

UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (ECE)  
UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION (UNSD)  
and

ECONOMIC COOPERATION ORGANIZATION (ECO)

**Training on Register-based Population and Housing Censuses (PHC)**

**25 to 27 October 2022**  
(Virtual)

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**I. Background and rationale**

The population and housing census is the most comprehensive source of data on the counts and characteristics of the population in a country, and the foundation of national statistical systems. Population and housing censuses provide key social, economic, and demographic information that are baseline evidence for planning, developing, implementing and monitoring policies in a range of areas. They are also a major source of population data for several of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators and for monitoring national progress towards achieving the related SDG targets. Moreover, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is underpinned by the SDGs and the principle of leaving no one behind, calls for high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex, age, income, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location.

The 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, which was launched in 2015 by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) urges each country to conduct at least one census during the period from 2015-2024. For this 2020 round, many countries have been exploring the use of alternative statistical approaches and data sources that bring efficiency, improved coverage and timely release and access to the data while reducing cost and the burden on respondents and maintaining the quality of results.

Among the ECO member states<sup>1</sup>, there has been an increasing interest in register-based population and housing census. This has been precipitated by several factors including the shift to reduce costs and respondent burden, and to improve the quality and timeliness of census data. Furthermore,

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<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, which posed major challenges to field operations (face-to-face interviews) for traditional censuses served as a major driving force toward alternative approaches, such as the use of administrative data or register-based censuses.

The *Training on Register Based Population and Housing Censuses* is being jointly organized by the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) and will be conducted virtually from 25 to 27 October 2022. The training will be facilitated by ECO, SIAP and experts from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Statistics Division, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSD).

## **II. Objectives**

The training aims to build participants' knowledge and skills in the use of register-based censuses to produce official statistics as an alternative to the traditional census, while also providing a platform for exchanging experiences and lessons learnt in transitioning to this approach.

## **III. Learning outcomes**

By the end of this training, participants are expected to be able to:

- Understand the concepts and features of register-based approaches for producing official statistics.
- Discuss the main issues that must be considered when using registers or administrative data for statistical purposes.
- Understand methodologies for linking and transforming data from registers into census data.
- Appreciate challenges and opportunities of transitioning to register-based censuses.

## **IV. Format and Content**

The training will be delivered in a virtual live lecture format, over a period of 3 days of 2-hour sessions, on each day. Training activities within each training session will be a mixture of virtual presentations on the main topics from resource persons, interactive quizzes/ polls and question and answer sessions.

The main topics to be covered include:

- Overview of the importance of population and housing censuses and 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
- Integrating and transforming administrative data
- Evaluating data quality
- Transition experience of member states: best practices and lessons learnt

## **V. Target countries and participants**

**Target Countries (by invitation only):** Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Türkiye, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

**Target participants:** Countries will be invited to nominate participants. Nominees should be technical staff, statisticians, or demographers from national statistical offices whose main responsibilities are for planning or conducting the population and housing census. Nominations for this training will be accepted on basis of the selection criteria provided in this document and the nomination form.

## **VI. Language**

The working language of the training is English, with simultaneous translation in Russian. All training materials will be available only in English. Hence, nominees for this training should ideally be proficient in or have a good understanding of English.

## **VII. Evaluation**

Certificates will be issued to those participants who attend and complete the workshop successfully.