

DELIBERATION NO. 52 OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO THE WORK

PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM 2019

Whereas the competencies of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) within the scope and strategic guidance of the National Statistical System (NSS).

Having in consideration the General Guidelines of the Official Statistical Activity (GGOSA) 2018-2022, approved by the Council, which define the major objectives and challenges posed to the NSS for that period as well as the priority actions considered by the Council as a result of a thorough analysis and other procedures within the Council namely through the recent reflection on the NSS and the profound discussion around the latest Assessment Report of the NSS.

Considering that the Council has the responsibility to *“Evaluate the work program and budget related to the statistical activity of the statistical authorities (...)”*.

Having in consideration that the activity of the Council in 2019 will continue to focus on providing society at large with quality update statistical data and monitor new developments and challenges the Statistical Authorities (SA) are faced with, both on a national level, namely through the use of new data sources and data integration, and on European and international levels as well.

Given that the Work Programs of the SA for 2019 follow the guidelines contained in the GGOSA 2018-2022 namely in what regards the high priority given to actions that:

- I. Establish a set of objectives aimed at continuing to ensure a current and relevant quality of statistical production, methodological and technological innovation and modernization of the statistical process, improved accessibility and use of official statistics, and the active promotion of statistical literacy. The various initiatives of the SA focussed on the modernization of their Official Statistics Portals and the design of new portals (Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, Directorate-General for Justice Policy and The Office of *Strategy and Planning*) should also be highlighted.
- II. Will continue to give priority, as part of the rationalization of the available resources, to meeting the growing demand for statistical information at national, European and international level as an indispensable tool for timely and accurate analysis of the economic, financial, social and environmental situation, decision-making by economic operators and the sustained evaluation of the various policies.
- III. Will give particular emphasis on strengthening institutional and interinstitutional cooperation, in particular in the conduct of specific and relevant projects for the National and European Statistical Systems, namely by further strengthening the use of administrative and other statistical sources, namely the use of Big Data, thus minimizing the costs of statistical production and the burden on respondents, particularly citizens and enterprises.

Considering that the Work Programs of Statistics Portugal and of the entities which are delegated by Statistics Portugal to produce official statistics for 2019 are part of the Statistical Program of the European Commission until 2020 and that almost all of the planned statistical activities are obligations assumed by Portugal in the context of the European Union.

Considering that the Statistical Work Program of Banco de Portugal aims to respond to the strategic objectives defined by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB).

Having also in consideration that the Work Programs of Statistics Portugal and of the entities delegated by Statistics Portugal to produce official statistics, of Statistics Azores and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira for 2019 are in line with the quality benchmark established in the European Statistics Code of Practice and that the Statistical Program of the Banco de Portugal follows the principles enshrined in the "ESCB's public commitment to European statistics".

Considering that "Principle 3 - Adequacy of resources" of the European Statistics Code of practice states that "the resources made available to the statistical authorities are sufficient to meet the requirements of European statistics".

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 Economic and Social Council, **at the Plenary meeting of 12 December 2018, the Statistical Council**, following a favourable opinion of the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination, **has decided:**

1. **To approve** the Synthesis of Statistical Activity for the National Statistical System 2019, attached to this determination;
2. **To approve** the Council Program for 2019;
3. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the Work Programs of the Statistical Authorities for 2019;
4. **To approve** the dissemination of these documents through an information note to the media.
5. **To recommend to the competent authorities** that the necessary means are made available to the Statistical Authorities for the execution of their Work Programs for 2019 in accordance with the highest quality standards.

Lisbon, 12 December 2018

The Vice-Chairman of the Statistical Council, *Francisco Lima*

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

2019 WORK PROGRAM | NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

SYNTHESIS

The Work Program of the National Statistical System (NSS) for 2019 consists of this summary, which highlights the main objectives and activities to be achieved in 2019, and the Work Programs of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as Council) and the Statistical Authorities (SA)¹, which provide more detailed information in their respective areas of competence.

These Programs 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 May 13, 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 Council;
- The General Guidelines of the Official Statistical Activity (GGOSA) for the period 2018-2022
- The Statistical Programme of the European Commission up until 2020;
- The statistical activity programmes approved by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB);
- And also in compliance with the quality framework established in the European Statistics Code of Practice and in the Public Commitment of the European System of Central Banks in the field of European Statistics.

The Council, within the scope of its competences, will continue to ensure that society at large (citizens, businesses, public administration, sovereign entities, researchers and other public and private entities) are provided with quality and timely official statistical information and will monitor new developments and challenges facing the SA both at national level, including the use of new sources of information and data integration, and at European and international level.

At the same time, it will promote internal reflection actions for broad audiences with the aim of identifying the appropriate implementation of measures to enable the implementation of the GGOSA 2018-2022 and, in particular, to raise society's awareness of the importance of collaborating with the SA.

¹ These include Statistics Portugal (INE), the Portuguese Central Bank (Banco de Portugal - BdP), the Regional Statistical Office of the Açores (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.

The SAs, in their 2019 Work Programs, set out a number of objectives aimed at continuing to ensure timely and relevant quality statistical production, innovation and methodological and 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 SAs with a view to the modernisation of the respective official statistics portals and even the construction of new portals (Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, Directorate General of Justice Policy and the Strategy and Planning Office of MTSSS).

Priority will continue to be given, within the framework of the rationalisation of the available resources, 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 SAs will also continue to pay particular attention to strengthening institutional and interinstitutional cooperation, including in the conduct of specific projects relevant to the National and European Statistical Systems, including strengthening the use of administrative and other sources for statistical purposes, including the use of Big Data solutions, thus minimising the costs of statistical production and the burden on respondents, including citizens and enterprises.

A special note for the National Data Infrastructure (IND) development project at Statistics Portugal that embodies the path that has been pursued in recent years, in what concerns the process of data integration. This project will seek to respond to the need to create scale and gain critical mass to be able to respond to an increasingly complex society that generates new expectations regarding statistics.

A. Main objectives and activities of the Statistical Council for 2019

Goal

The activity to be carried out by the Council in 2019 should focus on the promotion of internal reflection actions for a broader public and monitoring actions for the identification and adequate measures that allow the implementation of the GGOSA 2018-2022, namely in the scope of the use of administrative information and other sources, for statistical purposes, and in raising the awareness of society for the importance of collaborating with the Statistical Authorities.

Some actions and priority areas should be highlighted:

Global in scope

- Promotion of internal reflection actions for the identification and adequate implementation of measures that enable the implementation of the GGOSA 2018-2022;

- Promotion of reflection and awareness-raising actions of Public Administration entities and private entities, with a view to using administrative data for statistical purposes;
- Assessment of the degree of implementation of the first year of the GGOSA 2018-2022;
- Adoption of mechanisms to ensure compliance with the fundamental principles of the NSS contained in the Law and monitoring of their compliance by the Statistical Authorities;
- Monitoring of new developments in official statistical portals;
- Monitoring of "Indicators of accessibility to official statistics".

By sectors

- Updating of the Action Plans of the Sections according to the priorities established in the GGOSA 2018-2021;
- Monitoring the preparation of the 2021 Census, in line with the 2021 Census Action Programme prepared by Statistics Portugal;
- Monitoring of internal work to identify the relevant dimensions for the definition of indicators of competitiveness and productivity of the Portuguese economy and indicators of social inequalities;
- Monitoring the development and modernisation of social statistics;
- Monitoring of the systems and subsystems of sectorial statistical information: Social Security, Labour Market, International Migration, Health and Income, and Living Conditions;

Relevant actions carried over from previous years

- Presentation by the SAs 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, with the competent entities, aiming at the creation of a File of Establishments for use within the scope of the NSS;
- Promotion of actions to increase institutional cooperation among the SAs and between public administration entities and the SA;
- Monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations of the Council for the improvement of the Information System of the Classification of Economic Activities (SICAE) by the managing entities of the System – Statistics Portugal, the Tax and Customs Authority and the Institute of Registration and Notary;
- Discussion on the use of administrative data to produce quality statistics on occupational diseases, temporary agency work and "recibos verdes" and to monitor labour market statistics in relation to accidents at work and the results of the "Relatório Único";
- Monitoring of developments in the process of simplification of international trade statistics;
- Monitoring of the implementation of the system of context/result indicators for Portugal 2020 and the degree of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Deliberation of the Permanent Section of Territorial Statistics;

- Annual monitoring of the degree of implementation of the recommendations of the (now extinct) Working Group (WG) on Health Statistics, through joint information, to be provided by Statistics Portugal and the Ministry of Health.

B. Main objectives of the Statistical Authorities for 2019

Statistics Portugal and Entities with Powers Delegated

In 2019, Statistics Portugal will continue its mission to produce, in an independent and impartial manner, quality official statistical information relevant to society, promoting the coordination, analysis, innovation, and dissemination of national statistical activity, ensuring the integrated storage of data in accordance with the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, attentive to the needs of users, both in new areas of interest and in more appropriate forms of accessibility.

The following developments are highlighted in Statistics Portugal's Work Programs for 2019

- The measures under the responsibility of Statistics Portugal in the SIMPLEX+ Programme of 2018, to be implemented in 2019 - "Single Information at Statistics Portugal+" are kept. Two other measures are present in this edition of the Simplex Programme: the creation of a "Remote Safe Center" and an "Automatic Statistics Service".
- The implementation of the project for the construction of a new Portal will continue, as part of the SAMA 2020 application. Activities to promote statistical literacy will remain present for various target audiences.
- Feasibility studies for the current use of unstructured information (Big data and other) and the Web Scraping tool in the statistical production process will continue.
- The project to develop the National Data Infrastructure (NDI) in Statistics Portugal that materializes the path that has been pursued in recent years, in what concerns the process of data integration.

Most relevant activities in Statistics Portugal's statistical activity

- Carrying out the 2019 Agricultural Census, a 10-yearly event, and a large-scale operation whose data collection in the field will begin in 2019 and will continue throughout 2020.
- Beginning of preparation work for the next edition (2020) of the Wine Survey.
- Beginning of work on the preparation of the next edition (2020) of the Pesticide Use Statistics.
- Preparation of the Census 2021 Pilot Survey, to be conducted in 2020, with the aim of testing the various methodological and operational components of the new census operation.
- Development of the Resident Population Base 2018 (RPB 2018).
- Methodological and application preparation and implementation of the new edition of the Fertility Survey (2019).
- Employment Survey modules (implementation and dissemination of the 2019 module: 'Organisation of work and working time'; preparation of module 2020: 'Accidents at work and work-related health problems').
- Preparation and implementation of the ad hoc module of the Survey on Living Conditions and Income, which addresses the issue of intergenerational transmission of social disadvantage.

- Preparation of the Household Financial Situation Survey 2020.
- Preparation of the Household Expenditure Survey 2020.
- Preparation and collection of the National Health Survey 2019.
- Pilot Survey on Security in Public and Private Space, aimed at preparing a nationally representative statistical operation on the issue of gender-based violence.
- Provision of information for the analysis of territorial dynamics, including the development of indicator systems to support the monitoring of territorially based public policies.
- Dissemination of the Study on the Municipality's Purchasing Power and the analytical study "Retrato Territorial de Portugal".
- Development of the project on "food waste" statistics.
- Preparation and dissemination of a new base for Portuguese National Accounts, with 2016 as the reference year.
- Compilation and dissemination of the Social Economy Satellite Account 2016 and the results of the 2018 Voluntary Work Survey.
- Implementation of the Survey on Management Practices in the Social Economy.
- Compilation of a new edition of the Satellite Account of the Sea, with reference to the year 2017, with results broken down by NUTS I.
- Extension of the coverage of the Services Production Price Index, particularly as regards road freight transport activities.
- Feasibility study for the production of statistics on Prices and Rents of Agricultural Lands.
- Carrying out a feasibility study on the production and dissemination of a Rapid International Trade Estimate.
- Development of international tourism statistics - a simplified model for air borders and from administrative sources.
- Preparation of the new Small Tourist Accommodation Survey for local accommodation below 10 beds.
- Extension of the set of results within the scope of Air Traffic Statistics at Airports and Aerodromes.
- Definition of the information system on gender equality, within the scope of the EEAGrants programme and the Estratégia Portugal +Igal.

Among the activities to be carried out by the Entities with Delegation of Powers, the following are highlighted:

- Disclosure of the results of the new process relating to Work Accidents occurred in 2018. GEP/MTSSS].
- Carrying out a pilot Survey on Students with Special Educational Needs in Higher Education. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- Preparation of the statistical activity Technological Resources of the Schools. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- Completion of the project for the new statistical processing and dissemination subsystems of the Justice Statistics Information System. [DGPJ/MJ]
- Methodological, scientific and technological development aimed at enhancing the quality of statistics in the fisheries sector. [DGRM/MM]

- Improvement of the quality and coverage of statistics on energy and geological resources, ensuring their production in accordance with methodologies harmonised at Community and international level. [DGEG/MATE]

With regard to the external cooperation

- Preparation of the Presidency of the Council's Working Party on Statistics, by Statistics Portugal, within the scope of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to be held in the first half of 2021.
- Active participation in European structures, in particular, those of the European Statistical System (ESS), including its Committee and intensified partnerships with the Member States and Eurostat, in accordance with the objectives set out in the 2020 Vision for the ESS.
- Active participation in the work of Eurostat ESSnets structures and task forces in various domains.
- Participation in the European Statistical Forum, which brings together the European Statistical System and the European System of Central Banks.
- Monitoring the development of the 2030 Agenda and participation in the process of monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Cooperation for the development of the statistical systems of other countries, in particular, the Portuguese-speaking countries, both bilaterally and within the CPLP framework.

Banco de Portugal

The Bank of Portugal's Statistical Program for 2019 aims to meet its obligations and strategic objectives in the field of the statistical function, pursuing three central objectives:

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

To this end, in the Bank of Portugal's statistical Work Program for 2019, 30 statistical operations are planned and scheduled, covering the different statistical domains, with daily, monthly, quarterly and annual frequencies, associated with 497 dissemination events, the following main lines of action being planned:

1. Revision of the 2019 national accounts base, with articulation between Banco de Portugal and Statistics Portugal in order to improve consistency between national financial and non-financial accounts and balance of payments and international investment position statistics.
2. Consolidation of the reporting to the new Central Credit Register, within the framework of the implementation of the European Central Bank (ECB) Regulation on the creation of a database with detailed and individual information on loans in the euro area (AnaCredit), the streamlining of granular information reports on loans to the Banco de Portugal and the improvement of the service

- provided to the financial system and the general public. Greater integration and consistency of CRC information with monetary and financial statistics.
3. Rethinking of the Central Balance Sheet Database with a view, mostly, to adapting it to the changes in the Simplified Business Information that will occur in 2019 (with reference to the 2018 data). Also in this area, the process of harmonising the various statistical products originating from the Central Balance Sheet Database, which began in 2018, will be finalized.
 4. Development of a new system for the production of quarterly balance sheet statistics on pension funds, based on information received from the Insurance and Pension Funds Supervisory Authority, to meet the statistical reporting requirements laid down in Regulation ECB/2018/02 and the ECB Guideline on Monetary and Financial Statistics (version to be republished in 2019).
 5. Availability of the first version of the new Banco de Portugal Statistics Portal (BPstat) with the aim of improving the accessibility to statistics and strengthening the communication of statistical information.
 6. Continuation of the work associated with the development of the Banco de Portugal's data warehouse and the components associated with the reference information database and the information catalogue. In the field of integrated management of reference information, reference should be made to the collaboration with the ECB in the management of the RIAD (Register of Institutions and Affiliates Data) reference database.
 7. Continuation of the process of rationalisation of the information received from information providers, with the aim of reducing the context costs associated with the Bank's statistical function, namely through the gradual implementation of a single point of contact for the communication of information from such entities, strengthening the use of administrative sources and assessing the potential use of solutions in the Big Data domain.
 8. 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 statistical dissemination events.

Regional Statistical Office of the Azores

The planning of the Regional Statistical Office of the Açores (SREA) for 2019 is based on the following strategic objectives, enshrined in the respective QUAR:

1. To optimise the operation of statistical activity in the Autonomous Region of the Açores (RAA).
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. Satisfy, with quality and opportunity, the statistical information needs of the Society at large.

Of the SREA Work Program for 2019, special mention should be made:

In terms of the Statistical Production

- Implementation/preparatory studies for new regional projects: "Satellite account of the sea in the region (CSM- Azores 2015); "Tourist performance of the Azores islands - evolution in the last 20 years"; "Attractiveness indicator of the Azores, based on Big Data".
- Estimated GDP per island for 2016.
- Carrying out the 2019 Agricultural Census, as a delegation from Statistics Portugal.
- Continued development of some regional projects not completed in 2018: "Calculation of regional GDP, from the point of view of demand"; "Coincident indicator of private consumption for the Açores"; "Estimate of Foreign Trade - Services".

In terms of External Cooperation

- Carrying on the establishment of statistical cooperation agreements with regional and national authorities, in particular in the framework of the implementation of the new regional projects.
- Continuation of cooperation with ISTAC and DREM in the framework of the ECOMAC project, a project financed by the MAC 2014-2020 Wood-Açores-Canary Cooperation Program.

In terms of the Dissemination

- Beginning of the digitisation process of older paper publications for inclusion in the SREA portal.
- Implementation of a new information management system.
- Dissemination of the results of the "Composite Indicator of Intra-Regional Development (ICDIR- Açores) 2010-2015".

Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira

The planning of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM) for 2019 is based on the following strategic objectives:

1. To strengthen the quality of official statistics.
2. To satisfy, with quality and opportunity, the statistical information needs of the society at large.
3. Contribute to the optimization of the functioning of the National Statistical System.

The strategic objectives will be translated 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 within the school community and society at large.
3. Ensure the technical training and professional development of workers.
4. Intensify the use of technologically advanced and friendly collection modes for the respondent.
5. Strengthen the access and use of administrative data for statistical purposes.
6. Ensure a high level of customer satisfaction.
7. Make available, in a timely manner, quality and relevant official statistical information.
8. Develop new dissemination functions to make it easier for users to understand the statistics disseminated.

As far as the 2019 Work Program of DREM is concerned, the following activities should be highlighted:

As regards the statistical production and dissemination

- 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 adequate decision-making at public and private level;
- Actively participate in national projects carried out within the National Statistical System, strengthening the mechanisms for monitoring and validating the information collected, in order to ensure high response rates and data quality.
- Ensure the dissemination of official statistics, produced directly or indirectly under its responsibility, according to the Dissemination Calendar available on the DREM portal;
- To improve communication and statistical dissemination channels, meeting the needs of the various user segments, with the emphasis on the DREM Internet portal which will remain the primary vehicle for the dissemination of statistical information.
- To enhance the diffusion contents, through the implementation of new and dynamic functionalities, in order to meet the needs of the various user segments.

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 continue to implement, together with its counterparts in the Açores and the Canary Islands, the ECOMAC project, within the scope of the MAC 2014-2020 Territorial Cooperation Programme, and the development of new projects under this programme is to be expected if the applications made are accepted.

C. Resources

Under the terms of the NSS Law, the financial charges for the functioning of the Council are borne by the Statistics Portugal Budget.

The Statistical Authorities, for the development of the actions included in the Work Programs, will rely on the financial means included in their annual budgets and on the human and material resources available for that purpose.

Financial resources

The financial resources allocated to the NSS - the functioning of the Statistical Council and the statistical activity of the SAs - are as follows:

- The forecast of the operating costs of the **Statistical Council** for 2019 is 296,930 thousand Euros (supported by the budget of Statistics Portugal).
- For **Statistics Portugal**, the implementation of the Program will involve a cost of 39.229 million Euros (29.145 million Euros of the 2019 State Budget already allocated and 3.4 million Euros of Own

Revenues and European Funds; 6.6 million Euros to reinforce the allocation in early 2019 for the RA2019, Census 2021 and National Data Infrastructure projects).

- **Entities with delegated powers from Statistics Portugal** program to allocate 4.366 million Euros to statistical activities.
- **The Regional Statistical Service of the Azores** foresees a budget of EUR 1.7² million;
- **The Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira** foresees a budget of 1.4 million Euros.

Human Resources

The following human resources will be allocated to the activity of the National Statistical System in 2019:

- **The Council Secretariat** is made up of **6 people** to support the activities of the Council, which involve a total of about 280 participants (Council members and other participants in Working Groups);
- **The Statistical Authorities**, in order to carry out the activities planned for 2019, **will rely on the collaboration of 1,227 staff members**, distributed as follows:
 - Statistics Portugal - **922³** (more than 500 service providers simultaneously - interviewers to collect current information and 1,300 for RA2019)
 - Entities with delegated powers - **119**
 - Banco de Portugal – **87**
 - Regional Statistical Service of the Açores – **51**
 - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **48⁴**

² Data refers to 2018 and serves as a reference while the 2019 budget is not finalized.

³ The total of 922 staff members (senior statisticians, technical assistants and operational assistants), comprises resources involved in the activity of the Council and a further 243 senior staff members on short term contracts for census operations (2019 Agricultural Census and 2021 Census) to be included on the staff map.

⁴ Data collection related to the national statistical operations will be carried out by 88 interviewers.