

## **The new register-based Census of Germany - a multiple source mixed mode approach**

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The 2011 Census in Germany was based on a new data collection method. Some experiences made during the process will be presented. The census model was a multiple source mixed mode method that collected data from administrative registers such as population registers, full enumerations and the sample survey. The multiple sources were necessary to cover up the compulsory census data set of the European Union. The paper will focus on the determination method for the number of inhabitants. To create this census variable the different data sources were used to ensure the data quality. Primarily, this variable was fixed with the information stored in the population registers. These registers are organised in a decentralised way and because of that first a centralised population register had to be built up and had to be corrected. Another aspect to assure the quality of the results was the use of information from primary surveys. With this information overcoverage and undercoverage could be measured and corrected statistically. That required that all information based on one of the census components (register, household sample survey and complete enumerations) had to be merged into one central data base based on the data sets from the population registers. The biggest challenge posed to German official statistics by the new census model was the fact that data had to be combined without a uniform personal identification number (ID) and a uniform building ID.

**Key Words:** Number of inhabitants, administrative registers, quality assurance via sample survey, record linkage