



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

SCORUS CONFERENCE 2016

**Indicators for territorial policies:
Closing data by using traditional and
new sources and methods**

Lisbon

Statistics Portugal

29 june - 1 july

Dear representatives of the organising entities,

Mr. Oliveira and Ms. Brandmuller,

Dear colleagues and participants,

On behalf of Statistics Portugal, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the **twenty sixteen Conference of the Standing Committee of Regional and Urban Statistics**, taking place this year in Lisbon, at Statistics Portugal premises.

Statistics Portugal, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the dedicated Committee of the International Association of Official Statistics for regional and urban statistics made a successful partnership for **hosting this SCORUS Conference**.

I would like to thank the organising teams for the fruitful cooperation and the outstanding work.

The SCORUS conferences are a privileged forum for the sharing of knowledge on most recent developments, opportunities and challenges in regional and urban statistics.

In 2002, Statistics Portugal also had the pleasure to host the SCORUS Conference and. Since then, international and national statistical authorities have made great progress on the production and dissemination of territorial statistics, but here, as well as on the broader field of official statistics, there are new and big challenges to be addressed.

The subject of the present SCORUS Conference – ***Indicators for territorial policies: closing data gaps by using traditional and new sources and methods*** – highlights the growing demand for territorial indicators to support public policies and the need to introduce innovation in the statistical production in order to meet users' needs.

The political agenda tends to set our societies agenda as a whole. In fact, there has been an important shift in the territorial perspective of public policies:

- in the past, regional policies were designed to reduce disparities mainly on a welfare approach;
- nowadays the main rule is a place-based approach, focused on leveraging the specific territorial assets to promote the competitiveness of the economy and the quality of life of citizens, thus highlighting the **relevance of the local and regional authorities to promote progress.**

The motto established for SCORUS twenty sixteen encouraged the submission of innovative topics of discussion to address the development and progress of regional and urban statistics, relevant for today's policy makers and challenging to producers of statistics.

In our opinion the Conference program achieves a good balance among the views of the main institutions with a leading role in the strategy for territorial information.

Therefore, I would like to thank in advance all the speakers for the presentation of so interesting and motivating papers during the upcoming days.

I would like to address specifically to the invited keynote speakers whose interventions will be made today and Friday. Their interventions will allow a strategic debate on what we have already achieved and on which will be the challenges ahead for official statistics.

Lastly but not the least, I would like to mention **The Lisbon Memorandum** signed by all the Directors General of European National Statistical Offices in twenty fifteen about **Indicators for decision making and monitoring**. The Memorandum includes a specific call **for a closer cooperation between official statisticians and other analysts, aimed at developing and evaluating indicators, establishing shared standards and improving methodologies**.

I am sure that the twenty sixteen SCORUS Lisbon Conference will build upon this call by fostering the co-operation and debate among producers, users and researchers of regional and urban statistics.

I would also like to thank the members of the Local Organizing Committee and the Program Committee for their dedicated work in the preparation of this Conference.

I wish you all a very successful and productive work for the coming days.

Thank you for your attention.

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