



THE 2001 POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS IN LITHUANIA: MAIN ASPECTS OF PREPARATION, ENUMERATION AND RESULTS DISSEMINATION

Dalia Ambrozaitiene*

The 2001 Population and Housing Census was the first one carried out after the restoration of Lithuania's independence on 11 March 1990. Not surprisingly, the preparation for the forthcoming census was one of the main challenges for Statistics Lithuania.

- There was a significant change in the number of population due to migration flows abroad, particularly to the Russian Federation (Soviet Army) without any official registration.

- A change in migration flows: the previous trend "from rural to urban (town) area" changed and during the last decade of the 20th century became "from city to small town", or "from urban to rural area". Quite a lot of people changed their place of residence because they found work or acquired (purchased) a dwelling in another area.

- Under the market economy, the socio-economic characteristics and living conditions of the population changed considerably. So did the demographic characteristics due to the low fertility rate - the population is growing "older".

- The official statistics no longer reflected the real situation about the number and composition of population and its distribution by administrative units of the country.

It was clear that a total population census was necessary in order to improve data on population. To obtain reliable data on changes in the number and composition of the Lithuanian population, on demographic and social characteristics, on dwellings and their quality and join the World Population Census, the Lithuanian Total Population and Housing Census was carried out in April 2001.

* Deputy Director General, Statistics Lithuania; e-mail: Dalia.Ambrozaitiene@std.lt .