

Our criticism

- Your data will not - as it is usual in statistical data - processed anonymously. On the contrary, by so-called identure numbers all data and all information of yours can be further traced back up to four years later.
- Your data will be misused. Although you have entered your information (including information on religious affiliation) in the registration office for completely different purposes, this information is now (and no one has informed you enough) be forwarded to the Census and stored centrally.
- You are forced to cooperate. On the one hand, you are positively obliged to provide information on yourself and your family. Not doing that, you risk a fine of up to 5.000 €. On the other hand, it is also possible that you are instructed to work as census surveyor and thus help to obtain information about other people.
- You are going to be discriminated, if you belong to a minority. The compulsory acquisition of homeless people which border very far-reaching questions about the immigrant and religious affiliation, and not least the questioning of belief ist not required by the scope of the European directive. Why is asked what exact Islamic faith one belongs to, if at the same time, however, it is omitted to distinguish the numerous Christian churches?
- Your data will be exposed to the risk of data theft. The central storage of sensitive personal data arouses interest and involves the risk of data theft. The effects of such incident would be enormous. Together with other information about you a clear picture of your personality is being created, something which concerns only to you.
- You have not been informed. Although this was enshrined in the Census Act and also in the constitutional census decision of 1983 expressly stated, it has been almost no publicity on the part of competent authorities. That changed only a little after the deadline had expired to submit a constitutional complaint.

For more detailed information on the census:

www.zensus11.de
and
<http://wiki.vorratsdatenspeicherung.de/Volkszählung>

What to do?

- Form your own opinion and act upon your conviction. Widespread resistance, creative actions and civil disobedience were effective even in the census 1987.
- Let not be worried by threats of fines and reassuring statements.
- Talk to friends and acquaintances and let them know. Order this flyer and distribute it in your circle of friends.
- Check with your community, your registration office and your country's statistics office critically the details of your personal datas being processed and on the costs for the census.
- Distribute leaflets and circulars, stick posters and stickers at public places.
- Refuse to answer the questions and give your questionnaire to an alternative collection point, if you think this is your way.
- Search for law attorney help and set a contradiction and an emergency petition against the implementation of the surveys.
- Support our initiative with a donation, or - much better - by working on the mailing list of the AK Zensus with us. We look forward to every volunteer.
- Is there a local working group of the AK Vorratsdaten-speicherung in your city? Check it out and get involved.
- Please contact us if you want to fight back, but not exactly know what you can do!

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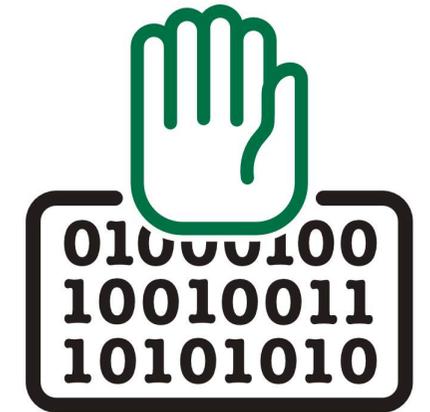
More information about the Working Group on Data Retention "AK Vorrat": www.ak-vorrat.de

Contact via e-mail: kontakt@ak-vorrat.de

PGP-Key: <http://www.ak-vorrat.de/images/0xBE1ACA42.asc>

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AK ZENSUS

Census 2011 in Germany

Informations
about interviews and data-pooling

About

In 2011 the/a Europe-wide census will take place. It also affects you and us in Germany. Up to now, the public is barely sufficient informed about the process because authorities and administrative bodies hold back to present the facts, that are fixed for years.

We have concerns about the census and hold the belief that the census hurts your basic rights and our Constitution in many ways. On 16th July 2010 we brought a constitutional complaint against the Census Act to the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe, which was supported by 13 077 people. But due to "not present adoption requirements" it has been rejected without our criticisms have been rated content.

Background

The german term "Volkszählung" (by the authorities often referred to as the "Zensus") is misleading. Today's census is not just a count of the population. At least since the Census in time of National Socialism it is common knowledge that the census is taken as an opportunity to force people to reveal a lot of personal information.

With the results of statistical evaluation, a better planning of government action shall be possible. It is about the organization of infrastructure such as the provision of nursery sizes in communities and neighborhoods, construction of utility lines (gas, water, communications etc.), etc. Moreover in Germany the redistribution of income between Bund, Länder and Gemeinden as well as the constituency-cutting depend on the actual distribution of people inside the departments.

The last census in Germany took place before reunification - in the Federal Republic in 1987 and 1981 in the GDR.



The last census in the Federal Republic was initially planned for 1983. There was a large protest in the population, and a constitutional complaint, so that the Constitutional Court had to deal with the question: Who is entitled to have information about me?

In the so-called "Volkszählungsurteil", a judgement of 15th December 1983, the Federal Constitutional Court explained key points of the law was unconstitutional and established the basic right to informational self-determination. The census had to then be re-organized in 1987 and could be carried out.

Thilo Weichert, data protection commissioner of Schleswig-Holstein:

"For me it is not clear why such an expensive and complex action is ever performed. Statistics are now ubiquitous enough mostly. Bad planning policy is not based on missing data, but existing on the wrong assessment data. Bad planning can be best avoided by reducing the influence of lobbyists and transparent process with a strong citizen participation."



The planned new census 2011 is due to a directive of the EU not only in Germany but across Europe carried out, albeit in varying degrees. Date for Germany is the 9th May 2011.

You are affected

Lots of personal and sensitive information of all inhabitants of Germany are going to be merged to a large new address and building database. These data come from different databases of public authorities, such as in the civil registry offices or agencies and by the government-driven agency of work. The data merge already started in November 2010.

In addition, three other population groups are required to report questionnaires forcibly:

- **All owners of homes or buildings** (including housing associations, etc.) must fill out a questionnaire with detailed questions about the apartments, their equipment and their inhabitants. The questionnaire will be sent by post and can be answered in writing or over the Internet. There had been sent some pre-survey questionnaires in some cases in the summer of 2010 in order of drawing up the inventory and start address register.
- **Nearly 10% of all inhabitants of Germany will be selected at random** and have to answer another questionnaire with personal issues. These include questions of immigrant background, on religious belonging and a (more or less voluntary) question of personal conviction.

The affected households will receive a visit from a representative surveyor ("Erhebungsbeauftragter" or "Volkszähler"), which transmits the questions directly. Alternatively, the questions may also be answered in writing or by telephone. Questionnaires filled out incorrectly, only in parts or nothing at all may lead to additional interrogations, a fine or penalty payment. If citizens decide simply not to be there, neighbors or landlords may also be interviewed and additional inspections are carried out.

- Finally, **all the inhabitants of so-called special areas ("Sonderbereiche")** are forced to indicate sensitive data. This applies to all long-time residents or inmates of prisons, student accommodation and retirement homes, mental hospitals, clinics, etc. Also, all homeless people are going to be assigned to these special areas and thus covered by law. People not able to provide information and people living in sensitive areas are not being asked themselves, but the home manager.

