



**CES Recommendations  
for the 2010 Censuses  
of Population and Housing: looking at  
the changes in census methods in the  
UNECE Region**

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Once upon a time.....

Population Census

=

**Simultaneous** Enumeration in the **field** of **ALL**  
individuals and **THEIR** characteristics

**Traditional Census**



## From ....

Simultaneous enumeration in the field of ALL individuals  
and **their** characteristics

## TO....

Simultaneous enumeration in the field of all individuals and  
of the characteristics of **a sample** of individuals

**Long/Short form (Canada, US, Israel)**



# Long/Short Form

## *Main Advantages*

- Lessen the burden of respondents
- Lessen the burden in data processing

## *Main Disadvantages*

- Can complicate the field operations
- Less geographical and sub-population details for some of the characteristics



## From ....

Simultaneous Enumeration **in the field** of ALL individuals  
and THEIR characteristics

## TO....

Simultaneous Enumeration of all individuals and their  
characteristics **through administrative registers**

**Register-based census (“Nordic countries”)**



# Register-based census

## *Main Advantages*

- Lessen the burden of respondents
- Cheap if cost of register maintenance is not considered
- High frequency

## *Main Disadvantages*

- It relies on the coverage of registers
- It relies on an administrative process
- Not all characteristics can be collected through registers



## From ....

Simultaneous Enumeration **in the field** of ALL individuals  
and THEIR characteristics

## TO....

Simultaneous Enumeration **through the registers and  
the field** of all individuals and the characteristics of all  
individuals

**Combined approach registers-full enumeration  
(Belgium, Latvia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland)**



## Combined approach registers-full enumeration

### *Main Advantages*

- Better coverage
- Improved precision
- Reduce burden of respondents

### *Main Disadvantages*

- It depends on the quality coverage of registers
- Expensive





**From ....**

Simultaneous Enumeration **in the field** of ALL individuals  
and **THEIR** characteristics

**TO....**

Simultaneous Enumeration of all individuals **through the  
registers** and the characteristics **of a sample** of  
individuals

**Combined approach registers-existing surveys  
(The Netherlands)**



## Combined approach registers-existing surveys

### *Main Advantages*

- Cheap if the costs of registers maintenance is not considered
- Reduce burden of respondents (it does not require new data collection)

### *Main Disadvantages*

- Less details for geographical/sub-population groups for some characteristics
- Lack of transparency (results can not be reproduced)
- Weighting issues



## From ....

Simultaneous Enumeration **in the field** of **ALL** individuals  
and **THEIR** characteristics

## TO....

Simultaneous Enumeration of all individuals and their  
characteristics **through the registers** and corrected  
with the enumeration of individuals and characteristics  
**of a sample** of individuals

**Combined approach registers-ad-hoc survey  
(Israel)**



## Combined approach registers-ad-hoc survey

### *Main Advantages*

- Cheaper than traditional census
- Improve the coverage of a register-based census

### *Main Disadvantages*

- Still under study
- Assume that the inconsistency of the population register are due only to internal migration



**From ....**

**Simultaneous** Enumeration in the field of ALL individuals  
and **THEIR** characteristics

**TO....**

Enumeration of all individuals in the field and **annual**  
updates of characteristics on a **sample** basis

**Traditional enumeration with yearly updates of  
characteristics  
(U.S.A.)**



## Traditional enumeration with yearly updates of characteristics

### *Main Advantages*

- Improved frequency and relevance of the data
- More attention to the full enumeration of the population

### *Main Disadvantages*

- More complicated to manage
- Difficult to explain to users the “moving averages”



**From ....**

**Simultaneous** Enumeration in the field of **ALL** individuals  
and **THEIR** characteristics

**TO....**

Enumeration of a **sample** of individuals in the field and  
their characteristics on a **rotation basis**

**Rolling Census**  
**(France)**



## Rolling census

### *Main Advantages*

- Improved frequency and relevance of the data
- Reduced burden of respondents
- Flat budget

### *Main Disadvantages*

- No snapshot of the whole population
- Complicated comparison among geographical areas due to different enumeration times





## Census methodology: countries' practices and future plans in ECE

<b>Census Methodology</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>
Traditional	35 (80%)	22 (51%)
Register-based	3 (7%)	7 (16%)
Register-based + full enum.	5 (11%)	4 (9%)
Register-based+surveys	1 (2%)	8 (19%)
Traditional+yearly updates	-	1 (2%)
Rolling	-	1 (2%)
<b>Total number of countries</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>



## Dilemma in the ECE Region

***What is a census after all?***

***What are the features that distinguish a census from a large sample survey?***



# Dilemma in the ECE Region

.....

***Does it matter?***



# Yes, it is important to give a definition of census

**Classical approach, focus on the method:**

- 1. Individual enumeration**
- 2. Simultaneity**
- 3. Universality**
- 4. Defined periodicity**

**CES approach, focus on the output:**

- 1. Individual enumeration**
- 2. Simultaneity → same reference period**
- 3. Universality → data collected on total population, with coverage check**
- 4. Defined periodicity**
- 5. Small-area data**



## ...And more important...

It is to give quality standards

- coverage check
- small areas and small sub-populations data



## How to change

Can every country move away from a traditional census?

*No!*

*Certain conditions are necessary*



# Conditions to change

## To move to a rolling-type of census

- ✓ Agreement of national stakeholders to move from snapshot-type of data to annually updated multi-year products
- ✓ High level of professional staff on a continual basis
- ✓ Updated master address file



# Conditions to change

## To better use administrative sources

- ✓ Existence of population register and other registers
- ✓ The coverage of the population register should be enough to consider it as a starting point
- ✓ Existence of a PIN or experience in linking records
- ✓ Legislation (sharing records and protect them)
- ✓ Culture of acceptance





## Field enumeration: A variety of methods in 2000

Main enumeration method:	Type of population census:				
	Traditional census (fieldwork)	Registers plus fieldwork	Registers plus exist. survey data	Data from registers only	
Interviewer, paper questionnaire	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b> (Latvia, Slovenia)			<b>23</b>
Self-compiled form, delivered and collected by enum.	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b> (Spain)			<b>10</b>
Self-compiled form, delivered by enum. and mailed back	<b>3</b> (France, Canada, UK)				<b>3</b>
Self-compiled form, mailed-out, collected by enum.	<b>1</b> (Malta)				<b>1</b>
Self-compiled form, mail-out, mail-back	<b>1</b> (USA)	<b>2</b> (Belgium, Switzerland)			<b>3</b>
Enumeration based on registers (no forms)			<b>1</b> (Netherlands)	<b>3</b> (Denmark, Finland, Norway)	<b>4</b>
	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>44</b>



## Expected Changes in the enumeration methods from 2000 to 2010

Type of enumeration	Population censuses			
	2000, ranked importance			2010
	1	2	3 or lower	
Interviewer: Paper form	22	2	0	19
Electronic form	0	0	1	8
Enumerator: Self-completed form collected	9	4	0	12
Self-completed form mailed back	3	0	2	6
Mail-out: Collected by enumerator	1	2	0	3
Mail-back	2	0	1	6
Internet	0	1	1	9
Enumeration based on registers	5	0	0	12



# **CES Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing**



## Purpose of the recommendations:

1. To provide guidance and assistance to CES countries in the planning and conducting of their population and housing census
2. To improve the comparability of the data through the selection of a core set of census topics and the harmonization of definitions and classifications.



# Mandate and history

- Preparation of the Recommendations requested by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
  - First regional recommendations adopted by CES in 1959 for the censuses of the 1960 round
  - Other regional recommendations prepared for 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000 census rounds
- **The CES Recommendations for the 2010 censuses mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the regional recommendations**



## Process for the preparation of the new recommendations:

- Work promoted by UNECE in cooperation with Eurostat
- Overall coordination by the **Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses** (membership: 12 countries + ECE and Eurostat)
- Text of the different chapters drafted by **11 Task Forces**,
- In total, about 100 experts contributed, from 30 NSIs and 9 International Organisations
- Work conducted through meetings of the Task Forces, as well as by email, teleconferences and audioconferences



# The ECE questionnaire on Census practices and programs

## General section:

- methodology
- technology
- organization
- cost
- use of census data
- plans for 2010 Census

## Specialized section:

- Usual residence & population counts
- International migration
- Families and households



# The Task Forces

1. Census Methodology (USA)
2. Census Technology (Australia)
3. Geographical characteristics (Ireland)
4. Demographic characteristics (Hungary)
5. Migration and Ethno-cultural characteristics (Switzerland)
6. Economic characteristics (ILO)
7. Education characteristics (United Kingdom)
8. Disability (Washington Group)
9. Families and Households (Norway)
10. Agriculture (FAO)
11. Housing (United Kingdom)



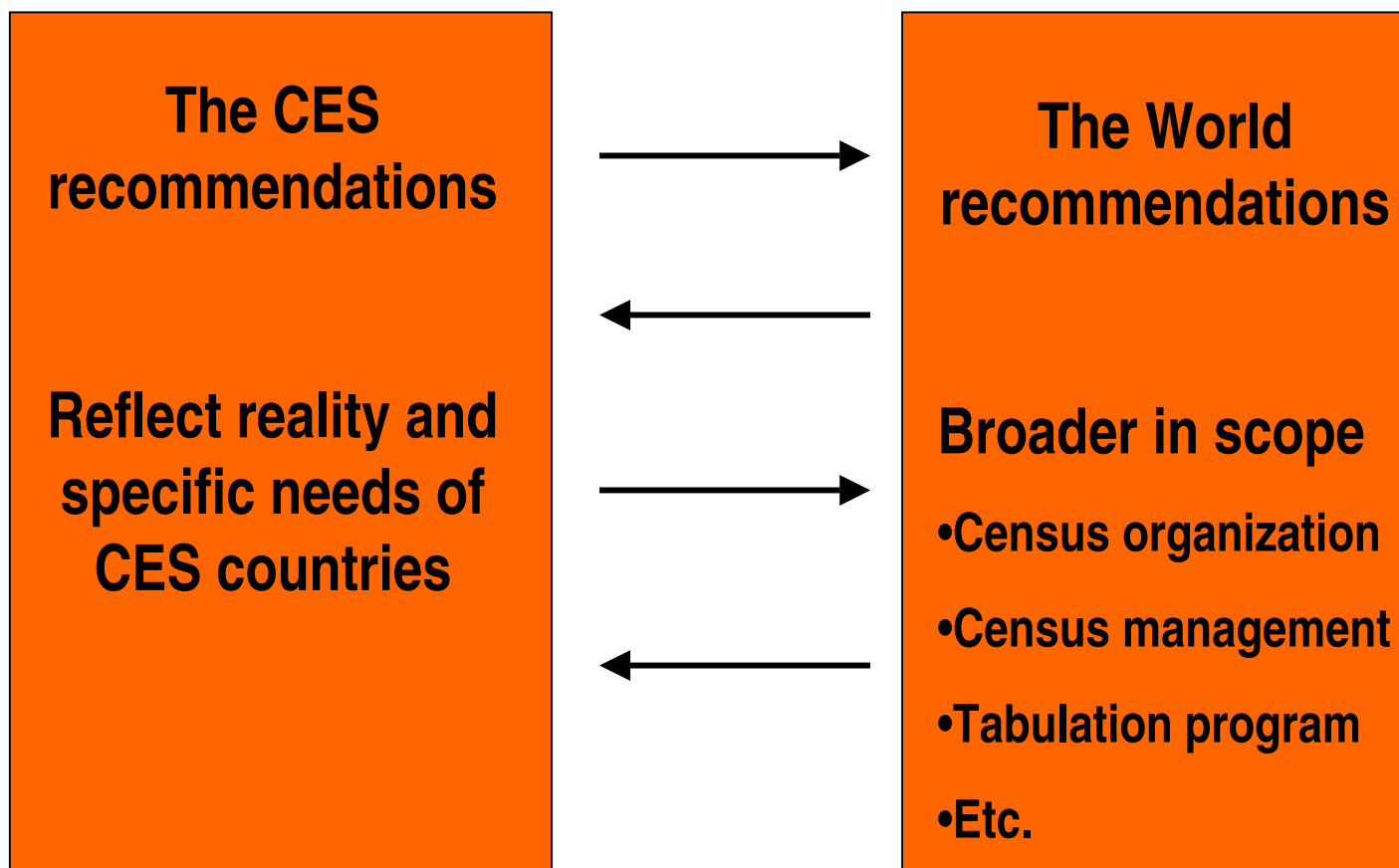


## Timeline:

- Jan. 2004: First meeting of the Steering Group, definition of work plan and identification of “critical” areas
- March 2004: Questionnaires sent out to ECE countries to collect data on 2000 census and plans for 2010
- Oct. 2004: Analysis of results by ECE Secretariat and experts, and preparation of various reports
- Nov. 2004: Joint ECE-Eurostat Work Session to discuss general directions for the new recommendations
- May 2005: Preparation of the first draft of the new rec.
- Dec. 2005: Joint ECE-Eurostat Work Session to discuss the draft text of the new recommendations
- March 2006: Preparation of the final version of the new rec.
- June 2006: Approval of the new recommendations by the CES



# Two parallel processes





# Lessons learnt

- Ensure and solicitate broad participation: crucial for developing and implementing the Census Rec. (ownership)
- Set up a 'reasonable' amount of Task Forces, trade-off between participation and efficiency, and follow their work closely
- Involve census experts as well as 'substantive' experts, possibly consult with data users
- Allow time and resources for editing and translation



# The content of the CES Rec.

- I. Census methodology and technology
- II. Population topics
- III. Housing topics
- IV. Appendices



# Census methodology and technology

- Great variety of approaches across the region: need to assess requirements and pros/cons of all census types
- Purpose of this section is not to recommend a specific approach but rather to inform and guide countries



# Substantive topics: the approach

- Describe the issues: develop the conceptual framework and related definitions
- List topics necessary to collect information
  - **Core topics**: highly recommended for inclusion
  - **Non-core topics**: suggested topics for interested countries



# Highlights on the topics

- Place of usual residence:
  - 12 months rule
  - The concept of “intention to stay” was introduced in the definition
  - Third level students living away from home while studying are counted at the term-time address
- Total population:
  - Include ALL persons who meet the criteria to be considered as usual resident, regardless of the legal status
  - Include undocumented migrants, asylum seekers, etc.



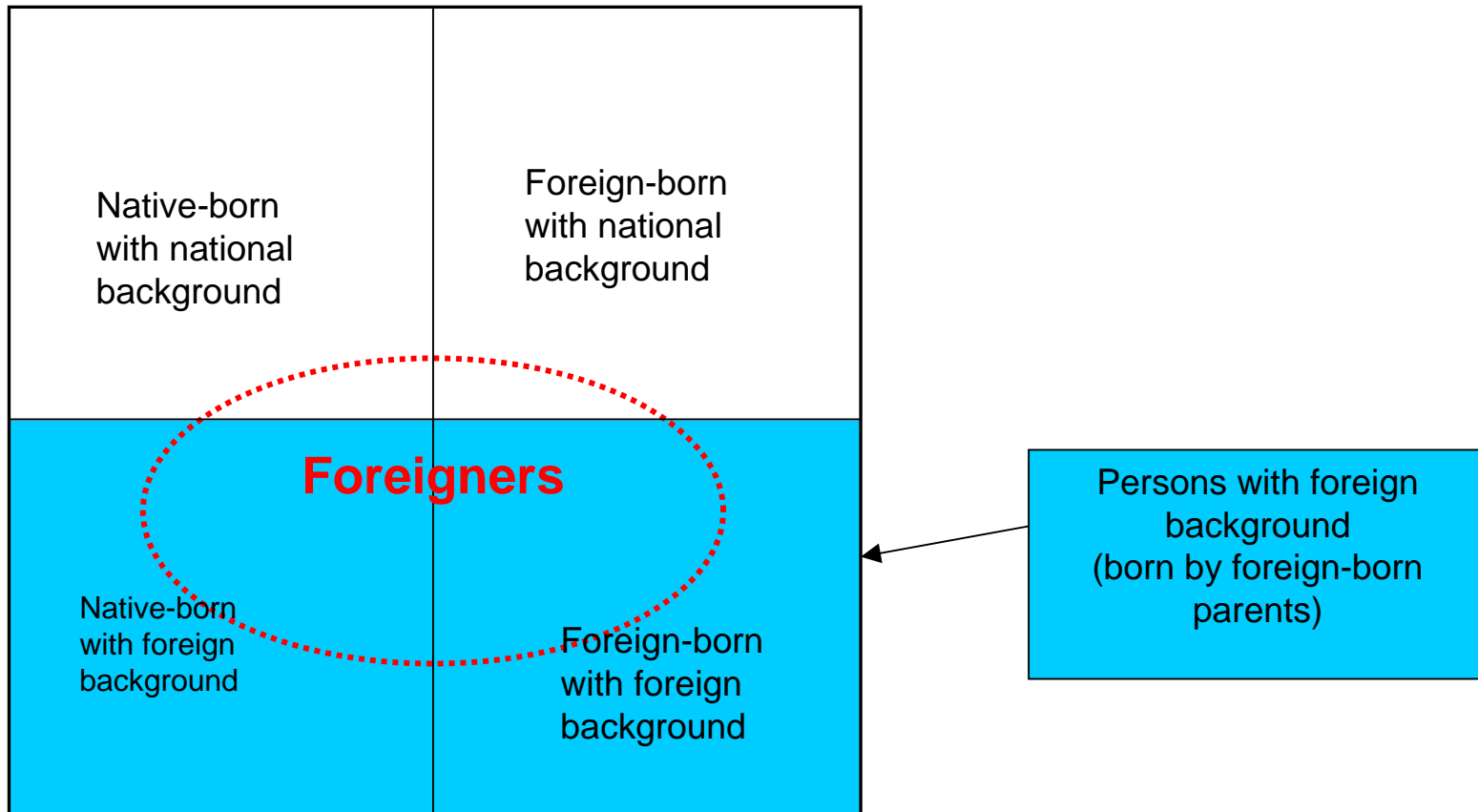
# Population topics (cont.)

- International and internal migration:
  - New general framework
  - Definition of relevant population groups
  - 4 core topics to satisfy growing demand for data





# Migrants: different groups





## Migration: core topics

- Country/place of birth
- Country of citizenship
- Ever resided abroad and year of arrival in the country
- Previous place of usual residence and date of arrival in the current place



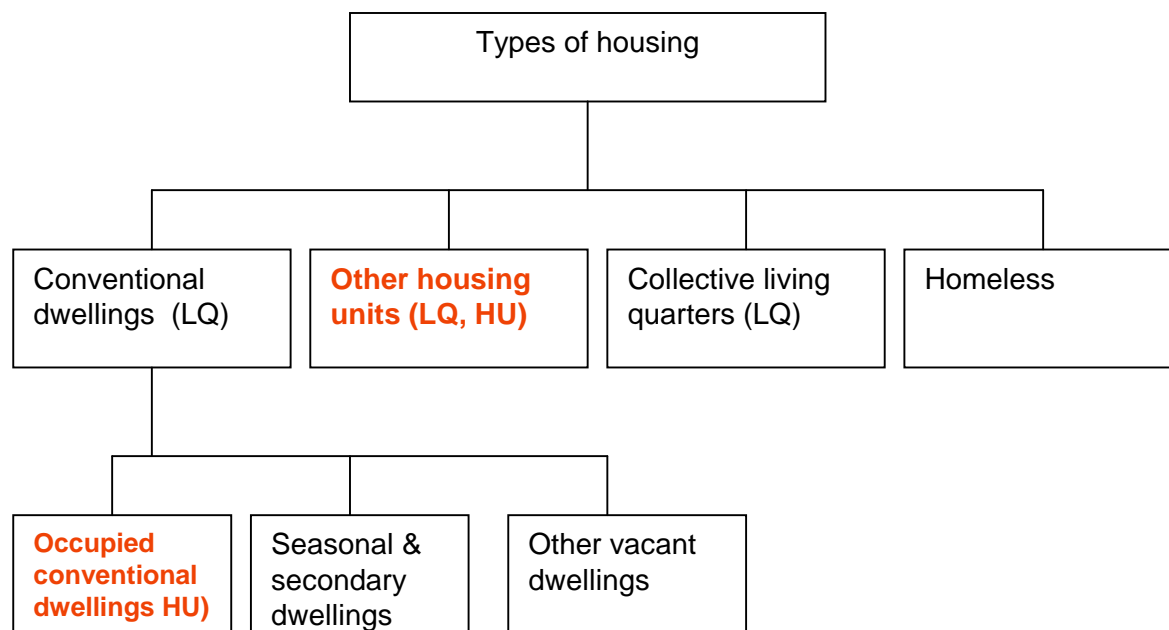
# Population topics (cont.)

- Families and households:
  - New definition of “homeless”
  - Extension of the concept of “family” to include skip generation households
  - Inclusion of same-sex couples
- Disability (new topic)
  - Washington approach
- Agriculture (new topic)
  - Own account agriculture production
  - Characteristics of all agriculture jobs during the last year



# Housing topics: highlights

## New framework



**Core characteristics ONLY for occupied dwellings and other housing units**



# Appendices: highlights

- Alternative approaches to census taking
- Fundamental principles of official statistics in the framework of the Census
- Quality framework
- Census evaluation
- Publicity and information campaign



## For further information

[www.unece.org/stats](http://www.unece.org/stats)

- Text of the CES Census Recommendations
- Reports and papers of the Work Sessions on Population and Housing Censuses
- *Forthcoming*: Report on countries' practices for the 2000 Census Round