

On the preparation, implementation and development of population census in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2009

On the basis of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 7 June 2006 the population and housing census was carried out in Azerbaijan from 13 to 22 April 2009.

The methodology of the census was developed in advance, at the same time different organizational matters were solved in a timely manner, as well as questions like piloting of data processing technology.

To successfully implement the preparatory activities and the methodological work, in June 2006 a unit on population and housing censuses was established in the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Preparatory work was carried out in the regions by applying consistent methodology in accordance with the instructions, guidance and on standardized questionnaires, which were centrally developed and approved by the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan, Goskomstat.

To assist in issues related to the Census, the government established a Governmental Census Commission, headed by Deputy Prime Minister. The purpose is to coordinate the work of ministries, departments and local authorities in the preparation and carrying out of Census activities. The commission is composed of the heads of relevant ministries, departments and other central government bodies.

The meetings of the Governmental Census Commission consider the course of the preparations for the Census and take appropriate actions. Similar commissions have also been created for implementing the activities in all cities and districts of the country.

Forms for all administrative areas have been prepared in advance, and schematic plans were prepared for urban settlements and large villages with a population of more than 5,000 people.

In order to timely inform residents of the country about carrying out the population and housing census and to form a positive attitude, the census activities have been promoted in the media. For this purpose, promotional materials have been developed and demonstrated in all TV channels and special articles on specific aspects of the census were published in most of the newspapers.

New measures were introduced in the methodology of the census that will be reflected in the outcome of the census.

The questions in the census questionnaire have been divided into several parts. Several questions from the previous census round were kept in order to monitor the dynamics of change. Parts concerning education, employment, migration, demography and housing conditions of the population etc. were extended.

The census questionnaire includes all together 35 questions, out of which 6 questions concern the housing conditions and 29 questions relate directly to the population. The questionnaire contains questions, such as attributes of the reference person of the household, e.g. sex, date and place of birth, nationality, native language, citizenship, marital status, education level, information about employees or self-employment, unemployment, type of dwelling, its utilities and ownership, number of rooms, and the surface area of the dwelling etc.

The census questions include new issues for more detailed assessment of the demographic situation of the population. The questionnaire has been extended in particular in relation to the issues of marital status, households, family composition, employment, location of work, education and migration, availability of second dwelling, place of residence after the 1999 census, participation in pre-school, and employment situation a week before the census etc.

While preparing for the population and housing census the recommendations by UNECE were taken into account, keeping in mind the national features of the previous census to maintain comparability in time. In addition, the questions of the census are identical with the model questionnaire provided by the CIS Statistical Committee.

Organizational plans for the census round of 2009 were compiled at the level of each district and city in addition to the consolidated organizational plan for the Republic of Azerbaijan. In the organizational plan 540 census units (enumeration districts), 3,800 supervision areas and 19,400 enumeration areas were created in the country.

The duration of conducting the census was extended for the 2009 round, whereas in 1999 and earlier it was carried out in 8 days, in 2009 it was conducted within 10 days.

The software for population and housing census was designed based on the client-server technology by the specialists of the State Statistical Committee, Goskomstat.

All census information was entered, recorded and stored centrally into a relational server database. As during the last census, the materials of the census were processed in the Goskomstat, and for this purpose the local computer network was created.

Entering the information, its quality control and coordination of all technological operations was carried out in the workstations of staff members.

Preliminary results of the census were published in the media in July 2009. According to the preliminary results, the population of Azerbaijan as of 13 April 2009 amounted to 8,922 million people.

The census was carried out in the areas controlled by the government. Refugees and internally displaced persons were taken into account in the place of their actual temporary accommodation by “recording the place of last permanent residence”.