

## DELIBERATION NO 9 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF TERRITORIAL STATISTICS

### SETTING-UP OF A WORKING GROUP FOR THE CREATION OF THE PORTUGAL 2020 CONTEXT/OUTCOME INDICATOR SYSTEM

Whereas:

- the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2013-2017 period, which recognise as one of the challenges for this period a “constant increase in the demand for statistical data allowing for a timely and strict analysis of the economic, financial, social and environmental situation, well-founded decision-making by economic agents and a sustained assessment of the different policies”;
- the powers of the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics (*Secção Permanente de Estatísticas de Base Territorial* in Portuguese) (Annex and Deliberation No 27 of the Statistical Council), as set out in its Action Plan (Deliberation No 1 of the above Section), which establishes under its main lines of action that the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics “is the appropriate forum to identify the needs for territorial information” and it “shall be the structure supporting the construction of statistical instruments deemed necessary to the devising and monitoring of territorial policies (...) [and this] should include defining indicator systems for specific issues and tools for analysing spatialised data, among other”;
- the approval by the Standing Section, in 2011, of the revision of the ‘Indicator System to monitor the context in which public policies evolve’, originally created in 2007, to monitor and evaluate the regional impact of public policies, under the Community programming cycle for the 2007-13 period and later reoriented to meet the information needs resulting from the Europe 2020 strategy;
- the process of reconfiguration of the NUTS into the Portuguese case, thereby ensuring correspondence with the area of intervention of intermunicipal entities, formalised through Commission Regulation (EU) No 868/2014 of 8 August 2014 (NUTS-2013), and, although data transmission to Eurostat in the new format shall formally start in January 2016, Statistics Portugal has agreed with Eurostat that its transmission will start in January 2015.

Whereas, on the other hand:

- the Partnership Agreement signed by Portugal and the European Commission, the so-called Portugal 2020, adopts, for the 2014-20 period, the programming principles set out for implementation of the «Europe 2020 Strategy» and establishes the economic, social, environmental and territorial policies to support, stimulate and ensure a new national cycle of smart growth (based on knowledge and innovation), sustainable growth (with a more efficient, ecological and competitive economy) and inclusive growth (a society with high employment and social cohesion levels) (Decree-Law No 159/2014 of 27 October 2014);

- Portugal 2020's operational structure relies at national level on four thematic operational programmes (OPs) oriented towards 'Competitiveness & Internationalisation', 'Social Inclusion & Employment', 'Human Capital' and 'Sustainable Development & Efficient Use of Natural Resources' and at regional level on five mainland Regional OPs, corresponding to the territory of each classification of territorial unit for statistics (NUTS) level 2, and two regional OPs, corresponding to the Autonomous Regions of the Azores and Madeira (also with three rural development programmes – Mainland, Autonomous Region of the Azores and Autonomous Region of Madeira – one national OP entitled 'Mar 2020' and one technical assistance OP);
- Portugal 2020 sets out result orientation as the basic principle of governance and Community fund management, to be gauged based on outcome indicators and not only on achievement, and establishes as ex-ante condition the existence of an outcome indicator system needed to select initiatives, monitor progress and assess impact;
- entities with responsibilities in the management, monitoring and assessment of Portugal 2020 (the Cohesion and Development Agency, the national coordination committees of the EAFRD and the EMFF, managing authorities, and regional coordination and development committees) have, in this context, a growing need for statistical data, with a foreseeable common statistical needs matrix;
- in the case of regional OPs for the Autonomous Regions, although the management body answers to the respective regional governments, it also reports to Portugal 2020's governance bodies; there will also be a foreseeable need for specific territorial statistical data;
- in Portugal 2020 territorial statistical data needs are higher, due to a higher coverage of territorial public policy instruments and a reinforced monitoring of regional dynamics;
- finally, still as regards the implementation and monitoring of the National Strategic Reference Framework (2007-13) and under Article 67 (1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006 (laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Cohesion Fund), by 30 June each year the managing authority of the operational programmes shall send the European Commission an annual report and by 31 March 2017 a final report on the implementation of the respective OP.

**A. Pursuant to its powers, at its meeting on 18 March 2015 the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics decided the following:**

**(a) to approve the setting-up of a Working Group for the creation of a context/outcome indicator system for Portugal 2020;**

**(b) to recommend that the various entities responsible for the information that this Working Group considers relevant cooperate with Statistics Portugal, as deemed appropriate to meet the statistical needs for monitoring and assessing Portugal 2020.**

**B. The Working Group for the creation of a context/outcome indicator system for Portugal 2020 will operate as follows:**

## **I. MANDATE**

1. To design and propose a statistical indicator system taking as reference NUTS-2013 (Commission Regulation (EU) No 868/2014 of 8 August 2014), within a framework of rationality and selectiveness, to be made available by the National Statistical System, which will make it possible to meet statistical needs for monitoring and assessing Portugal 2020 and the respective operational programmes, aiming in particular:
  - (a) to meet the specific needs of the entities responsible for managing, monitoring and assessing Portugal 2020, including as regards the monitoring of regional dynamics;
  - (b) to assess the territorial distribution of the results of co-financed public policies and measure the contribution of territories for the achievement of Portugal 2020's priorities;
  - (c) to ensure segmentation between context indicators and outcome indicators, targeted at a greater transparency and usefulness of the indicator system to be created, in a context of a more relevant role played by outcome indicators in Portugal 2020.

The selection of indicators to be associated with this system shall have as starting point the framework of statistical data available in the 'Indicator System to monitor the context in which public policies evolve' (NSRF context indicator system), as well as the set of outcome indicators defined in Portugal 2020's programmes.

2. To identify the set of indicators of the 'Indicator System to monitor the context in which public policies evolve' (NSRF context indicator system), whose dissemination continuity in NUTS-2002 shall be ensured until dissemination year 2016, within a framework of cost/benefit rationality, seeking to join, namely:
  - (a) the technical feasibility of rendering the indicators operational;
  - (b) the territorial breakdown and time scope of the backward extrapolation of indicators that were structured on the basis of NUTS 2013;
  - (c) the use of data within the annual reports of operational programmes associated with the NSRF 2007-13 and the relevance for the final reports of the implementation of operational programmes.
3. To promote and develop, where necessary, cooperation with external entities so as to seek to overcome the obstacles to access statistical data deemed relevant and the actual release on the Official Statistics Website.
4. To clarify the types of release of selected statistics that allow for wide dissemination and permanent updating.

## **II. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONING**

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

- Cohesion and Development Agency
  - Regional coordination and development committees
  - Directorate General for Territory
  - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira
  - Statistics Portugal
  - Ministry of Agriculture and Sea
  - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores
2. In addition to the entities mentioned in paragraph 1, **other entities integrating the Standing Section of Territorial Statistics may participate in the Group's works at specific stages, on a non-permanent basis.**
3. Representatives of the entities referred to in 1. and 2. 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.
4. To analyse specific 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 Statistical Council, upon a proposal of the respective Chairperson.

### **III. WORK SCHEDULING AND PLANNING**

The Working Group shall submit the following documents for approval by the Section:

- by the end of the third quarter of 2015, the document regarding paragraph 2 of the mandate;
- by the end of the first quarter of 2016, the final Report to be prepared under said mandate.

### **IV. TERMINATION OF THE WORKING GROUP**

The Working Group shall be terminated following approval of the documents referred to in III.

Lisbon, 18 March 2015

Chairman of the Section, José Cadima Ribeiro

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