

Towards European register-based censuses: a view from the Netherlands

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**Statistics
Netherlands**

Outline

- CES Recommendations in the UNECE region
- Different kinds of censuses
- Comparison 1829-2021
- Conditions facilitating use of administrative sources
- Current and future work

CES Recommendations for 2030 (1)

- Yearly meeting in Geneva with many presentations



Palais des Nations



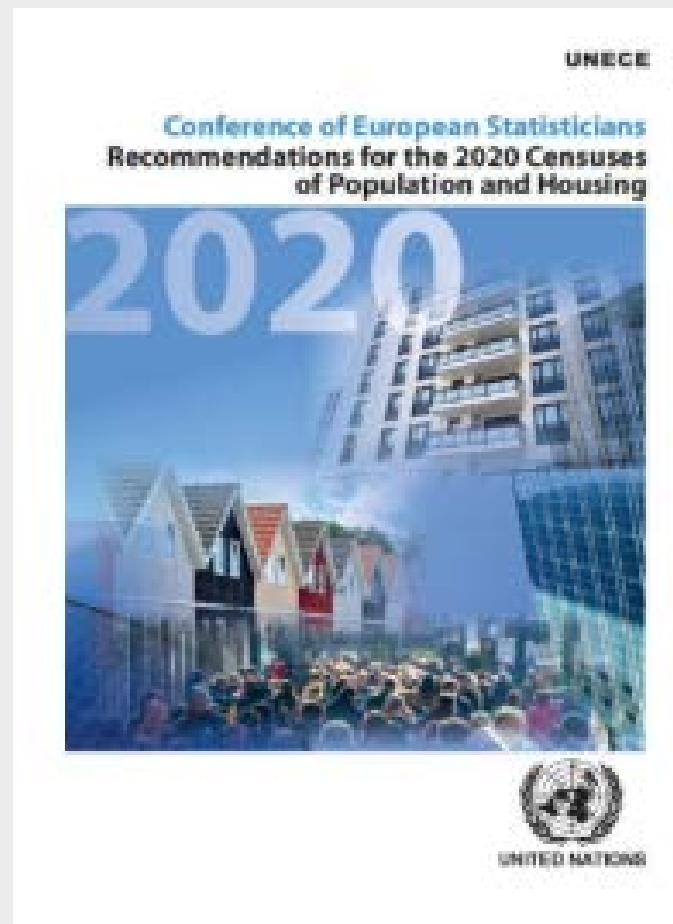
- UNECE secretariat
- Steering Group on Population and Housing Censuses

CES Recommendations for 2030 (2)

Conference of European Statisticians
Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of
Population and Housing
(<http://www.unece.org/publications/2020recomm.html>)

The main objectives of the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing are: to provide guidance and assistance to countries in the planning and execution of their population and housing censuses; and to facilitate and improve the comparability of censuses at the UN regional level through the identification of a core set of census topics and the harmonization of concepts, definitions and classifications.

The Conference of European Statisticians endorsed the Conference of European Statisticians Recommendations for the 2020 Censuses of Population and Housing at its June 2015 plenary session (Report of the sixty-third plenary session of the Conference of European Statisticians).

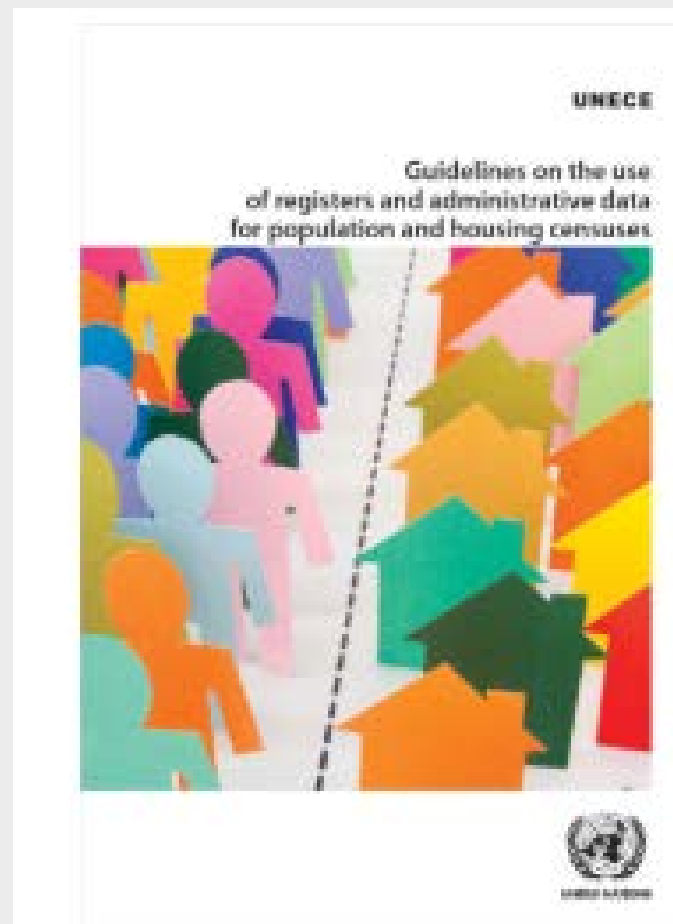


CES Recommendations for 2030 (3)

Guidelines on the Use of Registers and Administrative Data for Population and Housing Censuses

(<https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=50794>)

The purpose of this publication is to guide national statistical offices and other responsible agencies on the use of registers and administrative data in population and housing censuses, including operational, practical, technical and legal aspects. The publication was prepared by a task force established by the Conference of European Statisticians (CES), composed of experts from national statistical offices, and coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The CES endorsed the publication at its 2018 plenary session.



CES Recommendations for 2030 (4)

- Scheme to move from 2020 to 2030 recommendations
- Work Plan with recommendations activities in 2021-2025
- 13 Task Forces in 2022-2024
- More than 200 census experts involved
- Survey conducted among countries in 2023
- CES Bureau review in February 2025
- Consultation among all CES members March/April 2025
- Result (325 pages!) adopted at the CES meeting in June 2025

Different kinds of censuses (1)

- Full field enumeration ('traditional censuses')
 - Personal interviews
 - Self-completed questionnaire
 - Telephone or internet collection
 - Yearly updates (United States)
 - Rolling census (France)
- Combined censuses
 - Register data with complete field data collection
 - Register data with ad-hoc sample data collection
- Register-based censuses

Different kinds of censuses (2)

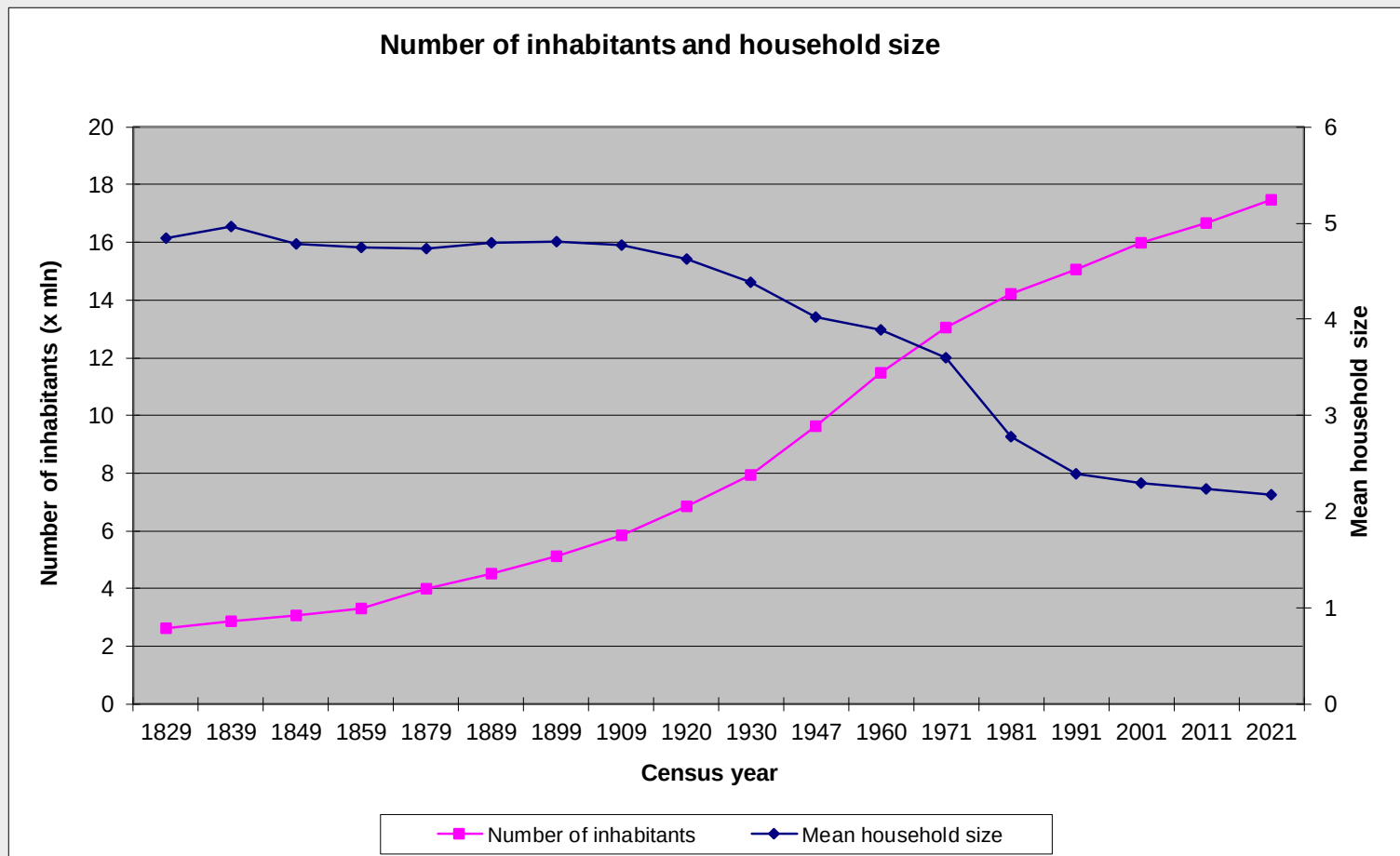
- Census 2001: register-based censuses in Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands
- Census 2011: also register-based censuses in Austria, Belgium, Iceland, Norway, Slovenia and Sweden; also ten countries (Estonia, Germany, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye) use registers in their combined censuses; hardly any de facto censuses as most of the other European countries conducted a de jure census



Different kinds of censuses (3)

- Census 2021: most European countries used registers as much as possible in their censuses
 - From de facto to de jure censuses
 - From full field enumeration to combined censuses
 - From combined to register-based censuses
- Better comparisons between countries, but respect different approaches (e.g. regarding the population definition and more importantly how to estimate the population size)

Comparison 1829-2021



Conditions facilitating use of administrative sources

- Legal base (Statistics Act)
- Public approval ('Big Brother is watching you')
- Cooperation among authorities (mainly government organisations)
- Comprehensive and reliable register system (administrative versus statistical quality)
- Unified identification system (preferably unique ID-numbers)



Current and future work

Census 2021 (in ten years time from 16,655,799 towards 17,475,414 inhabitants in the Netherlands):

- Publishing the European Census 2021:
 - Opening the Census Hub 2021
 - More publications and international comparisons?
- International activities and integration:
 - UNSD and UNECE recommendations approved
 - New European regulations (based on UN recommendations)
 - Integration of census and demographic statistics → 'yearly updates'

Thank you very much for your attention!

Holland in the winter



Discussion

Are there questions or remarks?

