

DELIBERATION No. 8 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF SOCIAL STATISTICS

SETTING-UP OF A WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL INEQUALITY INDICATORS

Whereas the General Guidelines of the Official Statistical Activity for 2013-2017 having as a goal to make available “...information on new areas, or insufficiently statistical covered areas, namely in social matters, by following emerging concerns regarding family living conditions, social inequality and well-being indicators”;

Whereas The Plan of Action of the Standing Section of Social Statistics for 2017-2018 gives relevance to the increase of available information on the risks associated to the impoverishment of the Portuguese population and opportunity inequality through the production of specific indicators covering these matters;

Having in consideration the need to establish a reference framework identifying dimensions and indicators to monitor the evolution of inequality based on quality official statistics;

Having in consideration that inequality has a multidimensional nature that goes beyond a specific sector of the society, single resource or variable, but rather systematic in character and relations in what concerns its causes and effects, which leads to the production of differentiated indicators;

Considering that this reference framework must bear in mind the Agenda 2030, the goals that Portugal might set within this context, as well as the starting point in view of the existing indicators relevant as regards the dimensions of social inequality such as the Well-being index or the Gender Statistics database;

The Standing Section of Social Statistics deliberates, within the scope of its responsibilities, pursuant to number 2, (b) and (d), of Annex D of the 27th Statistical Council deliberation, **to approve the setting-up of a Working Group on Social Inequality Indicators**, having in consideration the following terms:

I. MANDATE

- a) To identify relevant dimensions of social inequalities considering their multidimensional, cumulative and systemic nature, in order to contribute to an informed public debate and to the definition and application of public policies, whenever possible in the national context of Agenda 2030 and its goals;
- b) To identify a set of benchmarks associated with each of the dimensions identified, which should be defined in a comprehensive, though not necessarily exhaustive, way, including

breakdowns/differentiations by relevant socio-demographic and socio-economic groups. Income, wealth, work and employment, access to public services and the effects of such access should be considered (health, education, housing, culture, energy, and sanitation infrastructure and others), taxation, the practices of citizenship and collective action;

- c) To make available the definition of each indicator, identifying the sources of information and the time, theme and territorial scopes;
- d) To present an exercise of quantification of the indicators for a specific period;
- e) To present proposals intended to cope with future needs of additional information coverage, including sources and access viability.

II. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

1. REPRESENTATIVES:

- Statistics Portugal (INE, IP)
- Statistics Azores (SREA)
- Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM)
- Office of Strategy and Planning (GEP/MTSSS)
- Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG/PCM)
- Planning, Evaluation, Strategy and International Relations Office (GPEARI/MF)
- DECO – Portuguese Association for Consumer Protection
- General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (CGTP)
- General Union of Workers (UGT)
- Business Confederations (a maximum of two representatives elected by agreement amongst those represented in the Statistical Council)
- Gustavo Cardoso, PhD
- José Pereirinha, PhD
- Renato do Carmo, PhD

2. NON-PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

It is intended that the WG should function in a participatory and effective manner and that it should have a core dimension that should be broadened whenever more specific matters are addressed. In this context, the Working Group may also invite entities or experts on relevant issues to analyze specific aspects of its mandate, the formal invitation being issued by the Vice-Chairperson of the Statistical Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.

3. For the development of its activity and fulfillment of the mandate, the Working Group will establish with other Working Groups within the scope of the Statistical Council such articulations and initiatives as may be deemed necessary, and this articulation should be promoted through the Statistical Council secretariat.
4. The representatives of the entities that are members of the Working Group shall be appointed by a full member of the Statistical Council whenever the entity is represented or by direct indication of each entity's responsible, in the remaining cases.
5. Whenever required, in order to ease the operational side of tasks ahead there might be the need for creating subgroups, in accordance with the terms of the Statistical Council's Internal Regulation.

III. **WORK SCHEDULING AND PLANNING**

On its first meeting, the Working Group should decide on the calendar to fulfill the actions envisaged on its mandate, subject to later submission and approval of the Standing Section.

Lisbon, 14 September 2017

Chairman of the Section, *Gustavo Cardoso*

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