

## Miscellanea

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### The Central Register of Population of the Republic of Slovenia

*Irena Tršinar<sup>1</sup>*

This paper provides a brief overview of the collection, processing and dissemination of data on population in the Republic of Slovenia. Key elements in the system of data collection are the Central Register of Population (CRP) and the Personal Identification Number (PIN). The CRP and demographic surveys are interdependent. The CRP also provides data for government and other institutions that are authorized to access the population data held in the CRP. In addition, this paper describes the problems encountered recently and suggests some directions for the future.

*Key words:* Population statistics; demography; personal identification number; administrative registers; Slovenia.

#### 1. Introduction

The Slovene Central Register of Population (CRP) has a long tradition. In the mid-1970s, it was organized on the principles used in the Nordic countries, based, in fact, on the Danish and Swedish models.

The operation of the CRP is regulated by legislation, of which the most important is "The Law on Personal Identification Number" (PIN or originally Emšo 1980). The same law that regulates the local registers of population also applies to the CRP. The confidentiality of microdata on individuals is protected by a very strict act (1990) which mandates that no other personal data than those stipulated by law can be collected. The new legislation is necessary because at present, the CRP does not contain data on foreigners and temporary residents. Data on these individuals cannot be included in the CRP until the individuals have been assigned PINs.

A special characteristic of our register is that it is run by the Statistical Office, as statisticians were the first to recognise the importance of a CRP. On the other hand, the local population registers operate under the supervision of our Ministry of Internal Affairs. According to present definitions, the CRP is the sum of all

<sup>1</sup> Irena Tršinar is Advisor to the Director and Chief of the Division of the Central Register of Population, Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, Vožarski pot 12, 61000 Ljubljana, Slovenia.

local population registers. In the future, we plan to draw data from other sources as well.

The CRP is a multi-purpose data file. It ensures that population data are: centrally collected from the sources where they are initially registered; centrally controlled, corrected, processed and stored; and finally that they are disseminated from a central point to all government and other institutions that are authorized to receive and use the data on population. And, the presence of the PIN enables various data linkages, which are, of course, regulated by law.

## **2. Personal Identification Number**

The CRP assigns a PIN to every new-born child, to immigrants and to any person who, for some reason, does not already have one, or whose PIN needs to be corrected. The assignment should occur within three days of birth or receipt of the data. The PIN is a 13-digit number which comprises the owner's date of birth and sex and also a check digit, controlled by modulus-11.

The uses of the PIN stretch far beyond its presence in the CRP. The PIN appears on most personal documents, such as personal identification cards, passports, drivers licences, health insurance cards, etc. Many other registers use the PIN to manage and update their data files. And of course, demographic statistics also make extensive use of the PIN.

## **3. The Data Kept in the CRP**

For every individual in the CRP, we collect:

- the date of birth and sex, which are constituent parts of the PIN,
- name and surname,
- place of birth,
- marital status,
- address for permanent resident population (community, settlement, street and house number),
- former or future place of permanent address for migrants,
- professional attainment for migrants,
- citizenship (Slovene only),
- dates and codes of events and other technical instruments.

The variables listed above are in compliance with current regulations. Previously, other data were also collected, for example, names of parents, occupation, nationality and cause of migration. We have proposed a redefinition of necessary variables. In the future, we hope to also be able to include foreign citizens and the temporary resident population since at present only Slovenian citizens who have resident status are included.

## **4. Input and Output Data Flow**

The local registrars send us statistics on births, deaths and marriages on forms. On magnetic tape, we receive data on migration, corrections and information on how

the vital events have been registered on the local level. The law courts are a source of data on divorce. Changes in territorial units are transmitted from the Register of Territorial Units.

We consider statisticians to be the main users of the CRP. Demographic statistics and the CRP are interdependent. The data are published monthly. The time lag between an event's occurrence and its publication is no more than three months. The CRP is also used for the census of population or sample surveys, such as household consumption and labour force survey.

Other public authorities are authorised to use microdata from the CRP. By use of the PIN, government agencies can update their data bases on a monthly basis, i.e., the latest changes, new PINs, etc. Those that receive data from the CRP are: registers of taxes, health insurance, real estate, national defence, the Vaccination Register, the Cancer Register, the Cadastral Register, the employment (unemployment) registers, social and pension insurance registers and education records. The CRP is also used when making print-outs of the lists of voters for elections or referendums.

## **5. Plans for the Future**

An important area of future research and implementation is the harmonization of definitions within the entire Slovene data collection and record keeping system. Data quality is also an area to which we devote a great deal of attention and resources. In general, the quality of the data in the CRP is high, but there are a number of areas that require attention. Among these are for instance, establishing the actual residence of each individual. This task is problematic because of primary, secondary and temporary residences. Since Slovenia became an independent country, a great amount of work has been devoted to establishing the citizenship of each individual. The number of emigrants leaving the country without having reporting doing so has increased. Ongoing field work and widespread use of the data are expected to gradually solve the mentioned deficiencies.

Finally, we have proposed to the Government that an institution be established within a government ministry that will act as the manager of the CRP. This proposal was motivated by international recommendations that statistical offices should not disseminate identifiable microdata on individuals. Nevertheless, this matter will be discussed in the National Assembly first, but no decision about the future manager of the CRP may in any way change the basic aim and function of the CRP.

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