

DELIBERATION NO 48 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)

ON THE 2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Whereas the powers of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) include the appraisal of the statistical authorities' and its own annual reports.

Whereas said annual reports for 2016 reflect (i) the strategic orientations established in the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for 2013-2017; (ii) the Deliberations issued by the Council; (iii) the guidelines and commitments assumed by the country at the European level in the field of statistics, and comply with the commitments to quality set forth in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Public Commitment on European Statistics of the European System of Central Banks.

Whereas **in 2016**:

- the Council monitored with special attention issues related to (i) the suitability and management of human and financial resources allocated to the National Statistical System (NSS), so as to safeguard the efficiency and quality of the response to national and European obligations in the field of statistics; (ii) the modernisation of the NSS in the context of the new challenges posed to official statistics; (iii) ongoing developments at the European level regarding the use of big data, experimental statistics, smart statistics and the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) in the production of official statistics; (iv) coordination and cooperation among NSS members and between these and general government bodies, notably aiming to intensify the use of administrative information for statistical purposes and consequently reduce the burden on respondents; and (v) raising awareness of the public in general to the importance of statistics and its appropriate reading and interpretation;
- the performance of statistical authorities continued to record remarkable progress as regards: (i) the efforts to modernise/rationalise statistical production and dissemination processes; (ii) the quality of official statistics in particular as regards compliance with dissemination schedules; (iii) the accessibility and use of statistics; and (iv) initiatives to promote statistical literacy;
- the financial resources allocated to the production of official statistics continued to be managed quite strictly, namely through (i) adoption of expense rationalisation measures; (ii) increased utilisation of administrative data for the production of official statistics; (iii) intensification of the use of more advanced and less expensive collection methods; and (iv) organisational changes;
- progress was achieved amid management constraints, particularly a shortage of human resources, notably as regards the competitive capacity to recruit staff with the essential (emerging) skills to face the challenges brought about by the new types and sources of information.

Pursuant to Article 3 (2) and Article 13 (a) and (g) of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May 2008, and following a favourable opinion of the Standing Session of Statistical Coordination (*Secção Permanente de*

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Coordenação Estatística in Portuguese), **at its plenary session on 28 June 2017 the Council decided the following:**

1. **To approve** the Council's 2016 Annual Report;
2. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the statistical authorities' annual reports for 2016;
3. **To approve** the 2016 Summary of Statistical Activity of the NSS, in annex to this deliberation;
4. **To widely disseminate these documents, notably through media information notes.**
5. **To recommend that the domains highlighted in the statistical authorities' activities continue to be a priority in the years to come.**

Lisboa, 28 June 2017.

The Vice-Chairman of the Statistical Council, *Alda de Caetano Carvalho*

The Executive Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Maria da Graça Fernandes Caeiro Bento*

2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

| SUMMARY |

The 2016 Annual Report of the National Statistical System (NSS) is formed by this Summary, which highlights the main achievements and outcomes, and the Annual Reports of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) and the statistical authorities,¹ with greater detail on the activities developed.

The NSS's activities in 2016 continued to be based on the guidelines established in the Work Programmes of the Council and statistical authorities for 2016, the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017, the Council's Deliberations, the EU Statistical Programme for 2016, the work programme prepared within the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), and furthermore in compliance with the commitment to quality set forth in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Public Commitment on European Statistics by the European System of Central Banks.

As the State body that in general oversees and coordinates the NSS, the Council monitored with special attention issues related to (i) the suitability and management of human and financial resources allocated to the NSS, so as to safeguard the efficiency and quality of the response to national and European obligations in the field of statistics; (ii) the modernisation of the NSS in the context of the new challenges posed to official statistics; (iii) ongoing developments at the European level regarding the use of big data, experimental statistics, smart statistics and the Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) in the production of official statistics; (iv) coordination and cooperation among NSS members and between these and general government bodies, aiming to intensify the use of administrative information for statistical purposes and consequently reduce the burden on respondents; and (v) raising awareness of the public in general to the importance of statistics and its appropriate reading and interpretation;

¹ Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira. Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira for strictly regional statistics, and entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal within the scope of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May 2008: Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (Ministry of Sea), Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (Ministry of Economy), Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education), Directorate-General for Justice Policy (Ministry of Justice), and Strategy and Planning Office (Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security).

Pursuant to Article 22 of the NSS Law, the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira participate in the production of national official statistics as delegations of Statistics Portugal.

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Reference should be made to the conclusion of the work of the Ad-Hoc Section for the revision of the NSS Law, which prepared and approved a preliminary draft project for the revision of the NSS Law, which it submitted to the Council's plenary session for appraisal.

The performance of statistical authorities continued to record remarkable progress. Hence, (i) there was an ongoing effort to modernise/rationalise statistical production and dissemination processes; (ii) progress achieved in the quality of official statistics was consolidated, in particular as regards compliance with dissemination schedules; (iii) high priority continued to be assigned to initiatives to improve the accessibility and use of statistics; and (iv) initiatives to promote statistical literacy continued.

In addition, continued systematic adoption of restraint and rationalisation measures at the level of statistical activity functioning and costs, increased utilisation of statistical data for the production of official statistics, and intensification of the use of more advanced and less expensive collection methods, namely through recourse to the Internet and telephone interviews, continued to make it possible to reduce the costs associated with the production of statistical information and the burden on respondents.

Progress was achieved amid constraints, particularly a shortage of skilled human resources, with an impact on a desirable increase in the supply of official statistics and the deepening of other relevant issues for the NSS, both within the scope of the activity of some statistical authorities, in particular Statistics Portugal, and of the Council's activities.

In accordance with the NSS Law, statistical authorities participated in the meetings of the Plenary and of the Council's different Sections and sub-structures. Banco de Portugal and the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores chaired and vice-chaired respectively the Council's Standing Session of Statistical Coordination, while Statistics Portugal chaired the Working Group on economic and social classifications and the Working Group on health statistics.

All statistical authorities presented methodologies, projects and/or studies within the scope of the Council's activities.

A. National Statistical System's key activities | 2016

Statistical Council

The following Council activities should be highlighted:

Decisions and Recommendations

- Approval of the 2012-2015 NSS Situation Assessment Report, identifying (i) the challenges posed to the NSS in the near future; (ii) the factors that may eventually hinder the success of these challenges and (iii) the initiatives that must be developed and monitored as a matter of priority within the NSS.
- Approval of the 2016 Summary of Statistical Activity of the NSS (April) and 2017 (December) respectively.
- Approval of the NSS Situation Assessment Report in 2015, based on the annual reports of the Council

and statistical authorities, which include the degree of compliance with the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017.

- Approval of the final report of the Working Group for the creation of the Portugal 2020 context/outcome indicator system that (i) sets out a context indicator system that will contribute to interpreting external factors influencing the objectives of co-financed public policies, as well as the respective results in the different territories over the programming period of Portugal 2020; (ii) sets out an outcome indicator system directly related to the investment priorities established for the Portugal 2020's operational programmes and (iii) explains the methods for releasing selected statistical information that allow for wide dissemination and ongoing data update.
- Approval of the report on statistics on accidents at work, presented by the Working Group on labour market statistics, which includes proposals to overcome the obstacles/difficulties found, aiming to close the gaps detected in statistics produced in the field of accidents at work, and will allow for greater harmonisation between the information released by national producers and Eurostat.
- Recommendation of the Ad-Hoc Section for revision of the NSS Law for approval by the plenary session of the preliminary draft project of revision of the NSS Law, prepared over the course of 24 meetings.
- Recommendation to the entities managing the Information System of the Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities (SICAE in Portuguese) to reinforce the rules and procedures that may contribute to improve the System, following Statistics Portugal's submission of a status update on the SICAE, which provided detailed knowledge of the degree of implementation of Council recommendations.
- Within the scope of the creation of the Portugal 2020 context/outcome indicator system, statistical authorities, particularly Statistics Portugal, were recommended (i) to reinforce cooperation with the different public bodies and public and private entities outside the NSS in the environmental field and (ii) to promote the creation of an interinstitutional cooperation structure **that ensures active participation of Statistics Portugal, the Agency for Development and Cohesion and the bodies managing the operational programmes associated with PT2020, with the purpose** of presenting to the Council status updates on implementation of the two indicator systems.
- To identify the gaps signalled at the time of submission of the report on statistics on accidents at work, the entities directly involved in this matter were recommended enhanced cooperation and interaction when implementing the proposals presented.

Other initiatives:

- In the context of approval of the 2012-2015 NSS Situation Assessment Report, the Council started to prepare an Action Plan integrating the initiatives identified as priorities to be developed.
- Reflection on the functioning of the Council Sections with powers in the field of social, economic and macroeconomic statistics and start of preparation of Action Plans for these areas for 2017 and 2018.
- The Council promoted the sharing of good practices and knowledge through the presentation in its different structures of (i) methodologies and projects used by statistical authorities and (ii) studies and activities carried out/promoted by Council members and other statistical information users.

- The Council considered its website's 'Histórico' section as completed and fostered a reflection on the contents currently available on the home page.

The level of implementation of the Council's Work Programme depends necessarily on the degree of involvement and commitment of all its members. In 2016 implementation was particularly affected by a combination of several limitations: (i) the fact that the work programme was approved in April 2016, which led some Sections' activities to start at a later date; (ii) some official statistics producers were less involved due to human resource shortages, (iii) some members were not actively involved in the Council's activities, and (iv) absenteeism in Plenary and Section meetings was higher, compounded by a delay in the formal appointment of some Council members.

Statistics Portugal

Statistics Portugal's performance in 2016 may be gauged through the following indicators: (i) self-assessment of the 2016 QUAR (Assessment and Accountability Framework) reached 114.764%, thus warranting the proposal to be considered as GOOD; (ii) the overall implementation rate of the 2016 Work Programme stood at 84.2%, human resources actually used recorded a -3.3% overall deviation from planned, and actual executed expenditure was 2.2% lower than planned expenditure; (iii) average levels of statistical data customer/user satisfaction remained high, as measured from regular satisfaction surveys.

Of all activities carried out by Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers in the course of 2016, the following should be highlighted, duly identified in the Work Programme:

- As regards the **reduction of costs and the burden on respondents and information collection processes**:
 - Ongoing initiatives to extend the appropriation of administrative data for statistical purposes in various statistical areas, notably interinstitutional cooperation within general government. Participation of Statistics Portugal in the Simplex + Programme.
 - Development of various studies to assess the potential for use of big data in statistical production and in the support to the analysis of information collected in surveys. Participation of Statistics Portugal in the European Big Data Task Force, supporting Eurostat in technical and legal issues and the intensive use of this new data format.
 - Development of studies and essays for the adoption of new data collection methods, within the scope of new information technologies, notably a test to the use of electronic devices in the collection of prices for calculating the consumer price index (CPI). In addition, a test was also made for the centralised gradual collection of prices to calculate the CPI on retail trade enterprises' websites (Web Scraping).
 - Adoption of a new geographical tool to support collection (GeoInq).
- As regards **statistical production/release**:

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- Test survey for the 2021 Census project.
- Reporting to Eurostat of series on 1991-2013 resident population estimates.
- 2016 module of the labour force survey 'Young people in the labour market' and preparation of the 2017 'Self-employment' module;
- Release of the final results of the 2015 Income and Living Conditions Survey (EU-SILC), starting a new pattern of release five months in advance.
- Release of the provisional results of the 2016 EU-SILC (in the survey year).
- Release of the 2012-15 EU-SILC longitudinal dataset.
- Release of the provisional results of the 2015/16 Household Budget Survey.
- Third edition of the 2015/16 adult education and training survey.
- Development of the first exploratory essays on the feasibility of obtaining regional estimates for the Europe 2020 indicators on poverty or social exclusion;
- Release of analytical publications with the final results of the 2014 National Health Survey;
- Reformulation of the 2015 social housing survey in Portugal, with release of the results.
- Completion of the collection of information on the 2015/16 international tourism survey.
- Release of the final results of the 2014 annual national accounts.
- Release of the provisional annual national accounts (nine months after the reference period).
- Compilation and release of the symmetric input-output matrix, with reference to 2013.
- Compilation of information on stocks of non-financial assets, by institutional sector and branch of activity for 2014 and respective retropolation for the 2000-11 period.
- Elaboration and release of the 2013 edition of the Economy Satellite Account.
- Elaboration and release of the first Sea Satellite Account (2010-13).
- Elaboration and release of the first Sport Satellite Account (2010-12).
- Development of new dimensions within the Environment Satellite Account with the inclusion of new thematic modules.
- Presentation of the results of the Health Satellite Account for the 2013-15 period and back data up to 2000, in compliance with the new System of Health Accounts – 2011 edition.
- Release of back data (up to 2000) of regional accounts in the NUTS 2013.
- Release of results of qualitative business surveys based on new samples and compilation of consistent back data.
- Production and release of purchasing power parities, 2015.
- Production and release of the housing price index.
- Production and release of the industrial producer price index by (internal and external) market, with back data for January 2015.
- Start of release of quarterly unit value indices for international trade.
- Launch of the 2016 farm structure survey.
- Early release of the full information for the NSRF's context indicator system in the NUTS 2002.
- Release of the Regional Development Composite Index and its partial indices of competitiveness, cohesion and environmental quality for NUTS 3 regions (NUTS 2013).
- New edition of the European Urban Audit project to support the European Commission's regional and urban policy.

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- Conduct and release of the structure of earnings survey for 2014 (four-year survey) [Strategy and Planning Office of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security].
- Anticipation of release dates for some statistical operations, notably those associated with higher education and students with special needs [Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education].
- Study/publication: Social and economic inequalities and school performance; elaboration of the study *Transição entre o Secundário e o Superior* (Transition between upper secondary and higher education) and update of the expected value of school performance [Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education].
- Release of the first statistical data on the flow of requests and of family, penal and labour mediation cases, and characterisation of completed cases [Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice].
- Production of quarterly statistical indicators on flows, case settlement rate and balance on civil suits, as well as the duration of these suits [Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice];
- Resumption of the release of statistical data on first instance administrative and tax courts [Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice].
- Publication of *Os Números da Justiça 2015* (Justice figures 2015), with a summary of the main indicators of justice statistics for that year [Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice].
- Release on the website of the Directorate-General for Energy and Geology of statistical information on energy and geological resources, in line with a better definition of the review policy for the statistical information produced [Directorate-General for Energy and Geology of the Ministry of Economy].
- Release of the following information/publication, beyond planned: Main energy indicators 1995-2014; *Energia em Portugal - Principais Números em 2014* (Energy in Portugal - Main figures in 2014) and *Energia em Portugal 2014* (Energy in Portugal 2014) [Directorate-General for Energy and Geology of the Ministry of Economy].
- Release of 99.2% of the planned statistical information (for Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers), within the forecast deadline in 96.6% of cases.
- As regards **statistical cooperation**:
 - Participation in relevant European task forces, namely in the following fields: implementation of changes to the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics; ESS Vision 2020; Single Market Statistics (SIMSTAT); methodological issues related to the EDP; government finance statistics; quarterly national accounts; harmonised index of consumer prices; population and housing censuses.
 - Reprogramming and reinforcement of initiatives within the scope of the 'CPLP Programme for the empowerment of the national statistical systems of Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste', with implementation of activities addressed to a number of countries in the following

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fields: coordination; legislation; classifications, concepts and nomenclatures; geoinformation; CPI and short-term indicators.

- Cooperation with EU candidate and potential candidate countries, under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), and with countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy.
- Monitoring of ongoing developments in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, in liaison with the national coordinating entity (Ministry of Foreign Affairs in liaison with the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure), namely as regards the degree of availability of the SDGs.
- Continued implementation of the Action Plan prepared in response to recommendations issued in the report of the Peer Review exercise carried out in 2015, duly monitored by Eurostat.

Banco de Portugal

As part of its statistical function, Banco de Portugal is responsible for compiling and releasing monetary, financial, foreign exchange and balance of payment statistics, namely in the context of its tasks within the ESCB, having fully achieved the objectives set out regarding quality and observance of compilation and release deadlines as envisaged in Banco de Portugal's statistical activity plan for 2016.

Over the course of 2016 the Bank continued to develop the integrated exploitation of information in the micro-databases of the Central Balance-Sheet Database, the Central Credit Register and the Securities Statistics Integrated System, contributing information to Banco de Portugal's different functions, namely the elaboration of economic studies, monetary policy, financial stability, supervision and the compilation of statistics. Micro-databases are also one of the main pillars of the development of Banco de Portugal's Microdata Research Laboratory (BPLim).

In 2016 the Bank was involved in the process of setting-up the International Network for Exchanging Experience on Statistical Handling of Granular Data (INEXDA), which results from the cooperation between five EU central banks, including Portugal and the four European countries belonging to the G20 (Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom). Such cooperation aims to expedite access to and the exploitation of microdata for statistical purposes and other central bank functions, as well as for research activities.

From November 2016 onwards, the Bank made its new in-house credit assessment system (ICAS) available to financial institutions. ICAS is a credit rating instrument made available by Banco de Portugal, which may be used by financial institutions that are eligible as counterparties to monetary policy operations and that select this system as a source of credit assessment of collateral accepted for Eurosystem credit operations. Development of this system was only possible thanks to the several micro-databases managed by Banco de Portugal, which are intensely used by said system to obtain the respective assessments.

In the year under review, the Bank supported the development of the LEI (Legal Entity Identifier) project in Portugal, supporting the application of the Institute of Registries and Notaries to Local Operating Unit

(LOU). The LEI facilitates the identification of entities involved in international transactions and optimises the exploitation of databases using this identifier.

In 2016 the Bank adopted a more proactive policy to communicate statistical information, aiming to contribute to its better knowledge and use. Hence, the release dates for three statistical domains were brought forward and 136 statistical press releases were published (compared to 14 in 2015), for a regular monitoring of Banco de Portugal's statistics. At the end of 2016 more than 22,000 users were registered in BPstat, and once again demand for the Bank's statistics increased, and BPstat (traditional and mobile versions) recorded around 2.3 million views.

In February 2016 the 5th Conference of the Central Balance Sheet Database was held on the characterisation of Portuguese exporting sector enterprises. In addition, Banco de Portugal published three new Central Balance Sheet Studies and three Supplements to the Statistical Bulletin.

Within the framework of institutional representation, in 2016 Banco de Portugal concluded its three-year mandate as Chair of the European Committee of Central Balance-Sheet Data Offices (ECCBSO). In addition, it chaired the Working Group on Bank for Accounts of Companies Harmonised (BACH) and the ESCB's Statistics Accessibility and Presentation Group (STAP).

Finally, as part of the Bank's statistical function, there were 26 technical assistance and institutional cooperation initiatives with foreign entities and 50 presentations in conferences and national and international events.

Regional Statistical Office of the Azores

In 2016 the activities of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores were carried out in line with the objectives enshrined in the Assessment and Accountability Framework. With this Framework's rates of achievement, in 2016 the Regional Statistical Office's overall performance was GOOD (148.2%), exceeding all the goals established (207% in effectiveness goals, 111% in efficiency goals, and 106% in quality goals).

As regards statistical production

In 2016 the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores was involved in 156 statistical operations (99 as delegation of Statistics Portugal and 57 as statistical authority), i.e. 26 more than in 2015, corresponding to a total of around 23,000 surveyed statistical units.

The average response rate to surveys held in the region was 86.8% (71.4% of operations had a response rate of 100%), while electronic collection had an achieved response rate of 97.8% (11% more than the established goal).

As regards statistical dissemination

As statistical authority, the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores issued 15 publications, of which eight were annual, five were monthly and two were quarterly, all within the established deadlines. It received

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180 requests for statistical information via the traditional channels (email, telephone and face to face), having met 92.8% of these requests: 80% fully and 12.8% partially.

The website had 99,011 visitors (11.5% less than in 2015), with an average of 265 daily visits.

As regards statistical cooperation

In 2016 a joint project was approved with the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira and ISTAC - Canary Islands, within the scope of the 2014-20 MAC Territorial Cooperation Programme: Econometric methods applied to economic environment series (ECO-MAC).

General information/activities

The Regional Statistical Office of the Azores hosted the 8th Regional Statistical Journeys on Agriculture and Environment, with the participation of Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira, ISTAC - Canary Islands, the Regional Directorate of Environment, the Institute for Food and Agricultural Markets (IAMA), and the Regional Directorate for Rural Development. There were five statistical literacy sessions addressed to students from secondary schools in the Terceira Island and one session addressed to teachers of the Faial Secondary School. In addition, three student classes were welcomed at the Regional Office's facilities.

Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira

The final assessment of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira within the scope of the SIADAP-RAM1 structure self-assessment was 115.5%, which in qualitative terms means an overall satisfactory performance. The results achieved resulted in an implementation rate of 113.7% in effectiveness goals, 120.3% in efficiency goals, and 113.1% in quality goals.

As regards statistical production

The Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira was involved in 95 statistical operations, of which 80 nation-wide (84.2% in total) and 15 (15.8%) exclusively at regional level. The total gross response rate of direct interview surveys reached 83.1%, with telephone collection standing at 79.6% of total such interviews. The total gross response rate of self-completion surveys stood at 96.7%. Of the total questionnaires received, 95.7% were actually completed and sent electronically.

As delegation of Statistics Portugal, the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira participated in the second consumer price index pilot operation; collection for the Household Budget Survey (2015) was concluded; the collection period for the international tourism survey was extended and the survey was concluded; collection for the 2016 adult education and training survey was started; and the 2016 farm structure survey had a new edition.

As statistical authority, the Regional Directorate supported and monitored the PAEF-RAM (Economic and Financial Assistance Programme to the region), with the quarterly calculation of the region's public

deficit and debt. In addition, an inventory of sources and methods was produced. A new back series was also compiled, with data on Região Autónoma da Madeira in the field of justice, and two studies were produced, one on ageing, development and demographic trends in the region, and the other on the construction of a regional economic activity indicator.

As regards **statistical dissemination**

In 2016 there was an increase (+6.5%) in the volume of information released on the website of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira vis-à-vis 2015. Information released on the website now covers public employment, housing loans and sales of housing units. Also, the set of data made available on non-financial corporations and domestic trade was extended. The first (provisional) results of the 2015 Household Budget Survey were released for Região Autónoma da Madeira; a new thematic area on justice was made available, through a back data series composed of four indicators on the region for the 1998-2015 period; information was published on the activity of the region's health centres, with reference to 2013 and 2014, obtained for the first time via SESARAM's (the health services of Região Autónoma da Madeira) administrative channels.

The execution of the Dissemination Plan of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira stood at 98.6%. The regional media followed the Regional Directorate's releases, which materialised in 152 news pieces in the region's newspapers. The website of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira was visited by 16,590 users (+1.8% than in 2015), which accounted for 37,607 sessions (+7.2%) and corresponded to 183,554 page views (+40.0%).

As regards the promotion of statistical literacy among the school population, in 2016 there were seven information/training sessions in basic and secondary schools in Funchal, involving a total of 240 persons (15 teachers and 225 students), i.e. 31 more participants than in the previous year.

As regards **statistical cooperation**

Within the scope of international cooperation, the ECOMAC-Econometric methods applied to economic environment series project (MAC 2014-20 project) was approved, to be developed jointly with the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and the Canary Islands Statistics Institute.

Contacts were made with a group of regional entities, always with the purpose of improving statistical production and dissemination.

B. Resources

Pursuant to the NSS Law, the financial costs of maintaining the Statistical Council were borne by the budget of Statistics Portugal.

For the development of the initiatives included in their Work Programmes, statistical authorities have relied on the financial means envisaged in their annual budgets and on the available human and material resources.

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Financial resources

The following financial resources were allocated to the NSS (functioning of the Council and statistical activity of statistical authorities):

- Statistical Council – **€257,698**
- Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers – **€34.2 million²** (88.9% the responsibility of Statistics Portugal)
- Regional Statistical Office of the Azores - **€1.7 million³**
- Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **€1 million**

Human resources

The following human resources were allocated to NSS activities:

- Council Secretariat, composed of **6 individuals**, to support the Council's activities, involving a total of around 200 participants (Council members and other Working Group participants).
- **Statistical authorities**, with **914 staff members**, for carrying out statistical activities in 2016, distributed as follows:
 - Statistics Portugal – **628⁴**
 - Banco de Portugal – **80**
 - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **48**
 - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **40⁵**
 - Entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal – **118**

28 June 2017

² Includes costs allocated to the Council's activities.

³ €256,000 of Statistics Portugal's budget.

⁴ Includes resources allocated to the Council Secretariat's activities.

⁵ In addition to the 40 staff members, the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira also has the support of one expert and four IT specialists of the Regional Directorate for Heritage and Shared Services Management.