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Joint ECE-EUROSTAT work session
on Population and Housing Censuses¹
(Dublin, Ireland, 9-11 November 1998)

Study topic 1

ESTABLISHING A DWELLING REGISTER IN NORWAY:
THE MISSING LINK

Supporting paper submitted by Statistics Norway²

Summary

1. Statistics Norway has a history of integrating statistical information from registers in population and housing censuses. The Norwegian Population Census for the Year 2000 will entirely be based on registers. There is no information on dwellings or households available from registers. Therefore the housing census will be a traditional survey using a questionnaire for every occupied dwelling. During the past years Statistics Norway has been arguing for a dwelling register, using information from the housing survey as data input. This makes the 2000-Census a highly relevant survey for a future dwelling register. The final decision is yet to be made, but extensive planning has been done in recent years.

2. The paper will describe the current state of the process towards a dwelling register in Norway. It starts with a short history of the use of registers in the Norwegian censuses and of the planning process towards the dwelling register. A dwelling register should facilitate annual, updated dwelling and household statistics from register. Other benefits from a future dwelling register for the Norwegian statistical system will be presented, together with interests from other parties. The concept of, and the potential for the dwelling register will be explained taking into account the existing Register for Ground properties, Addresses and Buildings (GAB-register) and the Central Population Register.

1 The papers which are prepared for this work session will be treated in the same manner, as papers that are prepared for seminars.

2 Prepared by Coen Hendriks and Paul Inge Severeide, Division for Population and Housing Census.

3. During the planning process Statistics Norway has been working closely with the Norwegian Mapping Authority and the Tax Inspectorate in charge of respectively the GAB-register and the Central Population Register. A joint proposal on establishing and maintaining the register has been presented for the Ministry of Finance in January 1998. The paper outlines the method and costs for the project. In establishing a dwelling register the GAB-register and the Central Population Register will be linked by means of a unique dwelling number.

4. In order to link a dwelling and its occupants it is proposed that each dwelling will be given a unique identification number. Information on every dwelling will be collected through the 2000-Census. The occupants in every dwelling will be identified by their personal birth number, also through the 2000-Census. Information on each dwelling will be loaded into the existing GAB-register, thus extending the road addresses to dwelling addresses. Addresses in the Central Population Register will be extended to include the new dwelling number. This implies also an extension of addresses in the Central Population Register from road addresses to dwelling addresses.

5. The project will include the following activities:

1. Identifying the dwellings. The Norwegian Mapping Authority will be responsible, working closely with the local authorities in each municipality. Information from registers (e.g. the GAB-register) is combined with local knowledge to facilitate the job.
2. Number the dwellings. A label with the new dwelling identification number will be sent to each owner. The owner sees to it that the label is attached on a specific spot in the dwelling. The Norwegian Mapping Authority will be responsible.
3. Identify the occupants and introduce the dwelling number as an obligatory part of the addresses in the Central Population Register. As a part of the questionnaire for the 2000-Census Statistics Norway will collect household data for each occupied dwelling. The household composition for each occupied dwelling will be entered into the Central Population Register, extending the address with the new dwelling number. Statistics Norway in co-operation with the Tax Inspectorate is responsible.
4. Collecting dwelling information and transfer to the GAB register. Information on dwellings will be collected through the 2000-Census and loaded into the existing GAB register. Statistics Norway will be responsible.

6. The costs for the project are estimated at 105,1 million Nok (12,6 million ECU), including 33,7 million Nok (4,0 million ECU) for the dwelling census, which are already granted. A breakdown of the costs will be presented in the paper.