

## WORK PROGRAM OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL – 2011

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Following the publication on 13 May 2008 of the new legal framework governing the National Statistical System (NSS) – Law No 22/2008 – 2009 and 2010 were years of transition to the implementation of this Law. Furthermore, they were characterised by the preparation of structuring documents for the NSS.

In the recent past the Council has conducted a number of reflections with distinct purposes, which made quite an important contribution to modernising, developing and consolidating the NSS, allowing for a clear identification of priority actions to be carried out by its structures.

**The Council's activities in 2011 should hence focus on consolidating guidelines that have already 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 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;

With the aim of achieving the Vision for the NSS in 2012;

**The Statistical Council has set out the following objectives for 2011:**

- **To create appropriate mechanisms** to carry out, in the context of the powers envisaged in the NSS Law, the actions considered as priorities for modernising, developing and consolidating the System.
- **To enhance the NSS coordinating ability** by implementing and optimising Council deliberations and recommendations and consolidating guidelines within the structuring documents already approved.
- **To continue modernising and optimising** processes associated with its internal organisation.

This document is divided into three chapters:

- **Chapter 1** – Framing of the powers of the Council within the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 2008-2012 and monitoring of priority actions.
- **Chapter 2** – Development of the Council's activities envisaged for 2011, by objectives, distinguishing new initiatives and initiatives under way to consolidate the decisions made.
- **Chapter 3** – Human and financial resources.

The **Annexes** contain all the detailed supplementary information.

Within the scope of the new legal framework governing the NSS, an operating model has been approved for the Council, endowed with an organisational structure based on the selectivity and clarification of its powers, as regards both Sections and Working Groups, for which an operating model was defined. This model aims at efficiency through the presentation of solutions to overcome limitations or blockages in the NSS.

Thus, in accordance with the Council's defined objectives and powers, from among its activities in 2011 **stress should be laid**, in particular, **due to their strategic nature, on interventions in the following domains:**

- Preparation and approval of the Situation Assessment Report of the NSS for 2008-2011, pursuant to Article 15(4) of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May.
- Promotion of actions targeted at (i) intensifying the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes and (ii) intervention by statistical authorities from the outset of the development of measures resulting in new administrative sources, so as to ensure an adequate balance between the objective of cutting costs associated with agents' reporting, and the production of quality statistics and the reduction of the burden on respondents.
- Definition of guidelines for the dissemination of statistical data within the scope of the NSS.
- Creation and implementation of mechanisms allowing for compliance with the key principles of the National Statistical System, and respective monitoring at the level of all NSS structures.
- Definition of a regulatory framework suitable for strict compliance with the provisions of the NSS Law regarding the principle of statistical confidentiality, in particular through (i) the appraisal of regulations on statistical confidentiality to be adopted by Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores, and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira, and (ii) the creation of mechanisms allowing for observance of confidentiality rules by entities to which information subject to statistical confidentiality is provided.
- Intensification of the use of normal communication channels for promoting initiatives to improve statistical literacy.

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

- Continued monitoring and consolidation of the utilisation for statistical purposes of data included in the "Simplified Corporate Information – SCI".
- Continued monitoring of institutional links within the scope of the Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities – SICAE and the Working Group for the creation of a Single Statistical Units File.
- Enhancement of the analysis and monitoring of relevant statistical areas for decision-making, where some weaknesses prevail in the production of statistical data, taking as reference the objectives defined in the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 2008-2012.
- Promotion of the presentation of methodologies relating to the most relevant statistical operations to a wider public, following up on previous initiatives of some of the Council's Working Groups.
- Conduct of events in innovative statistical areas, notably on globalisation and city statistics.
- Approval of technical statistical coordination instruments, particularly concepts and nomenclatures.

The monitoring of the preparation and, in 2011, of the **implementation of the 15<sup>th</sup> General Population Census and 5<sup>th</sup> General Housing Census (2011 Census)** will continue through the respective specialised Section, which will make its contribution to the success of these two important census operations.

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**, particularly labour market, health, consumer prices, international trade, education and training, territorial statistics, among others. Attention will also be paid to developments within the scope of the excessive deficit procedure and general government statistics.

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:

- At Section level and as envisaged in the respective Action Plans, to continue to present methodologies and other aspects related to the most relevant statistical operations, particularly in terms of quality.
- To pursue works to improve implementation and monitoring of Council deliberations and recommendations, particularly by continuing to hold joint meetings of Section Chairpersons when strategic decisions are concerned, and implementing meetings between Chairpersons of Sections and Working Groups.
- To continue introducing changes to the Council's website with an ongoing objective of rendering it more informative and dynamic.
- To devise and implement a plan for monitoring the activities of Working Groups, with the aim of rendering them more effective in the achievement of the Council's objectives.

In 2011 **2 plenary meetings** are forecast to be held, as well as **30 meetings** of Standing Sections and Ad hoc Sections, including joint meetings.