

DELIBERATION NO 5 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF SOCIAL STATISTICS

**WORKING GROUP ON LABOUR MARKET STATISTICS – CHANGES TO THE MANDATE AND
COMPOSITION**

Whereas the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity 2013-2017 set out as major objectives for the National Statistical System:

“To reinforce the quality of official statistics, ensuring the optimisation, improvement, flexibility, modernisation and efficiency of the statistical production process through their methodological, scientific and technological development;

To meet in an efficient and timely fashion society’s needs for statistical data, thereby contributing to reinforce confidence in official statistics and their better use, improving communication and promoting statistical literacy.”

Whereas these General Guidelines set out as one of the lines of action for the period referred to:

“To ensure and reinforce the Council’s involvement in monitoring methodological changes to statistical operations of high economic and social impact, when involving breaks in series or discontinuity of variables.”

Whereas following a reflection by the Standing Section of Social Statistics (*Secção Permanente de Estatísticas Sociais* in Portuguese) at its meeting on 2 December 2013, the Section decided to suspend the activity of the Working Group on Labour Market Statistics, taking into account a need to render the monitoring of these statistics more dynamic.

Whereas the wide use and relevance of labour market statistics, which characterise labour environment and supply instrumental information to build indicators to support decision-making.

Whereas the growing need to resort to administrative data, once their quality and the possibility of their being used for statistical purposes is ascertained.

Conselho Superior de Estatística

Pursuant to the powers provided for in Annex D of Deliberation No 27 of the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council), at its meeting on 25 February 2014 **the Standing Section of Social Statistics** decided the following:

I. **MANDATE**

- (a) To assess the available information sources as regards their adequateness for the production of statistics on accidents at work, notably as regards compliance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 349/2011 of 11 April 2011 and submit recommendations that may contribute to improve the coverage of this statistical information, particularly for the public sector (NACE Rev.2 sectors O, P and Q).
- (b) To assess whether the Information System on the Organisation of the State (Portuguese acronym: SIOE) makes it possible to ensure quality and statistical coverage for the public sector as far as labour market statistics are concerned, and submit recommendations on the necessary conditions for its evolution into a public sector 'Single Report'.
- (c) To list and analyse the pertinent administrative sources, notably in the context of compliance with obligations regarding social security and tax authorities, aiming at making available data for a regular characterisation of workers without a contract (the so-called workers on 'green receipts').
- (d) To analyse the Single Report results, from the viewpoint of coverage, consistency and release schedule.
- (e) To identify the information available on absenteeism and analyse its conformity with user needs.
- (f) To monitor the Labour Force Survey on a regular basis, as regards quarterly information, monthly unemployment rates and the preparation of ad-hoc modules.
- (g) To issue an opinion on methodological changes to labour market's statistical operations.
- (h) To issue an opinion on new information needs and the deepening of already existing information, taking into consideration the available sources and efficient ways to obtain it.
- (i) To monitor the implementation of decisions made at the International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS), held in late 2013 within the scope of the International Labour Organization.

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

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- Office for Strategy and Studies of the Ministry of Economy and Employment until integration of the powers of the labour statistics area into the Office for Studies and Planning of the Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security
 - Office for Studies and Planning of the Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security
 - Directorate-General for Administration and Public Employment of the Ministry of Finance
 - Employment and Professional Training Institute (Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security)
 - Council of Portuguese University Rectors
 - General Confederation of Portuguese Workers
 - General Workers' Trade Union
 - Confederation of Trade and Services of Portugal
 - Confederation of Portuguese Industry
 - Authority for Labour Conditions
 - Tax and Customs Authority – for analysis of sub-paragraph (c) of the mandate
 - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – for analysis of sub-paragraphs (b) and (d) of the mandate
 - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – for analysis of sub-paragraphs (b) and (d) of the mandate
2. Where deemed relevant, the Working Group may 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 Council level, the liaisons and initiatives deemed necessary, with the former being 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.

III. **WORK SCHEDULING AND PLANNING**

At its first meeting, the Working Group shall define the schedule for observance of its mandate's sub-paragraphs, which shall be subsequently submitted to the Section.

Regardless of the scheduling to be defined, the Working Group shall submit to the Section:

- regular information on activities and in particular on sub-paragraphs (d) and (f) of the mandate;
- by March of year n+1 the Annual Report for year n.

Lisbon, 11 March 2014

Chairman of the Section, *Gustavo Cardoso*

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