

*Steering Committee of the International
Monitoring Operation on the Population and
Housing Censuses in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Nineteenth Assessment Report

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Introduction and Background

1. A Population and Housing Census shall take place in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in accordance with the Law on the Census of the Population, Households and Dwellings in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013 as adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina on 3 February 2012. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina has invited the European Commission to organise the international monitoring of the Census. Therefore, the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed on 18 April 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding to agree upon the following:

The general objective of the International Monitoring Operation (IMO) of the Population and Housing Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to monitor the compliance of the whole Census exercise, from the preparation to the data dissemination, with:

International standards on population and housing censuses as defined by UNECE and Eurostat, and as adopted by the Conference of European Statisticians as Recommendations for the 2010 Censuses of Population and Housing;

Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 on population and housing censuses, and its implementing measures;

The Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, adopted by the UN Statistical Commission, as well as the European Statistics Code of Practice, promulgated by the European Commission;

Standards on data protection and confidentiality, as provided for in the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data of the Council of Europe, and the relevant European Union regulations in force.

2. The Operation will be carried out by a Committee of International Organisations, the Management Group (IMO MG) assisted by a Senior Census Expert, experts in population censuses, one or more experts in information technology and persons monitoring the census enumeration in the field.

3. The Senior Census Expert, the Census Experts and the IT Experts will assess the compliance of the Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the requirements listed in the Memorandum of Understanding, but they will not provide technical assistance.

4. Under the guidance of the Committee and the Senior Census Expert, the Census Experts shall:

Examine the technical preparation of the Census including the pilot Census and post-enumeration survey, in particular the drafting of questionnaires and manuals;

Monitor the collection, processing and dissemination of Census data, verifying the accordance with the requirements defined above;

Control the fair and proper computation at all levels and whether the confidential nature of the individual data is fully guaranteed;

Investigate any other matter with relevance for the Census.

5. The Management Group has designated Mr. Jean-Michel Durr as Senior Census Expert and Mr. Roberto Bianchini, Mr. Bent Noerby Bonde, Ms. Meryem Demirci, Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska, and Mr. Guido Pieraccini as experts in population censuses. The Senior Census Expert and the Experts in population censuses form the IMO Steering Committee (IMO SC) of international experts.

6. The first mission of the IMO SC was conducted from 23 to 26 April 2012. The objective of this mission was to assess the preparations for the population and housing census in their main components, including the preparation of the pilot census. The report of the SC was sent by the Senior Census Manager on May 12 to the IMO MG.

7. The second mission was conducted from 26 to 29 of June 2012. The objective of this mission was to assess the progress made since the first mission in preparations for the population and housing census, including the preparation of the pilot census.

8. The third mission took place on 17 and 18 of September 2012 and was conducted by two members of the SC, namely, Mr. Jean-Michel Durr and Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska. The objective of the mission was to assess the implementation of recommendations made in previous reports and to assess the preparation of the pilot census, planned for October 15-29.

9. The fourth mission took place between 10 and 29 of October 2012 and was conducted successively by the members of the SC (5 days each, except the senior expert from 10 to 19 of October). The objective of the mission was to observe the conduct of the pilot census in the field. In addition, a team of four observers, composed of Lidija Naumovska, Gabor Rosza, Jean-Paul Sardon and Per SchOning was present during the whole period of the pilot census. Each of them covered several municipalities, in order to observe the pilot census field operations in all the 60 enumeration areas (EAs) sampled in the pilot.

10. The fifth mission took place from 19 to 21 of November 2012 (3 days) and was conducted by one member of the SC, Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska. The objective of the mission was to observe the conduct of the Post enumeration survey (PES) of the Pilot census in the field. The expert covered all 6 EAs (in 6 municipalities) sampled in PES sample in order to observe the PES field operations.

11. The sixth mission took place from 10 to 13 of December 2012 and was conducted by four members of the SC: Mr. Roberto Bianchini, Mr. Bent Noerby Bonde, Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska and Mr. Guido Pieraccini. The objective of the mission was to hear from the Statistical Institutions about the lessons learned from the Pilot Census and to assess whether the preparations are on level that could allow conducting a census in April 2013.

12. The seventh mission took place from 12 to 15 February 2013 and was conducted by one member of the SC, Mr. Roberto Bianchini. The objective of the mission was to assess the situation on the progress of preparation and implementation of the IMO recommendations in the new context of the postponement of the census, with a focus on the achievement of the deadlines regarding cartographic preparations. A second objective was to collect information and materials for a more detailed assessment on the progress of census preparatory activities to be made by all members of the SC in March 2013.

13. The eighth mission was conducted by the complete SC from 18 to 22 March 2013. The objective of the mission was to assess in detail progress made in the preparations with

regard to the milestones given after the sixth mission in December 2012, when the SC recommended to postpone the census to October 2013.

14. The ninth mission was conducted by two members of the SC, Jean-Michel Durr and Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska from 22 to 25 April 2013. The objective of the mission was to assess the progress made in the preparations with regard to the milestones given in the sixth mission and updated in previous missions.

15. The tenth mission was conducted by the full SC from 28 to 31 May 2013. The objective of the mission was to assess whether the progress made in the preparations was sufficient to consider that the country was ready to conduct a census in October 2013.

16. The eleventh mission was conducted by three members of the SC, Mr. Jean-Michel Durr, Mr. Bent Noerby Bonde and Mr. Guido Pieraccini from 16 to 19 July 2013. The objective of the mission was to assess whether the preparations were still on track after the positive assessment of the 10th mission to conduct a census in October 2013. A special focus was put on the preparation of data processing.

17. The twelfth mission was conducted by four members of the SC, Mr. Roberto Bianchini, Mr. Bent Noerby Bonde, Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska and Mr. Guido Pieraccini from 3 to 6 September 2013. The objective of the mission was to assess the state of play regarding to forthcoming census field activities (including PES) and data processing activities following the field activities as well as the overall census preparations in accordance to the Census milestones and SC recommendations and advices given through the previous missions and SC reports.

18. The thirteenth mission was conducted by five members of the SC: Mr. Roberto Bianchini and Mr. Guido Pieraccini from 27 September to 4 October, Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska from 4 October to 11 October; and Mr. Jean-Michel Durr and Ms. Merzem Demirci from 11 October to 18 October. The objective of the mission was to monitor the enumeration of the census, including its final preparations and final operations. During this mission, the SC was assisted by a team of 27 international observers, deployed all over the country.

19. The fourteenth mission was conducted by one member of the SC: Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska from 1 to 3 November 2013. The objective of the mission was to monitor the conducting of the Post-enumeration survey following the Census. During this mission, the SC was assisted by a team of 5 international observers, deployed all over the country from 1 to 10 November.

20. The fifteenth mission was conducted by one member of the SC: Mr. Guido Pieraccini from 17 to 18 December 2013. The objective of the mission was to assess that the data processing system was functional and in accordance with the SC recommendations.

21. The sixteenth mission was conducted by five members of the SC from 11 to 14 February 2014. The objective of the mission was to assess the starting of the data processing and the implementation of the SC recommendations.

22. The seventeenth mission was conducted by one member of the SC: Mr. Guido Pieraccini from 21 to 23 May 2014. The objective of the mission was to control that the data processing was working smoothly and that the timing for completion of the phase was in accordance with the SC recommendations.

23. The eighteenth mission was from 3 to 6 June 2014, conducted by four members of the SC: Mr. Jean-Michel Durr, Mr. Roberto Bianchini, Ms. Meryem Demirci and Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska. The objective of the mission was to assess the situation of data capture and the state of preparation of further steps, editing and dissemination as well as the Post Enumeration Survey.

24. The nineteenth and present mission was conducted by two members of the SC, Ms. Katerina Kostadinova-Daskalovska and Mr. Guido Pieraccini from 15 to 17 September 2014. The objective of the mission was to assess the data capture and editing phases, as well as PES and dissemination preparation.

25. The experts wish to express their gratitude to the directors and staff of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHAS), the Statistical Institutes of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska (RS) for their availability and collaboration, and to the staff of Council of Europe for the organisation of the mission.

Executive Summary

26. The work in the data processing centre continues according to the established organisational structure, including the daily presence of employees from the three Sis in a collaborative atmosphere.

27. The preparation phase was completed in June. At the time of the mission the scanning was completed for 88% of the questionnaires, and OCR process for 73%. However, due to some technical problems, the data capture phase is now expected to be completed by mid-November instead of mid-October.

28. As in the previous two missions, the SC has performed a quality assessment on a number of captured questionnaires: the differences identified were few and mainly in one or two characters of some textual fields.

29. The g-Code application for coding occupation and activity produced a large percentage of not-coded values, which were split between the three Institutions to fasten the work. The codification of Municipality, Settlement, Country and Citizenship is proceeding smoothly. The codification of Ethnicity, Religion and Mother tongue is not yet started. The whole operation of coding is foreseen to end in about two weeks after the end of the data capture, which means that at the beginning of December the complete census database with coded variables would be available.

30. During the three expert missions conducted through the multi-beneficiary IPA 2012, the definition of the procedure of edit and imputation to approach the correction of the Census micro-data is under finalization. The international experts believe that the next step after the finalization of the whole procedure of edit and imputation should be to test the procedure on the completed coded set of data, which should be available by beginning of December.

31. PES activities continued in July with the matching of enumerated units in PES and in Census within the selected PES EAs. So far the matching of the enumerated persons was completed and lasted about three weeks. The majority of the matched cases were automatically matched. The number of persons enumerated in PES and not found in the census data is not significant, but on the opposite, the number of persons enumerated in census that were not found in the PES is quite high. The analysis showed that those persons are mostly mem-

bers of large households (15 or 20 members) who were absent (presumably living abroad). However, the results are still not definitive as there are a number of cases that still need to be checked.

32. There were not many developments in preparation of the census data dissemination since the last SC mission. The latest version of the draft Strategy on dissemination was shared by BHAS with FOS and RSIS, but is still not adopted as an official document. No further work was undertaken on the draft tabulation program, draft tables and structure of the publications that was prepared earlier. The census dissemination working groups within FOS and RSIS had developed some ideas and plan how to make the user consultations that were announced during the SC mission in June 2014.

33. A tendering procedure for TA is currently running and experts are expected to start working end of October. The tender foresees the recruitment of 3 key experts, 2 IT specialists and one methodologist as well as a pool of 90 short-term experts (STEs). PES and dissemination experts will be provided from the pool of STEs..

34. In conclusion, the SC considers that the data processing phase is progressing well and in accordance with the SC recommendation, as well as the PES activities. However, the SC urges the Statistical Institutions to finalize as soon as possible the procedure of edit and imputation and the system of rules for identifying the resident population, in order not to delay more the dissemination of the census results. In the coming months the SC will continue to closely monitor the census data processing to assess its compliance with international standards and best practices.