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

## *Fifth Assessment Report – PES of Pilot Census*

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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, Mr. 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 Schöning 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 present assessment is based on direct field observations of the expert, Ms. Daskalovska, review of the PES questionnaires and PES Manual and discussions held with PES team, members of the Municipal Commissions, instructors and PES controllers (Annex 1 Mission Agenda). As a consequence, the comments and recommendations presented below are based on the understanding of the expert and may not reflect the real situation. This report was prepared by Ms. Daskalovska and was finalised by the Senior Census Expert.

12. The expert wish to express her 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; to the members of the Municipal Commissions for their availability and collaboration and to the staff of Council of Europe for the perfect organisation of the mission. Special thanks to MCCs for helping the SC expert to locate the controllers in EAs, so that the expert succeeded in short time to visit and observe the PES in all 6 EAs.

## Executive Summary

13. The post-enumeration survey (PES) as an independent self-evaluation/assessment is part of the BiH Census program. The PES will consist of two parts: evaluation of coverage and content evaluation.

14. The post-enumeration survey following the Pilot Census (Pilot PES) was conducted in the period from 19 to 25 November 2012, in 6 EAs (2 in FBIH, 2 in RS and 2 in DB). Data were collected according to the situation in the reference moments of the Pilot Census and Pilot PES (midnight of 14.10.2012 and midnight of 19.11.2012.).

15. The aim of the Pilot PES was to test the prepared methodological, organisational and informatics solutions for PES data collection and data processing. Findings from the test should be used for appropriate amendments and should contribute to timely preparation of PES for the Census.

16. The decision to conduct PES after the Pilot Census was taken during the summer. The intensive preparation started end of August/ beginning of September 2012. Despite the late start of final preparations, with high commitment of the PES team and support of short term expert (STE) within EUPHC2 STE, the Pilot PES was successfully prepared.

17. The drafts of Pilot PES questionnaires and Manual with instruction were ready beginning of October, but still not adopted as final because of existing dilemma about few questions. Also there were discussions about the PES sample design. In addition, there were some different interpretations of the legal provisions given in the Census Law about the roles of the Entity statistical institutions (ESIs) in the PES. Finally, for PES preparation and implementation the three statistical institutions (SIs) reached agreement that the three SIs should participate in all Pilot PES preparation with some exceptions that should provide independence of PES. And the preparations were done in a way that supposes to ensure independence of PES.

18. The prepared Pilot PES Manual is brief and has a good structure and composition. In general it gives the necessary instructions to the Pilot PES organisers and field staff on how to perform their activities. Still it needs amendments and examples for filling the questionnaires.

19. The content and structure of the questionnaires used for data collection in Pilot PES are in accordance with the draft PES Methodology, with objectives of the PES and aim of the Pilot PES. The formulation and wording of the questions are clear and enable easy filling in. Very few amendments and precisions are required.

20. The content and structure of the supporting forms are appropriate to their intended use and suppose to provide good base for logistic, field activities implementation as well as for performing and analysing the PES.

21. The same MCCs (from the Pilot Census) were involved in the Pilot PES and they did correctly their tasks. Controllers and instructors were good and committed as well.

22. The atmosphere observed during the first three days of Pilot PES was very positive at all levels of the organizers and respondents. In comparison with the Pilot Census, people were less willing to respond. First of all they were suspicious "why again when we were already enumerated" and second knowing the duration of enumeration in the Pilot Census, were not willing again to spent their time with the controller. Still, after some more explana-

tion by the controller about the PES objectives and explaining that the enumeration will take only few minutes, the people were responding.

23. In the period after field activities the PES team is supposed to start with data processing and matching. This phase is also very important to verify if the draft PES Methodology, questionnaires and manuals were well prepared.

24. Based on experience and lessons learned from the field activities and findings from the matching and analyses, the PES team should make amendments in the PES instruments and in Activity plan for the PES following the 2013 Census in order to ensure timely PES preparation. Special attention should be paid to logistic preparation since the PES sample following the Census will be much bigger and spread out on the whole territory of BiH. As well special attention should be paid for appropriate and timely informing of the population about PES.