

DELIBERATION NO 4 OF THE AD-HOC SECTION FOR MONITORING THE 2021 CENSUS

ON THE CONCLUSION OF MONITORING THE VARIABLES TO BE OBSERVED IN THE 2021 CENSUS

Whereas under the Law governing the National Statistical System (NSS) – Law No 22/2008 of 13 May 2008 the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) has approved the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity for the 2018-22 period, having considered, among the Lines of Action (LA), the need to:

- LA 1.4. Adopt a model for the Population and Housing Census that maximises the utilisation of administrative data and response to the respective questionnaires over the internet, allowing for the provision of census information on a ten-year basis.
- LA 2.1. Ensure the quality of official statistics in their different dimensions (relevance, accuracy and reliability, timeliness and punctuality, coherence and comparability, accessibility and clarity) and (...).

Whereas in the pursuit of its activity Statistics Portugal enjoys, under the law, of technical independence, i.e. "(...) sole responsibility for defining statistical methods, standards and procedures, as well as the content, type and timing of data releases" (Article 5(2) of the above Decree-Law).

Whereas pursuant to the powers attributed to it the Ad-Hoc Section for Monitoring the 2021 Census (SEAC2021), namely to "monitor the process of setting out the variables to be observed in the 2021 Census", at the request of Statistics Portugal, conducted a thorough and detailed analysis of the basic content proposal to be followed in the questionnaires of the 2021 Housing and Population censuses.

Whereas, apart from SEAC2021 members and other Council members, the Section's work involved experts on specific issues and representatives of a number of entities, invited to take part in meetings whenever necessary to further clarify more complex issues, allowing for the whole process to be actively and openly participated and widely discussed.

Conselho Superior de Estatística

Pursuant to its powers, in its meeting on 17 June 2019 **the Ad-Hoc Section for Monitoring the 2021 Census** decided to thank Statistics Portugal for its prior in-depth and high-quality work in preparing the proposal for the basic content to be followed in the questionnaires of the next Population and Housing censuses, making it possible for the Section's analysis to be conducted efficiently and targeted at the topics in question.

Lisbon, 18 June 2019

The Chairman of the Section, *José António Pereirinha*

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