

## ACTIVITY REPORT | NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

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### | ABSTRACT |

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The 2010 Activity Report of the National Statistical System (NSS) is formed by this Abstract – which highlights the main achievements and outcomes – and the Annual Reports of the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council) and statistical authorities,<sup>1</sup> which should be consulted for greater detail in information.

NSS activities in 2010 sought to observe the guidelines enshrined in the Business Plans of the Council and statistical authorities for 2010, the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity for 2008-2012, Council Deliberations, the NSS Situation Assessment Report (2009), the EU Statistical Programme for 2010 and activity programmes prepared at the level of the ESCB Statistics Committee.

In 2010, within the scope of NSS statistical coordination, a number of actions prioritised by the Council were undertaken, namely:

- Appraisal by the Council, and subsequent signature and endorsement of seven proposals for the delegation of powers by Statistics Portugal to other public entities for the production of official statistics; and,
- In-depth reflection and definition of an operating model for its working groups that will contribute to a reflection on relevant statistical areas for decision-making where weaknesses prevail or methodological monitoring is required.

In their Business Plans for 2010 statistical authorities established and achieved a series of objectives aimed at ensuring quality statistical production guaranteeing the satisfaction of Portuguese statistics users, and

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<sup>1</sup> Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, Regional Statistical Office of 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: Directorate General of Fisheries and Aquaculture of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Directorate General for Energy and Geology (Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development), Office of Education Statistics and Planning (Ministry of Education), Knowledge Society Agency (Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education), Planning, Strategy, Assessment and International Relations Office (Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education), Strategy and Planning Office (Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity), and Directorate General of Justice Policy (Ministry of Justice).

prioritised the development of actions conducive to improving the use of statistics and promoting statistical literacy.

The main objectives of statistical authorities were likewise achieved, stress being laid – due to their relevance – on the progress observed in the quality of official statistics, namely compliance with deadlines, and also improved efficiency in data collection processes and statistical dissemination actions.

Also, upon decision of the United Nations Organisation, on 20 October 2010 the “World Statistics Day” was celebrated for the first time. To mark this event the Council organised a Workshop on OFFICIAL STATISTICS, which was attended by statistical authorities, that also participated in other events held with the same purpose.

#### **A. Highlight activities within the scope of the National Statistical System | 2010**

##### **Statistical Council**

The Council decided that **its activity in 2010 should focus on the consolidation of guidelines meanwhile approved, recognised as a priority and identified** in documents approved by the Council.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, it is worth highlighting the following:

- Approval of relevant Classifications, notably the National Classification of Occupations 2010;
- Awareness of general government entities to the use of coordination instruments approved for the NSS;
- Institutional interlinking aimed at increasing the quality of data produced at NSS level, through monitoring of the Information System for the Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities and appropriation of information in the Simplified Business Information System;
- Start of a reflection on the preparation of Regulations on statistical confidentiality;
- Identification of the need to prepare a regulatory document on the principle of statistical confidentiality and other documents setting out, inter alia, adjustments to be introduced in the contents of deliberations and undertakings of confidentiality, aimed at a more close definition of the obligations of entities to which confidential statistical data are provided;
- Implementation and monitoring of the measures of the Action Plan for compliance with deadlines for availability of Portuguese statistics, with decisions on sharing training courses across NSS entities and promoting initiatives to enhance the use of administrative sources;
- Ongoing consolidation of the progress observed in the quality of official statistics, particularly as regards compliance with deadlines;
- Implementation of the Action Plans of Council Sections, namely by promoting the submission of methodologies and statistical projects by statistical data producers and users as well;
- Continuing monitoring of 2011 Census preparatory work, in line with the planned chronogram;
- Adoption of a new model for monitoring international meetings and releasing relevant national and international documents;

- Awareness of society to the relevance of statistics by promoting the release of Media Information Notes.

### Statistics Portugal

From the wide array of activities carried out by Statistics Portugal, stress should be laid on the following:

As regards the **coordination of the National Statistical System**:

- Signature of seven protocols for the delegation of powers.
- Inter-institutional cooperation with entities with delegated powers, with other institutions collaborating with Statistics Portugal in close partnership for the pursuit of projects of major interest with an impact on society, and with the scientific community.

As regards increased efficiency in **data collection processes**:

- Ongoing expansion of telephone collection (CATI) in interview surveys.
- Enhancement of electronic data collection in Statistics Portugal and most other entities.

As regards **statistical production**:

- Conclusion of the 2009 Agricultural Census.
- Ongoing preparation of the 2011 Census, in its various aspects.
- Completion of the process of changing the National Accounts base, 2006 having been adopted as the reference year.
- 1-month anticipation of the availability of final data for 2008 of the Integrated Business Accounts System, notwithstanding the extension for a further 15 days of the deadline for delivery of the Simplified Business Information.
- 2010 Household Budget Survey.
- Survey on domestic energy consumption, held in the fourth quarter of 2010, arising from a working arrangement with the Directorate General for Energy and Geology of the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development.
- Survey on the financial situation of households, held in partnership with Banco de Portugal.
- Transition of the type of collection from CAPI to CATI (telephone collection) in the Employment Survey.
- Update and release of the Portuguese food balance for the 2003-2008 period.
- Release of early results for the 2008 trade enterprises survey.
- Rethinking of the methodology underlying the road freight transport survey, to be conducted in 2011.
- Adjustments in statistical operations for the introduction of the Accounting Standardisation System, for replacement of the Official Chart of Accounts.
- Implementation of the Single Report by the Strategy and Planning Office of the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity, as far as the inclusion of the Annexes planned for 2010 is concerned.

As regards **statistical dissemination**:

- 95% implementation rate for the availability of statistical data on the due date in Statistics Portugal. For Statistics Portugal and other entities as a whole this rate stands at 90.9%.
- 34% increase in the availability of indicators in the Dissemination Database accessible through the Statistics Portugal website.
- Reduction of the average time of response to requests for clarification and information free of charge.
- Increased online availability of statistical data produced by entities intervening in national statistical production.

As regards **statistical cooperation**:

- Statistics Portugal led large important projects in the EU, namely: "Purchasing Power Parities" in the group of Southern European countries; "SDMX – Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange" and "European pilot project for the construction of own house price indices".
- Two technical assistance contracts were signed between the Statistical Institutes of Portugal and Mozambique, within the framework of the Common Fund for Mozambique.

### **Banco de Portugal**

Banco de Portugal fulfilled the objectives set out within the framework of its statistical function, in terms of quality and strict compliance with release deadlines established for the different statistical production domains under its responsibility.

In the context of the expansion of the **statistical dissemination** system, stress should be laid on changes, new statistical contents and respective metadata introduced in *BPstat* | Statistics online. This translated not only into the activation of a new multi-browser version of *BPstat*, which allowed for access to this system from major browsers, but also into the release of new statistical data at the chronological and multi-dimensional levels. At the end of 2010 *BPstat* recorded 2,814 users more, thus exceeding 10,000 registered users.

The Statistical Bulletin released by Banco de Portugal on a monthly basis included – as at the end of 2010 – approximately 6,500 statistical series, grouped into 36 sections. The increase in the statistical series released in the Statistical Bulletin was reached in parallel with a reduction of human resources allocated to the statistical function.

New contents were released within the scope of monetary and financial statistics (liquidity supply/absorption, further details on Eurosystem monetary policy operations and investment funds), Central Credit Register (loans to households), foreign exchange operations (historical series of exchange rates on the Portuguese escudo), and payments (per instrument). In addition, several statistics under the responsibility of Banco de

Portugal were converted, following the adoption of the Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities Revision 3 (CAE-Rev.3 – NACE Rev.2).

The **modernisation of information systems** supporting the collection and treatment of statistical data under the responsibility of Banco de Portugal was pursued, stress being laid on the launch in July 2010 of a new compilation system within the scope of monetary and financial statistics. This system aimed at meeting ECB reporting requirements, completing a project to develop a new compilation system of statistics on securitisation societies and funds, and conducting a prior study for the overhaul of the information system supporting the compilation of balance of payments and international investment position statistics.

Banco de Portugal launched the Central Balance-Sheet Studies and held the first Conference of the Central Balance-Sheet Database on "Information as a key element to face the challenges posed to Portuguese enterprises in the current national and international economic context".

#### **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores**

With regard to the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, by 2010 62% of measures and 60% of the lines of activity were concluded.

In all statistical activity it carried out in 2010 as delegation of Statistics Portugal and as statistical authority, the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores was involved in a total of 105 statistical operations (92 as delegation of Statistics Portugal and 13 as statistical authority), with over 29 mil units surveyed. These figures account for an increase from the previous year of 15% in the number of statistical operations and 44% in the number of surveyed entities.

At the level of regional projects put into practice in the course of 2010, reference should be made to two projects: CONTRIMAC (regional GDP quarterisation project) and METAMAC (project for the inclusion of metadata in the dissemination of statistical data), developed within the Community Initiative of the Cross-border Cooperation Programme - MAC 2007-2013, jointly with the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira and the Statistical Institute of the Canary Islands (ISTAC). In addition to these two projects, a study was also launched for the construction of a coincident indicator of infra-annual developments in the economic activity of the Azores.

#### **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira**

As regards statistical projects put into practice in the course of 2010, it is worth mentioning the following results:

- Implementation of the integrated official statistics system for the Autonomous Region of Madeira – due to budgetary constraints, part of the objective was carried forward to 2011 (50%).
- Availability of further information with recourse to new technologies – fully met (90%).
- Development of cooperation projects with the statistical authorities of the Azores and the Canary Islands – fully met (90%).
- Start of a quality management project and development of a document management project – partly met (75%).
- Fostering of and participation in training courses – exceeded (128.30%).

Of the activities carried out over the year, reference should be made to the following:

- Enhanced metadata knowledge of staff members of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira.
- Availability of further statistical indicators in the Datawarehouse of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira.
- Implementation of a centralised system for the electronic management of information requests.
- Availability in the website of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira of long time series for the different statistical areas.
- Implementation of improvement measures across all areas of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira.
- Continuing implementation of cooperation projects with the Azores and the Canary Islands – METAMAC and CONTRIMAC.

## **B. Resources**

Pursuant to the NSS Law financial charges in respect of the functioning of the Council were borne by the budget of Statistics Portugal.

For the development of actions included in their Business Plans, statistical authorities have relied on the financial means envisaged in their annual budgets and on the human and material resources available for that purpose.

### **Financial resources**

The following financial resources were allocated to the National Statistical System – functioning of the Council and statistical activity of statistical authorities:

- Statistical Council – EUR 287.9 thousand.

- Statistics Portugal and other entities<sup>2</sup> – EUR 51.6 million.
- Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – EUR 1.6 million.
- Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – EUR 1.4 million.

#### **Human resources**

The following human resources were allocated to NSS activities:

- **Council Secretariat**, composed of **7 persons**, for the support of Council activities, which involve a total of around 260 participants (Council members and other participants in Working Groups).
- **Statistical authorities**, to develop the statistical activities carried out in 2010, **have relied on 1.179 of their staff members**, distributed as follows:
  - Statistics Portugal – **789**
  - Banco de Portugal – **81**
  - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **49**
  - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **53**
  - Entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal and other entities that have participated in the activity carried out by Statistics Portugal – **207**

#### **21 September 2011**

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<sup>2</sup> As it was a transition year in terms of the process of delegation of powers, it includes financial resources allocated to Statistics Portugal, entities with delegated powers and other entities specified in the Annual Report.