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ABSTRACT

CYPRUS BLAISE INTEGRATED CENSUS SYSTEM (CY-BICS)

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The 14th Census of Population in Cyprus started on 1st October 2011 with the aim to enumerate the entire population in the government controlled area of Cyprus and to collect basic data on the composition of the population and households in relation to demographic, social and economic characteristics. Additionally, the Census will determine the number and type of housing units as well as the various amenities available.

For the 2011 Census the Statistical Service of Cyprus (CYSTAT) has set the following objectives:

- i. Collect data of high quality
- ii. Timely publication of results
- iii. Reduce the cost of conducting the Census
- iv. Full and accurate coverage

To achieve these objectives, CYSTAT decided to use Blaise throughout the whole process of the Census, i.e. from data capture with CAPI up to the final storage of data on the central server. Although Blaise has been used by CYSTAT for more than 10 years, mainly for CAPI and CATI in household surveys, the knowledge in Blaise is very basic and not sufficient for developing the Census system. For this reason, CY-BICS (Cyprus Blaise Integrated Census System) was developed with the help of Statistics Netherlands.

CY-BICS comprises of four different applications as follows:

- a. Electronic questionnaire
- b. Supervisors application
- c. District Officers application
- d. Central application

CYSTAT recruited 800 enumerators and 80 supervisors. Each enumerator was provided with a netbook and each supervisor with a PC/laptop. The electronic questionnaire and the Supervisor application were installed on each netbook and PC/laptop respectively. District Officers were CYSTAT's permanent staff and their application was installed on their PCs. Finally, the Central application was installed on the PCs of the Census management team.

The aim of the paper is to describe the architecture and workflow of CY-BICS and to make an evaluation of the whole system.