

**DELIBERATION NO 33 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)
ON THE 2013 WORK PROGRAM FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

Whereas the powers of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) in overseeing and coordinating the National Statistical System (NSS).

Whereas the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017 approved by the Council.

Whereas, in accordance with the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017, the Council's activities in 2013 will be steered towards achieving the following objectives:

- Submission to the Government of a draft revision of the current Law governing the National Statistical System, taking into consideration guidelines set forth at national and European level;
- Promotion of widened reflection aimed at identifying and adequately applying measures conducive to implementation of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2013-2017 period, notably as regards intensification of the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes, design and implementation of mechanisms allowing for compliance with the key principles of the National Statistical System, and stronger promotion of initiatives to enhance statistical literacy;
- Modernisation and optimisation of processes associated with the Council's internal operation.

Whereas the statistical authorities' statistical activity plans for 2013 reflect the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017, notably as regards the high priority assigned to initiatives that:

- Aim to continue to ensure quality statistical production, a more modern statistical process, a more intensive use of official statistics and active promotion of statistical literacy;
- Seek to meet the growing demand for statistical data as a key instrument for timely and accurate analysis of the economic, financial, social and environmental situation, informed decision-making by society in general and economic agents in particular, and sustained assessment of the various policies;
- Contribute to strengthen institutional cooperation, notably through participation in specific projects that are relevant to the National and European Statistical System related to a more intensive and efficient use of already existing information and a greater utilisation of administrative data for statistical purposes. There is thus a reduction in statistical production costs and in the burden on respondents, namely citizens and enterprises.

Pursuant to Article 3 (2) and Article 13 (g) of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May and to Article 10 (3) (c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, and following a favourable opinion of the Standing Session of

Statistical Coordination (*Secção Permanente de Coordenação Estatística* in Portuguese), **at its plenary session on 14 December 2012 the Council decided the following:**

1. **To approve** the Council's Work Program for 2013
2. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the statistical authorities' statistical activity plans for 2013
3. **To approve** the 2013 Summary of Statistical Activity for the National Statistical System, in annex to this deliberation
4. **To approve** the release of these documents through a media information note

Lisbon, 14 December 2012

The Vice-Chairman of the Statistical Council, *Alda de Caetano Carvalho*

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

2013 WORK PROGRAM | NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

| SUMMARY |

The Work Program of the National Statistical System (NSS) for 2013 is formed by this Summary, which highlights the main objectives and activities to be achieved in 2013, and the Work Programs of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) and the statistical authorities,¹ with greater detail on the respective areas of competence.

These Programs present the objectives and actions that will be developed by the above entities at national and European level. This will occur, respectively, in the exercise of the powers set forth in Article 13 of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May and in accordance with the guidelines provided for under Article 3 (2) of said Law through the Council's Deliberations and Recommendations and the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2013-2017 period, the EU Statistical Programme for 2013, activity programmes prepared at the level of the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), as well as in compliance with the commitment to quality set forth in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Public Commitment on European Statistics by the European System of Central Banks.

2013 will also mark the launching of initiatives to identify and adequately apply measures leading to implementation of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017. This strategic document defines the major objectives and challenges for the NSS in the next **5 years with a view to achieving the Vision presented for 2017**: official statistics that observe the highest statistical quality

¹ Statistics Portugal, Banco de Portugal, Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira. Regional Statistical Office of the 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 for Natural Resources, Maritime Safety and Services (Ministry of Agriculture, Sea, Environment and Spatial Planning), Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (Ministry of Economy and Employment), Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics (Ministry of Education and Science) and Directorate-General for Justice Policy (Ministry of Justice).

Pursuant to Article 2 of the NSS Law, the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira participate in the production of national official statistics as delegations of Statistics Portugal.

The Work Program of Statistics Portugal also includes production and dissemination in the fields of employment and vocational training under a protocol for delegation of powers with the Office for Strategy and Planning of the former Ministry of Employment and Social Security, currently the responsibility of the Office for Strategy and Studies of the Ministry of Economy and Employment, whose protocol for the delegation of powers is under negotiation.

standards, with the National Statistical System meeting society's information and knowledge needs independently and effectively.

Hence, the Council's activities in 2013 will prioritise enhanced implementation of the strategic guidelines defined, promoting reflection within its structures (Plenary session and Sections) and in collaboration with entities allowing for identification of suitable measures, notably as regards the ongoing process to modernise and optimise the Council's internal operation, aiming at greater efficiency and effectiveness in its deliberations and recommendations.

In their work reports for 2013 statistical authorities have established a series of objectives targeted at ensuring quality statistical production, a more modern statistical process, a more intensive use of official statistics and active promotion of statistical literacy.

Priority will be given to meeting the growing demand for statistical data as a key instrument to timely and accurate analysis of the economic, financial, social and environmental situation, informed decision-making by economic agents and sustained assessment of the various policies.

Statistical authorities will also pay special attention to the strengthening of institutional cooperation, notably through participation in specific projects that are relevant to the National and European Statistical System, such as initiatives aimed at a more intensive and efficient use of already existing information and a greater utilisation of administrative data for statistical purposes. There is thus a reduction in statistical production costs and in the burden on respondents, namely citizens and enterprises.

A. Statistical Council's main objectives and activities for 2013

Objectives

Taking as a reference the Vision set out for the NSS in 2017, the Council's activities in 2013 will focus on implementation of the strategic guidelines defined for the next five years in the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017, through achievement of the following objectives:

1. To prepare and submit to the Government a draft revision of the current Law governing the National Statistical System, taking into consideration guidelines set forth at European and national level.
2. To promote widened reflection aimed at identifying and adequately applying measures conducive to implementation of the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2013-2017 period.
3. To pursue the modernisation and optimisation of processes associated with the Council's internal operation.

Priority activities and areas

Hence, in accordance with the objectives defined and pursuant to its powers, due to its strategic nature the Council's activities in 2013 focus in particular on intervention in the following areas:

- . Submission to the Government of a draft revision of the current Law governing the National Statistical System.
- . Promotion of initiatives targeted at:
 - (i) raising awareness of statistical authorities to the need to intensify the use of administrative sources for statistical purposes;
 - (ii) warning entities holding administrative data about the legal obligation of data release for the production of official statistics;
 - (iii) allowing statistical authorities to intervene from the start in the design of mechanisms that originate administrative data, so as to guarantee that these may be used for statistical purposes, notably in terms of quality;
 - (iv) promoting inventorying of the administrative sources existing in Portugal and their actual and potential use for statistical purposes, in collaboration with statistical authorities and the Council members representing administrative data holders.
- . Design and implementation of mechanisms allowing for compliance with the key principles of the National Statistical System at the level of all NSS structures.
- . Definition of a regulatory framework suitable for strict compliance with the provisions of the NSS Law governing the principle of statistical confidentiality.
- . Reinforcement of monitoring mechanisms, in collaboration with the competent entities, at the level of data reporting for preparation of general government accounts.
- . Intensification of the use of communication channels to promote initiatives to enhance statistical literacy, notably by promoting the release of texts on the Council's website.
- . Organisation of events and other initiatives to foster communication with society, within the scope of the International Year of Statistics.

B. Main objectives of statistical authorities for 2013

Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers

Statistics Portugal's planning for 2013 has the following underlying objectives, as envisaged in its Assessment and Accountability Framework:

1. To increase the supply of official statistics
2. To enhance statistical literacy within the society
3. To follow the Statistics Portugal's Training Plan
4. To maintain quality statistical cooperation with CPLP countries
5. To enhance the adoption of technologically more developed and respondent-friendly collection methods
6. To widen the use of administrative data for statistical purposes
7. To modernise statistical production support infrastructures
8. To release timely and quality official statistics that are relevant to society

In the Work Program of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers the following activities and facts are worthy of reference:

At the level of statistical production

- Fertility Survey – Statistics Portugal in partnership with the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation (collection in 2013).
- Household Finance and Consumption Survey – Statistics Portugal in partnership with Banco de Portugal (collection in 2013).
- Farm Structure Survey – Statistics Portugal (collection in 2013/14).
- Survey of the movement of persons and tourism expenses – Statistics Portugal (preparation and collection in 2013/14)
- European Health Survey – Statistics Portugal in partnership with the National Health Institute Doutor Ricardo Jorge and the Directorate-General of Health (preparation and pilot survey in 2013; collection in 2014/15).
- European Social Survey – Statistics Portugal in partnership with Instituto de Ciências Sociais (preparation in 2013).
- Time Use Survey – Statistics Portugal in partnership with the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (preparation in 2013, collection in 2014/15).
- Labour Cost Survey – Office for Strategy and Studies of the Ministry of Economy and Employment.
- Survey on the careers of doctorate holders – Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education and Science (preparation in 2013).
- Change in the base of Portuguese national accounts (base 2011), for implementation of ESA 2010 and inclusion of a wide array of structural data, stemming in particular from the 2011 Census, the 2009 Agricultural Survey and the 2010 Household Budget Survey.
- Compilation of energy accounts for the development of pilot studies on the new modules of the Regulation governing environmental economic accounts.

At the level of other statistical activities

- Completion of 2011 Census work, with observance of the respective European and international commitments and the preparation and submission of the ensuing report.
- Adoption of the National Dwelling File and implementation of its update process based on administrative sources, in particular the new version of the Urban Operations Indicator System, which played an important role.

At the level of statistical dissemination

- Labour Force Survey – shortening of the deadline for data releases from 45 to 38 days after the end of the data reference period.
- Population
 - Final Resident Population Estimates for Portugal, NUTS 2, NUTS 3 and Municipalities, 2001-2010 (revision based on final results for the 2011 Census), and respective demographic indicators.

- Provisional Resident Population Estimates, 2011 and 2012 (revision based on final results for the 2011 Census).
- 2013 Monthly Resident Population Estimates.
- Consumer price index, long series (1948-1976).

At the level of:

External cooperation

Implementation of the "Programme for the empowerment of national statistical systems of Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste" – Phase 2 (2013)", approved by the CPLP Focal Points and funded by the Special Community Fund.

Inter-institutional cooperation

Active participation in the draft revision of the Law governing the National Statistical System.

Banco de Portugal

Banco de Portugal's Statistical Activity Plan for 2013 is developed according to the key objectives defined for Banco de Portugal's statistical tasks, within the framework of the Bank's strategic planning for the 2011-2013 period, a cycle which is entering its final phase. These objectives translate into:

1. Quality statistical production, through efficient cooperation with data suppliers.
2. Statistical dissemination aimed at fully meeting (internal and external) user needs, guided by strict compliance with the commitments assumed with the European Central Bank (ECB) and other national and international organisations, fully observing the strictest international standards.
3. Efficient management of microeconomic databases, namely the Securities Statistics Integrated System, the Central Credit Register and the Central Balance-Sheet Database, with a view to ensuring their integrated use in the production of statistics under the responsibility of Banco de Portugal and, in the case of the two latter databases, the provision of the corresponding services to the community.

Against this background, **the following actions assume a special role in Banco de Portugal's planning for 2013:**

- To contribute to meet the statistical data requirements envisaged in the EU/IMF Financial Assistance Programme for Portugal.
- To bring statistics into line with the new methodological concepts in international manuals, whose implementation is forecast for 2014.
- To implement the new collection and compilation system for balance of payments and international investment position statistics.
- To develop a new integrated information system of the Central Balance-Sheet Database.
- To enhance interlinking across the various statistical compilation systems by crossing and exploiting data in micro-databases.
- To release new statistics in more efficient and user-friendly means.

- To organise initiatives to release statistics under the responsibility of Banco de Portugal, notably seminars and training courses addressed to the main user groups, i.e. financial system, universities and media.

Regional Statistical Office of the Azores

The planning of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores for 2013 relies on the following strategic objectives, as enshrined in the Assessment and Accountability Framework:

1. To deepen knowledge on regional statistical data users, as regards meeting their need for available information and consulting them about future needs.
2. To pursue an effort to improve the functionalities of the Office's website.
3. To pursue international cooperation, through participation in joint projects and the organisation and participation in international seminars and conferences on statistics.
4. To reinforce, as statistical authority, the coordinating role of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores as regards all official statistical production in the Region.
5. To raise the response rate of surveys conducted in the Region.
6. To harness and maximise human resources' efficiency through vocational training for staff members.
7. To reinforce the production of regional statistics with a geographical breakdown into island and/or council.
8. To intervene in the Office's organisation and operation, to improve the quality of the services provided.

As regards activities exclusively in the regional interest to be carried out in 2013, the following are worth mentioning:

- Implementation of some new projects, notably at the level of trade with the mainland and agriculture.
- Completion of projects carried out within the scope of the transnational cooperation programme MAC 2007-2013, specifically METAMAC (statistical data and metadata integrated system of Macaronesia) and CONTRIMAC (quarterly accounts of Macaronesia).

With regard to data dissemination, new contents were introduced in the website and information was published on projects of the transnational cooperation programme MAC 2007-2013.

In the field of information technologies, the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores intends to improve its intranet, as well as to introduce new means to monitor quality and provide services.

Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira

The planning of the activities of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira for 2013 has the following underlying objectives:

1. To deepen cooperation with entities carrying out statistical activities

2. To promote statistical literacy
3. To improve staff skills
4. To foster the use of new collection, control and validation processes for data collected
5. To improve the quality of data collected
6. To ensure the timely release of data
7. To improve dissemination contents by intensifying the use of new technologies

The Work Program of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira highlights the following activities:

- Inventorying administrative sources and assessing whether they can be used for statistical purposes.
- Assessing the possibility of signing protocols for the delegation of powers in areas that are not covered, such as education and social security.
- Promoting specialised training and professional development of employees.
- Reinforcing mechanisms to control and validate data collected, in terms of content and coverage.
- Incrementing online and telephone responses to Statistics Portugal's surveys held in the Region.
- Ensuring high response rates to Statistics Portugal's surveys held in the Region.
- Shortening the timelines for data releases and issue of publications.
- Completing cooperation projects with the statistical authorities of the Azores and Canary Islands: METAMAC (statistical data and metadata integrated system of Macaronesia) and CONTRIMAC (quarterly accounts of Macaronesia).
- Redesigning and reorganising the Regional Directorate's website content, improving navigation.

C. Resources

Pursuant to the NSS Law the financial costs of maintaining the Statistical Council are borne by the budget of Statistics Portugal.

For the development of actions included in Work Programs, statistical authorities will rely 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 are allocated to the National Statistical System – functioning of the Council and statistical activity of statistical authorities:

- **Statistical Council's** forecast operational costs for 2013 amount to €356.6 thousand.
- In 2013 **the activities of Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers** will involve a total €35.5 million,² 88% of which corresponding to Statistics Portugal (€31.4 million).

² Includes costs allocated to the Council's activities.

Hence, Statistics Portugal was allocated a total of around €32.7 million (€30.8 million from the 2013 State Budget and €1.9 million of own revenue), considered strictly necessary to fulfil its Work Program, which involves almost entirely operations required by EU Regulations.

The reserve and retained/frozen amounts envisaged in the draft State Budget Law for 2013, if implemented, may require adjustments to the content of Statistics Portugal's Work Program, which will cause a number of activities to be suspended to the corresponding amount.

- **Entities with delegated powers** foresee to allocate €4.1 million to statistical activities.
- The **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores** foresees a €1.38 million budget.
- The **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira** foresees a €980 thousand budget.

Human resources

The following human resources will be allocated to NSS activities in 2013:

- **Council Secretariat**, composed of **7 individuals**, to support Council activities, which involve a total of around 300 participants (Council members and other Working Group participants);
- **Statistical authorities**, to develop the statistical activities planned for 2013, **with 981 staff members**, distributed as follows:
 - Statistics Portugal – **676³** (plus 500 service providers – interviewers)
 - Entities with delegated powers – **130**
 - Banco de Portugal – **84**
 - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **50**
 - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **41**

³ Includes resources allocated to the Council Secretariat's activities.