



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL



2021
PORTUGAL.EU



The Portuguese Presidency Team on Statistics Mid-term Newsletter

April 2021



Foreword

I am pleased to be part of an extraordinary PRES TEAM, where the spirit of teamwork is a constant since its very beginning.

Although we cannot be physically together with our colleagues from the Council GS, the TRIO partners, the various member states and the Commission, we have been able to meet virtually as often as possible.

These few, but very intensive, months of adventure through the Council WPS files (SAIO and EAA) and other files with statistical implications related to the European Data Strategy, not forgetting the Single Market Programme/European Statistical Programme in its final stages of approval, have shown how strong and hardworking the European Statistical Community is, particularly at a time when statistics are more relevant than ever, considering the pandemic situation.

We thank you all for a very cooperative environment and for being available to participate in the events under such challenging conditions.

Let's keep on the path with joy and good work!



Maria João Zilhão, Chair



The start of our journey....

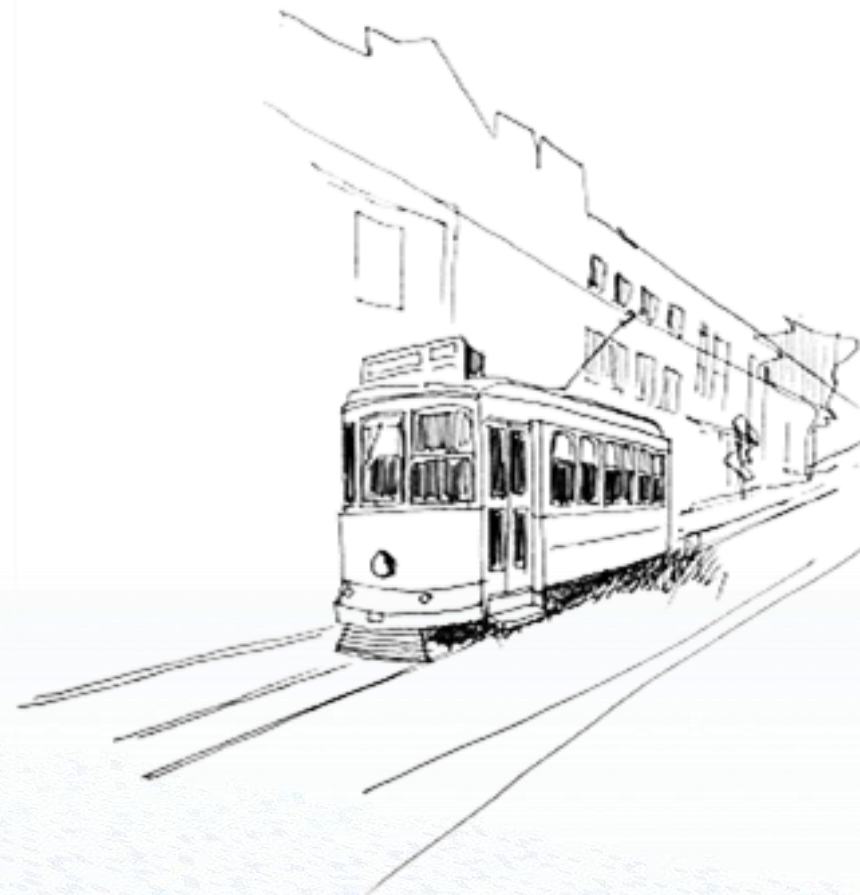
Almost two years have passed since the PRES Team has started to prepare for our Presidency of the CWPS.

Several training sessions have taught us the intricacies of the European legislative process and the many soft skills that a Presidency should cultivate to remain an honest broker and a mediator of meaningful compromise.

We missed the WPS meetings in Brussels, the face-to-face dialogue on legislative proposals, and the social interaction with the delegates over a cup of coffee (expresso of course!). But COVID came and we had to adapt ...

Keeping a positive and constructive spirit, we remain committed to implementing a close, transparent and efficient Presidency.

With halfway to go, these are some of the highlights of the journey so far...





Handover

On 16 December 2020, the German Presidency organised a very thoughtful Handover event, symbolically passing the baton to the Portuguese Presidency. The event has shown how the challenges of virtual interaction can be creatively overcome.

We thank our German colleagues for their ever-present collaborative spirit, that has paved the way for an increased cooperation between the Trio Partners during the PT Presidency.

The successful organisation of the High-Level Workshop on Data Stewardship by the Trio partners (DE-PT-SI) and Eurostat stands as proof of our fruitful cooperation.

Here's to us!





PT PRES takes the helm!

On January 1, the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union has set sails and Statistics Portugal took over the Chairing of the Council Working Party on Statistics (CWPS).

Driven by the Portuguese Presidency motto "Time to deliver: a fair, green and digital recovery", we are committed to work towards more innovative and agile European statistics in support of the Union's social and economic recovery.





Legal files explained

Two legislative proposals were adopted by the Commission in the area of agricultural statistics:

1. SAIO – Statistics on agricultural input and output
2. EAA – Economic Accounts for Agriculture amendment proposal

To better understand their aim and interlinkages with the monitoring of relevant EU policies, we have asked our experts, Carlos Carvalho (SAIO) and Cristina Ramos (EAA), to briefly present each file.

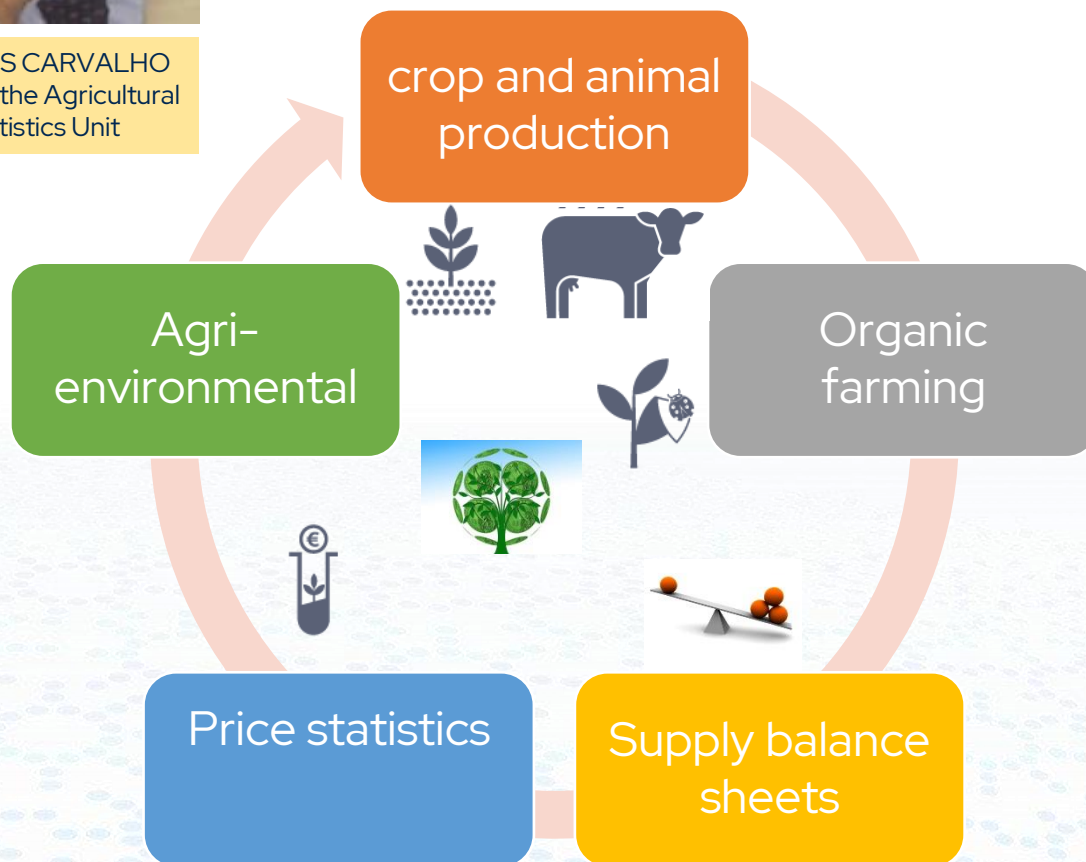




CARLOS CARVALHO
Head of the Agricultural
Statistics Unit

Regulation for Statistics on Agricultural Input and Output

Statistical domains covered



Expectations

A relevant data provider for the main EU policies (Green Deal, Climate change actions, CAP, environmental policies,...)

A REFERENCE as an integrated data collection system

An example of competitiveness and flexibility for the data providers market

An opportunity for using innovative approaches

PRES Experience

A strong sense of **COMMITMENT**



EAA amendment explained

The proposal of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) N° 138/2004 is part of the strategy for agricultural statistics for 2020 and beyond, that envisages modernising European Union agricultural statistics. In general terms, it presents 3 main goals, with direct implications on quality:

- Inclusion of the Regional Economic Accounts for Agriculture – a crucial step concerning harmonization and quality of regional data;
- Extension of deadline for the second estimate data on income of agricultural holdings – possibility to include more updated and complete data sources;
- Inclusion of mandatory Quality reports – more transparency about data sources, methods and procedures.



Cristina Ramos, Head of the Satellite Accounts and Quality Assessment of National Accounts Unit

My expectations are highly positive, since this amendment is a good opportunity to improve the global quality of EAA, modernising it and improving its consistency, at international and regional level.

The experience with the PRES has been an excellent opportunity to contribute to the institutional functioning of the EU at the highest level, working in an integrated manner with an excellent team.



WPS meetings

The WPS community finally met after a long hiatus, facing the challenges posed by virtual meetings. Armed with little more than headsets, laptops and team spirit, the PRES Team tried to rise to the challenge. With the help of all the delegates, the GSC and the COM, both meetings ran smoothly:

19 February

The Commission presented the regulation proposals on SAIO and EAA amendment, referring also to their Impact Assessment, which was followed by a general exchange of views with Member States.

17 March

The SAIO proposal was the main item on the agenda. Articles 1 to 5 and articles 11, 13 and 14 were examined.

The Data Governance Act was an information point, due to its relevance for the statistical community. The TELECOM WP Chair (Filipe Batista) and a DG CONNECT representative (Yvo Volman) presented the proposal and its discussion process, followed by a Q&A time.

For more information on the meeting calendar click [here](#).





Expert meeting on Big Data Enabling Tourism Competitiveness

The PT PRES organised this expert meeting on 8 March, under the coordination of the Ministry of Economy and in cooperation with Statistics Portugal.

At this event, statistics experts, international organisations and tourism professionals discussed the role of data in restoring tourism industry competitiveness, with a particular focus on the potential use of big data sources.



Cristina Neves,
Director of the
Economic
Statistics
Department

Statistics Portugal actively participated through a presentation on the Tourism Integrated Information System – SiT delivered by the Director of the Economic Statistics Department, Cristina Neves. Eurostat was also represented by the Head of Tourism Statistics Section, Christophe Demunter, with some final remarks. The closing remarks were delivered by Statistics Portugal President, Francisco Lima.

The outcomes of the event were presented in a videoconference of the Directors General of Tourism, held on the same day.



Francisco Lima, President



Data stewardship Workshop

- The Trio Presidencies (Germany-Portugal-Slovenia) and Eurostat held the high-level workshop "Data stewardship experience within the ESS" on 31 March, hosted remotely by Statistics Portugal.
- The sharing of national experiences of data stewardship functions and the lively debate helped to shape the conclusions on the challenges faced by NSIs and the ESS on possible future roles in the new data ecosystem.
- Discussions will continue at ESSC and PG, and next steps include the mapping of existing national initiatives and practices on data stewardship.
- The conclusions will provide input to the June high-level event, to be promoted by the Presidency, which will produce important messages for the wider public.



PT-PRES Team



What's next?





eu2021@ine.pt

Contacts & Info



<https://eu2021.ine.pt>



+ 351 21 842 63 95
(secretariat)



The Portuguese Presidency Team on Statistics
Mid-term Newsletter



The PRES Team is devoted to keep working closely with all partners, if possible in person!