		
<i>HU HUNGARY</i>									
<i>LT LITHUANIA</i>	1998								
<i>LV LATVIA</i>									
<i>MT MALTA</i>									
<i>PL POLAND</i>									
<i>RO ROMANIA</i>	1960 to 1975								
<i>SL SLOVENIA</i>	1980-1984, 1986								
<i>SK SLOVAK REPUBLIC</i>	2001-2002								
<i>BA BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</i>	1960 to 1991, 1997-1998								
<i>HR CROATIA</i>	1960 to 1996, 1998								
<i>MK The former Yugos.Rep.of Macedonia</i>	1960 to 1992								
<i>YU SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO</i>	1960 to 1996								
<i>AL ALBANIA</i>	1960 to 1996, 1998								

* When filling in Tables T07, T09, T12 and T16 of the attached Appendix 1, it is only necessary to provide the information for the requested type of age (completed or reached) or marriage (legitimate or not)

NEW CRONOS: LIST OF DATA
NEEDED

T07 : Live
births by age
(Total) *

T07 : Live
births outside
marriage by
age (NMAR) *

T07 :
Legitimate
live births by
age (MAR) *

T08 : Live
births by sex

T09 : Live births by
birth order and age
*

T09 : Live births by
birth order and age
*

T10 :
Marriages by
month

T11 : Marriages by
previous marital
status of bride and
groom

T12 : First
marriages of
men by age *

COUNTRIES / TABLES	T07 Reached	T07 Reached	T07 Reached	T08	T09 Completed	T09 Reached	T10	T11	T12 Completed
NO NORWAY				1950 to 1979, 1998					1991, 1997-1998
CH SWITZERLAND				1950 to 1979, 1991				1999	
BG BULGARIA				1950 to 1960					
CY CYPRUS				1950 to 1960, 2001					
CZ CZECH REPUBLIC				1950 to 1959					
EE ESTONIA	1995 to 2000			1950 to 1960, 2000					
HU HUNGARY				1950 to 1959					
LT LITHUANIA				1950 to 1959,1992 to 1994					1996
LV LATVIA				1950 to 1959				1996-1997	1972, 1978, 1989, 1992
MT MALTA				1950 to 1959, 1996					
PL POLAND				1950 to 1959					
RO ROMANIA				1950 to 1959				1996	
SL SLOVENIA				1950 to 1959					
SK SLOVAK REPUBLIC				1950 to 1959					
BA BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA				1950 to 1959, 1992 to 1995, 1998, 2000, 2001					
HR CROATIA				1950 to 1959, 1998 to 2000					1999
MK The former Yugos.Rep.of Macedonia				1950 to 1959, 1998, 2000, 2001					
YU SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO				1950 to 1959, 1961 to 1964, 1966 to 1969, 1971 to 1974, 1976 to 1979, 1981 to 1984, 1996, 1998					
AL ALBANIA				1950 to 1959, 1998, 2000, 2001					

NEW CRONOS: LIST OF DATA
NEEDED

T12 : First marriages of women by age *

T13 : Divorces by marriage duration and year of marriage

T14 : Deaths by month of occurrence for total deaths

T15 : Infant deaths by sex and age

T16 : Deaths by age *

T16 : Deaths by age *

T17 : Late foetal deaths by age of the mother

T18 : Legal abortion by age of the mother

COUNTRIES / TABLES	T12 Reached	T13	T14	T15	T16 Completed	T16 Reached	T17	T18
<i>NO NORWAY</i>	1997-1998			1960 to 1979	1951 to 1972, 1980, 1983, 1986, 1998			
<i>CH SWITZERLAND</i>				1963				
<i>BG BULGARIA</i>								1992 to 1993
<i>CY CYPRUS</i>				1969, 1998				
<i>CZ CZECH REPUBLIC</i>		2000-2001					1997	
<i>EE ESTONIA</i>								1998
<i>HU HUNGARY</i>								
<i>LT LITHUANIA</i>								1989-1990
<i>LV LATVIA</i>		1960 to 1993 (Reached)		1962, 1964-65, 1970				
<i>MT MALTA</i>				1964, 1968, 1973-74, 1985				
<i>PL POLAND</i>								1965, 1970, 1975
<i>RO ROMANIA</i>								1970
<i>SL SLOVENIA</i>		1993			1982	1982		
<i>SK SLOVAK REPUBLIC</i>							1978	1999
<i>BA BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA</i>				1988, 1997				
<i>HR CROATIA</i>								1998
<i>MK The former Yugos.Rep.of Macedonia</i>								
<i>YU SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO</i>				1997				1994
<i>AL ALBANIA</i>		1965, 1976, 1992, 1995						