



EU population statistics - beyond 2021

Eurostat - Population and migration

Adam Wronski

David Thorogood

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I. Triggers for change

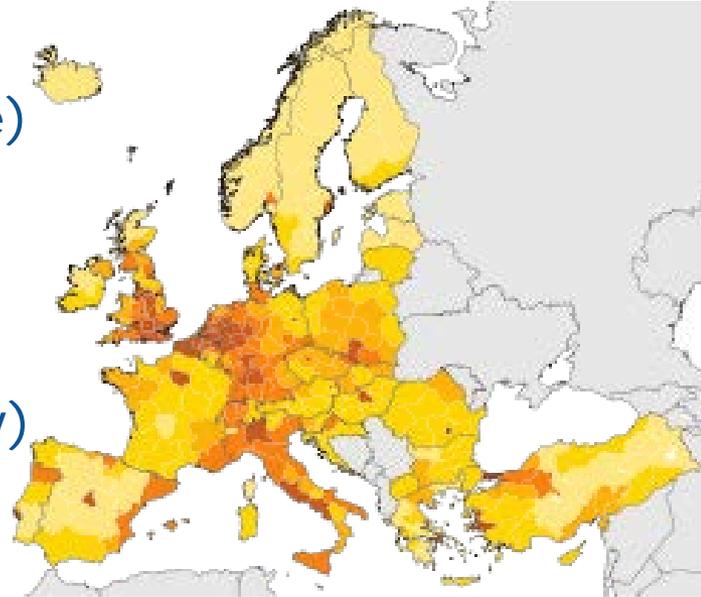
Changing needs for census-type data

- Rapidly changing societies and economies
 - Increasing need for more frequent and more timely data
 - Data available only every 10 years, disseminated several years after the reference date, are no longer sufficient
- Increasing scale and complexity of migration
 - Need for comprehensive socio-economic data on migrant and non-migrant populations

I. Triggers for change

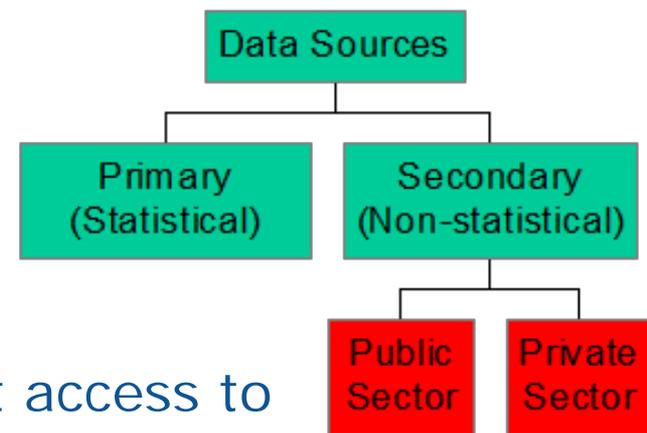
Population census and its relevance

- Main distinctions of census (relevance)
 - Geographically detailed
 - Universality
- But ...
 - LAU evolves quickly (comparability)
 - Timeliness
 - Expensive
- Can we preserve the unique value of the census – complex, detailed, small area data – but have this information more frequently and rapidly?
- Is there an opportunity?



I. Triggers for change

Administrative data



- Used for long time in some countries but access to administrative data is increasing and more countries are now using these data
- Takes long time to integrate into official statistics
 - Gradually increasing confidence in methods & data quality
- Advances in technology and methodology
 - data processing, transmission, geo-referencing
 - signs of life
- Budgets for statistics becoming limited
- Increasingly difficult to ensure public cooperation with a traditional census enumeration

➔ Population statistics evolves

I. Triggers for change

Administrative data - evolution

Method for the 2021 round:

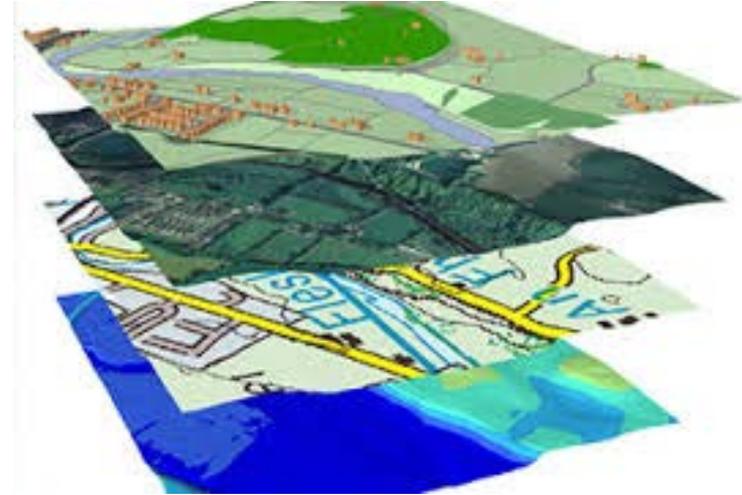
- Administrative data only: 11
- Combined: 11
- Only field: 6

Planned method for next round after 2021:

- Administrative data only: 17
- Combined: 7
- Only field: 4

I. Triggers for change

Geospatial data



- Population distribution needed
 - more spatial data – satellite, aerial
 - exposure, risks, accessibility and cost of services
 - grid offers boundaries that are fixed over time
 - value of merging geospatial data with official statistics
 - territorial typologies such as urban & rural regions, border, coastal areas make direct use of 1km² grid

II. The ESS work done so far

EU level essential unfulfilled needs

Annual

- Migration and related characteristics
- Local level data: cities, FUAs, grid
- Educational attainment
- Current Activity Status

Less frequent

- Commuting
- Institutional population
- Homeless
- People with disabilities

II. The ESS work done so far

Task Force on future EU censuses

Redesign of European population statistics (and census of population), including a new legal base.

- 'A vision for the post-2021 census' – drafted in 2016 by the Task Force members from France, Germany, Netherlands and the UK, working together with Eurostat
- A vision for the future data collection not a strategy or plan
- In October 2016, the DSS:
 - supported improving the timeliness, geo-referencing and frequency of high priority census data, but identified some challenges
 - noted the synergies with demography and other statistics
 - called for a more concrete strategy to be developed

II. The ESS work done so far

Strategy for the post-2021 population statistics

- Framework for development over 10-15 years
- Annual component: core set of demographic & migration topics
 - limited cross-tabulations & less detailed disaggregations
- Flexible and incremental development of the annual data starting from 2024 onwards
 - Ongoing review of data availability, costs, user priorities
 - Possibility of multi-annual intermediate frequency data
- Maintaining and increasing geographical detail of outputs
- Convergence & merging with annual demographic and migration statistics (+ possibly other related statistics)
- Decennial & multiannual component ready
- Coherence with other European social statistics

II. The ESS work done so far

Budapest Memorandum (ESSC, Sept 2017)

- As part of the post-2021 strategy:
to develop & promote an incrementally expanding annual compilation of census-type data as a source of information on the demographic, social & economic characteristics of migrants and of the wider population, ensuring synergies and consistency with existing migration & demographic statistics.
- To support the identification, assessment and adoption of new methods & data sources, particularly the increased use of administrative data sources of appropriate quality ensured through ongoing quality assessment – either single registers, linked data from several administrative sources or combined with survey sources (...)

III. Strategy for the post-2021 population statistics

DSS opinion

- Supported by DSS in March 2018
- Incremental development of annual data collection as user needs change and (administrative) data source availability on national level improves
- Timely annual data disseminated with some for areas of to 1km square (or smaller) grid
- Definitions, in particular of population bases – appropriate to the use of administrative data
- → Develop legislation

III. Strategy for the post-2021 population statistics

New legal base

Coverage:

- Census (763/2008)
- Demography (1260/2013)
- Migration statistics (Art.3, 862/2007)
- Other closely related statistics: cities (demography part), geo-referenced data

Features:

- Annual, multi-annual, decennial data and ad-hoc data possible
- Annual component exclusively based on admin data (from mid-2020s) growing incrementally
- Decennial component and multi-annual modules tbd later by needs and availability
- More local data (LAU2 / geo-grid / cities)

III. Strategy for the post-2021 population statistics

Timetable

2018-2019 - ongoing development and discussion of draft legislation by the Task Force

2020 - Discussion by DSS & ESSC

2022 – Adoption

2022 – Implementing acts

2025 - First annual data provided – reference year 2024

Until 2031 and beyond - gradual implementation

IV. Priorities and issues to consider

Key challenge

Can we preserve the unique value of the census – complex, detailed, small area data – but have some of this information more frequently and rapidly?

IV. Priorities and issues to consider

Main considerations

- Long-term development – difficult to predict future availability of (administrative) sources & changing user priorities
- ➔ flexibility must be built in
- Variety of national practices → harmonisation issues & output focus
- Annual data content dependence on administrative sources
- Long lead time
 - Census production cycle
 - Uncertainty of evolution towards administrative data
 - Evolving user needs
- Ensuring consistency within all demography & migration data
 - Concepts and definitions incl. population bases
 - Timeliness

IV. Priorities and issues to consider

Statistical disclosure control



Issues

- Grid data present particular confidentiality challenges
- Non nested classifications (geographic differencing)
- Small areas / small populations
- Preservation of true unpopulated cells

Aim: harmonised protection of data

- recommended but voluntary
- w/o suppression but swapping + noise
- Successful experience for 2021 census

V. Next steps

- Continuing consultations with data users and NSIs
- Technical discussion on draft of a regulation for population statistics – target finish end-2019
- Seeing if population base can be improved
- Further technical developments
 - First incremental plans for development of annual statistics
 - Specification of statistical units, topics, breakdowns, geographical breakdowns
 - Quality & provision format

A final thought ...

As the census ceases to be a separate statistical action, the boundaries between the census, annual demographic and migration statistics, and other related statistics become blurred.

If this development is to succeed, extensive communication and coordination between census, demographic and migration statisticians will be essential at national and European level.