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Survey on Volunteer Work 2012

Slightly more than 1 in every 10 residents in active age made volunteer work in 2012

On the occasion of the release of the Social Economy Satellite Account for 2010, Statistics Portugal publishes the results of the survey on Volunteer Work for 2012. The volunteer rate estimated for 2012 was 11.5%, i.e. about 1 million and 40,000 residents aged 15 or older participated in, at least, one activity of formal and/or informal volunteering. It is estimated that the volunteer activities were equivalent to about 4% of the total hours worked and their equivalent monetary value corresponded to about 1% of GDP.

The Survey on Volunteer Work 2012 was a pilot survey, conducted as an annex to the Labour Force Survey on the 3rd quarter of 2012. This pilot survey focused on key variables for characterizing the volunteer work in Portugal, namely: number of volunteers, socio-demographic characteristics, institutional context, task type and number of hours spent.

This project made it possible to complement the Social Economy Satellite Account, which final results for 2010 are also released today, presenting an important feature of the Social Economy that is volunteer work. The Social Economy Satellite Account was compiled benefiting from the indispensable cooperation of Cooperativa António Sérgio para a Economia Social (CASES).

On Statistics Portugal website, in the area dedicated to National Accounts (satellite accounts section¹), it is possible to access detailed additional information on the

¹http://www.ine.pt/xportal/xmain?xpid=INE&xpgid=ine_contas_nacion_ais&contexto=cs&selTab=tab3&perfil=104012510&INST=116634832&xlang=en

Survey on Volunteer Work– 2012

Survey on Volunteer Work 2012 and Social Economy Satellite Account - final results 2010, both released on this date as well as in the form of a publication.

As a general framework, some of the main conclusions of the Social Economy Satellite Account are presented below:

- In terms of the relative size of the sector, in 2010 the Gross Value Added (GVA) in the Social Economy represented 2.8% of total national GVA and 5.5% of paid employment (full-time equivalent - FTE);
- The average compensation (per FTE) in Social Economy Organizations (SEO) corresponded to 83.1% of the national average, although showing a significant dispersion;
- From 55,383 units considered in the context of the Social Economy in 2010, Associations and other SEO accounted for 94.0% of the number of units, 54.1% of GVA and 64.9% of employment (paid FTE). Co-operatives were the second group of the Social Economy entities with higher relative weight in terms of

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the number of units, GVA and compensation of employees;

- The Social Economy sector recorded, in 2010, a net borrowing of 570.7 million Euros. However, Co-operatives (mainly due to the ones in the financial area), Mutualities and Foundations of Social Economy presented net lending;
- In 2010, there were 5,022 Private Institutions of Social Solidarity (IPSS). These accounted for 50.1% of Social Economy GVA, 42.6% of Social Economy compensation of employees and 38.2% of Social Economy net borrowing.

After this general framework, below it are presented the main results obtained with this survey on volunteer work.

Analysis of the main results of the Survey on Volunteer Work - 2012

In 2012, 11.5% of the resident population aged 15 years or older participated in, at least, one formal and/or informal volunteer activity, representing nearly 1 million and 40,000 volunteers. The feminine volunteer rate was higher (12.7% for women vs. 10.3% for men).

The age distribution of the individuals who performed volunteer work noted the following volunteer rates: 11.6% in the age group of 15-24 years, 13.1% in the age group of 25-44 and 12.7% in the age group of

45-64 years. Only in the age group over 65 years the rate was lower (7.3%).

Participation in volunteer work is associated with the level of education, and it was observed that in 2012, the volunteer rate was 21.3% for higher education volunteers.

The volunteer rate of employed population (12.8%) was very close to the unemployed (13.1%), but lower in the inactive individuals (9.4%).

Tracing a socio-demographic synthetic profile for the volunteers, it can be stated that, in formal volunteer activities, younger individuals, unemployed, with higher levels of education stood out; predominated women and single individuals. In informal volunteer activities prevailed older and higher-educated volunteers, a higher proportion of unemployed and also a greater percentage of women and divorced/separated individuals.

Volunteer rates observed some regional differences, ranging from 8.8% in the Azores Autonomous Region to 12.3% in Centro.

It is estimated that the number of hours worked under volunteer actions has matched, in 2012, about 4% of total worked hours.

Using different methodologies to estimate a monetary value for volunteer hours, the values determined were equivalent to around 1% of GDP.