which had not been included in the sample from the first universe. It was recommended that a random sample of about 280,000 persons be drawn from this universe. The third universe is the population aged 65 and over, which had not been included in the first two sub-samples. The recommendations envisage drawing a random sample of about 120,000 persons from this universe. Finally, the fourth universe consists of the population age 80 and over, which had not been included in any of the other sub-samples. According to the recommendations, about 150,000 persons had to be drawn randomly from this universe. Applying this design results in a sample that has the structure depicted in Figure A.1.

This design incorporates and is in conformity with the four criteria outlined above, as it ensures that the target sample size is met, that the over-sampling with age is achieved and that each of the four sub-samples is self-weighting. In addition, the sampling design offers significant flexibility as the four sub-samples can be used separately, or combined according to the specific needs of a given research project.

Many of the participating countries have drawn their samples in accordance with these principles. Some countries (specifically Estonia, Finland, Latvia and Lithuania) adhered to earlier recommendations and sampled only the population over age 50 (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania provided the entire population over age 50, while Finland sampled it with progressive over-sampling). Several countries provided samples that had not been drawn specially for this project, and cover the entire population without over-sampling. Table 1 provides details on the sample sizes and densities for the datasets constructed in accordance with the PAU's recommended sampling strategy.
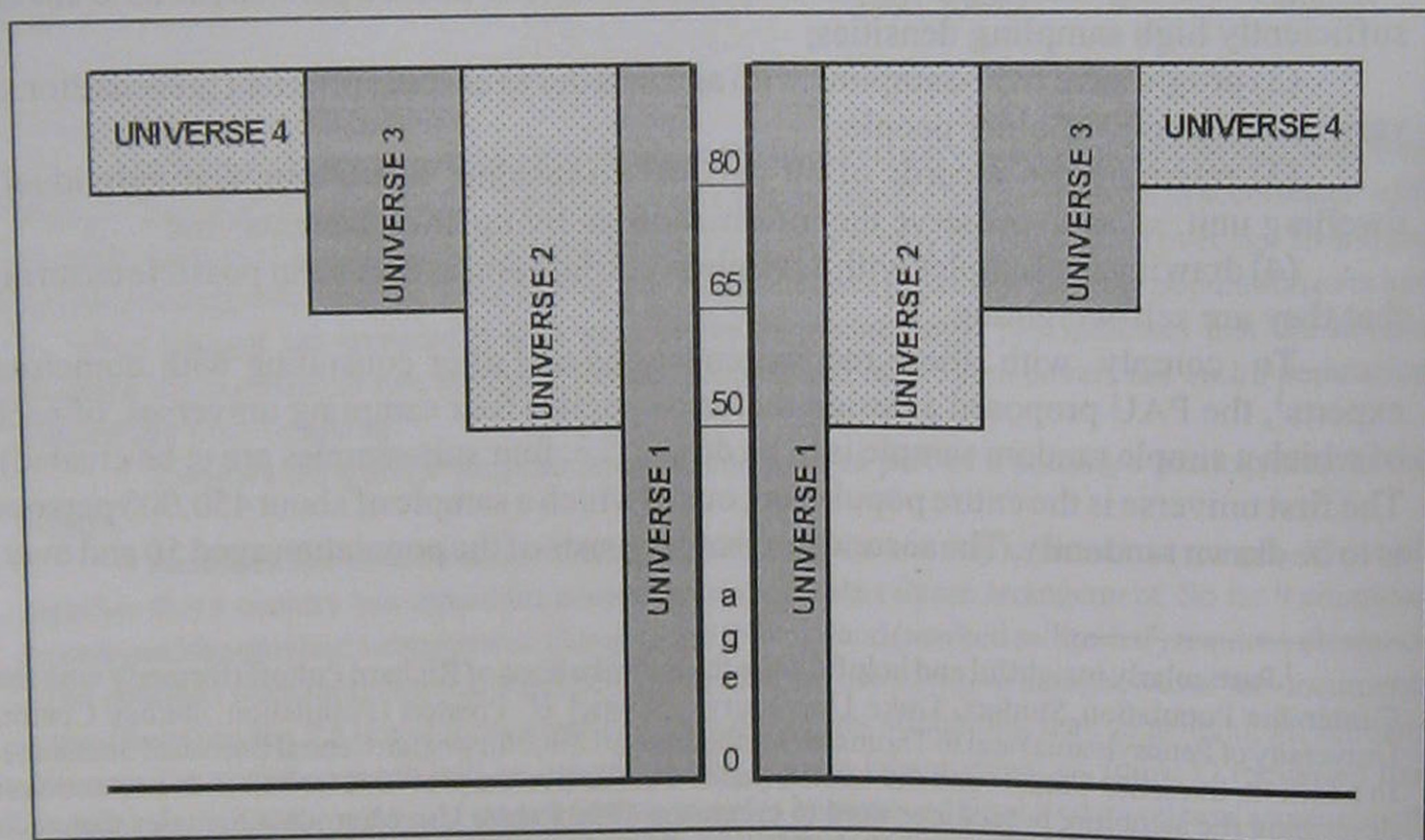

Fig. A. 1. Structure of PAU's census microdata samples (according to the recommended sampling strategy)