

Spatial related population data as basis for planning in postwar Greece: limitations and problems in their use in postwar Greece

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ABSTRACT

Seven general population censuses have been conducted in Greece in the postwar period (1951-2011). The availability, reliability and trustiness of collected data varies from population census to census, especially when the data refer to large spatial scales (settlements, communities). Simultaneously, the population definitions change over time, while, changes in the names of administrative units, in certain periods, coexist with administrative changes (merges, divisions). The work intends:

- a) to give a summary overview of available population and spatial data by administrative level
- b) to point out the problems (citing specific examples) that arise when we want to showcase the trends of population changes (both the size and the profile), problems arising from: i) the change of used concepts, ii) the different coverage of reference population per census year (or even the different processing approaches of census data), and iii) the successive changes in the administrative boundaries as well as in the geographic coding system.

Key words: *population, data sources, geodata sets, planning*