

- neither addresses nor names must be used on the questionnaires in the traditional door-to-door interview;

- because of the enormous increase in the number of businesses during the 90's, a first attempt was made to use administrative data as additional information source on employment by linking the questionnaire with the HCSO Business Register for the businesses with over 19 employees in the later steps of processing (in many countries it could be done in the OCR phase).

The two latter features of the 2001 Census need to be discussed in detail.

2. LEGAL BACKGROUND

Following a former act from 1973 the operation of the HCSO is basically governed by the Act XLVI of 1993 (modified by the Act CVIII of 1999) on Statistics (briefly Statistics Act). The Statistics Act refers to and is „in harmony with the Act LXIII of 1992 on Protection of Personal Data and Disclosure of Data of Public Interest" (briefly Data Protection Act). Both Acts are the fruits of the transition period and apparently the Data Protection Act was born firstly.

2.1. A Strange Census in 2001

In general, the population censuses provide a good basis for framing, sampling or simply comparison possibility with data from other sources due to the good coverage, independently of the way (traditional, register-based or combined) of the census taken. Obviously one of the essentials is the possibility of identification. The 2001 Hungarian Population Census had to be conducted under unprecedented circumstances. Firstly, at the request of the representatives of the registered national minorities in Hungary (13) no names must be used on the census questionnaires and later on, at the request of the Data Protection Ombudsman, the same happened to the addresses a few days before the Census Day. It is needless to say how difficult was to compile family/household composition without names in a household.

Now the only linkage between the Census and the „external world" is the address file, which was used for conducting the Census. The reasons for this is the **people's fear of identification**. The first people's attitude of this kind was already manifested in 1989 when the usual personal identity number (PIN) had to cancel for the 1990 census, meanwhile there were European countries which could use it even in the 2000 census round for traditional census, not speaking about the Scandinavian countries which carry out register based censuses using a set of identifiers with the consent of the society.

The prohibition of the PIN code was laid down in the Data Protection Act:
Article 7 para 2: Unlimited, general and uniform personal identification code shall not be used.