

# Counting for EU enlargement?

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Propositions belonging to the thesis

## **“Counting for EU enlargement? Census-taking in Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia”**

by Anna-Lena Hoh

1. Even though sometimes regarded as technical, a population census is always a highly political process.
2. Domestic disputes surrounding the census law and methodology can seriously hinder census-taking processes and compliance with the EU census regulations.
3. The rewards available from the EU and potential EU pressure can overcome domestic disputes in enlargement countries and tip the balance in favour of compliance with the EU census regulations, as has been shown in the case of the 2013 census in Bosnia.
4. When you are not counted you officially do not exist; however if you are counted this can ultimately lead to both positive or negative discrimination and a very complicated census process. This has been shown in Bosnia and Macedonia, where population numbers are linked to numerical thresholds and minority rights.
5. With regard to research on the influence of the EU on its enlargement countries, more attention should be paid to the compliance behaviour of accession countries with the separate topics of the chapters of the *acquis communautaire*.
6. Using mixed methods provides a broader perspective than quantitative or qualitative methods alone. That is particularly true for research on census-taking.
7. By quantifying people into categories and using the outcomes for policy making, statisticians and policy-makers create (new) social boundaries.
8. Since census data is the backbone of all official statistics and of enormous importance for states and evidence-based decision making, research on censuses and census-taking should receive more attention.
9. Once upon a time, in a galaxy far far away, there was a little man on the moon. He took a census and counted himself, but since he was lonely, he counted the moon as well.