

**DELIBERATION NO 46 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)**  
**CREATION OF THE AD-HOC SECTION FOR MONITORING THE 2021 CENSUSES**  
**(SEAC2021)**

Whereas credible and high-quality statistics are one of the pillars of democracies;

Whereas there are no credible and high-quality statistics without strict and timely information provided to statistical authorities by citizens, enterprises and other public and private entities;

Whereas credible and high-quality statistics are fundamental instruments for knowing the reality and preparing detailed studies to support decision-making at the individual, collective and national level;

Whereas, among official statistics, Population and Housing Censuses play an unequivocal role for incorporating, in every country, key reference information for knowing the population and the housing stock, in their different dimensions, as well as the respective socio-economic situation at the national, regional and local level;

Whereas the Population and Housing Censuses are the largest statistical operations held every 10 years by Statistics Portugal;

Whereas the exceptional size of the human, technological and financial resources required for this operation;

Whereas the design, preparation and execution of population and housing censuses benefit from extended cooperation from the whole public, particularly through the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council);

Whereas the conclusions of the 'Feasibility study for the adoption of a new census model in the 2021 Censuses point to the adoption of a transition model, which will already allow for some gains as regards the reduction of the burden on citizens and the costs of the operation for public money;

Whereas studies and the creation of legal and administrative conditions shall continue, so as to enhance the use of administrative data in the computation of census variables with an annual frequency, which is the only way to allow for compliance with the regulations under preparation at European level;

Whereas the implementation of censuses requires specific legislation setting forth legal rules to clarify the obligations of the whole administrative structure at central, regional and local level, as well as of the general population in the conduct of the 2021 Censuses;

Whereas European Union Regulations governing the 2021 Census, as regards the variables to be observed, the results to be released and the quality indicators to be transmitted;

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Pursuant to Article 15 (1) of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May 2008 and Articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Rules of Procedure, at its meeting on 28 June 2017 the **Statistical Council** decided to create an Ad-Hoc Section for monitoring the 2021 Censuses, the so-called SEAC2021, under the following terms:

## 1. **MANDATE:**

- (a) To draft the respective activity programme in accordance with the 2021 Census Action Plan drafted by Statistics Portugal;
- (b) To appraise, under Article 14 of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May 2008, the draft legislation that shall govern the 2021 Census;
- (c) To monitor the setting-out of the variables to be observed in the 2021 Census, in accordance with the Action Plan prepared by Statistics Portugal;
- (d) To monitor the preparation, execution, computation and assessment of the 2021 Census;
- (e) To appraise the final assessment report of the 2021 Census, to be drafted by Statistics Portugal within 12 months following the release of the final results, which shall include assessment of the quality of the two operations.

## 2. **COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING:**

### 1. **PERMANENT MEMBERS:**

#### (a) **Council members:**

- Statistics Portugal
- Regional Statistical Office of the Azores
- Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira
- Portuguese Data Protection Authority
- Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- Confederation of Portuguese Business
- General Confederation of Portuguese Workers
- General Union of Workers
- National Association of Portuguese Municipalities
- Portuguese Consumer Protection Association
- Gustavo Cardoso
- Maria João Valente Rosa
- José Cadima Ribeiro
- José António Correia Pereirinha

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## **(b) Invited entities:**

- National Association of Communes (ANAFRE)

## **2. NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS**

(a) For collaborating in the preparation of the 2021 Census, public entities without representation in the Council may be called to participate in the Section's activities, in line with their areas of expertise.

(b) For analysing issues of particular specificity, relevance and technicality, specialised entities or experts may be asked to collaborate and give their technical and scientific support.

## **3. AGENDA**

The agenda of each meeting of the SEAC2021 shall be made known to the other Council members, and interested parties may, upon prior notice to the Council Secretariat, communicate their participation in the Section's meetings.

## **4. APPOINTMENT OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE SECTION**

Appointment of the representatives of the entities mentioned in paragraphs 1(b) and 2 shall be formally required by the Chairperson of the Council, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure.

## **5. REPORT**

The Chairperson of the SEAC2021 shall draft a final summary report to be submitted to the Plenary Session. Therein he/she will present the activities carried out by the Section during its term of office.

## **3. TERMINATION:**

The SEAC2021's mandate is considered terminated upon approval of the above-mentioned report.

Lisboa, 28 June 2017.

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

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