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IPS434

**New methods and sources in the modernisation
of economic statistics**

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Hungarian Central Statistical Office
Monday 17 July, 10:00AM - 12:00AM



Plan B: agricultural surveys in times of unexpected events

- Focusing on agricultural statistical data collections
- More and more unforeseen factors
- Preparing for unexpected situations
- No data – no good decisions
- Tools of Plan B – Hungarian practices

Why is Plan B needed?



Preparing data collections:

- detailed timetable
- identification of responsible persons
- continuous monitoring
- intervention, if necessary
- interlinked processes
- redesign - Plan B (advantages, disadvantages)

The 2013 Case



- Agricultural Censuses – every ten years
- Farm Structure Surveys (years ending with 3, 6)
- 2013:
 - Well prepared
 - First experiments with electronic data collection
 - Floods made the work of surveyors difficult
 - Few admin data
 - Longer survey period



The 2016 Case



- First fully electronic survey (CAWI, CAPI)
- Increased share of CAWI
- Tablets needed
- Longer survey period (based on 2013 experiences)
- Late delivery of tablets
- One third of the enumerators started the work with 2 weeks delay
- No other chance (own devices or paper documents)



The 2020 Case – Agricultural Census



Fundamental changes in the national methodology

- new Farm Register,
- admin sources integrated,
- new survey method,
- new threshold,
- fully electronic,
- intensive communication

resulted:

- less burden on respondents
- reduction in the budget



Covid-19 challenges



Reference day: 1 June 2020

Reference period: 1 June 2019 – 1 June 2020

Original plan for the implementation of the
Census:

CAWI (online): 15-31 May 2020

CAPI (enumerators): 1-30 June 2020



Postponed implementation of the AC 2020



CAWI: 5-30 June 2020

- Started later
- Longer period
- Intensive communication (importance of online completion)
- Small lottery with prizes (to increase the share of online questionnaires)

CAWI share: 23% (never before have so many completed an agricultural statistics questionnaire online)

Postponed implementation of the AC 2020



Decision: CAPI postponed to autumn

Version A: 1-31 October

Pros:

- reference day not too far
- no effect on regular December survey
- financial accounting in 2020

Cons:

- availability of sufficient number of staff (more than 6000 people)

Postponed implementation of the AC 2020



Version B: 1 October- 22 November (longer than „A”)

Pros:

- fewer participants (mainly enumerators) needed

Cons:

- getting dark earlier in November
- far from reference date
- financial accounting partly in 2021 (contract modifications)
- partial implementation of the regular December survey

Postponed implementation of the AC 2020



Main risk in both cases: possible peak of the 2nd wave of Covid-19

Most critical issue: number of enumerators

Decision:

CAPI period 19 September – 22 November

Postponed implementation of the AC 2020



Further detailed plans have been developed:

- Possibility of phone survey
- E-learning for the surveyors
- Priorizing the respondents (farms)
- Intensive communication focused on:
 - Need of the data
 - Keeping social distance
 - Safe interviews
 - Possible phone interviews

Sustainable plans

What happened in Europe?



Mandatory in the EU Member States – for all farms

Most countries: electronic data collection

Intensive use of administrative sources

2/3 extended the survey period

New data collection mode (CATI)

Reference year: unchanged

What happened in Europe? – cont.



Importance of communication

AC is not a necessary burden but also farmer's interest

Using CAWI, CATI (and post) – avoid personal connections

Training: e-learning

Call Center and website for Q&As

Reaching the farmers – promoting the Census

Important: prevent a loss of quality – had to deal with missing values, outliers, duplicates, different types of errors

What happened in Europe? – cont.



Implemented B plans became daily routine

- Data collection methods (paper -> CAWI, CATI)
- Changing working environment
- Modernisation
- Alternative data sources

Recent needs for Plan B



2022: Population Census and December agricultural survey directly after each other

- Reorganizing the IT staff needs
- Later start of the data collection period
- Recruitment of surveyors

Current Plan B



2023: Farm Structure Survey – delays in IT developments

In order to publish the preliminary data:

- Reorganizing the validation
- Using PQ tables for continuous checking
- Focusing on the most important farms
- Focusing on the most important variables

Possible Plan B



2024: Plant Protection Data Collection

Data from admin sources (electronic diary)

But if this is not available: survey is needed (as it was in 2019)

Conclusions



- Data is needed – key role of NSIs
- For conducting surveys Plan B is recommended
- SWOT analysis
- Rapid intervention
- Alternative solutions
- Modern solutions
- Green solutions
- Sustainability



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THANK YOU.



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