

DELIBERATION NO 11 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF TERRITORIAL STATISTICS

**FINAL REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP FOR THE CREATION OF THE PORTUGAL 2020
CONTEXT/OUTCOME INDICATOR SYSTEM**

Whereas:

- In March 2015 the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics (*Secção Permanente de Estatísticas de Base Territorial* in Portuguese) set up a Working Group for the creation of the Portugal 2020 context/outcome indicator system with the purpose of outlining and proposing a statistical information system to support the monitoring of the Portugal 2020 outcome and context and its respective operational programmes;
- In December 2015 the Section approved the interim report submitted by the Working Group (Deliberation No 10), which responded to part of the established mandate and made it possible to identify the set of indicators of the 'Indicator System to monitor the context in which public policies evolve' (NSRF context indicator system), which will probably continue to be disseminated in NUTS-2002 up to 2016;
- The final report now presented by the Working Group complies with the mandate outlined by the Section, notably as regards:
 - setting out a context indicator system that will contribute to interpreting external factors influencing the objectives of co-financed public policies, as well as its results in the different territories over the programming period;
 - setting out an outcome indicator system directly related to the investment priorities established for the Portugal 2020 operational programmes;
 - explaining the methods for releasing selected statistical information that allow for wide dissemination and ongoing data update.
- Deliberation No 7 of the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics which integrates a series of initiatives conducive to the development of territorial mobility statistics;
- The implementation of indicator systems under the proposed terms implies cooperation among the different entities, whether or not they integrate the National Statistical System, assuming consistent and ongoing interinstitutional cooperation;
- Context and outcome indicators to be included on the official statistics website through the two systems shall ensure the requirements associated with the information released by statistical authorities;

Pursuant to its powers, at its meeting on 12 July 2016 **the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics decided the following:**



1. To issue a favourable opinion on the report presented by the Working Group for the creation of a Portugal 2020 context/outcome indicator system and approve the respective recommendations (in annex);
2. To recommend to the entities referred to in the report, identified in annex to this Deliberation, how to best collaborate and cooperate with a view to implementing the Portugal 2020 context and outcome indicator systems (recommendations 1 to 4, 6 and 9 to 11);
3. As regards the recommendations addressed to it:
 - to wait for further developments of the Regional Coordination and Development Committees and Statistics Portugal, under recommendations 7 and 8 respectively;
 - to consider appraising the technical and institutional conditions and the resources needed to implement recommendation 5 in the context of the Statistical Council's Work Programme for 2017;
4. To request Statistics Portugal and the Cohesion and Development Agency that as of July 2017, on an annual basis, they present the status of implementation of said indicator systems and the degree of execution of the recommendations.

The Section also highlights the quality and completeness of the work carried out by the Working Group. It thanks for the collaboration and commitment of the entities involved, with particular reference to the dynamic coordination of its Chairman's work.

Lisbon, 20 July 2016

Chairman of the Section, José Cadima Ribeiro

The Executive Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Maria da Graça Fernandes Caeiro Bento*

Recommendations and addressees

Axis 1. Cooperation with external entities holding relevant information

- 1 | The work of the WG PT2020 has been developed within a framework of wide cooperation with external entities and made it possible to conclude that the environmental domain, including energy-related issues, is still at a stage of statistical consolidation, following the ongoing restructuring of general government but also the emergence of recent problems reinforcing the territorial component.

For these reasons, **Statistics Portugal is recommended to reinforce the cooperation already developed with the different public bodies in the environmental area** with a relevant activity for statistical production for the widening of the environmental domains covered by the NSS and the spatial disaggregation of statistical information. In particular, stress should be laid on the relevance of access to regionalised data on the regular production of greenhouse gas emissions, air quality and water supply and drainage systems, coastal erosion, use or renewable energy, and territory allocated to environmental protected areas.

- 2 | Along the lines of the previous recommendation:
NSS external entities are also recommended to develop their information systems, to ensure stability in access to information considered validated by the WG PT2020 and to the respective calculation conditions (reference population, methodology, territorial breakdown, timetables, and release pattern), total coverage of the information supporting the monitoring of the context and outcome of the operational programmes systematised in meetings hosted by the WG PT2020, as well as strict cooperation with Statistics Portugal for the release of statistical indicators by the NSS.

Axis 2. Strengthening of the outcome indicator system

- 3 | Given that the lag between the reference moment of data and their date of dissemination, which ideally should correspond to one year at most, may limit the relevance of the statistical information in terms of monitoring and potential adjustment of public policies, **statistical authorities are recommended** to continue to develop the statistical apparatus to reduce the time lag associated with the dissemination of statistical information.
- 4 | The appropriate monitoring and assessment of Portugal 2020 outcomes advises the release of aggregates that are the numerators and denominators of outcome indicators so that the analysis of the evolution of the outcome indicators themselves is given a better context.

In this context, **when strengthening the dissemination database indicators, Statistics Portugal is recommended to also take as reference, in the different dissemination domains, the basic information for implementing outcome indicators.**

Axis 3. Strengthening the context indicator system

- 5 | As regards all the statistical information deemed relevant but not released by the NSS, stress should be laid in particular on aspects related to mobility and especially the prospects of accessibility to collective use equipment, urban centres and sustainable mobility.

Within this scope, **the Statistical Council's Standing Section of Territorial Statistics is recommended to assess the opportunity to implement the interinstitutional cooperation networks proposed in the final report of the Working Group on territorial mobility statistics. In particular there is a proposal on 'access to georeferenced information and use of spatial analysis techniques' for implementing collective equipment territorial allocation indicators, indicators of potential accessibility to focal points, and indicators on the territorial distribution of the road and railroad network (DOCT/3718/CSE/BT-2, p. 20-27).**

- 6 | Taking as reference the Basic Law and related systems on soil policy, spatial planning and urban development and, in particular, the national strategic benchmarks set up by the National Spatial Policy Programme (PNPOT in Portuguese) and the 2020 Sustainable Cities Strategy, a set of indicators was identified, involving the crosscheck of geographical information of the *Carta de Regime de Uso do Solo (CRUS)* and/or the *Carta de Ocupação do Solo (COS)* (land use charters) and the integration of statistical data.

Taking into account that the conditions are still not in place for the release of these indicators, **the Directorate General of Territory and Statistics Portugal are recommended**, within the framework of cooperation between the two entities, to assess the necessary requirements at the level of basic information and the methodological requirements for their actual release.

- 7 | Census information is the only statistical response to specific information needs, such as commuting (as regards duration and mode of transport), used namely to assess public transportation and soft forms. Along these lines, it is instrumental that context indicators based on the 2021 Census results are released in time to be incorporated into the final reports on the execution of operational programmes associated to Portugal 2020 (most likely at the end of 2023). **Hence, the Statistical Council's Standing Section of Territorial Statistics is recommended**, when setting up the 2021 Census monitoring structure, to warn about the need to optimise the dissemination schedules associated with the next census operation.

- 8 | In parallel with the information needs arising from the Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement, public policies with a differentiated impact in terms of territory are based on other instruments as responses to complex development challenges translating into the adaptation of the policy to the regional context, as is the case of research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3).

Hence, the Statistical Council's Standing Section of Territorial Statistics is recommended to closely monitor information arising from policy challenges posed in particular to Regional Coordination and Development Committees and to assess the opportunity to revisit the context indicator system in the future for a possible accommodation of these needs.

Axis 4. Territorial breakdown of information released

9 | The indicators backing the Europe 2020 Strategy are instrumental for assessing progress in the achievement of this strategy's objectives and goals, and it is very important to have, at regional level, regularly updated data, so as to facilitate monitoring. In this context, there is a need to obtain regionalised information for monitoring headline indicators, namely those associated with the characterisation of poverty and social exclusion, pollutant gas emissions, and the use of energy from renewable sources.

To ensure a monitoring framework allowing for assessment of the contribution of the regions to the defined goals, **the producers of background information for the operationalisation of Europe 2020 headline indicators are recommended** to release the indicators ensuring their representativeness at the level of NUTS 2 regions and within a methodological framework ensuring consistency with the country results reported to the European Commission.

10 | Considering the objective of monitoring intra-regional differences as regards the impact of public policies in the context of regional development and the non-coincidence between the reference NUTS 2 geographies for the purpose of structural funds and of the central government's and in particular the Regional Coordination and Development Committees' planning, strategic coordination, and economic, social and environmental development functions, **statistical authorities are recommended** to reinforce the release of statistical information broken down to NUTS level 3 or municipality where possible.

Axis 5. Indicator systems' monitoring and implementation models

11 | The update and consolidation of the outcome/context indicator systems of PT2020 should continue after the end of the activities of the WG PT2020, namely for deepening initiatives to overcome the constraints detected in access to information in the case of indicators 'under assessment', and to ensure the timely release of information for preparing annual reports of execution of operational programmes.

To pursue these lines of work and make it possible to follow up states of play on the implementation of the two indicator systems presented in this report, **the setting-up of an interinstitutional cooperation structure is recommended**, to ensure the active participation of Statistics Portugal, the Cohesion and Development Agency and the bodies managing the operational programmes associated with PT2020.