

## WORK PROGRAM OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL – 2010

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The Business Plan of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) for 2009 was the first Plan put forward in the context of the current Law governing the National Statistical System (NSS) – Law No 22/2008 of 13 May. Hence, planned activities have been carried out “in a context of transition to the implementation of the Law”.

In turn, in the recent past the Council has made a series of reflections with distinct purposes, which made a quite relevant contribution to modernising, developing and consolidating the NSS, allowing for a clear identification of priority actions to be undertaken by its structures.

**The Council’s activities in 2010 should hence be focused on consolidating guidelines that have meanwhile been approved, recognised as priorities and identified in recent documents approved by the Council.**

Hence,

Taking into account the current legal framework, the commitments assumed at the internal and external level by the entities composing the National Statistical System – the Statistical Council and statistical authorities – and also the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity for the 2008-2012 period, **the Statistical Council has set out the following objectives for 2010:**

→ *To create appropriate mechanisms to carry out - in the context of its powers envisaged in the new NSS Law - the actions considered as priorities in 2009, aimed at modernising, developing and consolidating the System, namely to appraise protocols for the delegation of powers of Statistics Portugal, define a Regulation on Statistical Confidentiality, and set guidelines for an NSS dissemination policy.*

→ *To enhance the ability to coordinate the NSS, by implementing and optimising earlier Council deliberations and recommendations and consolidating the structural documents approved in 2009.*

→ *To continue modernising processes associated with its internal organisation, namely by creating new Working Groups that contribute with innovative proposals and projects to a more modern and efficient statistical production process.*

The Plan is comprised of three chapters:

- **Chapter 1** – Framing the powers of the Council within the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 2008-2012 and monitoring the actions defined as priorities in 2009.
- **Chapter 2** – Developing the Council's activities envisaged for 2010, including the Council's objectives and details on new initiatives and initiatives to be developed from the viewpoint of consolidating the decisions made.
- **Chapter 3** – Chapter on human and financial resources.
- The **annexes** contain all the detailed supplementary information.

Within the scope of the new legal framework of the NSS, the number and powers of existing Sections have been assessed, and a new structure defined based on a greater selectivity and the clarification of its powers, to be carried out through Action Plans.

A model will be established to promote the setting-up and efficient functioning of Working Groups, by establishing delimited timelines, precise mandates, and integrating proposals for solutions to overcome existing limitations or blockages.

Extended forums for discussion will be set up between users and producers, targeted at specific issues of national interest.

Thus, in accordance with the Council's defined objectives and powers, from among its activities in 2010 stress should be laid, in particular, due to their strategic nature, on **interventions in the following domains:**

- Assessment of processes for the delegation of powers of Statistics Portugal's Administration Board to other entities for the production of official statistics, and monitoring of the production of delegated statistics.
- Definition of guidelines for the dissemination of statistical data within the scope of the NSS.
- Approval and regulation of prior registration rules for statistical questionnaires of statistical authorities and other data collection media that can be used for statistical purposes.
- Creation of mechanisms allowing for compliance with the key principles of the Statistical System, as envisaged in the Law, and monitoring of the implementation of the Code of Practice for European Statistics at the level of all NSS structures.
- Definition of an appropriate regulatory framework for strict compliance with the provisions of the NSS Law regarding the principle of statistical confidentiality, namely through devising a draft Regulation on Statistical Confidentiality to be adopted by statistical authorities.

**At the operational level**, the Council's activities will be put into practice as follows:

- Adoption of a monitoring and development model for actions referred to in the "Action Plan aimed at compliance with timelines for release of Portuguese statistics".
- Definition of an Action Plan at the level of NSS human resources training, which will include identifying training needs within the scope of the NSS, in the sense of optimising the Training Plans of statistical authorities, and promoting actions aimed at optimising the process of upgrading NSS human resources.
- Promotion of actions targeted at intensifying the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes, anticipating intervention from statistical authorities as of their conception, so as to ensure an adequate balance between the objective of cutting costs associated with agents' reporting and the need to produce highest quality statistics.
- Implementing the provision on mandatory prior consultation of the Council, as envisaged in the NSS Law, with regard to draft legislation creating statistical services or incorporating rules on statistical activity.
- Setting-up of Task Forces to analyse concepts for statistical purposes in priority areas and monitor their works.

Due to the relevant role they play in society in general, the Council will continue to pay special attention to the **development of certain statistical areas**, namely the labour market (particularly wage and employment statistics), consumer prices, international trade, education and training, information society, environment, trade and services and migrations, and also territorial statistics, among others.

Monitoring the preparation of the 15<sup>th</sup> General Population Census and 5<sup>th</sup> General Housing Census (**2011 Census**) by the Council will continue to be a key factor for the success of these census operations.

At the level of the **Council's internal organisation** and in a context of modernisation and efficiency, initiatives will take place in the following areas:

- Implementation of the results of the reflection on the Council's Working Groups and monitoring of such results.
- Within the scope of the Council, release of relevant data in the process of being prepared and decided on in Community and international bodies.
- Use of the Council's website and other communication instruments for a wide dissemination of the Council's works, seeking to make society increasingly aware of the importance of statistics.

**In 2010**, 3 plenary meetings are forecast to be held, as well as 29 meetings of Standing Sections and Ad hoc Sections.

Events to be held at Council level will be decided on according to the priorities established and budget availability.