



# Press Release

**Tirana, June 30, 2024:** The Census of Population and Housing 2023 questionnaire has been constructed in accordance with international recommendations as United Nations Economic Commission for Europe recommendations on the round of Population and Housing Censuses 2020, regulations of the European Union and Eurostat recommendations.

[Law on Population and Housing Census](#) (link)

The "Census of Population and Housing" questionnaire is divided into two main parts:

- Core questions, which are of common interest and necessary for international statistical comparisons;
- Non-core questions, which are optional and vary depending on the country's specific situations and requirements.

INSTAT INSTAT has organized a series of consultative meetings on the Census of Population and Housing Questionnaire, discussing issues with stakeholders to be included in the questionnaire. Various stakeholders have expressed specific interests regarding topics such as ethnic affiliation, religious belief, language, disabilities, migration, etc., agreeing on the composition and categories of census questions.

During consultations with ethnic groups or national minorities, agreement has been reached on the predefined categories in the Census questionnaire, also supported by relevant legal basis, the Law on the Protection of National Minorities in the Republic of Albania.

It is emphasized that in the Census questionnaire and data collection in the field, the ethnic group has been accurately named as "Macedonian," removing any doubt regarding correctness or the use of an incorrect descriptor.

The question regarding ethno-cultural affiliation is based on the individual's voluntary declaration, allowing for the inclusion of the category "Prefer not to answer." The Census questionnaire also allows for the declaration of an "Other ethno-cultural group," regardless of the pre-listed categories, ensuring each individual can self-declare their data and later confirm their self-declared response.

The procedure followed has been correct and in accordance with every standard to allow the inclusion of every ethno-cultural category or group. The Census relies on citizens' voluntary self-declaration, while INSTAT ensuring the opportunity for each person to declare their data without exceptions.

During the processing of results and editing of the report in Albanian, it was found that a term used was incorrect, which has now been corrected by INSTAT.

Given that this was a technical error, INSTAT expresses regret and understanding for the incident caused within the Macedonian community.

With the correction made, any reason for further misunderstandings has been eliminated.