

DELIBERATION NO 3 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

CREATION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON BUSINESS STATISTICS

Whereas the changes and adjustments introduced in the operating structure of the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council) as a consequence of Deliberation No 2 approved in September 2008, with the purpose of “(...) *conferring greater efficiency, functionality and dynamics to its activities (...)*”.

Whereas the Council has decided that, within the scope of a reflection on Working Groups, all those existing should be terminated and new Groups created. This shall be conducted in compliance with a model promoting, through the setting of delimited timelines, an efficient functioning of precise mandates integrating proposals for solutions to overcome limitations or blockages in Portuguese statistics.

Whereas the “Action Plan for the Organisation and Functioning of the Standing Section of Economic Statistics” – Deliberation No 1 of the Standing Section of Economic Statistics (*Secção Permanente de Estatísticas Económicas* in Portuguese) of 25 June 2009 that lays down in its main lines of action the need to “*monitor the production of official statistics, particularly by assessing their responsiveness to user needs*”.

Whereas in the context of the objectives set out in the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity 2008-2012, **the promotion of actions targeted at intensifying the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes**, anticipating intervention from statistical authorities as of their inception, 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, **was considered to be one of the key objectives for the Council's activity in 2011**.

Whereas:

- Business statistics have been evolving quite markedly in the past few years, chiefly as a result of greater integration and complementarity across sources and efforts made at international level with a view to enhancing their comparability;
- At national level, there are various parties involved in the collection and production of business statistics, not only through administrative sources, but also surveys;
- Statistics on enterprises are the object of a number of publications.

Hence, within the scope of a reflection process on Working Groups in the field of economic statistics, the **Standing Section of Economic Statistics**, at its meeting on 9 May 2011, within the scope of its powers, as laid down in Deliberation No 2 of the Statistical Council, paragraph 2 (b) and (d) of Annex C, **decided to approve the creation of a Working Group on Business Statistics**.

I. MANDATE

a) To list the existing administrative sources and gauge their potential use for statistical purposes and subsequent incorporation into the National Statistical System (NSS), so as to widen the coverage of statistical units basic systems.

b) To devise an integrated methodological framework on the comparison across the different business statistics results.

To prepare a document systematising sources, methodologies and publications, envisaging the design of a methodological framework on the comparison across the different results produced by the various entities, at national and international level.

c) In the context of the foregoing sub-paragraphs, to assess the relevance of considering further statistical information needs in the field of business statistics, by putting forward recommendations.

II. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING

1. **The Working Group shall be composed of representatives (one full representative and one alternate representative) of the following entities:**

- Statistics Portugal
- Banco de Portugal
- Office for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development
- Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity
- Institute of Registries and Notaries of the Ministry of Justice
- Office for Planning, Strategy, Evaluation and International Relations of the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration
- Department of Forecasting, Planning and International Relations of the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
- Confederation of Portuguese Industry
- Confederation of Trade and Services of Portugal
- Council of Portuguese University Rectors

In addition to the above-mentioned entities, **other entities forming the Standing Section of Economic Statistics may participate on a non-permanent basis in the Group's works at specific stages.**

2. To analyse selected aspects of its mandate, the Working Group may also invite certain entities or experts on relevant issues, the formal invitation being issued by the Vice-Chairperson of the Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.

3. To develop its activities and fulfil its mandate the Working Group shall establish with other Working Groups at the level of the Council, in particular the Working Group for the Creation of a Single File for the National Statistical System, the liaisons and initiatives deemed necessary – namely to avoid overlapping and duplication – promoted through the Council Secretariat.
4. Representatives of entities forming the Working Group shall be appointed by a full member of the Council whenever the entity is represented, or by direct indication of each entity's responsible bodies, in the remaining cases.
5. Where warranted by the matters in question and in order to render works more operational, Sub-Groups may be formed, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Council.
6. The organisation of events that might be proposed by the Working Group shall be considered in terms of the budget forecast by the Council and, where possible, in partnership with other entities.

III. CHAIRMANSHIP

The Working Group shall be chaired by the Office for Strategic Studies of the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development.

IV. WORK SCHEDULING AND PLANNING

STAGE 1 | TO BE CONCLUDED BY 31 DECEMBER 2011

- a) To list the existing administrative sources and gauge their potential use for statistical purposes and subsequent incorporation into the National Statistical System (NSS), so as to widen the coverage of statistical units basic systems.

STAGE 2 | TO BE CONCLUDED BY 31 JUNE 2012

- b) To devise an integrated methodological framework on the comparison across the different business statistics results.

To prepare a document systematising sources, methodologies and publications, envisaging the design of a methodological framework on the comparison across the different results produced by the various entities, at national and international level.

- c) To prepare a recommendations document, describing possible additional information needs related to business statistics.

DOCUMENTS TO BE PRESENTED

The Working Group shall commit to submitting 3 documents following on from the conclusions referring to the three points of its mandate, specifically:

- **By the end of 2011**, a report containing a list of sources relating to sub-paragraph (a) of the mandate and a preliminary version of the proposal in sub-paragraph (b).
- **By June 2012**, 2 final documents:
 - One referring to sub-paragraph (b), regarding the integrated methodological reference framework;
 - The other referring to sub-paragraph (c), regarding the recommendations document on possible further needs in the field of business statistics.
- **By March of year n+1** the Annual Report for year n.