

**DELIBERATION NO 44 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)  
ON THE 2017 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

Whereas the powers of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) in overseeing and coordinating the National Statistical System (NSS).

Whereas the specific powers of the Council "To appraise the programme and budget of the statistical authorities' statistical activity (...)".

Whereas the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017 approved by the Council, which set out the major objectives and challenges for the NSS for that period.

Whereas the actions considered as a priority by the Council, in the wake of the 2012-2015 NSS Situation Assessment Report, approved in 2016.

Whereas the European Commission's Statistical Programme for 2017 and the European Statistical System's (ESS) 'Vision 2020'.

Whereas the principles established in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Whereas specifically the Code's 'Principle 3 – Adequacy of Resources', setting out that "the resources available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European statistics requirements".

Whereas the strategic objectives set out at the level of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB).

Whereas the principles enshrined in the 'Public Commitment on European Statistics by the European System of Central Banks'.

Whereas in 2017 the Council shall continue to steer its action towards providing the public in general (citizens, enterprises, general government, state authorities, and other public and private entities) high-quality, updated and relevant official statistical information.

Whereas the Statistical Activity Plans for 2017 of the different statistical authorities reflect the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017.

Whereas the 2017 Work Programme of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers falls within the scope of the European Commission's Strategic Plan for 2017 and the process of implementation of the ESS's Vision 2020.

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Whereas almost all statistical activities envisaged in the Work Programme of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers are obligations undertaken by the Portuguese State in the context of the European Union.

Whereas also the Work Programmes for 2017 of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers, of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira comply with the commitment to quality set forth in the European Statistics Code of Practice.

Whereas Banco de Portugal's Statistical Activity Plan responds to the strategic objectives set out at ESCB level and observes the principles enshrined in the 'Public Commitment on European Statistics by the European System of Central Banks'.

Pursuant to Article 3 (2) and Article 13 (g) of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May 2008 and to Article 10 (3) (c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, and following a favourable opinion of the Standing Session of Statistical Coordination (*Secção Permanente de Coordenação Estatística* in Portuguese), **at its plenary session on 14 December 2016 the Council decided the following:**

1. **To approve** the Council's 2017 Work Programme;
2. **To approve** the 2017 Summary of Statistical Activity of the NSS, in annex to this deliberation;
3. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the statistical authorities' statistical activity plans for 2017;
4. **To approve** the release of these documents through a media information note.
5. **To recommend that the competent authorities** provide statistical authorities the means necessary for implementing their Work Programmes for 2017, meeting the highest quality standards.

Lisboa, 14 December 2016.

The Vice-Chairman of the Statistical Council, *Alda de Caetano Carvalho*

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

## 2017 WORK PROGRAMME | NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

### | SUMMARY |

The Work Programme of the National Statistical System (NSS) for 2017 is formed by this Summary, which highlights the main objectives and activities to be achieved in 2017, and the Work Programmes of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) and the statistical authorities,<sup>1</sup> with greater detail in the respective areas of competence.

These Programmes present the objectives and actions that will be developed by the above entities at the national and European level respectively:

- in the exercise of the powers set forth in Article 13 of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May 2008 and in accordance with the guidelines provided for by Article 3 (2) of said Law through the Council's Deliberations and Recommendations;
- of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2013-2017 period;
- of the Council's priorities, resulting from an in-depth discussion of the 2012-2015 NSS Situation Assessment Report, approved in 2016;
- of the European Commission's statistical programme for 2017;
- in the statistical work programmes approved by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB);
- in the implementation of the European Statistical System's Vision 2020;
- and also in compliance with the commitment to quality set forth in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Public Commitment on European Statistics by the European System of Central Banks.

The Council, pursuant to its powers in overseeing and coordinating the NSS, shall continue to steer its action towards providing the public in general (citizens, enterprises, general government, state authorities, and other public and private entities) high-quality, updated and relevant official statistical information.

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira. Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira for strictly regional statistics, and entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal within the scope of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May 2008: Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (Ministry of Sea), Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (Ministry of Economy), Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education), Directorate-General for Justice Policy (Ministry of Justice), and Strategy and Planning Office (Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security).

Pursuant to Article 22 of the NSS Law, the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira participate in the production of national official statistics as delegations of Statistics Portugal.

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In their work programmes for 2017, statistical authorities established a series of objectives targeted at further ensuring high-quality, updated and relevant statistical production, a more modern statistical process, improved accessibility and use of official statistics, and active promotion of statistical literacy. They also carried out several initiatives to modernise their official websites.

Within the framework of rationalisation of the available resources, priority will continue to be given to meeting the growing demand for statistical data at the national, European and international level, as a key instrument for timely and accurate analysis of the economic, financial, social, and environmental situation, informed decision-making by economic agents, and sustained assessment of the various policies.

Statistical authorities will also focus on strengthening institutional cooperation, notably through specific projects relevant to the National and European Statistical System, such as initiatives aimed at a more intensive and efficient use of the already existing information and a greater utilisation of administrative and other data for statistical purposes. Hence, there will be a reduction in statistical production costs and in the burden on respondents, namely citizens and enterprises.

In 2017 statistical authorities will reflect on and contribute to the preparation of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2018-2022 and the respective strategic programmes in the Council.

### **A. Statistical Council's main objectives and activities for 2017**

#### **Objectives**

Taking as reference the Vision set out for the NSS in 2017, the actions forecast by the Council for 2017 will be targeted at pursuing implementation of the strategic guidelines set out in the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017 and accomplishing the priorities of the 2012-2015 NSS Situation Assessment Report, so as to overcome the constraints identified, which limit the ability of statistical authorities/official statistics to adequately respond to the needs and challenges of the public nowadays, at all levels.

#### **Some priority activities and areas**

Hence, according to the objectives, among the Council's activities in 2017 reference should be made to the following:

- Approval of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2018-2022;
- Approval of the draft revision of the NSS Law;
- Assessment of the degree of implementation of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017;
- Creation of an Ad-Hoc Section for monitoring the population and housing censuses, to be held in 2021;

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- Conclusion of the analysis of the International Standard Classification of Education 2011 (ISCED 2011), for use in the NSS;
- Appraisal of concepts for statistical purposes of the 'education and training' thematic area;
- Ongoing promotion of initiatives to create a Single Local Units File for use within the NSS, with the competent entities;
- Promotion of the 'Legal Entity Identifier' (LEI), its coverage and use for statistical purposes;
- Promotion of initiatives to raise awareness of general government bodies holding administrative data to the legal obligation of releasing them for the production of official statistics;
- Promotion of institutional cooperation among statistical authorities and between general government bodies and statistical authorities;
- Monitoring of European developments in the use of big data, experimental statistics and smart statistics in the production of official statistics;
- Continued monitoring of the use of the Simplified Business Information (IES in Portuguese) and the Information System for the Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities (SICAE in Portuguese);
- Gradual extension of the assessment of the quality of official statistics to all its dimensions, based on the selection of appropriate methodologies, considering the good results stemming from monitoring compliance with the 'timeliness' dimension in the dissemination of statistical information;
- Design and implementation of mechanisms to ensure compliance with the basic principles of the NSS envisaged in the Law and with the Council's recommendations.
- Reflection on competitiveness indicators for the Portuguese economy;
- Development and modernisation of social statistics;
- Wide-ranging reflection on the use of official statistics by researchers;
- Status update on the implementation of the Portugal 2020 context/outcome indicator system and the degree of implementation of the recommendations approved by the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics (*Secção Permanente de Estatísticas de Base Territorial* in Portuguese);
- Organisation of events and other initiatives to promote communication with the public;
- Release on the Council's website of texts reflecting on statistics and of actions contributing to an improvement in statistical literacy and to the sharing of information.

### **B. Main objectives of statistical authorities for 2017**

#### **Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers**

Statistics Portugal continues to have as its key objective effective, efficient and impartial production and dissemination of high-quality official statistical information for the public as a whole.

**In the Work Programme for 2017 of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers, the following developments are worthy of reference:**

- Statistics Portugal will carry out 234 statistical activities, 199 of which will be statistical operations delivering 660 results;

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- Entities with delegated powers will carry out 76 statistical operations, corresponding to 323 results;
- 72 publication titles are forecast to be issued, especially in electronic format, 37 of which the responsibility of Statistics Portugal and 35 of entities with delegated powers;
- Interinstitutional cooperation initiatives for the appropriation of administrative data for statistical purposes will continue within the scope of general government, this remaining a strategic objective on the agenda of Statistics Portugal, in liaison with entities with delegated powers. In this context, reference should be made to Statistics Portugal's participation in the SIMPLEX+ Programme;
- Feasibility studies will continue for the current use of big data in the official statistical production process, as well as technological modernisation actions throughout this process, aiming to reduce the burden on respondents and its costs;
- The Official Statistics Website will continue to be the best means for the dissemination of official statistics and will be modernised within the scope of application to the SAMA 2020 (administrative modernisation support system).

### **Key statistical activities:**

- Interinstitutional cooperation for the appropriation of administrative data for statistical purposes within the scope of general government;
- Participation of Statistics Portugal in the SIMPLEX+ Programme;
- Update of the administrative sources catalogue and respective meta-information;
- Preparation of feasibility studies for the current use of big data in the production/validation of statistics;
- Modernisation of the Official Statistics Website (application to the SAMA 2020);
- Use of WebScraping in statistical production;
- Gradual extension of the use of the CAWI collection method to new operations;
- Regular measurement of the statistical burden on respondents;
- Introduction of technological modernisation measures throughout the productive process;
- Adoption of the census model to be used in 2021;
- Start of the Census 2021 preparatory works;
- Construction of the Resident Population Base, so as to make information on census variables available on an annual basis as of 2021;
- 2017 Household Finance and Consumption Survey, in partnership with Banco de Portugal, within the scope of the Eurosystem (every three years);
- Release of the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the 2016 Adult Training and Education Survey (every five years);
- Conclusion of the feasibility study for the operationalisation of 'Local labour markets/functional urban regions';
- Release of the regional development composite index;
- Release of the provisional results of the 2016 annual national accounts, only nine months after the reference year;
- Compilation of the Tourism Satellite Account;

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- Conclusion of three new modules of the Environment Satellite Accounts (physical energy flows account, environmental goods and services account, and environmental protection expenditure account);
- Change in the consumer price index base (2018=100), integrating the results of the Household Budget Survey (2015/2016);
- 2017 Business Management Practices Survey (new, one-off);
- Release of the results of the 2015/16 international tourism survey (one-off);
- Application of the new combined international trade classification, which will enter into force in January 2017;
- Preparation of the 2012/2016 food balance sheet;
- Release of the results of the 2016 Farm Structure Survey (every two years);
- Second edition of the 2017 fruit and olive tree plantation survey (every five years);
- Start of production and release of housing stock estimates broken down by commune;
- 2016 labour cost survey (every four years) [Strategy and Planning Office of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security];
- Participation in the elaboration of a new process of administrative reporting of data by teachers to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (collection of information on teaching and non-teaching staff in public higher education for supporting the REBIDES – Biographical Record of Higher Education Teaching Staff – statistical survey) [Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education | Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education];
- Release of results of the new statistical operation 'criminal police cases' (statistical indicators on incoming, completed and pending cases and their duration, notably by type of crime [Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice].

### **At the level of external cooperation:**

- Active participation in European structures, particularly of the European Statistical System Committee (ESSC), and reinforcement of partnerships with Member States and Eurostat, according to the objectives set out in the Vision 2020 for the ESS;
- Participation in the meetings of the EU Council's Working Party on Statistics;
- Participation in the ESSnet on Big Data, within the framework of Eurostat;
- Participation in the ESS Validation Project;
- Participation in the European Statistical Forum (ESS + ESCB);
- Cooperation for the development of other countries' statistical systems, particularly of Portuguese-speaking countries, both at the bilateral and CPLP (Community of Portuguese-Speaking countries) level;
- Monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and participation in the monitoring process of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Banco de Portugal's Statistical Activity Plan for 2017** aims to respond to Banco de Portugal's obligations and strategic objectives in the field of statistics, pursuing three key objectives:

1. To compile quality statistics, based on an efficient use of the different information sources and thorough observance of the strictest international standards;
2. To develop optimal use of the Statistical Data Warehouse, based on an integrated management of microeconomic databases;
3. To promote statistical dissemination fully meeting user needs and fully complying with the commitments assumed with national and international bodies.

For that purpose, 33 statistical operations with daily, monthly, quarterly, and annual frequencies, associated with 495 occurrences, are planned and scheduled for 2017, covering the different statistical domains, and the following lines of action are planned:

- Ongoing rationalisation of the information received from reporting entities, contributing to a reduction in the administrative costs associated with the Bank's statistical function, namely through the gradual implementation of a single contact point with data suppliers (the 'single window', or 'guichet único' in Portuguese) and the reinforcement of the use of administrative sources and solutions in the field of big data;
- Reformulation of the Central Credit Register, within the scope of participation in the ECB's project for the creation of a database with detailed and individual information on bank loans in the euro area (AnaCredit) and improvement of the service provided to the financial system and the public;
- Ongoing preparation of an information catalogue and improvement of reference information, within the scope of optimisation of the use of the Statistical Data Warehouse, in particular by reinforcing mechanisms for the crosscheck and integrated exploitation of information resorting to Business Intelligence solutions;
- Development of Banco de Portugal's new statistical website (BPstat) with the purpose of improving the accessibility of statistics and reinforcing the communication of statistical information;
- Participation in cooperation and technical assistance initiatives in the field of central bank statistics, organisation of seminars and conferences on Banco de Portugal's statistics, and participation in other national and international statistical release events, stress being laid on participation in the World Statistics Congress.

### Regional Statistical Office of the Azores

**The planning of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores for 2017 relies on the following strategic objectives, as enshrined in the respective Assessment and Accountability Framework:**

1. To optimise the operation of statistical activities in Região Autónoma dos Açores;

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2. To improve statistical literacy;
3. To pursue the modernisation and efficiency of the statistical production process;
4. To intensify the use of administrative data for statistical purposes;
5. To meet the public's statistical information needs with quality and timeliness.

**The Work Programme of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores for 2017 highlights the following activities:**

### ***At the level of statistical production***

- Implementation of or preparatory studies for a new project: 'economic climate indicator';
- Preparatory studies for a new edition of the Survey on residents about tourism - Açores, held in 2005;
- Estimate of GDP per island for 2015;
- Restructuring of the intraregional development composite index for Açores and calculations for 2010 and 2015, based on the new indicator structure;
- Ongoing development of some regional projects started in 2016: 'Implementation of the calculation of regional GDP, from the viewpoint of demand'; 'Implementation of the coincident indicator of private consumption for Açores'; 'Study on economic activity resulting from popular festivals'; 'Estimate of external trade in services'; 'Estimate of inflows of goods by sea into Região Autónoma dos Açores'; 'Tourism Satellite Account'.

### ***At the level of external cooperation***

- Continued signing of statistical cooperation agreements with regional and national entities, especially for implementation of the new regional projects;
- New projects with European funding, within the framework of the new 2014-20 MAC (Madeira – Açores - Canary Islands) Cooperation Programme.

### ***At the level of dissemination***

- Regional Statistical Office's website: inclusion of new functionalities and revamp;
- Dissemination of the results of the 2016 regional fruit growing survey.

## **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira**

**The planning of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira for 2017 relies on the following strategic objectives, as enshrined in the respective Assessment and Accountability Framework:**

1. To continue to supply annual and infra-annual official statistics as well as back series;
2. To promote statistical literacy within the school community and the public in general;
3. To guarantee staff training and professional development;
4. To intensify the use of technologically more developed and respondent-friendly collection methods, ensuring time gains and data quality;
5. To extend the cooperation, appropriation and use of administrative data for statistical purposes;

6. To release timely, high-quality and relevant official statistics, promoting the geospatial dimension where possible.

**The Work Programme of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira for 2017 highlights the following activities:**

### **At the level of statistical production**

- To carry out regional studies instrumental for informed knowledge of the Region's economic, financial, social, and environmental reality and appropriate public and private decision-making;
- To actively participate in nationwide projects carried out within the scope of the NSS, reinforcing mechanisms to control and validate the information collected, so as to ensure high response rates and data quality.

### **At the level of dissemination**

- To ensure the dissemination of official statistics, for which the Regional Directorate is directly or indirectly responsible, according to the data release schedule announced on its website;
- To improve statistical communication and dissemination channels, to meet the needs of the different user segments.

The Regional Directorate's website will continue to be the privileged means for disseminating the Region's official statistics.

### **At the level of cooperation**

- To intensify regional cooperation with relevant regional government bodies, so as to list and reinforce the use of administrative sources in the production of official statistics, thereby ensuring compliance with the safety and confidentiality measures required by the respective treatment and release;
- To promote cooperation and the sharing of good practices and knowledge with the other statistical authorities;
- To actively participate in the Council's different Sections and Working Groups;
- As regards territorial cooperation, the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira expects to continue to develop projects of regional interest, within the scope of the 2014-20 MAC Territorial Cooperation Programme, partnering with its counterparts in Açores and the Canary Islands.

## **C. Resources**

Pursuant to the NSS Law, the financial costs of maintaining the Statistical Council are borne by the budget of Statistics Portugal.

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For the development of the initiatives included in their Work Programmes, statistical authorities will rely on the financial means envisaged in their annual budgets and on the available human and material resources.

### Financial resources

The following financial resources are allocated to the NSS – functioning of the Council and statistical activity of statistical authorities:

- The **Statistical Council's** forecast operational costs for 2017 amount to €298,209 thousand (borne by the budget of Statistics Portugal)
- For **Statistics Portugal** the cost of executing the Programme will total €31.4 million
- **Entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal** foresee to allocate €4.5 million to statistical activities
- The **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores** has a forecast budget of €1.64<sup>2</sup> million
- The **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira** has a forecast budget of €1.1 million

### Human resources

The following human resources will be allocated to NSS activities in 2017:

- **Council Secretariat**, composed of **6 individuals**, to support the Council's activities, involving a total of around 180 participants (Council members and other Working Group participants);
- **Statistical authorities**, with **948 staff members**, for carrying out the statistical activities planned for 2017, distributed as follows:
  - Statistics Portugal – **651<sup>3</sup>** (plus 450 service providers simultaneously – interviewers)
  - Entities with delegated powers – **129**
  - Banco de Portugal – **80**
  - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **48**
  - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **40**

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<sup>2</sup> Data for 2016 are purely indicative, pending approval of the budget for 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Includes resources allocated to the Council Secretariat's activities.