Title: *The Challengers of 2014 Census of Angola*

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Abstract

Angola has performed, in 2014, its first Census, since the independence that took place in 1975. Given the new acquired peace conditions, the Government of Angola decided to execute this important statistical operation, integrated in the 2010 Census Round. The execution of the Census was preceded by the preparation of a strategic plan that included the main choices for its implementation. After considering different options for the methodology and technology to be used in the data collection and data capture stages of the Census, Angola INE opted for a classical approach and decided to apply a direct interview methodology, with paper questionnaires filled in by the enumerators, for the data collection, and Optical Recognition technologies for the data capture.

The main reasons for this choice included the fact that this was the first Angola Census in 44 years, the weak previous exposition of the population to information technologies and the conditions of the energy, communications and other infrastructures in place in the country, involved in a large reconstruction effort after many years of war, amongst others. In May 2013, a Pilot Census was performed in a sample of places, allowing to check and review the options made for the entire Census exercise. The field operations of the Census were conducted in May 2014, with significant success.

The preliminary results were announced, as planned, in October. Presently, the data capture operations are taking place, with the intensive use of Optical Recognition Technologies. The overall execution is in line with the Census planning, with emerging difficulties being addressed by INE team. Some of them concerning the reliability and quality of the data are a consequence of the methodology chosen for the data collection.

In parallel with the execution of the Census, Activity and Methodology Reports are being prepared by the Census staff, so that the lessons learned with the Census 2014 can be duly recognized and registered, and serve as a base for the preparation of future Census operations, namely the one included in the next 2020 Round. The choices to be made in that occasion will include, most certainly, significant methodology and technology innovation aspects, that will reflect the present fast development verified in the Angola society and infrastructures.

Keywords: Methodology, technology, data collection, data capture