

# United Nations Statistical Commission

## Fifty-third session

Item 3 (e) of the provisional agenda

### Items for discussion and decision: population and housing censuses

#### Document E/CN.3/2022/8 – Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme

<i>Statement provided by:</i> Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia	
<i>Statement:</i> <p>Latvia thanks for the report on the implementation of the 2020 Population and housing census. Census data are critical to obtaining a comprehensive picture of every country's population - not only for the country as a whole but also by detailed geographical breakdown, ethnic composition, level of urbanization, gender structure, age structure and other population characteristics. These statistics have always been of high interest to society as a whole. Therefore, Latvia accentuates the importance of the Population and housing census as a primary source of data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of policies.</p> <p>Official statistics are continuously challenged by quickly changing and evolving user needs, especially in terms of timeliness, levels of breakdown and measuring new phenomena. The Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia has wholly changed the Population and housing census approach during the last ten years, switching from traditional census data collection to a fully registers-based census. When the decision was taken, administrative data sources were considered as "new data sources". This is just another example of fast-changing data environment.</p> <p>During these years, Latvia invested in the development of methodology, strengthening cooperation with administrative data holders, improving the quality of registers, receiving support from data users. As a result, Central Statistical Bureau of Latvia was able to publish first Census data on 28 May 2021, in 5 months time after the Census date of 1 January 2021, followed by in a 1 km<sup>2</sup> grid dataset in July 2021. First release date was marked with international Census conference and Academical breakfast with scientific sector to raise the visibility of Census in Latvia, to promote academic debate and in to further strengthen partnerships with main data users.</p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic has brought a lot of extra challenges for statistical community, between other reasons, in the light of suspended face to face interviews. Response rates for social surveys continue to decrease. Therefore, continuous efforts to access qualitative national administrative data, including population registers, is of utmost importance to provide yearly and detailed data on population.</p> <p><a href="https://www.csp.gov.lv/en/population-and-housing-census-2021">https://www.csp.gov.lv/en/population-and-housing-census-2021</a></p>	
<i>Submitted on:</i>	2/17/2022

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