

Nevertheless the Working Group had experiments and real application with matching and data linkage under the conditions provided by laws. In the next items a couple of examples of these experiments and application will be shown.

4.1. Linkage between Population Census and Business Register data

As known, many statistical offices play the idea of using administrative data to a greater extent as before, to combine with or substitute for census data. In 2001 the HCSO took the opportunity to make a first step to use data from the BR for post evaluation purposes and towards testing a potential future combined census.

The variables involved in the post evaluation are as follows:

on the census questionnaire there were questions about the employer: settlement, where the employer is located, main activity, rough scale of number of employed, settlement and the main activity of the work place (local unit in BR terminology);

BR contains the main activity (and secondary activities, if exist), registered addresses for the seat and the local unit(s), number of employed.

It was mentioned in 1 that there was a refusal campaign during the enumeration phase against reporting data on some questions related to employment. As well-known, in many transition countries the rate of the hidden economy is quite high. Consequently both the employers and the employees try to escape from taxation and social security payments. It means that many jobs are not registered and the size information are false. In the case of the Census many people were reluctant to give data on their employers, workplaces and size category because they were threatened by their employers to do so. The linkage between the Census and the BR proved to be a good tool to make some post evaluation in this respect. An other possibility was to compare the Census data with ones coming from the continuous labor force survey (LFS) which are conducted on a monthly basis in Hungary. The results of this survey are published on a quarterly basis.

Following the Census in most countries a Post Evaluation Survey (so-called PES) used to be conducted after a few months of the Census. It was the plan in Hungary also however but after the General Agricultural Census (conducted in 2000) and considering the anomalies happened during the Population Census and last but not least the workload of the county offices it could have been too risky to disturb the population repeatedly so the management of the HCSO decided to cancel the PES planned. The comparison between the census data and of the BR as well as the LFS can be considered as a kind of post evaluation control. The main goal was to analyse whether the figures coming from different data sources are within acceptable ranges or not.

For about the largest 40 businesses an other comparison showed that the number of employees by the Census was 324 thousand, while in the Business