

# FIFTH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS DATA COLLECTION METHODOLOGY

19-21 SEPTEMBER 2018 – STATISTICS PORTUGAL, LISBON

## SIMPLIFIED BUSINESS INFORMATION – THE WAY FORWARD

Ana Chumbau<sup>1</sup>, Sofia Rodrigues<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup>*Economic Statistics Department, Statistics Portugal, ana.chumbau@ine.pt*

**Organization: Statistics Portugal**

### Abstract

In 2006, a program settled up by the Portuguese government was in place – The Simplex Program, which main goal was simplifying and modernizing the public administration. In that context, a new model was put in place through the joint efforts of 4 public entities that made possible to acquire administrative data while simultaneously complying with four legal obligations.

The Simplified Business Information (IES – stands for “Informação Empresarial Simplificada”) is a system where economic and financial data related come from one single administrative source, being collected by electronic means, at a single moment.

IES is considered a win-win project, where all the participants have advantages. For Statistics Portugal, it should be stressed: the simplified data collection, the less time to have data available, the access to more information with a total coverage of enterprises’ population, and a reduction in burden and costs – the structural business statistics survey was dropped out. For the companies, this paper free system allows a significant reduction in costs and burden, taking into account that companies are allowed to fulfil four legal obligations once in a single moment: the presentation of tax declarations to the Ministry of Finance; the settlement of accounts to the Public Register (Ministry of Justice); the supply of statistical data to Statistics Portugal and also to the Central Bank.

In 2015, a fifth public entity joined this group – the ministry of economy, in order to gather information on local units, necessary to update their commercial records.

In 2018, continuing the simplification process initiated in 2006 which led to the creation of IES, a new simplification is being planned. The purpose is to pre-fill the IES Financial Statements with data extracted from the Standardized Audit File for Tax Purposes (SAF-T) related with accounting, allowing to eliminate tables and fields from the current IES, in cases where the information can be obtained by SAF-T.