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# Opportunities and Challenges of a Register-based Census of Population and Housing

## THE CASE OF SLOVENIA

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# Background

- Long register-based orientation.
- Long-lasting efforts within the national statistics to use administrative sources for statistical production.
- Efforts for the first (completely) register-based Census of Population and Housing in 2011.

# Lessons learned<sup>1</sup>

- Establishment of the Central Population Register (CPR) in 1970s.
- Introduction of the Personal Identification Number (PIN).
- Until 1991 Census data from the censuses used for the establishment and improvement of the CPR.

# Lessons learned<sup>2</sup>

- **Census 1991** – a shift in the direction of the transfer of the data:
  - ⇒ pre-printing
  - ⇒ pre-census database (all census topics still covered by questions on questionnaires)
- **Census 2002** – a combination of a conventional and register-based census:
  - ⇒ pre-printing
  - ⇒ pre-census database (not all topics included on questionnaires)
  - ⇒ essential knowledge and experiences

# Lessons learned<sup>3</sup>

- ⇒ **Essential knowledge and experiences:**
- on the content of the main administrative and statistical registers;
  - on compiling the pre-census database and its use for the data processing and data production;
  - on the use of the CPR data in the phase of logical controls;
  - on defining the final census database.

# Opportunities

- Huge reduction of costs.
- Shorter interval between censuses.
- Data collected once only processed if and when they change.
- Detailed geographical information on the census units.
- No special census legislation needed.

# Disadvantages

- Dependence on the information available in the registers.
- NSI dependent on the register authorities.
- The content in the registers dependent on the changes in legislation and administrative practices.
- Setting up decision rules to define the value for each unit.
- Consistency problems.
- Reference period.
- Linking of the data can be a very difficult, if the unified identification code system does not cover all registers.

# General preconditions

- Legal basis.
- Public approval.
- Unified identification code system.
- Availability of reliable administrative registers.
- Cooperation among administrative authorities.
- Human resources.

# Obstacles

- Non-existence of stable and well maintained **Household Register**.
- **Register of Dwellings** in the establishment phase.
- Bad data on relationships among persons in the CPR.
- No data on dwellings in the CPR yet.

# Challenges<sup>1</sup>

- **Families** - no sufficient data on families in administrative sources:
  - ⇒ the use of **CPR data**, 2002 Census data, statistical methods;
  - ⇒ **'ad hoc' module** on families in one of the largest household surveys.

# Challenges<sup>2</sup>

- **Nationally interesting recommended census topics:**

⇒ National affiliation

⇒ Mother tongue

⇒ Language in the household



Ad hoc' module in one of the large household surveys.

⇒ Religious affiliation




Debate among various institutions.

Some administrative sources on formal membership available.

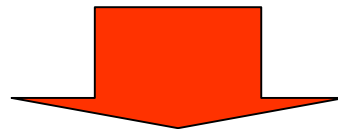
# Activities – started:

## Establishment of the Social Statistics Database (SSD):

- **integrated system** for linking both survey data and other statistical and administrative data;
- **effective production** of social statistics and easier and faster use of data for analyses in the social statistics domain;
- **sampling procedures** for various socio-economic subgroups of population;
- **inputs** 
  - Central Population Register
  - Register of Foreigners
  - Register of Employment
  - Register of Territorial Units
  - Tax Database
  - Register of Dwellings (in the future)
  - social statistics surveys
  - Census 2002

# Activities – planned:

- Identification of the relevant **administrative and statistical sources**.
- Identification of relevant **identifiers for linking census units**.
- **Data** will be analysed.
- Identification of the **relevant variables** for the 2011 Census.
- **Priority list** of relevant administrative and statistical sources will be set.
- Compiling of the core topics, non-core topics and nationally interesting topics will be studied.



## **Transition Facility 2006 Project**

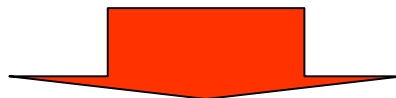
(Preparation for the 2010 Population Census - September 2007 to December 2008)

# Still a census?

- Essential features that distinguish population and housing censuses from other surveys' are no longer met:
  - ⇒ simultaneity
  - ⇒ small-area data
  - ⇒ reference day
- Annual census or a statistical survey?

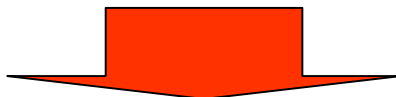
# Conclusions

- Long register-based orientation
- Commitment at the highest level in the country
- Public approval



## **NOT A GUARANTEE FOR A REGISTER-BASED CENSUS**

- Relevant and stable administrative and statistical sources
- Relevant content (variables) for the census topics
- Unified identification code system



## **STILL MANY CHALLENGES FOR STATISTICIANS**



**Thank you for your attention.**

**Questions, discussion....**