

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

Statement provided by:



Statement:

Poland aligns itself with the European Union's common position.

The implementation of the 2020 census round was associated with the risk posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The impact of the pandemic on various areas of social, economic, political, and financial life also affected statistics, including the implementation of surveys/censuses.

Due to the situation, some countries decided to postpone the census. However, bearing in mind how valuable the census results for policymaking during and after the pandemic can be, Statistics Poland did not postpone the census implementation to a later date. Instead, several innovative solutions were added to those already planned for this census round to facilitate census in unstable and challenging pandemic conditions. Additionally, carrying out two trial censuses and the agricultural census allowed for the collection of helpful experiences before the population census was carried out.

We successfully executed the population census at the lowest costs in modern Polish history by combining precise preparation, quick collection, and use of experience related to operation during a pandemic and absolute focus on effectiveness and efficiency.

The pandemic influenced the reorganization of the census. It forced a different view on its efficient and effective organization, resulting in new solutions, such as:

The following should be mentioned among the most crucial success factors:

- thoughtful methodological and organizational assumptions and detailed preparation;
- mixed-method with a profound use of administrative registers and other sources;
- remote recruitment and training of enumerators;
- variety of census-taking techniques: CAWI, CATI, reversed-CATI ('on request'), CAPI;
- agile management methods, enabling immediate reactions to a changing pandemic situation, supported by detailed real-time monitoring of the census progress through a dedicated system of dashboards;
- state-of-the-art internally developed IT systems;
- fixed and itinerant census-taking points;
- an extensive communication and promotion campaign;
- deep commitment to cooperation with the most critical stakeholders, with the broad local authority and public engagement.

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Statistics Poland is ready to share its experiences in an international forum and work for the next census rounds. The existence and development of platforms to exchange international experience in organizing and conducting censuses is a desirable approach that will allow adapting effective solutions in countries, improving the existing ones.

Referring to the encouragement to establish a separate statistical population register, Statistics Poland does not plan to do so because (following the Act on Official Statistics) the President of Statistics Poland already maintains a Population Sampling Frame, where the necessary information on entities subject to statistical observation is included. The frame is continuously updated using official registers and public information systems, statistical surveys, and the census. Therefore, it can be concluded that Poland has at its disposal properly prepared integrated databases, including the results of the population and housing census of the last round.

Submitted on:

2/25/2022