

**DELIBERATION NO 43 OF THE CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)
ON THE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM**

Whereas the powers of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) to oversee and coordinate the National Statistical System (NSS), which include the annual appraisal of the statistical authorities' annual reports.

Whereas the Report of the Council and the Annual Reports of the statistical authorities for 2015 reflect the strategic guidelines for the NSS established by the Council for the 2013-17 period and the guidelines and commitments approved at European level, and comply with the commitments to quality set forth in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Public Commitment on European Statistics of the European System of Central Banks.

Whereas in 2015:

- The Council monitored with special attention issues related to (i) the suitability and management of human and financial resources allocated to the NSS within the framework of the current budget restraints, so as to safeguard the efficiency and quality of the response to national and European obligations in the field of statistics; (ii) the modernisation of the NSS; (iii) the coordination among NSS members and between these and general government bodies, aiming to intensify the use of administrative information for statistical purposes and the consequent reduction of the burden on respondents; and (iv) raising awareness of society in general to the importance of statistics and its adequate reading and interpretation;
- The performance of statistical authorities continued to record remarkable progress. Hence, (i) there was an ongoing effort to modernise / rationalise statistical production and dissemination processes; (ii) progress achieved at the level of the quality of official statistics was consolidated, namely as regards compliance with cut-off dates; (iii) high priority continued to be given to initiatives to improve the accessibility and use of statistics; (iv) initiatives to promote statistical literacy continued;
- The ongoing systematic adoption by statistical authorities of restraint and rationalisation measures at the level of operating expenses and statistical activity costs, the increased utilisation of statistical data for the production of official statistics, and the intensification of the use of more advanced and less expensive collection methods, namely through recourse to the Internet and telephone interviews, made it possible to reduce the costs associated with the production of statistical information and the reduction of the burden on respondents;
- Progress was achieved amid strong constraints, particularly a shortage of skilled human resources, with an impact on the desirable widening of the supply of official statistics and the deepening of other relevant issues for the NSS, both within the scope of the activity of some statistical authorities, in particular Statistics Portugal, and of the Council's activities.

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Pursuant to Article 3 (2) and Article 13 (a) and (g) of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May, and following a favourable opinion of the Standing Session of Statistical Coordination (*Secção Permanente de Coordenação Estatística* in Portuguese), **at its plenary session on 4 July 2016 the Council decided the following:**

1. **To approve** the Council's 2015 Annual Report;
2. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the statistical authorities' annual reports for 2015;
3. **To approve** the 2015 Summary of Activities of the National Statistical System, in annex to this deliberation;
4. **To widely disseminate these documents, notably through media information notes.**

The Council also considers that the fields where statistical authorities have been experiencing progress in the past few years should continue to be a priority for the National Statistical System.

Lisbon, 4 July 2016.

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

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

2015 ANNUAL REPORT | NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

| SUMMARY |

The 2015 Annual Report of the National Statistical System (NSS) is formed by this Summary, which highlights the main achievements and outcomes, and the Annual Reports of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) and the statistical authorities,¹ with greater detail on the activities developed.

The NSS's activities in 2015 continued to be carried out based on the guidelines established in the Work Programmes of the Council and statistical authorities for 2015, the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for 2013-17, the Council's Deliberations, the EU Statistical Programme for 2015, the activity programme prepared under the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), and furthermore 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.

As the State body that in general oversees and coordinates the NSS, the Council monitored with special attention issues related to (i) the suitability and management of human and financial resources allocated to the NSS within the framework of the current budget restraints, so as to safeguard the efficiency and quality of the response to national and European obligations in the field of statistics; (ii) the modernisation of the NSS; (iii) the coordination among NSS members and between these and general government bodies, aiming to intensify the use of administrative information for statistical purposes and consequently the reduction of the burden on respondents; and (iv) raising awareness of society in general to the importance of statistics and its adequate reading and interpretation.

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, Safety and Maritime Services (Ministry of Sea), Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (Ministry of Economy), Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education), Directorate-General for Justice Policy (Ministry of Justice), and Strategy and Planning Office (Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security).

Pursuant to Article 22 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 performance of statistical authorities continued to record remarkable progress. Hence, (i) there was an ongoing effort to modernise / rationalise statistical production and dissemination processes; (ii) progress achieved at the level of the quality of official statistics was consolidated, namely as regards compliance with cut-off dates; (iii) high priority continued to be given to initiatives to improve the accessibility and use of statistics; (iv) initiatives to promote statistical literacy continued.

In addition, the ongoing systematic adoption of restraint and rationalisation measures at the level of operating expenses and statistical activity costs, the increased utilisation of statistical data for the production of official statistics, and the intensification of the use of more advanced and less expensive collection methods, namely through recourse to the Internet and telephone interviews, made it possible to reduce the costs associated with the production of statistical information and the reduction of the burden on respondents.

However, progress was achieved amid strong constraints, particularly a shortage of skilled human resources, with an impact on the desirable widening of the supply of official statistics and the deepening of other relevant issues for the NSS, both within the scope of the activity of some statistical authorities, in particular Statistics Portugal, and of the Council's activities.

In 2015 two events confirmed the quality and soundness of the NSS and contributed to reinforce the credibility of Portuguese statistics:

- In January there was a Peer Review to compliance with the European Statistics Code of Practice by Statistics Portugal and the entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal, whose report resulted in the elaboration of an Action Plan to be executed by the competent entities in response to the recommendations made;
- Early in the year Portugal was one of the few countries in the world to adhere to the IMF's most demanding statistical communication system, the SDDS (Special Data Dissemination Standard) Plus.

A. National Statistical System's key activities | 2015

Statistical Council

The following Council activities should be highlighted:

Decisions / Opinions

- Approval of the 2014 Situation Assessment Report of the NSS;
- Favourable opinion on the draft regional regulatory decree approving the organisation of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira, under Article 14 of the NSS Law;
- Approval of concepts for statistical purposes in the field of 'health and disabilities';
- Approval of updates for:
 - the administrative division code;
 - the ISO Alpha 2 code – Country codes.

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- Creation of a Working Group (WG) for the elaboration of a context and result indicator system for monitoring the execution of the Portugal 2020 programme (2014-20);
- Approval of the interim report presented by the above-mentioned WG on the continued dissemination of the NSRF's context indicator system, according to the NUTS 2002.

Recommendations

- To the Ministry of Health, so that it forges closer collaboration with the Council's WG on Health Statistics and Statistics Portugal, for a more effective utilisation of administrative data for statistical purposes;
- To Statistics Portugal and Banco de Portugal (BdP), aimed at (i) their deeper liaison as institutions responsible namely for the release of the Portuguese national accounts and of balance of payments statistics, as a consequence of the new set of operations inherent in the new balance of payments compilation system and its complex integration into the national accounts compilation system, and (ii) compliance with the timetables agreed between the two entities so that users may benefit from the timely and high-quality statistics to which these two institutions are associated;
- To Statistics Portugal, so that (i) it uses the platform of the survey on perspectives of exports of goods to gauge context or structural issues, without prejudice to the priority needed to consolidate the project, (ii) it adds to the currently available set of short-term indicators information on monthly developments in external trade implicit prices and (iii) in the near future, it is able to release seasonally adjusted quarterly national accounts by institutional sector;
- To BdP, so that the number of seasonally adjusted balance of payments items is extended to various sub-components to facilitate the analysis on mainly seasonal flows that overrides the cyclical effect;
- To the Agency for Administrative Modernisation, for a study of the feasibility of including in the SIMPLIFICAR programme a unique number of local units to be used by statistical authorities within their areas of responsibility;
- To Portos dos Açores, S.A. (Açores' Ports company), so that it guarantees that administrative data on foreign trade statistical operations are made available to the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores, to be utilised for statistical purposes;
- To statistical authorities, on the importance of maintaining/improving the timeliness of the quality of statistical information;
- To entities reporting information to statistical authorities with delay, so that they bear in mind the obligation of timely reporting and do not compromise the forecast dates for public dissemination of information.

Other

- Ongoing elaboration of a preliminary draft revision of the NSS Law;
- Start of the preparation of the 2012-15 Situation Assessment Report of the NSS;
- Ongoing monitoring of the implementation of the indicator system to monitor the context in which public policies evolve;
- Monitoring of monthly estimates for the unemployment rate: reference models and main results (Statistics Portugal);
- Monitoring of regional national accounts: methodological issues (Statistics Portugal);

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- Promotion of good practices and knowledge sharing through the presentation of (i) methodologies and projects by statistical authorities and (ii) studies and work by statistical information users;
- Initiatives for raising society's awareness of the relevance of statistics, notably with the release of media information notes, and brainstorming session on 'Portugal 2020: public policies and statistical information', where the discussion forum was extended to non-NSS entities;
- Implementation of a process to monitor Council recommendations/deliberations.

The implementation of the Council's Work Programme depends necessarily on the degree of involvement and commitment of all its members. In 2015 implementation was particularly affected by a confluence of several constraints: (i) some official statistics producers were less involved due to human resources limitations, (ii) most members were repeatedly not actively involved in Council activities, and (iii) absenteeism in Plenary and Section meetings was higher.

Statistics Portugal

Statistics Portugal's performance in 2015 may be gauged through the following indicators: (i) self-assessment of the QUAR 2015 (Assessment and Accountability Framework) reached 122.658%, consequently warranting the proposal to be considered as Good; (ii) the overall implementation rate of the 2015 Work Programme stood at 87.7%, using a volume of staff members 0.6% higher than planned and involving actual expenditure around 14.8% below that expected, and (iii) maintenance of high levels of customer / statistical data user satisfaction, as measured through regular satisfaction surveys.

Of all activities carried on by Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers in the course of 2015, the following should be highlighted, duly identified in the Work Programme:

- As regards **the reduction of costs and the burden on respondents**:
 - Ongoing initiatives to extend the appropriation of administrative data for statistical purposes in various statistical areas, both by Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers, special reference being made to the new census model for 2021 and an inventory of administrative sources with entities of the Ministry of Economy;
 - Elaboration of the study 'Potential administrative sources for statistical purposes' by the Working Group for Statistical Simplification within the scope of the Inter-ministerial Network for Administrative Modernisation (RIMA in Portuguese), of which Statistics Portugal is part;
 - Widening of automatic data transmission to hospital surveys and repair works/international trade, imports and exports (IREPIMP and REPEXP in Portuguese), now covering 14 surveys;
 - Intensification of the use of electronic collection and introduction of new procedures, making it possible, inter alia, to reduce mail and communication costs.
- As regards increased efficiency in **data collection processes**:

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- Continuation of the study for the electronic collection of prices and quantities of products sold by relevant national chains (scanner data), notably as regards defining their specificity in the operational component. Implementation of an integrated consistency analysis process by comparing information reported by enterprises in the different Statistics Portugal surveys and in the Simplified Business Information;
- Intensification of the use of electronic data collection in business surveys, which was widened to include more statistical operations, as well as the use of automatic data transmission by XML;
- Provision of tailored information to enterprises, as compensation for their effort to respond to Statistics Portugal surveys, to raise their awareness as to the usefulness of statistical information and as an instrument for knowing their relative position in the Portuguese production system.
- As regards **statistical production/release**:
 - Feasibility study for the adoption of a new census model, to be implemented in 2021, based, as far as possible, in the incorporation of data from administrative sources;
 - Elaboration of the inventory of sources and methods of national accounts, in compliance with European Union regulations;
 - Reformulation of the excessive deficit procedure inventory, adapting it to the changes stemming from the different national accounts base and the implementation of ESA 2010;
 - Anticipation of the release of annual national accounts for t+21 months, given the timetable established in the ESA 2010 transmission programme (t+36 months);
 - Completion of the 2010-12 Culture Satellite Account and the 2010-14 Health Satellite Account;
 - Release of the results of the survey on administrative business costs;
 - Release of the results of the survey on perspectives of exports of goods – 2015;
 - Release for the first time of preliminary data on statistics of foreign company branches for 2014;
 - Update of the time series of the Integrated Business Accounts System (IBAS), according to the new national accounts base;
 - Household budget survey, which is undertaken every five years, with 2015 as the reference year;
 - Release of the main results of the 2014 national health survey, in cooperation with Instituto Ricardo Jorge;
 - Release of the provisional and final results of the survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) for 2014;
 - Release of the main results of the survey on income and living conditions (EU-SILC) for 2015 (for the first time in the year of the survey) on 18 December;
 - Ad hoc module of the labour force survey on the organisation of work and working time;
 - Production and release of the results of the 2015 edition of the well-being index for Portugal.
 - Start of the international tourism survey, which is undertaken with an irregular frequency, with 2015/16 as a reference;
 - Redraft of the road freight survey, for implementation in 2016.
 - Production, for the first time in Portugal, of statistics on the use of pesticides, in cooperation with the Directorate-General of Food and Veterinary Medicine;
 - Release of the study on local purchasing power (11th edition);

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- Release of the results of the new version of the statistical study Regional Development Composite Index (ISDR in Portuguese) and respective partial indices of competitiveness, cohesion and environmental quality for the NUTS 2013 level 3, with an improvement in the pattern of information release by nine months;
 - Release of new indicators on the website, namely on quarterly flows estimates across different labour market states and monthly estimates of employment and unemployment;
 - Release on the official statistics website of around 600 new indicators broken down according to the NUTS 2013 geography;
 - Integration of statistical data on education in liaison with the Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education;
 - Update and development of school result indicators for public release on the Infoescolas website [Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education];
 - Development of indicators and calibration of the evaluation grids for applications to POCH (Human Capital Operational Programme), within the scope of Portugal 2020 [Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education];
 - Establishment of indicators and release of data for operational programmes [Directorate-General for Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education];
 - Widening of the scope of statistics on accidents at work to Public Administration [Office for Strategy and Studies of the Ministry of Economy];
 - Reinforcement of the analysis of administrative data sources in the Justice area [Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice];
 - Development of a new statistical activity called public mediation systems statistics [Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice];
 - Issue of the publication *Os números da Justiça 2014 (Justice figures 2014)* [Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice];
 - Issue of the publications *Energia em Portugal – Principais números (2005-2013) (Energy in Portugal – Main figures (2005-2013))* and *Energia em Portugal, 2013 (Energy in Portugal, 2013)* [Directorate-General for Energy and Geology of the Ministry of Economy];
 - Analysis of the results of the institutional cooperation between Statistics Portugal and the Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services on the collection of socio-economic information on aquiculture and fish processing industry [Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services of the Ministry of the Sea];
 - Release of 98.6% of planned statistical information (for Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers), within the forecast deadline in 96.9% of cases.
- As regards **statistical cooperation**:
- Participation in relevant European task forces, namely 'Implementation of changes to the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics', 'Peer Reviews to the ESS –2014/15 Round', 'ESS Vision 2020', and 'Single Market Statistics (SIMSTAT)';

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- Implementation of the Programme for the empowerment of national statistical systems of Portuguese-speaking African countries and Timor-Leste – Phase 3 (2015), in the context of the CPLP;
- Peer Review to Portugal on the level of implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice by Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers, on Statistics Portugal's coordination function at NSS level and on issues related to cooperation/integration at European Statistical System (ESS) level;
- Ongoing regular monitoring by Statistics Portugal of the execution of protocols for the delegation of competences as regards delegated statistical activities.

Banco de Portugal

In 2015 Banco de Portugal fully achieved the objectives set out regarding quality and observance of cut-off dates for the release of statistics envisaged in its statistical activity plan. As statistical authority, the Bank continued to pursue a proactive communication policy, aimed at contributing to a better knowledge, confidence and use of the statistics under its responsibility.

The quality of Portuguese statistics was proven with the adherence on 11 February 2015 to the SDDS (Special Data Dissemination Standard) Plus, the IMF's most demanding pattern of statistical dissemination. Portugal integrated a restricted group of eight countries that were able to correspond to this new standard, and was the only country to fully meet the nine envisaged categories as of the start. Participation in the SDDS Plus resulted from hard work coordinated by Banco de Portugal and also involving Statistics Portugal and the Ministry of Finance.

The Bank continued to develop an integrated exploitation of the information in the microdatabases of the Central Balance Sheet Database, the Central Credit Register and the Securities Statistics Integrated System, contributing to an increment in the quality, detail and consistency of the statistics for which it is responsible and supporting the elaboration of studies and analyses on the Portuguese economy.

After having formally joined the LEI (Legal Entity Identifier) project in 2014, in accordance with the G20 recommendation, in 2015 the Bank continued to develop in Portugal a unique and universal identifier for entities, sponsoring the application of the Institute of Registries and Notaries to Local Operating Unit (LOU). The LEI will make it possible to identify operations between entities at international level and cross-check information from different international databases, showing great potential for use by statistical systems.

At the end of 2015 the number of users registered in BPstat | Statistics online amounted to around 22,000, having grown by approximately 4 per cent from the previous year. The demand for the Bank's statistics increased further, and BPstat | Statistics online (traditional and mobile versions) recorded around 2.2 million views, i.e. growing by 57 per cent from the previous year. Other statistical

dissemination initiatives in 2015 are worth mentioning, integrated in the promotion of statistical and financial literacy, materialised *inter alia* in the release of 14 statistical press releases, 4 new Central Balance Sheet Studies and 2 Supplements to the Statistical Bulletin.

In 2015, as part of the initiatives commemorating the World Statistics Day there was an interview to *Jornal de Negócios* on the statistics produced by Banco de Portugal and its participation in the ECB's Conference on 'European Statistics by the European System of Central Banks', with the presentation 'Response by the statistics function of the ESCB to the financial crisis: The perspective of a National Central Bank'. The Bank also participated in RTP Internacional's TV show 'Decisão Nacional' on 'Immigrants' remittances' and organised the first session of the 5th Conference of the Central Balance Sheet Database on the characterisation of Portuguese exporting sector enterprises, held in Lisboa, which included a panel on the relevance of innovation.

Within the framework of institutional representation, in 2015 Banco de Portugal chaired the Statistical Council's Standing Session of Statistical Coordination, the European Committee of Central Balance-Sheet Data Offices (ECCBSO), the Working Group on Bank for Accounts of Companies Harmonised (BACH), and the ESCB's Statistics Accessibility and Presentation Group (STAP). In addition, 20 cooperation and technical assistance initiatives were held in 2015, as well as 69 presentations in seminars, conferences and other statistical fora.

Regional Statistical Office of the Azores

The activities of the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores in 2015 were carried out in line with the objectives established in the Assessment and Accountability Framework. With this Framework's rates of achievement, in 2015 the Regional Statistical Office's overall performance was GOOD (114.6%), for having exceeded all the goals established (119% in effectiveness goals, 116% in efficiency goals, and 103% in quality goals).

As regards statistical production

The Regional Statistical Office of the Azores conducted 130 statistical operations (89 as delegation of Statistics Portugal and 41 as statistical authority), 8 more than in 2014, corresponding to a total of 15,171 surveyed statistical units.

The average response rate to surveys held in the region was 87.69% (72.73% of operations had a response rate of 100%), while electronic collection had an achieved response rate of 95.82% (10% more than the established goal).

As regards statistical dissemination

As statistical authority the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores issued 10 annual, 5 monthly and 2 quarterly publications, all within the established deadlines. It received 150 requests for statistical

information via the traditional channels (telephone, face to face), having met 93.3% of these requests: 75.3% fully and 18.7% partially.

The website had 111,910 visitors (7% more than in 2014), with an average of 305 daily visits.

As regards statistical cooperation

In 2015 the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores completed the joint projects with the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira and ISTAC, within the scope of the application for funding of the Transnational Cooperation Programme MAC 2007-13: statistical data and metadata integrated system of Macaronesia (METAMAC) and quarterly accounts of Macaronesia (CONTRIMAC).

General information/activities

The Regional Statistical Office of the Azores held the 7th Regional Statistical Journeys, on 'Comércio com o Exterior da Região' (the Region's external trade), with the participation of Statistics Portugal, BdP, the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira, Portos dos Açores, and the Regional Directorate for Investment Support and Cohesion. There were also three statistical literacy initiatives in two classes of a school in the region and in Ponta Delgada's Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira

The final assessment of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira within the scope of the SIADAP-RAM1 structure self-assessment was 115.3%, which in qualitative terms means an overall GOOD performance. The results achieved related to an implementation rate of 108.5% in effectiveness goals, 115.3% in efficiency goals, and 122.1% in quality goals.

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

- Intensification of the use of telephone reminders in direct interview surveys and self-completion surveys; use of the media to announce the launch of surveys; increase in the number of interview hearings in household surveys; intensification of the use of tools to validate and analyse data released by Statistics Portugal on the Intranet; rotation of work areas among interviewers and greater crosscheck of information with other administrative sources;
- Continuation of the policy pursued by the Regional Directorate to research and utilise statistical data existing in general government bodies and public enterprises that can be used for statistical purposes.

As regards **statistical production**:

- The Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira was involved in 94 statistical operations (7 more than in 2014), of which 79 nation-wide (84.0% in total) and 15 (16.0%) exclusively at regional level;

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- The average response rate to direct interview surveys reached 83.1%, with telephone collection accounting for 77.6% of the total. The average response rate of self-completion surveys stood at 98.9%, with 93.8% of these sent electronically;
- Household budget survey (IDEF 2015) and international tourism survey, as well as six new nation-wide statistical operations;
- Continued support and quarterly monitoring of PAEF-RAM (Economic and Financial Assistance Programme to the region);
- Compilation of six new back series with data on Região Autónoma da Madeira in the fields of territory, labour market, social protection, and general government.

As regards **statistical dissemination**:

- Slight increase (+1.0%) in the volume of information released on the official statistics website of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira vis-à-vis 2014: regional development composite index; series of 21 context indicators on the region, within the scope of WGPT2020; regional government gross debt by quarter, simultaneously with Banco de Portugal; relevant information on *Caixa Geral de Aposentações* (Civil Servants Pension Fund); local purchasing power; back series on the lists of personnel for the region. Release of the main regional results of the 2014 national health survey;
- The execution of the Dissemination Plan of the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira stood at 97.5%, there being no delays in releases;
- Publication on the three regional media of 204 news pieces related to statistics released on the Regional Directorate's website;
- As regards the promotion of statistical literacy among the school population, there were 7 study visits, involving 209 persons (15 teachers and 194 students);
- Four surveys to assess the satisfaction of users registered on the Regional Directorate's website and participants in study visits.

As regards **statistical cooperation**:

- Completion of two projects in which the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira was involved, through PCT MAC 2007-13, with the Regional Statistical Office of the Azores and ISTAC;
- Presentation by the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira at the Council on the socio-economic characterisation of Região Autónoma da Madeira at the 17th meeting of the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination.

B. Resources

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

For the development of the initiatives included in their Work Programmes, statistical authorities have relied on the financial means envisaged in their annual budgets and on the available human and material resources.

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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 – €263,500
- Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers – €33.2 million² (89.7% under the responsibility of Statistics Portugal)
- Regional Statistical Office of the Azores - €1.6 million³
- Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – €1 million

Human resources

The following human resources were allocated to NSS activities:

- **Council Secretariat**, composed of **6 individuals**, to support the Council's activities, involving a total of around 200 participants (Council members and other Working Group participants).
- **Statistical authorities**, with **907 staff members**, for carrying out statistical activities in 2015, were distributed as follows:
 - Statistics Portugal – **619**⁴
 - Banco de Portugal – **80**
 - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **48**
 - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **41**⁵
 - Entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal – **119**

² Includes costs allocated to the Council's activities.

³ €189,000 of Statistics Portugal's budget.

⁴ Includes resources allocated to the Council Secretariat's activities.

⁵ Includes one expert and four IT specialists of the IT Regional Directorate.