



# **Future needs for European population statistics**

***David Thorogood  
Eurostat  
European Commission***

# Future needs for population statistics

- *Role of Eurostat is collecting population statistics*
- *Summary of the types of statistics already collected*
- *Why are things changing?*
- *A new legal base for European population statistics*
- *Timetable and ongoing actions*

# Role of Eurostat

- *Statistical Office of the European Union*
- *Compiles and disseminates European statistics based on harmonised data supplied by national authorities*
  - **National Statistical Institutes**
  - **Other national authorities**

*ec.europa.eu/eurostat*

# Population statistics currently collected – annual data - 1

- *Population*
- *Immigrants - persons arriving during the year*
- *Emigrants – persons leaving during the year*
- *Acquisition and loss of citizenship*
- *Loss of citizenship*
- *Live births*
- *Infant deaths*
- *Deaths*

# Population statistics currently collected – annual data - 2

- *First-time marrying persons*
- *Marriages*
- *Divorces*
- *Life table*
- *Total fertility rate*
- *Internal migration*

# Population statistics currently collected – breakdowns and cross-tabulations

- *Different topics have many different relevant breakdowns*
  - **Age, sex, citizenship, age of mother, marital status, educational attainment...**
  - **Many topics and breakdowns are covered by EU legislation – supply of data to Eurostat by national authorities is compulsory**
  - **Other topics and breakdowns collected on a voluntary basis**

# Decennial census data

- ***Demographic, social and economic topics on persons, families, households and dwellings***
  - **For example: Activity status, Education, Industry, Country of birth and citizenship, Place of residence 1 year ago, Place of work, Household and family structure, Housing quality...**

*Generally, data from the census programme have far more geographical and other detail (more complex breakdowns and disaggregations)*

*...but are only available every 10 years*

# What is changing?

- *Majority of Member States moving (have moved, will move, are planning to move) from a traditional door-to-door census every 10 years to use statistics based on administrative data sources and combined data sources*
  - **Population registers, health, tax, social security systems**
  - **Combined administrative sources and sample survey data**

*This makes it feasible to plan for an annual census component based exclusively on administrative sources data – integrating some aspects of the decennial census with the annual population data*



# Scope of data under discussion

**European statistics on population – demographic, migration, housing, household and family composition, economic and social characteristics**

Regulation (EC) 763/2008 on the population and housing census

Regulation (EU) 1260/2013 on demographic statistics

Regulation (EC) 862/2007 on migration statistics (Article 3 only)

and potentially other population related statistics (City Statistics)

# Redeveloped European population statistics – with new legal base - working assumptions

- *First reference year 2024*
- *Annual data collection*
  - **To include some topics and breakdowns currently only collected every 10 years**
  - **Geographically detailed data – including a limited/simple set of data geo-referenced to a 1km<sup>2</sup> grid level**
- *Other data to be collected on a multi-annual basis (2, 5 or 10 years)*
- *Incremental change – to increase amount of data available, based on the availability of appropriate (primarily) administrative data sources in Member States*

# Timetable and ways of working

- *Eurostat – working with a Task Force of National Statistical Institutes (NSIs)*
- *Aim for draft regulation to be ready by end-2019*
- *Currently:*
  - **Consultation with European Commission services about their priority data needs**
  - **Consultation with NSIs about data availability**
- *Consultation will continue as the details of the regulation are prepared*
  - **Need to identify priority data needs taking into account availability of data sources and limited resources**
  - **Identify negative priorities – data no longer needed**

# Important considerations

- *Working with administrative sources is different*
  - **Data source content is often outside of the control of the NSI**
  - **Changes are expensive and time-consuming – not just a matter of adding questions to a sample survey**
- *Competing national pressures for new statistics*
  - **Need for a strong and clear use case**
  - **Need must be feasible – both in terms of costs and data availability**

# Identifying what may be possible

*The redevelopment of population statistics, together with an annual or multi-annual census component based on administrative data sources, is a unique opportunity to expand these statistics.*

*Some desired developments may prove to be difficult or impossible. However, consultation and evaluation will continue to see which needs can be met, either as part of the initial data requirement from 2024 onwards or as part of a later expansion of the statistics.*

**Thank you**