



Regional Training Workshop on Transition to Register-based Approaches for Population and Housing Censuses

Ankara, Türkiye

12-15 June 2023 (09:00-17:00, UTC+3)

1. Background

The population and housing census is the most complex undertaking of a National Statistical Office, involving massive amounts of time, resources, coordination and collaboration for its planning, design and implementation. In return, it generates a wealth of data for national and subnational planning and policymaking. Census data also assists with monitoring the progress towards global commitments like the Sustainable Development Goals and the pledge to Leave No One Behind, as well as regional goals such as the Declaration to "[Get everyone in the picture](#)" in Asia and the Pacific.

The primary purpose of a population and housing census is to count all people living in a country and provide demographic and socioeconomic data. The so-called "traditional" census method, which involves field operations and enumeration, has only recently been joined by other methods. National Statistical Offices are keen to explore alternative methods of collecting census data in light of the growing demand for quality, timely and disaggregated statistics and in the face of serious challenges arising from resource



Statistics

constraints, declining response rates, and disasters like the COVID-19 pandemic. Increasing the ability to exploit administrative data, either to support a traditional census or to carry out a combined or register-based Census, provides an opportunity to improve data quality, reduce costs of census operations and produce more timely information.

[Research](#) conducted by ESCAP in early 2022 examined how some countries in Asia and the Pacific utilize administrative data in their censuses. According to the findings, only a few countries in the region used administrative data in their censuses. In some cases, this data eliminated the need for a full enumeration, whereas, in others, administrative data supports and improves the implementation of a traditional census. While transitioning to a register-based census is appealing to many countries, it is necessary to proceed cautiously to minimise any disruption in census taking, which is critical for evidence-based decision-making and planning, and there is still much which can be done to support the census with administrative data without moving to a full register-based census.

To support countries to increasingly use registers and other administrative data in censuses, several relevant initiatives have been launched in recent years. This includes guidelines¹ developed by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE); [Handbook on Registers-based Population and Housing Censuses](#) released by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) in 2022; a virtual training course on [Conducting a Census Based on Administrative Records](#) organised in July 2022 by Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), an eLearning developed by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and virtual training on [Moving Towards Register-based Population and Housing Censuses \(PHC\)](#) in October 2022 jointly organized by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), with contributions from ESCAP, ECE and UNSD.

An in-person training workshop and study tour are now proposed mainly for ECO countries in order to continue support and build on the training courses conducted and guidance already developed. This is a part of the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative (D4H) Project: *"Supporting improvements to civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in Asia and the Pacific (Phase III)"*, and the workstream on *"Improving the resilience of population and housing censuses in developing countries*

¹ [Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses](#), UNECE (2018)

[Guidelines for Assessing the Quality of Administrative Sources for Use in Censuses](#), UNECE (2021)

[Register-based statistics in the Nordic countries](#), UNECE (2007)



through the use of administrative sources” of the United Nations Development Accounts Tranche 14 (DA14).

2. Objectives and Outcomes

The workshop aims to strengthen participants’ capacity on how to better use administrative data to support the census. The objectives of the workshop are to provide the participants with the opportunity to:

- Understand how population registers can be used to produce vital statistics
- Better understand the concepts and features of register-based approaches for census
- Discuss the considerations, challenges, opportunities, and the process involved in transitioning from a traditional census to register-based approaches
- Understand and apply the “Generic model for the transition from a traditional census to register-based approaches”
- Draft a proposed scenario for their country’s transition to increased use of administrative data for censuses
- Exchange experience and learn from success stories.

3. Format and Content

The workshop will be held in person over four days, with six-hour sessions each day. The learning mode consists of a combination of lectures, country presentations, discussions, practical group activities and a half-day study tour of the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat).

Each country team is required to prepare a presentation on the challenges of using administrative data for census purposes in their country. In addition, a self-assessment questionnaire on the readiness to use administrative data for census purposes will be sent to participating countries. Prior to the workshop, the country teams are requested to consult within their organisations and with key stakeholders and complete the



questionnaire.

The main topics to be covered in the workshop include:

- Overview of the importance of population and housing censuses and the evolution of census approaches over time
- What are register-based approaches for population and housing censuses: rationale, principles and main considerations?
- Facilitating a move to register-based censuses: the necessary pre-conditions, challenges, pitfalls and opportunities
- A generic model for the transition from a traditional census to a register-based approaches
- Data integration and transforming administrative data to census data
- Quality assessment and stages including a) source quality, b) input data quality, c) process quality, and d) output quality
- Overview of the self-assessment questionnaire on the readiness to use administrative data for census purposes
- Sharing the experience of participant countries: challenges and potential solutions
- Study tour to TurkStat and overview of Türkiye's transition story

4. Target countries and participants

The workshop is primarily targeted at countries starting a transition towards register-based census and exploring approaches to increase the use of administrative data in their upcoming censuses. The target countries mainly include ECO member countries, including Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Belarus, Georgia, Mongolia and Moldova are also among the target countries.

Each country will be invited to nominate a maximum of three participants, including both:

- technical staff, statisticians, or demographers from National Statistical Offices whose primary responsibilities are planning or conducting the population and



housing census

- technical staff from other governmental agencies whose primary responsibilities are related to establishing and/or maintaining population registers and civil registration and vital statistics

Nominations will be accepted on the basis of the selection criteria mentioned in this document and the nomination form. Confirmed nominees will be invited to participate in the workshop through funding from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative (D4H) Project: "Supporting improvements to civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in Asia and the Pacific (Phase III)", the United Nations Development Accounts Tranche 14 and UNFPA. Additionally, key partners in implementing this workshop include ECE, ECO, SESRIC, SIAP, TurkStat, UNFPA, and UNSD, as well as the appropriate national authorities.

5. Language

The working language of the training is English, with simultaneous interpretation in Russian. All training materials will be available in English and, if funds allow, in Russian. Hence, nominees for this training should ideally be proficient in or have a good understanding of English, although provision will be made for Russian speakers.

6. Evaluation and certifications

Certificates will be issued to participants who attend and complete the workshop successfully. Evaluations will also be distributed for completion by participants.

7. Resources

Some of the key resources for this training workshop include:

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Guidelines on the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses. United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2018.
<https://unece.org/DAM/stats/publications/2018/ECECESSTAT20184.pdf>
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Guidelines for assessing the



quality of administrative sources for use in censuses. United Nations, Geneva, 2021.
https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ECECESSTAT20214_WEB.pdf

- United Nations Statistics Division. Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses, 2022.
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/publication/handbook-registers-phc.pdf>
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Emerging Trends in Census Approaches in Asia and the Pacific – with country examples. United Nations, Bangkok, 2022.
<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/emerging-trends-census-approaches-asia-and-pacific-country-examples>

Participants may also find the following Stats Brief useful:

- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Tapping into administrative data in census-taking: an emerging trend in Asia and the Pacific. United Nations, Bangkok, 2022.
<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/tapping-administrative-data-census-taking-emerging-trend-asia-and-pacific>
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Are population censuses in Asia and the Pacific evolving? United Nations, Bangkok, 2021.
<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/are-population-censuses-asia-and-pacific-evolving>
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Population registers: a key resource for producing vital statistics. United Nations
<https://www.unescap.org/resources/stats-brief-october-2020-issue-no-26-population-registers-key-resource-producing-vital>



Provisional Programme

DAY 1: Monday, 12 June 2023 09:00 – 16:45 Ankara time	
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival, registration and coffee
09:30 – 10:10	Opening session Moderator: TBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks (ESCAP, UNSD, SESRIC, ECO, 3 mins each) • Workshop objectives and approach (ESCAP, 5 mins) • Tour de table (participants' introduction and expectations from the workshop, 20 mins)
10:10 – 11:00	Session 1 – Introductory Moderator: TBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the importance of population and housing censuses and evolution of census approaches over time (UNSD/SIAP, 25 mins) • Overview of the UNFPA Register-Based Census eLearning Course: Course Structure (UNFPA, 25 mins)
Group Photo and Coffee break (11:00 – 11:30)	
11:30 – 13:00	Session 1 – Introductory (cont.) Moderator: TBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core aspects of a census (UNECE, 20 mins) • Register-based approaches for population and housing censuses: rationale and definitions of the key concepts (UNSD, 30 mins) Q&A and discussion (30 mins)
Lunch break (13:00 – 14:00)	



14:00 – 15:15	<p>Session 2 – What is administrative data, and how can it be used for the census</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of administrative data to support the implementation of traditional censuses (ESCAP, 15 mins) • Countries’ success stories: Country presentations on the use of administrative data to support the implementation of traditional censuses (New Zealand, UK; virtually) <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
Coffee break (15:15 – 15:30)	
15:30 – 16:45	<p>Country team presentations session: Country teams to present their challenges in using administrative data for census purposes (each country team, 10 mins)</p> <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
DAY 2: Tuesday, 13 June 2023 09:00 – 16:45 Ankara time	
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival
09:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 3 – Moving to register-based approaches</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of Day 1 (moderator, 10 mins) • Generic model for the transition from a traditional census to register-based approaches (UNSD, 25 mins) • Facilitating the transition to a register-based census (UNECE, 25 mins) <p>Q&A and discussion (30 mins)</p>
Coffee break (11:00 – 11:30)	



11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 4 – Identification of administrative data sources for producing census data</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of administrative registers (UNSD, 20 mins) • Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: the foundation of population registers (ESCAP, 20 mins) • Countries’ success stories: Country presentation on register-based censuses (Spain; virtually) <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
Lunch break (13:00 – 14:00)	
14:00 – 15:15	<p>Session 5 – How to assess readiness to use administrative data for census purposes</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the “Self-assessment questionnaire on readiness to use administrative data for census purposes” (ESCAP, 15 mins) • Group work: Country teams to review and discuss the self-assessment questionnaire in their country context (30 mins) <p>Reflections from the group work and comments on the questionnaire and discussion (30 mins)</p>
Coffee break (15:15 – 15:30)	
15:30 – 16:45	<p>Country team presentations session: Country teams to present their challenges in using administrative data for census purposes</p> <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
DAY 3: Wednesday, 14 June 2023 09:00 – 17:00 Ankara time	
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival



09:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 6 – Transforming administrative data into census data</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of Day 2 (moderator, 10 mins) • Data integration and transforming administrative data to census data (ESCAP, 20 mins) • Countries' success stories: Country presentation on data integration and transforming administrative data to census data (Estonia; virtually) <p>Q&A and discussion (30 mins)</p>
Coffee break (11:00 – 11:30)	
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 7 – Quality assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality assessment of administrative data sources (UNSD, 30 mins) • Countries' success stories: Country presentation on quality assessment (Netherlands; virtually) <p>Q&A and discussion (30 mins)</p>
Lunch break (13:00 – 14:00)	
14:00 – 17:00	Session 8 – Study tour to Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat)
DAY 4: Thursday, 15 June 2023 09:00 – 16:45 Ankara time	
09:00 – 09:30	Arrival



09:30 – 11:00	<p>Session 9 – Draft a proposed scenario for the country's transition to increased use of administrative data for censuses</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of Day 3 (moderator, 10 mins) • General recommendations for a smooth transition (UNSD, 20 mins) • Agree on the outline for the draft proposed scenario (ESCAP to present a proposed outline and participants to reflect, 10 mins) • Group work: Country teams to draft a proposed scenario for their country's transition to increased use of administrative data for censuses (50 mins)
Coffee break (11:00 – 11:30)	
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 9 – Drafting a proposed scenario for the country's transition to increased use of administrative data for censuses (cont.)</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work: Country teams to draft a proposed scenario for their country's transition to increased use of administrative data for censuses (30 mins) • Country team presentations: Country teams to present their draft scenario (each country team 10 mins) <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
Lunch break (13:00 – 14:00)	
14:00 – 15:15	<p>Session 9 – Drafting a proposed scenario for the country's transition to increased use of administrative data for censuses (cont.)</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country team presentations: Country teams to present their draft scenario (each country team 10 mins) <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
Coffee break (15:15 – 15:30)	



15:30 – 16:15	<p>Session 9 – Drafting a proposed scenario for the country's transition to increased use of administrative data for censuses (cont.)</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country team presentations: Country teams to present their draft scenario (each country team 10 mins) <p>Q&A and discussion</p>
16:15 – 16:45	<p>Closing session</p> <p>Moderator: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course review, discussion and conclusion (ESCAP, 5 mins) • Distributing the certificates and closing remarks (15 mins) • Course evaluations (10 mins)

SUGGESTED READING/RESOURCE LIST

1. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Guidelines in the use of registers and administrative data for population and housing censuses. United Nations, New York and Geneva, 2018.
<https://unece.org/DAM/stats/publications/2018/ECECESSTAT20184.pdf>
2. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Guidelines for assessing the quality of administrative sources for use in censuses. United Nations, Geneva, 2021.
https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-10/ECECESSTAT20214_WEB.pdf
3. United Nations Statistics Division. Handbook on Registers-Based Population and Housing Censuses, 2022.
<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/publication/handbook-registers-phc.pdf>
4. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Emerging Trends in Census Approaches in Asia and the Pacific – with country examples. United Nations, Bangkok, 2022.



<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/emerging-trends-census-approaches-asia-and-pacific-country-examples>

5. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Tapping into administrative data in census-taking: an emerging trend in Asia and the Pacific. United Nations, Bangkok, 2022.
<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2022/tapping-administrative-data-census-taking-emerging-trend-asia-and-pacific>
6. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Are population censuses in Asia and the Pacific evolving? United Nations, Bangkok, 2021.
<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/are-population-censuses-asia-and-pacific-evolving>
7. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. Population registers: a key resource for producing vital statistics. United Nations
<https://www.unescap.org/resources/stats-brief-october-2020-issue-no-26-population-registers-key-resource-producing-vital>

RESOURCE PERSONS

- Afsaneh Yazdani, Statistician, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
- Eduard Jongstra, Regional Adviser on Population and Development, United Nations Population Fund/ Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Fiona Willis-Nunez, Statistician, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Meryem Demirci, Interregional Adviser, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
- Seiffe Tadesse, Statistician, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
- Sinovia Moonie, Statistician/Lecturer, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP)



Programme of the Study Tour to Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) on 14 June 2023, Ankara, Türkiye

Exact timings are to be determined.

Topic	Time/Duration
Opening speech and inauguration statement by TurkStat	10 minutes
Introduction of TurkStat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History, Organization, Structure, Staff, Mandate and International Compliance of TurkStat 	10 minutes
History of Population Censuses in Türkiye <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TurkStat's experience from the traditional population censuses in 1927-2000 period 	15 minutes
Transition to Register-based Population Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of Central Civil Registration System (MERNİS) - Establishment of National Address Database (NAD) - Establishment of Address Based Population Registration System (ABPRS) 	20 minutes
Coffee Break	15 minutes
Statistical Production from the ABPRS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving registers and enriching the scope/content of population and migration indicators 	10 minutes
Vital Statistics and Civil Registration in Türkiye <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Birth Notification System - Death Notification System - Marriage and Divorce Statistics 	20 minutes
2011 Population and Housing Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first "combined" census of Türkiye 	10 minutes
Coffee Break	15 minutes
2021 Population and Housing Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The background and census-taking process of the last census which was mostly based on administrative registers - Production of census-type labour force and housing characteristics 	15 minutes



Topic	Time/Duration
Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lessons learned from the 2020 census round - Production of population statistics at 1 km² grid level - Future plans for 2030 census round 	10 minutes
Closing Remarks & Questions & Comments	5 minutes

For information, please visit event page website at [Regional Training Workshop on Transition to Register-based Approaches for Population and Housing Censuses | ESCAP \(unescap.org\)](#).

Contact:

Ms. Afsaneh Yazdani, Statistician, Population and Social Statistics Section (PSS), Statistics Division, ESCAP, Email: afsaneh.yazdani@un.org; stat.unescap@un.org

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