

IPUMS-Europe Census Microdata Harmonization Project **Documentation Needed**

If this pan-European initiative is to succeed in a mere five years, the essential first step is to obtain without undue delay copies of all relevant census documentation. Preliminary study of the documentation of each participating country will aid greatly in designing the over-all integration: country-by-country, census-by-census, question-by-question, concept-by-concept, and code-by-code.

Specifically we are requesting, from each national statistical authority, copies of documentation in the national language as well as in English, French, German, or Russian (where available), for each census for which microdata are to be included in the project. Three types of documentation are needed:

1. Census enumeration forms (Nearly complete; we are lacking: Austria 71; Bulgaria 92, 75; Czech Republic 91; Greece 91, Hungary 80; Poland 88, 70; Slovenia 81; Spain 81; Turkey 1960-2000)
2. Census enumerator instructions (all needed)
3. "Codebooks" for each dataset (definitions of record structures, column location of variables and labels for codes, such as the U.S. Census Bureau "IMPS" data dictionary files), including administrative geography, occupations, etc.—all needed

Also welcome are copies of technical reports on census operations, sampling methods, comparability, data quality, phrasing of questionnaires, etc.—any extant documentation that would be of assistance in attaining the highest standards of integration.

Documentation may be supplied in electronic, published, or photocopied form. Electronic is the preferred means, where available, and may be sent as emailed attachments or on CDs. To avoid loss of materials and to economize effort, please assemble the entire collection, and send by courier mail, at project expense (FEDEX account #: 2221-6454-0) to:

Robert McCaa
Minnesota Population Center
271 19th Ave. S. 537 Heller Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55455 USA
Tel. 1+612-624-5818
Reference: IPUMS: [Country]

Please confirm shipment, indicating contents, date shipped and package tracking number, by email to: rmccaa@umn.edu

As an example of the original source documentation needed, please consult the Latin America web page: www.hist.umn.edu/~rmccaa/ipumsla (the IPUMS-LA project began a year ago).

There you will find a nearly complete collection of electronic images of each of these three types of documents for each country and census in the region. Statisticians have lauded this body of documentation as a significant scientific accomplishment in itself! Work on harmonizing the LA census microdata is already underway.

Thank you for your cooperation!