

Novelties and experiences of the 2016 Hungarian Microcensus

Virág Erdei - Marcell Kovács
Population Census and Demographic Statistics Department
Hungarian Central Statistical Office

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1 The history of censuses, microcensuses in Hungary

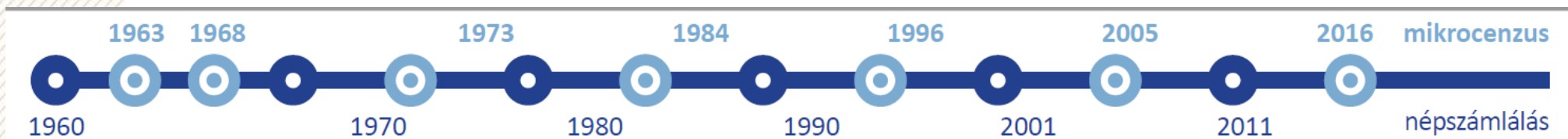
Hungarian census has a long history

- 1st census: 1870
- 15th census: 2011

Traditional full-scope enumerations

The need for detailed socio-economic data between two censuses called into being the microcensus.

- 1st microcensus: 1963
- 7th microcensus: 2016



2 The concept of microcensus

Microcensus is a “small census” that is carried out between two censuses – generally half-time – on a sample in order to update census information and to test new techniques.

Main features:

- Applies the same concepts as the census
- Compulsory and ordered by law
- Based on a sample
- Census topics
- Connecting surveys about relevant social issues
- Same organization phases as in census (preparatory works, data processing, execution and dissemination)
- Test function of new techniques.



3 Methodology of Census 2011

Data collection period: 1 October – 8 November 2011.

Reference date: 0 o'clock 1 October 2011.

Respondent package delivered to addresses by the enumerators:
Anonymous questionnaires + internet login code

Multi-mode data collection simultaneously in time:

- Self-administered responding (online): 1–16 October, 2011
- Self-administered responding (paper): 1–16 October, 2011
- Interviews (paper): 1–31 October, 2011
- Supplementary data collection 1–8 November 2011

Paper and electronic questionnaires

Or
identified
question-
naires?

Or
separated
periods?

Or by
postal
service?

Or only
electronic
question-
naires?



4 Methodology of Microcensus 2016

Data collection period: 1 October – 8 November 2016.

Reference date: 0 o'clock 1 October 2016.

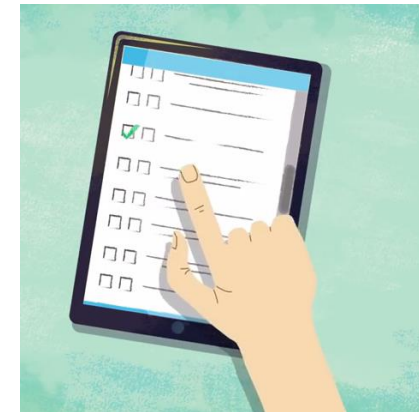
Information letters delivered by the post: 26 –30 September

Two-step data collection:

- Self-administered responding (online): 1–9 October
- Interviews (electronic): 10 October – 8 November

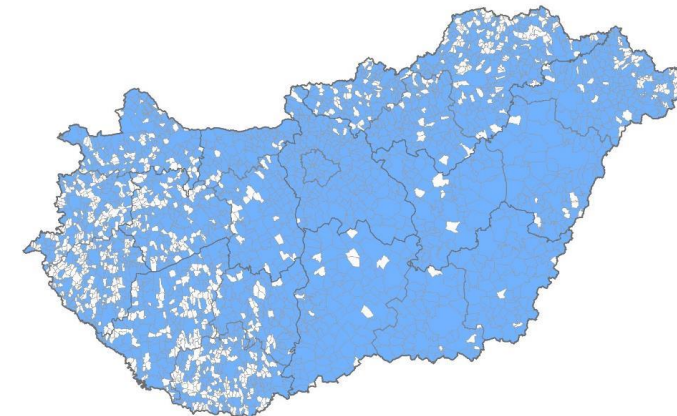
Technology:

- Using **only electronic** devices without any paper questionnaires
- The enumerators used laptops and tablets



5 The sample of Microcensus 2016

- Microcensuses in the past used to apply a 2% sample.
- Microcensus 2016 however used a uniquely large **10% sample**.
- The sample was chosen to be representative to a more detailed geographical level than before: to district level (close to LAU1 - There are 197 districts in Hungary).
- The **sampling frame** was based on the updated 2011 Census Address Register of HCSO.
- The sample covered **440 thousand dwellings and 500 institutions** in 2148 settlements (out of the total 3176 settlements in Hungary).



6 Response rates by modes

Rate of responding households in Census 2011:

- Self-administered online: 19%
- Self-administered paper: 16% bad quality
- Interview (paper): 65%

Rate of responding households in Microcensus 2016:

- Self-administered online: 18%
- Interview (electronic): 82% best quality



7 Data processing of Microcensus 2016

- The electronic data collection enabled much faster data processing than in 2011.
- **Continuous data processing system:**
 - Questionnaire data arriving from data collecting system
 - Pre-processing phases:
 1. Automatic coding of textual information
 2. Manual coding of textual information
 3. Expert coding of textual information
 - Final data processing, editing
- **Final database** was ready at the end of March 2017, **6 months after reference date.**



8 Data dissemination

Final results of the microcensus were published in May 2017,

8 months after reference date.



Final results of Census 2011 were published in March 2013

18 months after reference date



9 Tasks after the microcensus

- **Quality assessment**

- The impact of new data collection technique on data quality, comparisons with 2011 census data quality

- **Improvement in the use of administrative sources**

- Census 2011: addresses from HCSO's Address Register for the frame, information from Population Register for non-response imputation
- Task: studying the usability of administrative data for census purposes
- Plan: linking data sets from various registers.

Preparations of introducing personally identified questionnaires

- No names on the questionnaires of the last censuses and microcensuses.



10 Attitude survey 2018

To measure the attitude of respondents about a **census executed with personal identification and taking over information from official registers**. To examine the attitude of the respondents towards the statistical use of personal administrative data.



11 Plans for Census 2021

- No decision yet about the method of Census 2021
- Improving the **use of registers** – New statistical law (2016) gives HCSO the authority to use identified data records from administrative sources – but there are **difficulties in cooperation**
- Studying the advantages/risks of the **introduction of personally identified questionnaires** – Attitude survey
- Further analyses about linking administrative data with census/microcensus data.
- **Possible census method: combined census, field enumeration supplemented with information from administrative registers.**



Thank you for your attention!

virag.erdei@ksh.hu

marcell.kovacs@ksh.hu

