Abstract

Census of Population, Households and Dwellings planned to be conducted in the year 2001, was postponed for 2002, exclusively for non-statistical reasons. Inspite the fact that these circumstances are not changed decision were made to perform Census by the April 1, 2002 on the territory of Republic of Serbia (territory of the Province of Kosovo and Metohia not included).

In the Republic of Serbia Central Population Register does not exist. Administrative files about citizens (persons), like registration of departure or arrival in the place of residence, are maintained by the database of citizens in the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and special registers of child-birth and died persons are maintained by relevant municipal services.

In the middle of eighties, in the year 1985, in the phase of preparation of Census of population in the 1991 started activity for introducing Central Population Register. This project was approved by authorities and the next year the Law on Central Population Register was adopted. By this, were created legal grounds for introducing register of population as a automatised database about persons on the level of republics (in the former Yugoslavia). Content of the Register includes following data:

- family name, name and the name of the one parent;  
- unique personal identification number;  
- place of birth (settlement, municipality, republic (province), or foreign state and settlement for the persons born in foreign country);  
- place of residence (settlement, street name and house number, municipality, republic (province), and  
- date of registration.

Intention were to use Census of population in the 1991 for introducing Central Population Register. Unfortunately, until today this register does not exist in the Republic of Serbia. There are various special registers and data files about persons, and they are maintained on the level of municipality by their special services, but register of population, as a centralised automatised database is not yet integral part of the informatical and statistical system of the country.

However, the Law on informatical system of the Republic of Serbia in the 1996 initiate Project of development of integrated database of the government of the Republic of Serbia. According to this Project Integrated Database should comprise data on persons, legal persons and other forms of business activity, as well as data about territorial units. Development of Integrated Database is on the way, and it is expected that in the following few years this database will be introduced, including Central Population Register.

Office for Informatics and Statistics Belgrade is integral part of the statistical system of Republic of Serbia. This Office carries out statistical surveys and other activities on the territory of the City of Belgrade, on their 16 municipalities and according to data from last Census of population in the year 1991, with total number of population of about 1 600 000 persons. From 1986 in the Statistical Office of Belgrade exists Integrated Database of the Harmonized Informatical System of the City of Belgrade. This database consists of 17 special registers, and administrative files about population, economic activities of the physical and legal persons, about territorial units, etc. Preparation of the next census of population is widely relied on this integrated database.

In the statistical system of FR Yugoslavia, Republic of Serbia also, are maintained following central registers:
- Register of Territorial Units (since 1989);  
- Register of Classification Units (Register of Legal Persons) – (since 1976), and  
- Register of Small Entrepreneurs (only in the Republic of Serbia) – (since 1995).

Census of Population, Households and Dwelings in the Republic of Serbia will be performed on traditional way by the “PAPI” method. This emphasis very important role of the Register of Territorial Units in the preparation phase. Clear determination of the territorial unit which for every interviewer (“enumerator”) so called Enumeration Area, is fundamental precondition for Census of population to be carried out successfully, and to be assured that all census units (persons, households and dwelings) will be completely covered without duplications. Preparation of Census lasted almost two years and for 38 323 Enumeration Areas are made maps and description of border lines for the territory of Republic of Serbia without territory of Province of Kosovo and Metohia.

Besides register of Population Units we in the Statistics Serbia used Register of Legal Persons for filling in advance the special form so called “PL-form” which is given to every persons by his enterprise, or organisation in which he or she is employed. This form every person is obliged to pass to the interviewer when he/she comes to their home to make the enumeration. Enumerator then make copy in writing of this data from PL-form to the P-1 form (questionary for persons). These data are about economic activity of the person or the firm in which he/she is employed.

Experience from the preparation of the Census of Population, Households and dwellings in the 2002 suggests that existing registers are efficiently used. However, some problems remain, which must be solved in the near future. Most serious problem is insufficiently settled address system in the Republic of Serbia, except in the City of Belgrade. Inspite the fact that the accompanying laws and other legal instruments are in force we are confronted with many problems because of fact that address system in the cities, peripherical urban areas and in the rural areas is not updated. Nonexistence of Central Register of Streets and House Numbers is one of the reasons for fact that Central Population Register is not yet introduced. Assignment of house numbers until late January was responsibility of the municipal services, but from then Cadastral Office of Republic of Serbia is in charge, according to relevant legal prescriptions, for development and conducting of this Register. We expect that the following Census of Population, Households and Dwelings could adequately serve for a definitive arrangement of address system and subsequently for introducing Central Population Register in the Republic of Serbia.

2 “Paper and pencil” method