



Announcement

Tirana, on February 15, 2023: The Albanian Institute of Statistics (INSTAT) announces media and the public that the Population and Housing Census will start on **September 18, 2023**. The Census 2023 date has been approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Albania along with the Annual Plan of INSTAT, 2023. The Population and Housing Census for data collection in the field will last 6 weeks.

The Census aims to provide the parliament, the government, the local authorities, the economic, scientific and cultural organizations, as well as the whole civil society, with reliable statistical information that is needed for planning and implementing general policies of development, for private and public analysis and decision making, for scientific research and, in general, for improving the citizens' knowledge and understanding of the demographic, economic and social reality of the country. Businesses also need census data to determine where to locate stores, assess potential workforce, and evaluate buyer markets.

The census is important because producing census results every ten years is a requirement in the application to join the EU. Census data will make it possible to develop a building and dwelling register and a register of the usually resident population, which can serve as sources for register-based statistics in the future.

An understanding of the population size and composition in terms of age and sex is vital to our country, nationally, locally and within different communities. Without national and local information on the population, its characteristics, education, working life and health, our public services and businesses cannot serve our communities as well as possible.

In 2023, for the first time, the responses will be recorded by the enumerators in tablets. Responding should take less time than when answering for a paper-based questionnaire.

The census asks for information on demographic, social and economic characteristics of individuals. This includes questions about age, sex, relationships between household members, place of birth, education level, employment status, ethnicity, religion, disability, as well as housing conditions.

You, as the respondent, should include anyone who is usual resident in the household that is being enumerated. This includes family members and roommates, foster children and friends who usually reside there and who and share partially or fully in the household economy. It should also include people who, for instance, are temporarily in the hospital or abroad for a period of less than 12 months, but who normally live with you. You should also list the

15/02/2023

persons who visited this household on census night and former household members who moved abroad in the last ten years.

INSTAT employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality and respect the law on confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents' information private. Data collected can only be used for statistical purposes, which means that individual information cannot be identified. INSTAT has a robust program that incorporates best international practices and security standards for encrypting data.

Every person's civic duty is to participate in the census. By law, every person who at the time of the census is usually resident within the territory of the Republic of Albania is obliged to provide the information required in the census questionnaires, in a complete, accurate and reliable manner. The only exceptions are questions about ethnicity, religion and language, for which you may select the option 'Prefer not to answer'.