WELCOME.
IPS434
New methods and sources in the modernisation of economic statistics

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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
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

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

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
THANK YOU.