

**THE LEGAL BASIS** The Republic of Lithuania Law on the 2001 Population and Housing Census was passed in December 1997 and revised in June 1999 (the original date of the census fixed by Statistics Lithuania was December 1999). After the pilot census in November 1997, it was decided to postpone the census to April 2001 (the winter time was not suitable for the enumeration of population).

The law was specifically prepared for the 2001 population and housing census. It defined the objective, moment and object of the census, its organisation, obligation to provide information and liability for failure to provide information or for the provision of false information, use of the census data, and census funding. The law was very "laconic" - only 10 short articles.

Organisational issues were approved by the Government of the Republic of Lithuania in April 2001 (Government Resolution on basic operations concerning the 2001 census).

Government Resolution on the approval of the position paper "Statistics" for the negotiations for the EU membership (28 March 2000) was important for the carrying out of the census.

**CENSUS METHOD** The census method - enumeration of the population by visiting them at home - was chosen owing to limited possibilities of using registers for the said objective (they were under implementation and contained no answers to questions on ethnicity, languages spoken, religious confessions, work place and occupation, and data on households) as well as following current census traditions.

**CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE** The final version of the questionnaire was prepared after two tests: the pilot census (November 1997) and a socio-demographic survey based on the methodology of the census (April 2000).

The questionnaire (formulation of questions and answers) with a scanning design was approved by the Director General six months before the census day.

The census questionnaire contained questions to be answered by residents. It was prepared following the United Nations and Eurostat recommendations for the 2000 census based on censuses in the ECE Region. These recommendations were analysed and adjusted to national needs in cooperation with many other Lithuanian institutions, demographers and other specialists.

In addition to the classical set of questions useful in obtaining demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the population and households, respondents were asked specific questions on their command of foreign languages, religious