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Cover Page Footnote

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Census Hub as Centralizing Population Data: The European Union Experience

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Abstract

This study outlines the launching background of the Census Hub by the European Commission in 2011 as an initiative to centralize population and housing census data in the European Union. The aim of this paper is to analyze why the European Union wants to centralize its population and housing census data in an online system and also its benefits of looking at common issues that occur in the European Union. In order to elaborate on the reasons behind the launch of Census Hub, this article uses constructivism for European integration. The data sources used in this article are from the official publications published by the European Union, in particular the European Commission on Census Hubs. Other data will be obtained from online texts on integration, population, and housing in Europe. The results showed that the launching of the Census Hub is one of the the European Union endeavor to integrate Europe, not only by expanding its territory to the East. European integration can be done in all aspects of life, one of which is integrating population and housing census data. The ambition of European integration is an old desire for fulfilling European values and norms for welfare of citizens who live in its territory.

Keywords: Census Hub, data integration, Europa integration, population and housing, constructivism

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1. Introduction

After the end of the Second World War, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of France, Robert Schuman, sparked the initial idea for the establishment of the European Union in a speech known as The Schuman Declaration. Schuman proposed for establishing the cooperation among European countries to manage steel and coal together. Both are the main commodities of war. This cooperation is also an avoiding efforts of conflicts between European countries. Thus, a high authority was needed over the state (Kathleen A. Lynch, 1970).

After the UK officially left as a Member State on February 1, 2020, the European Union has 27 member countries. The European Union is an unique supranational organization. Its uniqueness are from the independence of EU Member States, but they are willing to hand over some of their powers to the European Union in decision-making at the European level for the common interest (European Parliament, 2015). All Member States signed a series of treaties guiding EU policy and inaugurated the establishment of the European Union in 1952. The current treaty guiding the European Union is the Lisbon Treaty which has been in effect since 2009. The values and norms of the European Union in various aspects of European life are formulated in treaty in detail. The treaty serves as a guideline for the European Union in making policies to stay on the track set out in the treaty.

In the Lisbon Treaty, there are two treaties merged into one, namely the Treaty of European Union (TEU) and the Treaty Establishing of the European Union (TFEU). In the TFEU contains various EU policies in various aspects of life. However, there is no explicit mention of policies for integrating population and housing data. If, further analyzed, in Part III of the European Union Policy and Internal Actions (Part Three Union Policies and Internal Actions) written about administrative cooperation which is contained in Article XXIV (Title XXIV Administrative Cooperation). There are three parts to that article. The first part deals with the effective application of EU law by Member States which have been determined to be of common interest. The second part mentions the support of the European Union to Member States to improve the quality of administration. The third part mentions the obligations of Member States in implementing EU law with regard to the administration between Member States in the territory of the European Union (Bonde, 2009: 134).

Apart from treaties, the European Union has other laws that are equally important,

namely regulations and directives. The nature of both is binding for each Member State and is obligatory for adaptation in national law. Regulation 763/2008 regulates population and housing censuses. Data on census results must be made available by Member States every ten years. In it, there are descriptions of the definition of terms relating to population and housing, written regarding the obligation of Member States to provide population data, mentioning the data sources that can be used by Member States. In addition, it also describes data transmission, quality assessment, data implementation steps, procedures regarding the data, and the enforcement of these regulations. Article XXIV Chapter III of the TFEU and regulation 763/2008 are guidelines that must be implemented by each Member State to publish population and housing data to the public, in this case to the European Union through the European Commission.

The European Union conducts two censuses, namely a population census and a housing census. The census method used in data collection is left to the capacity of each Member State. Generally, Member States conduct censuses using the "traditional" method (Valente, 2010). The 2011 census period created new history in Europe, namely the launch of an online application as an integration of population and housing data in Europe through the European Commission. The application introduced by Eurostat under the European Commission at the European Statistical Conference in Geneva in 2010, was named the Census Hub (Eurostat, 2010). The Census Hub contains the results of the 2011 census divided into 18 main topics from 32 countries in Europe, including Member States and other European countries.

Figure 1.1 Census Hub home page

Source: Census Hub official website reprocessed by researchers

The statistical data in the Census Hub can be used for the common interest of demographics and housing in Europe. One of them is to address the phenomenon in Europe, namely the increasing number of homeless people and housing in Europe. These two topics have become the top priority of the European Union since being included in the framework of the European Union. Later, the two topics were adopted in Europe 2020 (Baptista and Marlier, 2019). Eurostat claims the Census Hub is an easy-to-use instrument for users to find out the demographics of the European Union and Europe more broadly (Eurostat, 2014).

Based on the description above, there are three questions related to the Census Hub. The first question is why the European Commission has centralized population and housing data in the EU and European regions. The second question has to do with how the Census Hub works, which is claimed to be a versatile instrument. The third question relates to the benefits that the Census Hub provides for the centralization of EU population and housing data. It should be borne in mind, however, that the European Union has 27 independent countries which have their own methods of conducting population and housing censuses.

This research has three objectives. The first objective is to describe the background of the European Union's initiative to centralize population and housing censuses by launching the Census Hub online application. The second objective is to show how the Census Hub works as a centralization of EU population and housing data. The third objective, namely to mention the benefits of launching the Census Hub as a system of centralizing population and housing data in Europe.

2. Literature Review

This study used constructivism for European integration developed by Jeffrey T. Checkel. Checkel argues that European integration can be seen through European domestic politics. Checkel's constructivism is an analytical orientation applied to analyzing common issues in Europe. According to Checkel, analytical orientation is based on social constructs that are applied not only in the European Union, but also throughout the European region. The analysis was carried out by studying the text related to the issue (Checkel, 2006). In this study, the text analysis were from official European Union publications on integration, data centralization, population, and housing.

The definition of domestic politics is not explained by Checkel, but is shown by

mentioning trends and facts, such as the creation of the Euro and the formation of European identity. Checkel mentioned the important role of domestic politics in European social dynamics and the changing identity of the European Union. These are the two main topics of constructivism. European identity is associated with European socialization experiences shaped by domestic factors, such as entrenched social discourses, previous bureaucratic experiences, or national institutional structures. Dynamics are needed in integrating these three factors, both at the national and European levels. Dynamic means that a constructivist must move back and forth across levels between the two (Checkel, 2006).

Checkel mentioned two benefits of this dynamic approach, namely directing research to focus on the process and signaling to researchers about the effects of feedback, namely what happens to the EU socialization agency or structure when they try to socialize the target group. From these experiments there is a tendency to cause one direction from the socializer (who socializes), namely the European Commission to the socializee (who is socialized), namely Member States. However, with a dynamic approach, it can be seen the interaction between socializer and socializee (Checkel, 2006).

Figure 1.2 Conceptualization of Checkel's domestic political theory

Source : (Checker, 2006)

After analyzing European identity and socialization, it can be seen that European integration can be used to describe the background to the social dynamics that occurred in Europe. The identity of the European Commission as a socializer must be analyzed to determine the background of the promotion of social products to Member States as socializee.

3. Research Methodology

This study used a qualitative research approach. This type of research used a case study research type. According to Creswell, case study research is a type of qualitative approach that tends to require exploration of an understanding of one or many cases. This type of research is supported by case descriptions, the theme of the case, and information from various sources regarding the case (Creswell, 2013).

The data collection technique focuses on two kinds of sources, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data sources are in the form of the Census Hub online system, documents and statistics published officially by the European Union. Meanwhile, secondary data used is in the form of literature studies from several books and journal articles that have been published by previous researchers, news published online from various news agencies, and other supporters available online.

The first stage of the research is to describe the background of the European Union centralizing population and housing data in Europe by issuing an initiative to create online applications. In this stage, European laws will be mentioned which include integration, population and housing. The second stage is to show how the Census Hub works as a centralization of population and housing data. In this stage, the data sources contained in the Census Hub will be shown. The third stage mentions the benefits provided by the Census Hub as a system for centralizing European population and housing data.

After describing the three stages, the next analysis is to show the relationship between the centralization of EU population and housing data and the social dynamics of the European Union in relation to the demographics and housing of the European Union.

4. Results

European domestic politics can explain the preferences of European governments in carrying out European integration. From the perspective of domestic politics, it can be seen that

government preferences are related to various ideas and social interests. Domestic sources need to be considered and included as a complement to European integration theory to explain government preferences in policy formation in certain fields (Schim, 2018). Before making and deciding on a policy, the European Union must look at the situation and need to remember the identity of each Member State. Ultimately, policies at the European Union level are based on the situation and conditions in the Member States. Then, the policies made will be disseminated to Member States to be implemented into national law.

The identity of the European Union relates to the identity of each Member State. As the Member Countries number 27, there are 27 or more identities. Hence, EU identity cannot be defined on a zero-sum basis. Countries in Europe are nation-states that have had a previous identity. Considering that the six founding countries of the European Union came from Western Europe, European integration was carried out from West to East. In Western Europe, enlargement to the East is seen as an attempt to expand the peace and security of Western Europe, European economy and welfare zones, as well as culture, politics, and citizenship from the West to the east. In contrast, in Eastern Europe, the common interest is to secure national identities, prevent ethno-national conflicts, stabilize new democracies, and catch up with the socio-economic level of West Europe (Maier and Risse, 2003).

The result of the enlargement process gave the European Union a collective European identity. Collective identity is seen as a social construction through definitions of symbolic boundaries and differences in the primordial, civil, and cultural or religious dimensions. Apart from that, in certain social, institutional and cultural contexts. The social construction of various collective identities is involved in the European integration process (Eder and Spohn, 2003). European integration and unification was driven by politics. The European Union describes itself as a political actor in the international world. Its role is increasingly evident in the daily life of its people with more and more areas of life being touched through European Union regulations and policies (Risse, 2003).

European law is the background for the integration of population and housing data in Europe. The various policies taken by the European Union are the driving factors for the European Union to centralize data on population and housing in Europe. The policies issued by the European Union are also part of the European Union's efforts to address problems at the national level with the principle of the European Commission's subsidiarity as the drafting of

European policy proposals (Graziano, 2011). So, the idea was to create a data integration online application through the launch of the Census Hub as a population and housing data integration system in Europe.

The Census Hub is an easy-to-use instrument that quickly generates custom tabs by compiling national data displayed on the screen in tabular form. The results of the 2011 census are disseminated in an innovative way designed to maximize data value by offering high flexibility to users to determine data extraction to meet their needs. This innovation was created by Eurostat by developing an online application called the Census Hub. The census results and population and housing data at the national level owned by the National Statistics Institute (NSI) of each Member State are included in the application, as shown in Figure 1.3 (Eurostat, 2014).

Figure 1.3 Data source Census Hub

Source: Eurostat, 2014 reprocessed by researchers

By utilizing technology and the internet, the European Union through the European Commission launched an online system of integration of population and housing data for the European Union containing the results of the 2011 census under the name Census Hub (European Commission, 2011). The data that has been uploaded in the Census Hub can be used for various needs at any level, is shown in Figure 1.4. In the Census Hub, data is divided into personal, family, household and residential data. All of this data can be used as a reference in taking a policy or seeing the background of a phenomenon that is currently or predicting a phenomenon that will occur in a country, within a region, or in a city in the entire European Union and European regions.

Figure 1.4 Earmarked data from the Census Hub

Source: Eurostat, 2014 reprocessed by researchers

5. Discussion

The policies and institutions of the European Union have unlimited scope and significance among international organizations in all fields, except in the field of military power (Moravcsik, 2006). EU law is divided into two, namely primary law which consists of the Treaty and Charter of Human Rights of the European Union. The secondary laws of the European Union that bind Member States are regulations and directives. The results of European law are not only implemented by Member States, but also by the European Commission before and during the process of making policy proposals (European Commission, 2014).

The European Union was founded on a series of Treaties that have been signed by the founding States and other European countries that have joined the European Union. The treaty that currently guides the European Union is the Lisbon Treaty. The Lisbon Treaty consists of TEU and TFEU which are a consolidation of the previous treaties. In TFEU, there are policies that can be used as a background for the European Union to create an integrated population and housing data system in Europe. Chapter 1 European Principles Article 1 Categories and Areas of Union Competence regulates joint competence between the European Union and Member States in eleven main areas, namely internal markets, social policy; economic, social and territorial cohesion; agriculture and fisheries; environment; consumer protection; transportation; trans-European network; energy; freedom, security and justice; as well as public health problems. In the article, it is explained about programs in the fields of research, technology development, and space that must have competence before implementing them. Likewise in the field of development cooperation and humanitarian assistance (Bonde, 2009). In other words, the European Union supports the development of technology and research in all fields with the launch of the Census Hub online system that provides data as a reference to meet competencies in these eleven fields.

In Article 2 of the TFEU Provisions Having General Application article 15 on transparency of EU governments. The article also mentions the legal adoption of Directive 1049/2011 regarding the right of access to documents of EU institutions, agencies, offices and agents. The process is carried out in a transparent manner with the provisions of the general principles and basic boundaries of public or private interests that have been regulated by the Parliament and Council of the European Union. Articles in the treaty and articles on transparency encourage the European Union to create a system that is easily accessible to citizens, namely the Census Hub.

Regulation 1049/2001 is to establish the basic principles, conditions and boundaries of public or private interests governing European document access rights. Document definition, namely the various types of content available in various forms of media relating to policies, activities and decisions that are within the scope of the responsibility of the European Union (Official Journal of the European Communities, 2001). Regulation 763/2008 establishes general rules regarding the provision of census data which are carried out every ten years in relation to population and housing. Population means the national, regional and local population in the place of residence at the date of taking the census. Housing means a dwelling or building and housing arrangement and the relationship between population and residence at the national, regional and local levels as of the date of the census taking. Regulation 1201/2009 contains definitions and technical specifications on census topics and their description in order to achieve standardization and comparability across Europe.

Although the European Union is expected to provide data transparency, there are directives that regulate the protection of individual data related to the process of uploading personal data and free movement of data. Directive 95/46 / EC was created so that Member States can free the outflow of personal data of citizens, but must also protect it. With Census Hub, personal data will not be visible to the public, because the data in the Census Hub has been processed in advance by the national statistical agency anonymously.

All EU policies are promulgated by the European Commission, which is one of Europe's executive bodies. With this task, the European Commission is called the engine of Europe. Its members consist of a group of Commissioners, one representative from each Member State. This makes the European Commission also have a collective identity. The commissioners must put aside the national identity to account for politically the policies they have made. However, in

making policies, they must look at the national interests that will be fought for at the European level (European Commission, 2014). Based on its roles and duties, the European Commission is an agent of socialization for the European Union. The European Commission must promote its socialization products in the form of regulations and directives to target targets, namely Member States.

Table 1.1 Statistics on the increase in the number of homeless people in the European Union Member States as of 2018

No	Country	Percentage of Increase	Period	Number of Homeless	Information
1	Jerman	+150%	2014-2016	860.000	Number of Homeless in 2016
2	Inggris	+169%	2010-2017	4.751	Number of people sleeping rough in a one-night count in 2017
3	Austria	+32%	2008-2016	15.090	Number of homeless people in 2016 by law
4	Belgia (Brussel)	+96%	2008-2017	3.386	Number of homeless people in one night as of November 2016
5	Denmark	+8%	2015-2017	10.206	Number of homeless people in one night as of February 2016
6	Spanyol	+20,50%	2014-2016	16.437	Average people per day in emergency shelters in 2016
7	Finlandia	-18%	2009-2016	6.644	Number of homeless people in one night in November 2016
8	Prancis	+17%	2016-2017	20.845	People who reported to 115 in June 2017
9	Hungaria	-	-	10.206	Number of homeless people in one night in February 2016
10	Irlandia	+145%	2014-2017	8.857	People in emergency shelters in November 2017
11	Lithuania	+162%	2015-2016	4.569	Number of homeless people in temporary shelters on one night in 2016
12	Belanda	+11%	2011-2016	60.120	Number of homeless people in service accommodation in 2016
13	Republik Ceko	-	-	68.500	Number of homeless people in 2016
14	Swedia	-	-	33.000	Number of homeless people in one week's tally in 2017

Source: FEANTSA, 2018 reprocessed by researchers

Table 1.2 Number of empty conventional shelters in EU Member States

Negara	The total number of conventional occupancy	the number of uninhabited conventional dwellings	The percentage of uninhabited conventional dwellings
Yunani	6.371.901	2.249.813	35,3%
Kroasia	2.246.910	750.352	33,4%
Portugal	5.859.540	1.868.428	31,9%
Malta	223.850	71.080	31,8%
Bulgaria	3.882.810	1.220.416	31,4%
Siprus	431.059	133.937	31,1%
Spanyol	25.206.525	7.124.930	28,3%
Italia	31.208.161	7.072.984	22,7%
Latvia	1.018.532	210.721	20,7%
Slovenia	844.656	174.529	20,7%
Austria	4.441.408	796.450	17,9%
Irlandia	1.994.968	345.856	17,3%
Swedia	4.824.227	822.222	17,0%
Prancis	33.543.942	5.630.895	16,8%
Romania	8.722.398	1.427.410	16,4%
Lituania	1.374.233	198.257	14,4%
Estonia	649.746	93.442	14,4%
Belgia	5.308.946	745.295	14,0%
Republik Ceko	4.756.572	651.937	13,7%
Denmark	2.873.365	364.515	12,7%
Hungaria	4.390.302	477.873	10,9%
Slovakia	1.941.176	196.466	10,1%
Finlandia	2.807.505	270.308	9,6%
Jerman	40.563.313	3.643.838	9,0%
Luxemburg	222.946	16.078	7,2%
Belanda	7.459.694	520.207	7,0%
Inggris	27.469.425	1.081.060	3,9%
Polandia	12.965.598	323.682	2,5%

Source: European Commission, 2016

6. Conclusion

Based on the description above, it can be seen that the Census Hub was launched as a centralization of population and housing data in Europe to meet the policies in the treaty and efforts to implement regulations and directives issued by the European Union through the European Commission. The Census Hub was launched in conjunction with the 2011 census period to store the results of the census period so that it can be used by citizens and experts or academics to meet their needs regarding demographics and housing in Europe. One of them can

be used to see the background of the social dynamics that occurred in Europe, namely the phenomenon of the increasing number of homeless people and empty housing in Europe.

The number of homeless people has continued to increase in the two to three years since the 2008 global economic crisis hit the European Union. The percentage of increase in the homeless population reached more than one hundred percent in several Member States as shown in table 1.1. The problem of vacant occupancy in Europe is also a problem due to the increase in height as seen in table 1.2.

The experience of the European Union in data centralization can be used in Indonesia. Researchers who are staff at the Directorate General of Population and Civil Registration of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia can at least understand the differences and similarities in demographic data in Indonesia and the European Union. The housing census conducted by the European Union can be a reference for Indonesia. This experience can also be used for other Ministries related to demography and housing in Indonesia.

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