

The Minnesota Population Center is pleased to announce the creation of an integrated series of European census microdata, **IPUMS-Europe**, supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health and the European Union Sixth Framework Program.

The National Institutes of Health have awarded the Minnesota Population Center (MPC) a major grant to undertake a five-year initiative to create integrated and fully documented samples of over fifty European censuses and micro-censuses from the 1960s to the present. The project will join the census microdata of Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and the United Kingdom to the IPUMS-International integrated data series, which currently includes data from France as well as China, Colombia, Kenya, Mexico, the United States, and Vietnam. Samples from Belgium, Italy, Poland, Russia, and Turkey will also be incorporated pending written authorization from the national statistical agencies. These 19 countries represent over three-quarters of the population of Europe, and the resulting data series will offer excellent opportunities for research on a variety of topics, including analysis of population aging, economic transformation, demographic change, and international migration.

Preliminary releases may begin as early as 2006; the final integrated microdata series is scheduled for release in 2009. It will include between 50 and 60 datasets representing up to 70 million persons. A large number of housing, population, and economic variables are available for virtually every country, making the series particularly useful for a wide range of research projects.

The European Union Sixth Framework Program is offering additional support for coordination and dissemination. These funds will provide for an inaugural workshop, to be held in 2005, at which census experts will discuss harmonization strategies to integrate European census microdata across space and time. The Sixth Framework Program will also support a three-year project to build a European web-based data dissemination extract site, housed at the Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, which will make the European microdata and metadata more widely available for scholarly and educational research.

MPC researchers look forward to working with European colleagues on the IPUMS-Europe initiative. The project will involve collaboration with researchers at the Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics, the Cathie Marsh Centre for Census and Survey Research at the University of Manchester, the Netherlands Institute for Scientific Information Services at the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Laboratoire d'Analyse Secondaire et de Méthodes Appliquées à la Sociologie in Paris, and the Population Activities Unit of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, as well as with experts from the national statistical agencies of each country involved with the project.

The principal investigator of the NIH grant is Robert McCaa; co-investigators are Steven Ruggles, Miriam King, Deborah Levison, and Matthew Sobek. The principal investigators of the EU grants are Anna Cabré, director of the Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics, and Albert Esteve, post-doctoral associate at the MPC. Information on the IPUMS-International project is available at www.ipums.org/international. The MPC is a research center in the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota.

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