



# **Answers for our future: Where and how are we living? Experiences from the Slovak Census 2011**

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# Why do we conduct Census?

## Because:

- the Census is a comprehensive survey conducted in a period of 10 years and serves as the ultimate source of data for the public, government and scientific research,
- some data about population and especially about housing can only be obtained from the Census,
- creates a base for sample surveys with the possibility of getting more detailed information about population,
- knowledges based on the data about population possibly could positively affect the quality of life



# What about quality of census data?

Factors of obtaining the high quality data:

- methodology,
- organization,
- cooperation,
- time schedule,
- human factor,
- communication to the public,
- at last, but not least - legislation




# Public campaign

Motto:

„Describe the present time, you will influence  
the future.“

Participating in the Census and being counted  
means leaving a message to the generations  
to come, telling them about how we, their  
ancestors, lived.



## Accompanying activities

- Permanent exposition of the Census shows historical documents and publications about Census, occasionally issued stamps with Census motive
- The exposition has been created with a huge help of the public at the occasion of the contest “Searching for the oldest census exhibit” - the valuable exhibit is the **Dictionary of Geographic Names composed of more than 100 years old census results** available in Hungarian language
- Special activities for specific groups of respondents (youth, seniors, Romani people)
- The web-site: <http://www.scitanie2011.sk/en/>



# Some basic information about administrative structure of the SR

Slovakia is administratively divided into:

- 8 regions at the level of NUTS 3
- 79 districts (LAU 1)
- 2891 municipalities (LAU 2) – incl. 138 towns

System of administration – paralell model:


- State administration – central authorities (ministries and agencies), 50 district authorities, specialized state administration
- Local administration (self-government) – municipalities, 8 regional self-government bodies



## Role of Municipalities in the Census

- Besides the Statistical Office, **municipalities** have been counted as the key players during the preparation and conduction of the field operations
- Role of Municipalities – coordinators and „link“ between the field workers and the Statistical Office
- Responsibility for creating of enumeration areas and for collection of the forms completed by respondents (from the field workers)

## Enumeration Areas (EA)

- Revision of boundaries of enumeration areas
  - Enumeration areas -> revised, newly created and validated by municipalities
  - Base for creating the enumeration areas -> Register of basic residential units (administrator = Slovak Environmental Agency, Ministry of Environment of the SR)
  - **1 EA = round 100 to 120 dwelling households, 400 – 500 inhabitants**
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## Field workers

- Ca. **20 000 field workers** for the whole territory of Slovakia
- Field workers have been hired by municipalities, trained by the Statistical Office of the SR
- Help for the field workers:
  - > maps (scale 1:2000),
  - > auxiliary forms for making notices about newly build and demolished houses, about dwellings and presence of inhabitants



## Field operations - time schedule:

- Point in Time Relevant -> midnight between Friday, **the 20th of May, 2011** and Saturday, the **21th of May, 2011**
- Census Period -> **May, 13 – June, 6**
- Data collection through the Internet -> **May, 21 - May, 29**
- The time available for electronic counting was shorter so as field workers could check those residents who were formerly interested in electronic counting whether they really got counted that way.



## Obligations of the field workers related to respondents

- Distribution of forms to the households **first on May, 13**
- The Census Taker could only enter into the dwelling **with permission of the owner/tenant**
- They were required to establish **proof of their identity** by producing a special authorization
- Communication skills required
- After the Point in Time Relevant, the field worker was obliged to visit the households again for the **purpose of collecting the paper forms completed**



## Big issue: Data protection and public opinion

- Using of Identifiers raised various doubts by the public
- The method of data protection was checked by the central authority for data protection and also by prosecutor's office
- Identifier was needed for enumerating of one person (house, dwelling) only once, but the auxiliary form for linking the persons with the house and dwelling contained the name and year of birth, in special cases the address of permanent residence of the respondent as well as identifiers of questionnaires
- => that was the cause of negative public opinion

## Data protection from our point of view

- The personal data will only be used for the purpose of linking the data on persons and data on housing
- The Census Sheets are the subject of the data protection according to the relevant law, they will be discarded (shredded) after processing
- The persons involved in data collection and processing are **under the vow of silence without time restriction**



## Some figures from the Census:

- Collected questionnaires total: **8 372 264**  
Personal q. – 5,3 million; Dwelling q. – 1,9 million;  
Housing q. – 1,1 million
- Paper forms - total: **7 808 570**
- Electronically - total: **563 694** => **6,73 % of whole amount** of questionnaires collected
- Enumeration through the internet – more popular among women than men
- **The typical respondent** in the electronic data collection was **single employed woman, age of 31 – 40, with completed high school education with leaving exam**

## Operations in progress / next operations

- Recognizing of paper forms (scanning) – using OMR and OCR technology
- Validation of recognized characters, typing of the correct values if not correctly recognized
- Processing of census data
- Data release – continuously
- Complete data released according the EU regulation no later than in March 2014

**Thank you for your  
attention**

