

DELIBERATION NO 2 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF SOCIAL STATISTICS

WORKING GROUPS IN THE FIELD OF SOCIAL STATISTICS

Whereas the changes and adjustments introduced to the operating structure of the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council) (hereinafter referred to as the Council) as a consequence of Deliberation No 2 | 2008, approved in September 2008, with the purpose of:

“(...) conferring greater efficiency, functionality and dynamics to its activities. (...)”

Whereas pursuant to paragraph 3 of the said Deliberation, Working Groups operating on that date would continue to function on a transitional basis until the Section issued its opinion on the model to be adopted by Working Groups in the field of social statistics.

Whereas the Council has decided that, within the scope of a reflection on Working Groups, all existing Groups should be terminated and new Groups created. This should be conducted in compliance with a model promoting, through the setting of delimited timelines, an efficient functioning of precise mandates integrating proposals for solutions to overcome limitations or blockages in Portuguese statistics.

Whereas the “Action Plan for the organisation and functioning of the Standing Section of Social Statistics” – Deliberation No 1 of the *Secção Permanente de Estatísticas Sociais* (Standing Section of Social Statistics) of 6 July 2009 sets out in its main lines of action the need *“to promote initiatives for streamlining procedures in the preparation of social statistics and to monitor developments of statistical projects in the field of social statistics, particularly those associated with emerging areas, data integration and process innovation”*.

Whereas the reflection started in July 2009 on this matter within the scope of the Standing Section of Social Statistics, which, inter alia, decided on the need to ensure that the submitting entities and the members render Working Groups more dynamic, and the final submission of proposals, which includes five new Working Groups, in the following areas: education and training, labour market, health, social inequality indicators, disability and incapacity.

Whereas the relevance of creating the proposed Working Groups and developing the above areas, while taking into account namely the need to define priorities in the context of the Business Plan of the Council, the importance of pro-active participation by the submitting entity and the commitment by all entities represented in Working Groups, while also considering a number of constraints in the allocation of human resources for simultaneous participation in the five Working Groups. In this context, account should also be taken of an adequate gradual creation of the proposed Working Groups.

The Standing Section of Social Statistics, at its meeting on 17 June 2010, within the scope of its powers, as laid down in Deliberation No 2 | 2008 of the Statistical Council, Annex D, decided:

1. **To terminate** the Working Groups operating in the field of social statistics:
 - (a) Working Group on Labour Market Statistics;
 - (b) Working Group on Disability and Rehabilitation Statistics;
 - (c) Working Group on Education and Training Statistics;
 - (d) Working Group on Culture Statistics;
 - (e) Working Group for Monitoring Information Society Statistics.

2. **To approve the immediate creation of the following Working Groups:**
 - Working Group on Labour Market Statistics (annex A).
 - Working Group on Education and Training Statistics (annex B).
 - Working Group on Health Statistics (annex C).

3. **At a Section meeting to be held in the course of 2011 a start date will be defined for the works of the following Working Groups:**
 - Working Group on Social Inequality Indicators.
 - Working Group for Disability and Incapacity Statistics.

4. The annexes to this Deliberation form an integral part thereof.

Lisbon, 14 July 2010

Chairman of the Section, Gustavo Cardoso

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

Annex A | Working Group on Labour Market Statistics

I. REASONING

Whereas the relevance of this statistical area and the priority assigned to it by the Council within the scope of the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 2008-2012.

Whereas within the scope of the previous mandate assigned to the Working Group on Labour Market Statistics, and following the activities it has developed, a report is in the process of being concluded on labour market statistical sources and their use by several entities represented in the Group.

Whereas a great amount of work has been developed at other levels of the previous mandate, and it is forecast that a series of issues will be deepened, as already defined, namely an action plan for the exchange of data between the Social Security Institute and *Caixa Geral de Aposentações* (the Portuguese civil servants pension scheme) to ensure data systematisation in the area of accidents at work and occupational diseases and the organisational and dissemination model for statistics.

Whereas the importance of monitoring the Employment Survey, namely due to the methodological changes introduced at the survey's collection stage and the need for statistical calculations to be monitored on an ad-hoc basis.

II. MANDATE

- (a) Conclusion of the report on labour market statistical sources and their use by a number of entities, started within the scope of the previous Working Group on Labour Market Statistics;
- (b) Continued deepening of the action plan for the exchange of data between the Social Security Institute and *Caixa Geral de Aposentações*, to ensure data systematisation in the area of accidents at work and occupational diseases;
- (c) Following the information compiled in the report mentioned in (a), elaboration of a proposal for the creation of a reference website for labour market statistics, safeguarding current responsibilities for data dissemination;
- (d) Monitoring of the Employment Survey.
- (e) Promotion of experience sharing and identification of national and international good practices in the field of production and dissemination of statistics.

III. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

1. The Working Group is composed of representatives (one representative and one alternate) of the following entities:
 - Statistics Portugal
 - Banco de Portugal
 - Office for Strategy and Planning
 - Statistics and Education Planning Office
 - Planning, Strategy, Assessment and International Relations Office
 - Directorate-General for Administration and Public Employment
 - Department of Foresight and Planning and International Affairs
 - Directorate General of Health
 - Institute for Informatics and Statistics
 - Authority for Labour Conditions
 - Social Security Institute
 - Employment and Vocational Training Institute
 - *Instituto Superior de Agronomia* – Sociology Department
 - Council of Portuguese University Rectors
 - General Confederation of Portuguese Workers
 - Workers' General Union
 - Confederation of Trade and Services of Portugal
 - Confederation of Portuguese Industry
2. To develop its activities and fulfil its mandate the Working Group will establish with other Working Groups within the scope of the Statistical Council the liaisons and initiatives deemed necessary, which should be promoted through the Secretariat of the Council.
3. Representatives from entities forming the Working Group will be appointed through its member in the Statistical Council whenever the entity is represented, or by direct indication of each entity's responsible bodies, in the remaining cases.

4. To analyse specific aspects of its mandate, the Working Group may also invite entities or experts on relevant issues, this invitation being formalised by the Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.
5. Where warranted by the matters in question and in order to render works more operational, Sub-Groups may be formed, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council.

IV. **TIMING AND PROGRAMMING OF WORK**

- (a) To be completed during the first quarter of 2011;
- (b) Contacts between the two entities should start in the first quarter of 2011; actions undertaken are expected to yield concrete results by the end of the year;
- (c) The proposal should be prepared during the fourth quarter of 2010. Actions to be undertaken at a later stage will depend on acceptance of the proposal;
- (d) Ad-hoc monitoring.

Annex B | Working Group on Education and Training Statistics

I. REASONING

Whereas the relevance of this statistical area and the priority assigned to it by the Council within the scope of the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 2008-2012.

Whereas within the scope of the previous mandate assigned to the Working Group on Education and Training Statistics, and following the activities it has developed, several initiatives were undertaken and the way was paved for the methodological setting and conduct of other activities which were previously discussed and programmed within the Working Group. It is also important that the previously developed work is kept, and adapted to the new national and international demands for this statistical area.

II. MANDATE

- (a) To collect statistics and indicators on education and training within the scope of the National Statistical System, and possibly submit proposals for the creation of new rating mechanisms;
- (b) To submit proposals aimed at the methodological integration and harmonisation of statistical data produced by different organisations in the fields of education and training;
- (c) To reflect on and propose the construction of a system of statistical indicators on education and training – in a context of rationality and selectivity – to be made available by the NSS, which makes it possible to meet the information needs of the various users, as well as the need to monitor and assess the impact of public policies in the areas of education and training;
- (d) To contribute to define the organisation and dissemination model for statistics;
- (e) To monitor the results obtained within the scope of the education satellite account;
- (f) To monitor and promote the updating of concepts for statistical purposes in the areas of education and training, within the scope of the *Secção Permanente de Coordenação Estatística* (Standing Section of Statistical Coordination);
- (g) To monitor the implementation of the new ISCED and have it translated into Portuguese.
- (h) To monitor and promote the liaison with Portuguese representations in international organisations, namely the OECD, the European Union, and UNESCO/UN, seeking to meet their information requirements and ensuring the exchange of information stemming from national representations in international organisations;

- (i) To promote experience sharing and the identification of national and international good practices in the field of production and dissemination of statistics, namely through the organisation of events with experts of recognised standing.

III. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

1. The Working Group is composed of representatives (one representative and one alternate) of the following entities:
 - Statistics Portugal
 - Statistics and Education Planning Office
 - Planning, Strategy, Assessment and International Relations Office
 - Office for Strategy and Planning
 - National Agency for Qualification
 - Directorate-General of Employment and Labour Relations
 - Council of Portuguese University Rectors
 - Coordinating Council of Polytechnic Institutes
 - Entity representing private and cooperative education
 - Workers' General Union
 - Confederation of Trade and Services of Portugal
 - Confederation of Portuguese Industry
 - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores
 - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira
2. To develop its activities and fulfil its mandate the Working Group will establish with other Working Groups within the scope of the Statistical Council the liaisons and initiatives deemed necessary, which should be promoted through the Secretariat of the Council.
3. Representatives from entities forming the Working Group will be appointed through its member in the Statistical Council whenever the entity is represented, or by direct indication of each entity's responsible bodies, in the remaining cases.
4. To analyse specific aspects of its mandate, the Working Group may also invite entities or experts on relevant issues, this invitation being formalised by the Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.
5. Where warranted by the matters in question and in order to render works more operational, Sub-Groups may be formed, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council.

IV. TIMING AND PROGRAMMING OF WORK

- (a) End-2011;
- (b) End-2011;
- (c) July 2011;
- (d) July 2011;
- (e) Activity to be developed on a regular basis and depending on the work to be undertaken by the entities responsible for producing the education satellite account. Hence, the following is to be expected:
- Analysis of the work carried out – presentation to take place in the second meeting of the Working Group;
 - Assessment of the information produced and submission of proposals for inclusion of areas/indicators not previously covered – work to be carried out between 2010 and 2011.
 - Definition of a strategy for monitoring results – March 2011.
- (f) Timing depending on the work to be carried out within the scope of the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination;
- (g) The translation should be concluded six months after the publication of the new ISCED;
- (h) Activity to be developed on a regular basis that will be based on:
- The periodical update of information from groups and sub-groups on education and training statistics in which Portugal is represented (entities/persons);
 - The development and implementation of an IT tool allowing entities/persons representing Portugal in international meetings to share information and documentation – first half of 2011;
 - The regular promotion of cooperation and information sharing among entities with international representation in this area.
- (i) Activity to be developed on a regular basis. One of the initiatives will be to organise and hold a seminar on “New challenges to the statistical monitoring of education and training” in 2011/2012 (specific date to be agreed between entities integrating the Working Group on Education and Training Statistics).

Annex C | Working Group on Health Statistics

I. REASONING

Whereas the first axis of the main lines of action of the Standing Section of Social Statistics' Action Plan, "to promote initiatives for streamlining procedures in the preparation of social statistics", namely to promote diagnoses for identifying gaps and redundancies by thematic sub-system and inter-institutional links conducive to identifying and studying the feasibility of utilising administrative data for statistical purposes.

Whereas the context and purposes of Regulation (EC) No 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008, particularly those on obtaining the statistics needed for a Community action in the field of public health and support for the national strategies to develop high-quality, accessible and sustainable health care.

Whereas the importance of public health indicators at national and international level, to assess the health status and determinants of health, supply and demand of health care, and causes of death, from the viewpoint of the quality of life of populations and their sustainability, as mirrored in European Union structural and sustainable development indicators, World Health Organization indicators or the National Health Plan.

Whereas the recent changes to the organisational structure of the Ministry of Health due to the Restructuring Programme for the State's Central Administration should lead to the analysis and definition of a more effective institutional network and information contents that are adequate to an efficient structuring of the public health statistics sub-system, from the viewpoint of a better utilisation of administrative data for statistical purposes. Finally, also, the tendency to privatise health services and the various existing public-private partnerships point to a reappraisal of the mechanisms to obtain statistics more efficiently, particularly in the field of health care.

II. MANDATE

To define the content of the health statistics information system in the fields of health status and determinants of health, health care and causes of death.

Per each field:

- (a) Diagnosing information needs taking as a reference current and forecast national and international commitments;
- (b) Identifying information contents of the current "information system", with identification of gaps, redundancies and other inefficiencies;
- (c) Making inventories of data sources feeding information made available at international level, with a view to ensuring harmonisation and consistency;

- (d) Setting the structuring and rationalisation of the health statistics information system, taking as a reference the conclusions drawn in (a) and b), and proposing:
- Information contents to be included;
 - Collection procedures to be adopted (creation, change or maintenance), namely clarification of administrative acts or surveys to be considered;
 - Institutional support networks that will substantiate the sources to be used;
 - The definition of the implementation plan with a proposal for schedules and priorities.
- (e) Definition of the implementation plan with a proposal for schedules and priorities.

III. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

1. The Working Group is composed of representatives (one representative and one alternate) of the following entities:

Permanent representation:

- Directorate General of Health
- Statistics Portugal
- Regional Statistical Office of the Azores
- Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira
- National Institute of Health Dr. Ricardo Jorge
- Office of the High Commissioner for Health
- Central Administration of the Health System
- A leading expert in health economics

Non-permanent representation:

- Entities whose involvement within this Working Group is deemed relevant
2. To develop its activities and fulfil its mandate the Working Group will establish with other Working Groups within the scope of the Statistical Council the liaisons and initiatives deemed necessary, which should be promoted through the Secretariat of the Council.
3. Representatives from entities forming the Working Group will be appointed through its member in the Statistical Council whenever the entity is represented, or by direct indication of each entity's responsible bodies, in the remaining cases.
4. To analyse specific aspects of its mandate, the Working Group may also invite entities or experts on relevant issues, this invitation being formalised by the Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.

5. Where warranted by the matters in question and in order to render works more operational, Sub-Groups may be formed, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Statistical Council.

IV. TIMING AND PROGRAMMING OF WORK

- (a) Three months after the first meeting of the Working Group
- (b) Three months with reference to the conclusion in (a)
- (c) Three months with reference to the conclusion in (a)
- (d) Six months with reference to the conclusion in (b)
- (e) Two months as of (d)