

**DELIBERATION No. 50 OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL**  
**ON THE 2018 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

Whereas pursuant to Article 3 (2) and Article 13 (g) of Law 22/2008, of 13 May (Law of the National Statistical System - NSS), it is the responsibility of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) to “oversee the plan and budget of the statistical activity of the statistical authorities (...)”;

Whereas the General Guidelines of the Official Statistical Activity (GGSOA) for the period 2018-2022, approved by the Council;

Whereas the Statistical Program of the European Commission for 2018 and the "2020 Vision" strategy of the European Statistical System (ESS);

Whereas the strategic objectives defined at the level of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB);

Whereas the principles laid down in the European Statistics Code of Practice, in particular, “Principle 3 - Adequacy of resources: The resources made available to the statistical authorities are sufficient to meet the requirements of European Statistics”;

Whereas the principles enshrined in the "Public Commitment on European Statistics by the ESCB”;

Whereas the Council's activity in 2018 should continue to ensure that official quality statistical information in all its different aspects is made available to the Society at large, namely by promoting an internal reflection to identify measures that respond to the challenges with which the NSS is faced;

Whereas the Plan of Statistical Activities of the various Statistical Authorities for 2018 reflects the guidelines set out in the national and European strategic documents mentioned above;

Pursuant to Article 3 (2) and Article 13 g) of Law 22/2008 of 13 May and Article 10 (3) (c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council, **at the Plenary meeting of December 13, 2017, the Council**, following the favourable opinion of the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination, **decided the following:**

1. **To approve** the Synthesis of the National Statistical System Activity for 2018, attached to this determination;
2. **To approve** the Council's Plan of Activities for 2018;
3. **Issue a favourable opinion** on the Statistical Work programmes of the Statistical Authorities for 2018;

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4. **Approve** the disclosure of these documents by means of an information note to the Media.
5. **Recommend to the competent authorities** that the necessary means must be made available to the Statistical Authorities for the execution of their 2018 Work programmes in accordance with the highest quality standards.

Lisbon, 13 December 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*

## WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2018 | NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

### | SYNTHESIS |

The 2018 Work Programme of the National Statistical System (NSS) consists of this synthesis, which highlights the main objectives and activities to be achieved in 2018, and the Work Programmes of the Statistical Council and the Statistical Authorities (SA)<sup>1</sup>, which provide more detailed information on their respective areas of competence.

These Plans present the objectives and actions that will be developed by these entities, in the national and European context, respectively:

- In the exercise of the powers established in article 13 of Law no. 22/2008, of 13 May, and in accordance with the guidelines issued pursuant to no. 2 of article 3 of the same Law through the Deliberations and Recommendations of the Statistical Council;
- The General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the period 2018-2022;
- The Statistical Programme of the European Commission for 2018;
- Statistical activity Programmes approved by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB);
- The implementation of the 2020 Vision of the European Statistical System (ESS);
- And also in compliance with the quality framework established in the Code of Conduct for European Statistics and in the Public Commitment of the European System of Central Banks in the field of European Statistics.

The Statistical Council, under the terms of its powers of guidance and coordination of the NSS, will continue to have as its main objective to make available to the whole society (citizens, enterprises,

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Portugal (INE), the Portuguese Central Bank (BdP), Regional Statistical Office of the Azores (SREA) and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM). Also SREA and DREM, when strictly producing regional statistics, and the entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal (pursuant to Law no. 22/2008 of 13 May): Directorate-General of Natural Resources, Marine Resources and Safety Services of the Ministry of Sea (MM), Directorate-General for Energy and Geology of the Ministry of economy (MEc), Directorate-General of Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (MEd and MCTES), Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice (MJ) and Department for Strategic Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security (MTSSS).

Pursuant to article 22 of the NSS, when producing national official statistics, the participation of SREA and DREM, as entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal, must be effective.

public administration, sovereign entities, and other public and private entities) quality official statistical information.

Within the framework of the strategic guidelines for the period 2018-2022, which foresees as a priority the need to think of ways to identify and implement adequate measures that seek to respond to the challenges facing the NSS, for which the involvement and commitment of the members of the Statistical Council will be a determining factor.

In 2018, monitoring of the preparation of the 2021 Census will begin within the scope of the Statistical Council, in line with the 2021 Census Action Plan of the responsibility of Statistics Portugal.

The 2018 Work Programmes of the SA set out a number of objectives aimed at continuing to ensure timely and relevant quality statistical production, the technological modernisation of the statistical process, improving the accessibility and use of official statistics and actively promoting statistical literacy. Reference should be made to the various initiatives of the SA in order to modernise their respective official statistics portals and the possibility of designing new portals (Statistics Portugal and the Portuguese Central Bank).

Within the framework of the rationalisation of available resources, priority will continue to be given to satisfying the growing demand for statistical information, at national, European and international level, as an indispensable instrument for the timely and rigorous analysis of the economic, financial, social and environmental situation, for informed decision-making by economic agents and for the sustained evaluation of the various policies.

The SA will also continue to pay special attention to strengthening institutional cooperation, namely by conducting specific projects relevant to the National and European Statistical Systems, such as the initiatives aimed at more intensive and efficient use of existing information and the intensification of greater use of administrative and other data for statistical purposes, thus minimising the costs of statistical production and the burden on respondents, namely citizens and enterprises.

### **A. Main objectives and activities of the Statistical Council for 2018**

#### **Objectives**

The activity to be developed by the Statistical Council in 2018, focused on the implementation of the strategy defined for the next five years, will essentially consist of the promotion of reflection actions for the identification and appropriate implementation of measures that allow the implementation of the GGOSA 2018-2022.

#### **Highlighting some actions and priority areas**

##### **New actions**

##### **Of a wider scope**

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- Conducting reflection sessions on the initiatives to be developed by the SSC, within the scope of its powers, with a view to identifying and adequately implementing measures to enable the implementation of the GGOSA 2018-2022.
- Evaluation of the Level of Implementation of the GGOSA 2013-2017.
- Adjustment of the Action Plans of the Sections according to the priorities established in the GGOSA 2018-2021.
- Quarterly monitoring of "Indicators of accessibility to official statistics".
- Monitoring the preparation of the 2021 Census, in line with the 2021 Census Action Programme prepared by Statistics Portugal.

### **Sector-based**

- Reflection on indicators of competitiveness and productivity of the Portuguese economy;
- Development and modernisation of social statistics.
- Monitoring of sectorial statistical information systems and subsystems: Social Security, Labour Market, International Migration, Health and Income, and Living Conditions.
- Annual monitoring of the degree of implementation of the recommendations of the (now extinct) Working Group on Health Statistics, through joint information, to be provided by Statistics Portugal and the Ministry of Health.
- A session was held to discuss the "Use of statistics by researchers".

### **Relevant actions which started in previous years**

- Presentation by the SA of significant innovations, including methodological ones, introduced in statistical production.
- Presentations by users of statistical information of studies and innovative applications of official statistics.
- Promotion of actions, among the competent authorities, aimed at the creation of a Register of Establishments for use within the scope of the NSS.
- Promotion of awareness-raising actions among Public Administration bodies holding administrative data on the (legal) obligation to make them available for the production of official statistics.
- Promotion of actions to increase institutional cooperation between the SA and between Public Administration entities and the SA.
- Monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Statistical Council for the improvement of the Information System for the Classification of Economic Activities (SICAE) by the managing entities of the System – Statistics Portugal, the Tax and Customs Authority and the Institute for Registration and Notary.
- Discussion on the use of administrative data for the production of quality statistics on occupational diseases, temporary work and "recibos verdes" and monitoring of labour market statistics in relation to accidents at work and the results of the "Relatório Único".
- Monitoring developments in the process of simplification of international trade statistics.
- Monitoring the implementation of the system of context/result indicators for Portugal 2020 and the degree of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11<sup>th</sup> Deliberation of the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics.

## **B. Main objectives of the Statistical Authorities for 2018**

### **Statistics Portugal and Entities with delegated powers to produce statistics**

The fundamental objective of Statistics Portugal remains the effective, efficient and impartial production and dissemination of quality official statistical information for the whole of society.

**Amongst the Work Programmes of Statistics Portugal and of the Entities with powers delegated (EDC) for 2018, the following should be highlighted:**

- Statistics Portugal will carry out 234 statistical activities, 198 of which will be statistical operations which will generate 684 moments of information release times.
- The EDCs will carry out 76 statistical operations, corresponding to 323 information release times.
- It is expected that 69 Publications titles will be published, predominantly in electronic format, 32 of which will be the responsibility of Statistics Portugal and 37 of the EDCs.
- Inter-institutional coordination actions will continue for the growing gathering of administrative and other data for statistical purposes – held by Public Administration and private entities – with a view to continuing to reduce the burden on respondents and production costs. In this context, Statistics Portugal's participation in the SIMPLEX+ Programme, through the actions "Informação Única no INE+" and "Inquéritos INE on-line", stands out.
- Viability studies for the current use of unstructured information (big data and other) and the web scraping tool in the process of production and validation of statistics will continue.
- The Portal of Official Statistics will continue to be the preferred means of disseminating Official Statistics and the project for the construction of a new Official Statistics Portal will carry on, within the scope of the application to the Support to the Administrative Modernisation and institutional Capacity of the Public Administration (SAMA 2020).

### ***Most relevant statistical activities:***

- Preparation of the 2019 Agricultural Census.
- Continuation of the preparation of the Population and Housing Census 2021: completion of the first test.
- Continuation of the work for the Construction of the Resident Population Base, for future regular availability of information on census variables.
- Carrying out the Survey on Fruit Tree Plantations.
- Carrying out the Survey on the Context Costs of Enterprises.
- Implementation of the Survey on International Sourcing.
- Beginning of work on the change of basis of the Portuguese National Accounts, for the reference

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- year 2017, with dissemination planned for 2019.
- Compilation of the symmetrical input-output matrix for the year 2015.
- Completion of the Survey on Voluntary Work 2018.
- Compilation of the Social Economy Satellite Account 2016 (for later in 2019).
- Compilation of the 2013-2016 Satellite Account for the Sea (for later released in 2019).
- Improvements to the methodology for calculating the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP), namely through the use of administrative data for the social rentals segment of the Survey on Housing Rent and the introduction of the Scanner Data methodology in the CPI calculation.
- Implementation and dissemination of the New Housing Construction Cost Index on a 2015 basis, including the respective retropolation and methodological documentation.
- Preparation of the 2019 Survey on National Health.
- Quarterly dissemination of local housing price statistics for cities with more than 100 thousand inhabitants and metropolitan areas.
- Completion of the preparation of the Survey on Energy Consumption in households, in coordination with DGEG/MEc.

Among the activities to be carried out by the EDCs, within the scope of this one, which is an integral part of this Work programme, the following stand out:

- Development of a general and sectorial Barometer of the wage differences between women and men; and Study on the implementation of a Balance of the wage differences between women and men, by company. [GEP/MTSSS]
- Launch of the new Portal. [GEP/MTSSS]
- A pilot survey on Students with Special Educational Needs in Higher Education was carried out. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- Consolidation of the new set of concepts in the area of Education. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- National coordination of the TALIS 2018 Survey. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- Mapping of the new international system of classifications of criminal statistics (ICCS), to answer international questionnaires and other projects within the framework of the Information System of Justice Statistics. [DGPJ/MJ]
- Completion of the implementation of the project for the new processing and dissemination subsystems of the Justice Statistics Information System (consultation of information). Presentation and dissemination of the new online consultation system. [DGPJ/MJ]
- Development of indicators in the official statistics portal on fishing quotas. [DGRM/MM]

### **As regards the cooperation with foreign entities:**

- Active participation in European structures, in particular, those of the European Statistical System (ESS), including its Committee and intensified partnerships with Member States and Eurostat, in accordance with the objectives set out in the 2020 Vision for the ESS.
- Participation in the meetings of the Working Party on Statistics of the EU Council.
- Active participation in the work of the Eurostat structures ESSnet on Big Data, Taskforce Big Data.

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- Participation in the European Statistical Forum (ESS + ESCB).
- Representation in the Eurostat Task Force for the proper implementation of Regulation 223/2009 on European Statistics (revised in 2015), promoting the implementation of the measures necessary for its compliance.
- Implementation of the Action Plan resulting from the recommendations of the Peer Review exercise in Portugal.
- Cooperation for the development of the statistical systems of other countries, particularly Portuguese-speaking countries, both bilaterally and within the CPLP.
- Monitoring the development of the 2030 Agenda and participation in the process of monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Banco de Portugal (BdP)**

**The 2018 Work Programme for 2018 of the Banco de Portugal (BdP)** aims to meet its obligations and strategic objectives in the field of statistics, pursuing three core objectives:

1. To ensure a quality statistical compilation, based on efficient use of the various sources of information and rigorous observation of the most demanding international standards.
2. Contribute to the development of the corporate data warehouse, based on integrated information management and optimisation of the exploitation of microeconomic databases.
3. Promote statistical dissemination that fully meets the needs of users and fully respects the commitments undertaken with the National and International Entities.

To this end, the 2018 Work Programme of BdP foresees 30 scheduled statistical operations with daily, monthly, quarterly and annual frequencies, associated with 503 dissemination events, with the following main lines of action being planned:

- Development of the new Banco de Portugal Statistics Portal (BPstat) with the aim of improving the accessibility of statistics and strengthening the communication of statistical information.
- Continuation of the process of rationalisation of the information received from information providers, contributing to the reduction of context costs associated with the statistical function of BdP, namely through the gradual implementation of a single point of contact for the communication of information from those entities, the strengthening of the use of administrative sources and the assessment of the potential use of solutions in the Big Data domain.
- Development of the new Central Credit Register, within the framework of the implementation of the ECB Regulation on the creation of a database with detailed and individual information on loans in the euro area (AnaCredit), the rationalisation of granular information reports on loans to Banco de Portugal and the improvement of the service provided to the financial system and the general public.

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- Reformulation of the Central Balance Sheet Database with a view, on the one hand, to adapting it to changes in the Simplified Business Information (IES) that will occur in 2018 (with reference to 2017 data) and, on the other hand, to improving the service provided to its internal and external users.
- Continuation of the work associated with the development of the corporate data warehouse, in particular through the strengthening of the mechanisms for crossing and integrated exploitation of information using Business Intelligence solutions.
- Participation in cooperation and technical assistance actions in the field of central bank statistics, organisation of seminars and conferences on Banco de Portugal statistics and participation in other national and international events for the dissemination of statistics.

### **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores (SREA)**

**The planning of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores (SREA) for 2018 is based on the following strategic objectives, enshrined in the respective QUAR:**

1. To optimise the operational side of the statistical activity in RA Açores.
2. Increase statistical literacy.
3. Continue the modernisation and efficiency of the statistical production process.
4. Intensify the use of administrative data for statistical purposes.
5. Comply with the needs of the society for quality and timeliness statistical information.

**With regard to the 2018 Work Programme of SREA, the following must be highlighted:**

#### ***As regards the Statistical Production***

- Calculation and dissemination of the results of the "Survey of Residents on Tourism in the Azores (IRT-Azores) - 2017", carried out in the last quarter of 2017.
- Preparation and dissemination of the project "Tourism Satellite Account - 2015".
- Implementation/preparatory studies of new projects: "Purchase of goods and services through the Internet in the Azores".
- Estimated GDP per island for 2015.
- Restructuring of the "Regional Development Composite Index (ISDR - Açores)" and construction of the ISDR for 2010 and 2015, based on the new system of indicators.
- Continued development of a number of regional projects initiated in 2017: "Calculation of regional GDP from a demand perspective"; "Coincident indicator of private consumption for the Açores"; "Estimate of external trade in services" and "Economic Climate Indicator".

#### ***As regards the External Cooperation***

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- Continuation of the establishment of statistical cooperation agreements with regional and national entities, particularly in the framework of the implementation of new regional projects.
- Continued cooperation with ISTAC and DREM under the ECOMAC project, a project funded by the MAC 2014-2020 Madeira-Açores-Canarias Cooperation Programme.

### ***In terms of dissemination***

- Dissemination of the results from the 2017 Regional Survey on Flower Plantation.

### **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM)**

**The planning of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM) for 2018 is based on the following strategic objectives:**

1. Strengthen the quality of official statistics.
2. To comply with the statistical information needs of the Society with quality and timeliness.
3. Contribute to the improvement of the functioning of the NSS.

The strategic objectives will turn into operational objectives, of which the following stand out:

1. Consolidate the supply of official, annual and infra-annual statistical information and retrospective series.
2. Promote statistical literacy.
3. Intensify the use of technologically advanced and friendly collection methods for the respondent.
4. Develop a new IT tool, within the scope of regional surveys that allows reporting to the DREM in a more evolved and user-friendly format for the respondent.
5. Strengthen the appropriation and use of administrative data for statistical purposes.
6. Ensure a high level of customer satisfaction.
7. Provide, in a timely manner, quality and relevant official statistical information, ensuring the geospatial dimension of relevant indicators.
8. Develop new dissemination functionalities that allow users to understand more easily the statistics disseminated.

**As regards the 2018 Work Programme of DREM, the following activities should be highlighted:**

### **In terms of the statistical production**

- Expand the supply of official statistical information, which is essential for a well-founded knowledge of the economic, financial, social and environmental reality of the region and for the adequate public and private decision-making, in which the production and dissemination of the regional Tourism Satellite Account stand out.

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- Actively participate in projects of national scope carried out within the National Statistical System, strengthening the mechanisms of control and validation of the information collected, in order to ensure high response rates and the quality of data.
- Ensure the dissemination of official statistics, produced directly or indirectly under its responsibility, according to the Dissemination Calendar announced on the official statistics portal of DREM.
- To improve communication and statistical dissemination channels, meeting the needs of the various user segments, mainly through the use of the internet portal of DREM which will remain as the primary vehicle for the dissemination of statistical information.

### In terms of cooperation

- Maintain and if possible increase regional cooperation with some of the regional public administration entities that hold information that can be converted into statistical data.
- Within the scope of territorial cooperation, DREM will develop, together with its counterparts in the Azores and the Canary Islands, the ECOMAC project, within the scope of the MAC Interreg Territorial Cooperation Programme 2014-2020.

### C. Resources

Under the terms of the NSS Law, the financial charges for the functioning of the Statistical Council are supported by Statistics Portugal budget.

The Statistical Authorities (SA), for the development of the actions included in the Work Programmes, will have the financial means included in their annual budgets and the human and material resources available for that purpose.

#### Financial Resources

The financial resources allocated to the NSS - the functioning of the SC and the statistical activity of the SA - are as follows:

- The forecast for the running costs of the **Statistical Council** for 2018 is EUR 308,185 (supported by Statistics Portugal budget).
- As regards **Statistics Portugal**, the implementation of the Plan will involve a cost of EUR 32.039 million (EUR 28.914 million from the 2018 State Budget and EUR 3.123 million of own revenues).
- **The Entities with delegated powers by Statistics Portugal** foresee to allocate EUR 4.84 million to statistical activities.
- The **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores** foresees a budget of EUR 1.7<sup>2</sup> million;
- The **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira** foresees a budget of EUR 1.3<sup>3</sup> million.

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<sup>2</sup> Data relates to 2017, strictly as an indication in the absence of an approved budget for 2018.

<sup>3</sup> As a preview, strictly as an indication given that the 2018 regional budget is still not closed.

### Human Resources

In 2018, the following human resources will be allocated to the activity of the National Statistical System:

- The **Council Secretariat** is composed of **6 people**, to support the activities of the SC, which involve a total of about 220 participants (Council members and other participants in the Working Groups);
- The **Statistical Authorities**, for the development of the statistical activities planned for 2018, **will have 960 employees** from the respective staff, distributed as follows:
  - Statistics Portugal - **657<sup>4</sup>** (more than 500 service providers simultaneously - interviewers for the collection of information)
  - Entities with delegated powers - **122**
  - Banco de Portugal - **87**
  - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores - **48**
  - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira - **46**

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<sup>4</sup> Includes the human resources allocated to the Secretariat of the SC.