



IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS

PORTUGAL



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

PEER REVIEWERS' RECOMMENDATIONS AND IMPROVEMENT ACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM OF PORTUGAL IN RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS

<p>1. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Portugal and the relevant government authorities should revise the statistical law to clarify the role of the Statistical Council at the next update of the statistical legislation. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.4)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The statistical law establishes a centralised National Statistical System, including several producers of official statistics and a Statistical Council. According to the statistical law, Statistics Portugal is the central body of the Portuguese Statistical System responsible for developing, producing and disseminating official statistics and for supervising and coordinating technical and scientific matters within the Portuguese Statistical System. It is the European Commission's national contact point for statistical matters within the European Statistical System. The Decree Law No. 136/2012 which defines the organic structure, mission and responsibilities of Statistics Portugal also contains provisions for the central coordination of the Portuguese Statistical System by Statistics Portugal. However, the statistical law states that 'The Statistical Council is the Government body which oversees and coordinates the NSS'. It was very clear to the peer review team that, in practice, there were no concerns or questions regarding Statistics Portugal's role as the central coordination body of the Portuguese Statistical System. Statistics Portugal ensures very strong and effective coordination of the statistical system through a range of mature procedures and processes that include protocols between Statistics Portugal and the ONAs, common annual activity planning and reporting, standard methodological documents and metadata, dissemination of all official statistics through the Statistics Portugal portal and formal coordination of ONA engagement with Eurostat. However, the peer review team identified an opportunity to clarify the role of the Statistical Council regarding coordination of the Portuguese Statistical System in a future revision of the statistical law.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 1.1: As part of the process of revising the Statistical Law within the Statistical Council, prepare a proposal to clarify the role of the Statistical Council in coordinating the Portuguese Statistical System.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.1: Statistics Portugal</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 1.2: Discuss and approve the proposal of the revision of the Statistical Law in the Statistical Council</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2026*</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.2: Statistical Council</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 1.3: Submit proposed amended of the Statistical Law to the government.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2026*</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.3: Statistical Council</p>

Improvement sub-action 1.4: Presentation and approval of the proposed amended Statistical Law in Portuguese Parliament.

Deadline: Q2 2026*

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 1.4: Parliament

2. Recommendation

Statistics Portugal and the Other National Authorities should introduce the systematic use of a logo to strengthen the brand of official statistics through clear identification of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 1.6)

Current situation:

Statistics Portugal is aware of the importance of having a clear identification of official statistics in a world of ever-increasing data and the importance of the communication of official statistics (as set by Objective 4 of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2023-2027 and Statistics Portugal's strategy for the same period).

However, Statistics Portugal considers that the use of a logo is something very concrete/conditional from a communications point of view. Statistics Portugal would like to point out that it already had a logo in the past and that it was abandoned. One of the reasons was because Statistics Portugal considered that it was not effective to communicate the official statistics brand.

Statistics Portugal agrees that Statistics Portugal and the Other National Authorities should give visibility to the brand of official statistics, supported both within the Portuguese Statistical System and by concerted actions in the system.

Improvement action:

Statistics Portugal has a diverging view and hence does not propose any improvement action.

3. Recommendation

Statistics Portugal and the relevant government authorities should develop greater transparency at the commencement of the recruitment procedure governing the appointment of the members of the Board of Statistics Portugal. (Compliance-relevant: ES CoP, Indicator 1.8)

Current situation:

The appointment procedure for the President of Statistics Portugal and the other two members of the Board follows the same rules applied across the Portuguese Public Administration for top management positions. In this regard, considering that Statistics Portugal is a Public Institute of special regime by Decree-Law No. 136/2012 referring specifically to the appointment and dismissal procedures, and in accordance with the Public Manager Statute (Decree Law No. 71/2007), the members of the Board are appointed by a Resolution of the Council of Ministers, following an evaluation by the independent Commission for Recruitment and Selection for Public Administration top management positions (CRESAP). The evaluation

by CRESAP is comprehensive and includes curriculum evaluation, an independent professional interview and assessment of the person's suitability for the role.

The Board has a five-year mandate, renewable once. A strength of the process to appoint the head of Statistics Portugal is that the criteria for the appointment of Statistics Portugal's Board members is set out in legislation. Article 9 of the Decree Law No. 136/2012 stipulates that 'the President and the other members of the Board shall be chosen on the basis of professional criteria from among persons of recognised standing, independence, management ability and experience as well as suitable statistical and economic knowledge'. The same Article includes provisions on their independence as well as grounds for their dismissal that include resignation or duly proven serious infringement of the law but exclude matters of professional and scientific independence. On the transparency of the appointment process, the procedures for the recruitment and appointment of the President of Statistics Portugal and the other members of the Board are published in the respective legal acts (provisions of Article 9 of the Decree Law No. 136/2012, in conjunction with Articles 2(3), 13(2) and 13(3) of the Public Manager Statute, and the provisions of the Framework Law governing Public Institutes). These procedures are available on the website of the Official Journal and on the website of Statistics Portugal. The resolution (No. 8/2018 of the Council of Ministers) appointing the President, and the other members of the Board of Statistics Portugal is also publicly available on the website of the Official Journal." Statistics Portugal considers that, although the appointment of Board members is initiated by the government through the designation of a list of competent professionals as prescribed by law, the entire process and subsequent rules leading up to their appointment are designed to ensure that the selection adheres to objective criteria that is uniform for all top management. Candidates are evaluated based on their qualifications and suitability for the position. These criteria are objective and transparent, as they are based on national law and ensure compliance with the provisions of the Regulation on European statistic (No 223/2009, as amended), within the context of subsidiarity in which it must be interpreted. In conclusion, Statistics Portugal could provide better information about the current process as set out in the law, but Statistics Portugal does not accept this recommendation as being compliance relevant.

Improvement action:

Statistics Portugal has a diverging view and hence does not propose any improvement action

4. Recommendation

Statistics Portugal should extend its engagement with and coordination of the Other National Authorities in areas including, but not limited to, methodology, new data sources, privacy enhancing technologies, joint research projects and joint publications. (Improvement-related: ESCoP, Indicators 7.2, 2.4, 5.5 and 7.7).

Current situation:

The high levels of Statistics Portugal's close coordination of, and collaboration with, the Other National Authorities were very evident to the peer review team, as was the Other National Authorities' positive engagement and participation in the work and discussions coordinated through the Statistical Council.

The peer review team identified an opportunity to further develop this coordination through the expansion of multilateral engagement across Statistics Portugal and the Other National Authorities.

This engagement could focus on common challenges related to methodology, new data sources, privacy-enhancing technologies and joint research and output opportunities.

Improvement sub-action 4.1: Implement the joint activities agreed between Statistics Portugal and each ONA at the annual activity planning meetings duly reflected in the Statistics Portugal and ONAs annual activity work plan, including in the areas of analysis of new data sources and joint research work.

Deadline: Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 4.1: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

Improvement sub-action 4.2: Integrate microdata from ONAs into Statistics Portugal's National Data Infrastructure, whenever it is feasible.

Deadline: Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 4.2: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

Improvement sub-action 4.3: Continue to certify and technically approve the methodological documents of the statistical operations for which the ONAs are responsible and make the methodological documents, concepts and collection supports available in the metadata system on Statistics Portugal's website.

Deadline: Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 4.3: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

Improvement sub-action 4.4: Continue to integrate the statistical indicators produced within the scope of the statistical operations under the responsibility of each ONA in Statistics Portugal's Portal.

Deadline: Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 4.4: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

5. Recommendation

Statistics Portugal and the relevant government authorities should ensure that the statistical law enables wider access to privately held data and new data sources for the investigation of statistical potential, and for use in the compilation of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 2.4 and 2.2)

Current situation:

The statistical law empowers the Statistical Authorities, including Statistics Portugal, the Regional Statistical Services of the Autonomous Regions of Azores (SREA) and Madeira (DREM) as well as the five ONAs to require the provision (mandatory and free of charge) of the information necessary to produce official statistics. Article 4 establishes the possibility for Statistical Authorities to use administrative records for official statistical purposes and Article 7(2)(f) of the Decree Law defining Statistics Portugal's structure stipulates Statistics Portugal's competence to participate in the conception and modification of administrative data design to enable the use of concepts and nomenclatures that are suitable for statistical purposes.

The use of administrative data by Statistics Portugal and the ONAs continues to grow, with a very clear focus on using new data sources to minimise the statistical burden of data collection operations on enterprises and citizens, as well as supporting the development of new statistical indicators. With these objectives in mind, Statistics Portugal liaises with both public and private entities on access to data.

The peer review team noted that there is currently no legal basis for access to privately held data. Access to such data is currently only possible via negotiations with individual holders of private data and there is no guarantee that such access will be provided free of charge.

Improvement sub-action 5.1: As part of the process of revising the Statistical Law within the Statistical Council, prepare a proposal to explicitly enable access to privately held data for statistical purposes, and in accordance with the latest revision of Regulation 223/2009.

Deadline: Q4 2025

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.1: Statistics Portugal

Improvement sub-action 5.2: Discuss and approve the proposal of the revision of the Statistical Law in the Statistical Council.

Deadline: Q1 2026*

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.2: Statistical Council

Improvement sub-action 5.3: Submit proposed amendment of the Statistical Law to the government.

Deadline: Q1 2026*
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.3: Statistical Council
Improvement sub-action 5.4: Presentation and approval of the proposed amendment to the Statistical Law in Portuguese Parliament.
Deadline: Q2 2026*
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 5.4: Parliament.

<p>6. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Portugal should develop sustainable partnerships with private data holders to investigate the statistical potential of the data and opportunities for their use in the compilation of official statistics. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 2.4).</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Taking into account the amount of time required to update the statistical law and recognising the need for Statistics Portugal to acquire further experience on the statistical potential of privately held data, the peer review team believes that a legal mandate for access to these data can be complemented by operational partnerships with the main stakeholders to build on the existing good collaboration amongst these stakeholders (for example, the current engagement on access to mobile network operator data between Statistics Portugal and the national authority for the regulation of the communications sector). The peer review team recognised the opportunity for Statistics Portugal to further develop these partnerships and relationships with key stakeholders and to investigate the potential of such data to meet growing user needs.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 6.1: Keep the mapping of sectors, companies and entities with potential private data relevant to official statistics, such as telecommunications, banking, retail and digital platforms up to date.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.1: Statistics Portugal</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 6.2: Implement awareness-raising activities with companies and private organizations about the benefits and importance of using their data for official statistics.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.2: Statistics Portugal</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 6.3: Draw up protocols or other working arrangements with organizations or entities that hold data, with clear agreements and rules on access, privacy and the ethical use of data.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2024 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.3: Statistics Portugal</p>

Improvement sub-action 6.4: Develop experimental projects with Private Data integration, when possible

Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 6.4: Statistics Portugal

7. Recommendation

Statistics Portugal should liaise systematically with the Other National Authorities on common training opportunities. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 7.3).

Current situation:

In addition to the recommendation on extending engagement and collaboration with the ONAs on methodology and other issues, the peer review team identified an opportunity for the systematic liaison between Statistics Portugal and the ONAs on common training programmes to further develop existing skills and support the development of future-focused skill sets needed to work with new data sources, technologies and techniques.

Improvement sub-action 7.1: Annually assess the training needs of each ONA in terms of technical, methodological and transversal skills, to include in Statistics Portugal's annual training plan.

Deadline: Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 7.1: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

Improvement sub-action 7.2: Organize joint workshops and seminars between Statistics Portugal and ONAs, in order to address the identified training needs.

Deadline: Q4 2024 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 7.2: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

8. Recommendation

Statistics Portugal and the Other National Authorities should support formal skills development and education opportunities for staff to attract, develop and retain the necessary skills. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 7.6 and 3.1)

Current situation:

As set out in its Quality Charter, Statistics Portugal is committed to staff training and skills development. The peer review team was informed about some formal options for staff to be included in the research and education schemes. However, due to the workload of regular and routine tasks, these options are often not taken up in practice. Allocating time for such opportunities would support continued innovation that would in turn drive developments and efficiencies in the work programmes of Statistics Portugal and the ONAs. To further enhance staff development and to address staff retention challenges in particular, the peer review identified an opportunity for Statistics Portugal and the ONAs to extend existing formal training and education schemes and to promote these schemes as part of staff recruitment.

Improvement sub-action 8.1: Further develop Statistics Portugal's current training and education plan as part of the staff recruitment process in close collaboration with other ONAs.

Deadline: Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.1: Statistics Portugal

Improvement sub-action 8.2: Continue to support employees' research activities in partnership with universities and research centres, which may take up to 25% of normal working time, in accordance with work order no. 0/04/2019

Deadline: Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 8.2: Statistics Portugal

9. Recommendation

The relevant government authorities, Statistics Portugal and the Other National Authorities should undertake concrete initiatives to ensure adequate resourcing for the compilation of official statistics, particularly to allow further use of new data sources and innovative technologies in a changing data landscape. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 3.1 and 10.2).

Current situation:

The human resources allocated to Statistics Portugal and the ONAs to implement the 2022 annual work programme amounted to a staff of 794 (68% with university degree) and a budget of €38.7 million. Ensuring the adequacy and sustainability of human resources to implement the annual work programme and to build skills and capacity to meet increasing user needs for official statistics as a critical input to policy and decision-making is one of the main challenges for Statistics Portugal and the ONAs identified by the peer review team. The urgency of the situation regarding skills shortages, an ageing workforce, and salary incentives for talent recruitment and retention was mentioned repeatedly during the discussions between the peer review team, Statistics Portugal and the ONAs.

Improvement sub-action 9.1: Present to and discuss at the Statistical Council with the President of the Statistical Council (the Minister responsible for Statistics Portugal) regarding management instruments such as the Annual Activity Plan of Statistics Portugal and the ONAs, as well as the annual Activity Report of Statistics Portugal and the ONAs. Follow-up on aspects related to human, financial, and technological resources.

Deadline: Q2 2023 and Q4 2023 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 9.1: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
Improvement sub-action 9.2: Continue to use expert partnerships with academia and research institutions to further develop and support the work of official statistics.
Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 9.2: Statistics Portugal
Improvement sub-action 9.3: Address the constraints of guaranteeing the sustainability of human resources to the responsible bodies/ministries of Statistics Portugal and each ONA.
Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 9.3: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

10. Recommendation

Statistics Portugal should improve communication with users on metadata and quality, including the development and dissemination of standardised quality reporting. (Improvement related: ES CoP, Indicators 15.1 and 15.7)

Current situation:

Statistics Portugal's Quality Charter, published on its website, sets out its commitment to the quality and credibility of official statistics and presents its quality commitment regarding respondents, users of statistical information and all interested citizens and stakeholders. Statistics Portugal's quality management system is very well-based, as work to align with ISO 9001 moves into its final phase. The ONAs' commitment to quality is publicised through their own quality charters (Carta da Qualidade) or through a dedicated quality manual on their websites. Statistics Portugal has a long tradition of preparing and publishing standardised methodological documents for each of its statistical activities and for the statistical activities of the ONAs. Statistics Portugal uses standard procedures that assure the quality of the processes by regularly analysing and monitoring input and output quality, including the prominent example of the flash reports used by the Business Statistics domain. Statistics Portugal disseminates information on quality with outputs and produces the quality reports required by EU regulations. However, a standardised quality reporting system has not yet been introduced at national level. Statistics Portugal has plans to upgrade the existing Metadata Information System to the latest EU standard in the field of quality reporting – SIMS 2.0 – and to produce standardised national quality reports accordingly. Building on these existing frameworks and processes, the peer review team identified an opportunity for Statistics

Portugal and the ONAs to further develop communication with users on quality standards and developments.
Improvement sub-action 10.1: Develop the standard for national quality reports in line with the Single Integrated Metadata Structure (SIMS 2.0) and the existing methodological document standard at national level.
Deadline: Q4 2025
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 10.1: Statistics Portugal
Improvement sub-action 10.2: Implement the national quality reporting standard for Statistics Portugal's statistical activities and ONAs
Deadline: Q1 2026 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 10.2: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
Improvement sub-action 10.3: Develop and disseminate a guide in digital and interactive format, explaining the main concepts, standards and quality practices followed by Statistics Portugal and the ONAs.
Deadline: Q2 2026
Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 10.3: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
Improvement sub-action 10.4: Improve the quality area on the Official Statistics Portal so that users can find all the information related to quality in a centralized way, from advances in the quality management system, explanations of the commitment to quality (Quality Charter), quality reports.
Deadline: Q4 2026 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 10.4: Statistics Portugal

11. Recommendation

Statistics Portugal should review opportunities for internal auditing, taking existing quality assurance processes into account. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 4.4)

Current situation:

The reference for audits at Statistics Portugal is the Statistical Production Process Handbook (2020), and the Statistics Portugal Planning, Control and Quality unit is responsible for the coordination of internal audits and self-assessments. Statistics Portugal recognises the benefits of internal audits, but restrictions on human resources have meant that no audits have been carried out by internal Statistics Portugal staff since 2010. The internal auditing system that was in place in Statistics Portugal until 2010 was detailed and comprehensive; before reintroducing internal audits, the quality assurance activities introduced since 2010 should be considered to streamline a redesigned internal audit process. The significant work in progress to attain ISO 9001 certification for Statistics Portugal's Quality Management System, the auditing handbook developed by Statistics Portugal and the continuous work on quality improvements, provided assurance for the peer review team on Statistics Portugal's commitment to quality. The peer review team considered that a review of opportunities for streamlined internal auditing should be conducted by Statistics Portugal building on the existing quality assurance processes.

Improvement Sub-action 11.1: Establish an annual plan for internal and external audits.

Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.1: Statistics Portugal

Improvement sub-action 11.2: Carry out scheduled audits.

Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.2: Statistics Portugal

Improvement sub-action 11.3: Integrate the results of audits into the quality management system, ensuring that conclusions and recommendations are transformed into concrete actions for improvement.

Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.3: Statistics Portugal

Improvement sub-action 11.4: Monitor the implementation of the suggested improvements and measure the impact on the audited processes.

Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 11.4: Statistics Portugal

12. Recommendation

All the Other National Authorities should implement a standardised release time and make it public. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 6.5)

<p>Current situation:</p> <p>The peer review team noted that the Other National Authorities did not adhere to standard release times. To clearly demonstrate their independence in the dissemination of official statistics, the peer review team considered that each Other National Authority should set a standard release time for their official statistical outputs and that such release times should be made public. To highlight membership of the Portuguese Statistical System, and to be as user-friendly as possible, the standard release time would ideally be the same for all Other National Authorities and would be aligned with Statistics Portugal practices.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 12.1: Align standard dissemination times for the official statistical output, if possible, to be the same for all ONAS and in line with Statistics Portugal's practices.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 12.1: Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice and Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 12.2: Advertise the standardised release time by each ONA.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2024</p>
<p>Responsible institutions for improvement sub-action 12.2: Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice and Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security</p>
<p>13. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Portugal should develop a multiannual plan to embed the National Data Infrastructure and StatsLab into the Portuguese Statistical System. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 11.1)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>Statistics Portugal and the Other National Authorities have a clear focus on meeting evolving user needs using new data sources and methodologies. Two of the cornerstones of Statistics Portugal's strategy (aligned with the General Guidelines of Official Statistics 2018-2022) are the National Data Infrastructure, a multiannual strategic objective that aims to adopt the most intensive and integrated use of data, particularly administrative data, and StatsLab, a dedicated section of Statistics Portugal's website for the publication of statistical products that use administrative and unconventional data sources and new methodologies. The peer review team recognised the significant progress made on these two strategic initiatives and identified an opportunity to further promote and socialise their objectives and benefits across the Portuguese Statistical System and with users.</p>
<p>Improvement action 13: Develop a multiannual plan to embed the National Data Infrastructure and StatsLab into the Portuguese Statistical System</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement action 13: Statistics Portugal</p>

<p>14. Recommendation</p> <p>Statistics Portugal and the Other National Authorities should continue to develop targeted and general communication to improve the profile of official statistics, including engagement with users to promote statistical literacy. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicators 11.1, 15.6 and 15.7)</p>
<p>Current situation:</p> <p>As part of the ESS Vision 2020 DIGICOM project, developments in statistical literacy, including programmes for second- and third-level students and information sessions for advanced and media users by Statistics Portugal, have greatly contributed to improved users' understanding of official statistics. Recognising the important progress made on outreach initiatives to all types of users, the peer review team encourages Statistics Portugal to continue developing these programmes.</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 14.1: Produce videos and infographics focused on statistical information and explaining technical concepts.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.1: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 14.2: Carry out publicity sessions on the Statistical Portugal and Eurostat portals, aimed at higher education institutions, primary and secondary schools, local authorities, professional associations and other organizations that are current or potential users of statistical information, to promote access to official statistical information.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.2: Statistics Portugal and Directorate-General for Energy and Geology, Directorate-General of Education and Science, Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice, Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services and Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 14.3: Renovate the ALEA-Local Action on Applied Statistics website by updating and expanding the available content, accompanied by a graphic and technological renovation of the website, including making an English version available.</p>
<p>Deadline: Q4 2025 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.3: Statistics Portugal</p>
<p>Improvement sub-action 14.4: Prepare the national phase of the European Statistics Competition, ensuring the participation of Portuguese teams, in partnership with the Central Bank of Portugal (Banco de Portugal).</p>
<p>Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)</p>
<p>Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.4: Statistics Portugal</p>

Improvement sub-action 14.5: Ensure the International Poster Competition (ISLP - International Statistical Literacy Project), stimulating the national competition phase and the participation of Portuguese teams
Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.5: Statistics Portugal
Improvement sub-action 14.6: Organize 'INE-Open Doors Seminars', sessions open to the general public, with the aim of publicizing the activities carried out in the production and dissemination of official statistics.
Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.6: Statistics Portugal
Improvement sub-action 14.7: Host study visits for primary, secondary and higher education students and teachers on various areas of statistical activity.
Deadline: Q1 2023 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 14.7: Statistics Portugal

15. *Recommendation*

Statistics Portugal should improve the navigation functionalities of the Statistics Portugal website for all user types and should further optimise accessibility to the data of Statistics Portugal and the Other National Authorities via the website. (Improvement-related: ES CoP, Indicator 15.2)

Current situation:

The Statistics Portugal website (www.ine.pt) is the main channel for the dissemination of statistical outputs and related information. The content, structure and functionalities of the website are regularly improved, including developments to improve accessibility and to facilitate the use and reuse of data and metadata. The peer review team also felt that the amount of information available in English could be expanded, as did some users. The peer review team encourages Statistics Portugal to continue developing website navigation while considering how accessibility can be improved for all types of users.

Improvement sub-action 15.1: Redesign the area of Statistics Portugal's Portal dedicated to microdata, creating the thematic section 'Information for Scientific Purposes' to be updated from then on, with the integration of data from ONAs whenever it's feasible.

Deadline: Q4 2025 (annually afterwards)

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.1: Statistics Portugal

Improvement sub-action 15.2: Make available a new version of the API (application programming interface), which will bring new functionalities for reusing the information available on Statistics Portugal's Portal.

Deadline: Q1 2025

Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.2: Statistics Portugal
Improvement sub-action 15.3: Develop and make available on Statistics Portugal's Portal an AI tool, in generative natural language, which will allow users to search and find results more easily.
Deadline: Q2 2025 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.3: Statistics Portugal
Improvement sub-action 15.4: Reformulate the current press releases, progressively adopting clearer and more objective language, supported and reinforced by simple to interpret and reuse graphics and infographics.
Deadline: Q2 2025 (annually afterwards)
Responsible institution for improvement sub-action 15.4: Statistics Portugal

- For all actions marked – the deadline carries the following remark: If feasible within the proposed deadline, subject to confirmation