

PART 5. ETHNIC STRUCTURE, FLUENCY IN LANGUAGES AND RELIGIOUS BELIEF OF DE JURE POPULATION

Population Censuses conducted once in a decade are the main sources of information on population ethnicity and its distribution, as well as on age-sex structure and educational attainment of separate ethnic groups. The data presented in this publication on ethnic groups, mother tongue language, other language and religious belief reflects the respective situations, as of 1 December, 2015.

Methodological clarifications

5.1 Ethnicity

In HKP 2015 Population Census, as well as during previous Population Census, the answer to the question on ethnicity of the Questionnaire was recorded according to respondent's self-determination and was optional. Ethnicity of children had been defined by their parents.

5.2 **Mother tongue** language was recorded by respondent's indication. If the respondent had hesitated defining his/her mother tongue then the language which the person commands best or most currently speaks at home was recorded. Mother tongue language of children who were still unable to speak, were defined by their parents.

5.3 Besides mother tongue, data are also presented on respondents' fluency in other languages, that is the respondent could read, write and speak freely in the respective language or could only speak freely. For respondents fluent in more than one language, the one language that respondent preferred to others was recorded.

5.4 Answers to the question on being (or not) a follower of **religion, church or denomination** collected based on respondent's self-determination and free-will were distributed among 16 denominations including others from the list of possible answers of the Questionnaire.

Religious belief of the children were defined by their parents.

Questions on ethnicity, mother tongue language and religious belief in 2015 Population Census Questionnaire were voluntary, enabling respondents to refuse answering them, taking into consideration the principle of person's private life protection.