



## Spain 2021. Is it possible to carry out a Census without any fieldwork operation?

Jorge L. Vega \*

National Statistics Institute, Spain – [jorgeluis.vega.valle@ine.es](mailto:jorgeluis.vega.valle@ine.es)

Antonio Argüeso

National Statistics Institute, Spain – [antonio.argueso.jimenez@ine.es](mailto:antonio.argueso.jimenez@ine.es)

Carmen Teijeiro

National Statistics Institute, Spain – [carmen.teijeiro.breijo@ine.es](mailto:carmen.teijeiro.breijo@ine.es)

Spain carried out a combined Census both in 2001 (complete enumeration and registers) and in 2011 (10% survey and more intense use of registers). For the 2021 round, and continuing the strategy of reducing citizens burden, the possibility of making a Census without any fieldwork operation is being analysed.

An intense use of registers is the alternative that should be used for obtaining (almost) all the information required by users and international legislation with no enumerators. But registers have to fulfil several conditions in order to be used. They should provide information compatible with the definitions, they should have enough quality in terms of coverage and content, and they should include common identification variables used to link information among different registers.

Up to now, there are no examples of “big countries” that had succeeded in making a Census totally based in registers. In the case of Spain, most of the data can be obtained from registers, but still a part of information on people (labour status, commuting...), households and dwellings seems to be available only through fieldwork. The challenge for the coming years is to be able to gather this information using existing surveys, new sources or different approaches in administrative data exploitation. There are many challenges ahead and the research is open in several lines.

**Keywords:** Administrative registers; data sources; fieldwork.