ETHNIC DATA IN SLOVAKIA

Boris Vaňo
INFOSTAT
Demographic Research Centre
vano@infostat.sk
www.infostat.sk/vdc
SOURCES OF ETHNIC DATA

- Population census (Statistical Office)
- Evidence of population change (Statistical Office)
- Special surveys (government, UNDP, World Bank, .....)
- Estimations (INFOSTAT, .....)

Although ethnicity is a significant factor of societal differentiation, there are not reliable ethnic data within the framework of state statistics.

It is possible to substitute missing ethnic data by nationality, but it is not the case of Roma population, which mostly don’t declare Roma nationality.
NATIONALITY - ETHNICITY

- Indirect surveying of ethnicity in Slovakia - not allowed presently
- Statistical office - nationality - self-declaration
- Right to declare his/her nationality (Constitution, article 12, paragraph 3)
- Nationality - belong to nation, nationality or ethnic group (definition of Statistical office)
- Attributes for specification of nationality - ethnic origin, territory, culture, language
- Roma population - difference between ethnicity (given and visible) and nationality (declared)

1970, 1980 - special survey focused on Roma population - ethnic data

1991, 2001 - nationality, mother tongue - self-declaration - without restrictions

Number - underestimated
Age structure - partly usable
USUAL (STANDARD) EVIDENCE

- Population change by nationality
- Population balance by nationality
- Not usable for characteristics of reproductive behaviour of Roma population
SPECIAL SURVEYS

- Socio-graphic mapping of the Roma settlements
- Report about living conditions of Roma households in Slovakia
SOCIOTOGRAPHIC MAPPING OF THE ROMA SETTLEMENTS

Main goal - complex view about living conditions of Roma population

1100 municipalities (according to database of Roma settlements)

Main information

- housing (number, type, legality)
- population (number and structure)
- infrastructure
- employment
- access to services
- school attendance of children
- societal activities
REPORT ABOUT LIVING CONDITIONS OF ROMA HOUSEHOLDS IN SLOVAKIA

- 720 households, 3769 persons
- Uniform participation (segregated - separated - integrated)
- Data
  - housing
  - household
  - migration
  - education
  - health
  - employment
  - social help
  - living standard (receipts, expenditures, subjective perception)
- Geographical comparison with non-Roma population
ESTIMATIONS

- Number and age structure of population (inclusive forecast)
  - Based on census data 1970 and 1980
- Reproductive behaviour
  - Based on evidence of population change in municipalities with low living standard (technical infrastructure, housing, Roma settlement)
CONCLUSIONS

- Ethnic data
  - necessary (measures, manipulation)
  - controversial (legislation, human rights)
- The most correct approach - research in municipalities with low living standard regardless the ethnicity
- To adopt solutions being aware, that in most cases they concern Roma population
- Solutions for Roma and non-Roma population are mostly different