

DELIBERATION No 56 OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL

ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM 2019

Considering that the Statistical Council's (Council) scope of action includes the assessment of the statistical activity plan of the Statistical Authorities (SA) and its implementation report.

Considering that the Council Report and the SAs Annual Reports for 2019 reflect the strategic orientations defined for the period 2018-2022, the deliberations of the Council, the European Statistical Programme 2018-2020, the programme of activities within the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and respect the quality benchmarks set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the ESCB Public Commitment regarding European Statistics.

The GGSOA for 2018-2022, adopted by the Council in 2017, constitutes the strategic reference document for the development of the NSS in general and has been considered in the programming of Council and SAs activities for 2019.

Considering that in 2019 the Council has chosen new areas of intervention and continued to monitor, with particular attention, matters related to the:

- adequacy of human and financial resources allocated to the NSS within budgetary constraints to safeguard the efficiency and quality of response to national and European statistical obligations;
- modernization, development, and consolidation of the NSS in the context of new technological and methodological challenges for official statistics;
- reporting of official statistics;
- institutional and interinstitutional coordination and cooperation, to intensify the use of administrative information for statistical purposes and, consequently, the development of new statistical products, reducing the statistical burden and associated costs.

Considering that in 2019 the performance of the SAs continued to make significant progress, such as:

- the efforts to modernize/rationalize statistical production and dissemination processes and actions to promote statistical literacy; progress in the quality of official statistics has been consolidated; actions to improve the accessibility and use of statistics have continued to be given high priority; and numerous actions have been developed within the framework of institutional and inter-institutional statistical co-operation, namely with public administration bodies;
- the increased use of administrative data to produce official statistics, the integration of data into the production of statistical information, and the further use of more advanced and less costly collection methods have continued to reduce the costs associated with the production of statistical information and the burden on respondents.

Conselho Superior de Estatística

Whereas progress continued to be made in a context of constraints, regarding insufficient qualified human resources, reflected in the desirable extension of the supply of official statistics and the deepening of other matters relevant to the NSS, both in the activity of some SAs and in the activities of the Council.

Under Articles 3(2) and 13(g) of Law 22/2008 of 13 May **at the plenary meeting on the 13 November 2020, the Council**, following a favourable opinion of the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination, **has decided:**

1. **To approve** the Council's 2019 Annual Report;
2. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the on the Statistical Authorities' annual reports for 2019;
3. **To approve** the Synthesis of Statistical Activity of the National Statistical System 2019;
4. **Disseminate these documents widely**, in particular using an information note to the media.

The Council further recommends that:

- I. The areas in which the Statistical Authorities have made progress in recent years should remain a priority for the National Statistical System;
- II. Obstacles, namely insufficient human resources, and access to administrative data, which led to the non-fulfilment of some of the activities planned for 2019, should be overcome.

Lisboa, 18 November 2020

The Vice-Chairman of the Statistical Council, *Francisco Lima*

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

2019 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

| SYNTHESIS |

The Annual Report of the National Statistical System (NSS) 2019 consists of this Synthesis, which highlights the main achievements and results achieved, and the Annual Reports of the Statistical Council (Council) and the Statistical Authorities (SAs)¹, which provide more detailed information on the activities undertaken.

In 2019, the NSS continued to develop its activity based on the orientations set out in the Work Programs of the Council and SAs for 2019, the 2018-2022 General Guidelines for Official Statistical Activity (GGOSA), the Council Resolutions, the 2018-2020 European Statistical Programme, the programme of activities within the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and also in compliance with the quality benchmark set out in the Code of Practice for European Statistics and the ESCB Public Commitment in the field of European Statistics.

The 2018-2022 GGOSA, adopted by the Council in 2017, constitutes the strategic reference document for the development of the NSS in general and has been considered in the programming of the Council and SAs activities for 2019.

In 2019, the Council continued to follow with particular attention matters related to:

- the adequacy of human and financial resources allocated to the NSS within budgetary constraints, to safeguard the efficiency and quality of response to national and European statistical obligations;
- the modernisation, development, and consolidation of the NSS in the context of the new technological and methodological challenges for official statistics;
- the reporting of official statistics;
- The institutional and interinstitutional coordination and cooperation within the NSS, to intensify the use of administrative information for statistical purposes and, consequently, the development of new statistical products, reducing the statistical burden and associated costs.

A note of emphasis is the continued recording of significant progress in the performance of the SAs which has been achieved in a context of constraints, in particular as regards the insufficiency of

¹ Statistics Portugal (INE), Banco de Portugal (BdP), Regional Statistical Office of the Azores (SREA) and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM). Also SREA and DREM, when strictly producing regional statistics, and the entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal (pursuant to Law no. 22/2008 of 13 May): Directorate-General of Natural Resources, Marine Resources and Safety Services of the Ministry of Sea (MM), Directorate-General for Energy and Geology of the Ministry of Economy (MEc), Directorate-General of Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (MEd and MCTES), Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice (MJ) and Department for Strategic Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security (MTSSS). Pursuant to article 22 of the NSS, when producing national official statistics, the participation of SREA and DREM, as entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal, must take place.

qualified human resources, with a reflection on the desirable extension of the supply of official statistics and the deepening of other matters relevant to the NSS, both in the activity of some SAs and in the activities of the Council.

The efforts to modernise/ rationalise statistical production and dissemination processes and actions to promote statistical literacy have continued; progress has been consolidated in the quality of official statistics; actions to improve the accessibility and use of statistics have continued to be given high priority; and numerous actions have been developed within the framework of institutional and inter-institutional statistical cooperation, particularly with public administration bodies.

Emphasis is placed on the new Official Statistics Portals of the Banco de Portugal (BdP), the Office for Strategy and Planning of the MTSSS and the Justice Statistics, and new developments in the portals of Statistics Portugal, DREM, and SREA.

It is worth noting the close co-operation between Statistics Portugal and the BdP, which has made it possible to increase consistency between the non-financial and financial components of national accounts, as well as consistency with the balance of payments statistics.

Also, the increased use of administrative data for the production of official statistics, the integration of data into the production of statistical information, and the intensification of the use of more advanced and less costly collection methods have continued to reduce the costs associated with the production of statistical information and the burden on respondents.

Following the NSS Law, the SAs participated in the meetings of the Plenary and of the various sections and sub-structures of the Council. Statistics Portugal and the SREA chaired and vice-chaired, respectively, the Permanent Statistical Coordination Section of the Council, Statistics Portugal chaired the Working Group on Economic and Social Classifications and the BdP chaired the Working Group on the Development of Macroeconomic Statistics and the Working Group on the Competitiveness and Productivity of the Portuguese Economy.

All SAs have submitted methodologies, projects, and/or studies as part of the Council's work.

A. National Statistical System's key activities | 2019

Statistical Council

In 2019, internal reflection within the Council took place in plenary and working group meetings and on the following subjects, among others:

- access to new sources of information and data integration, from a state of play on the developments that took place in the "National Data Infrastructure at Statistics Portugal";
- on the development and implementation of the actions previewed in the GGOSA during 2018;
- within the framework of updating the Action Plans of the Sectoral Sections to coincide temporally with the period of the 2018 - 2022 GGOSA and adjusting the respective work plans;

Conselho Superior de Estatística

- on various subjects which are part of the 2018-2022 GGOSA, under the Sectoral Sections of Economic, Social and Territorial-based Statistics and Working Groups, based on the presentation of methodologies and/or projects by the Statistical Authorities (SAs) but also by the users of official statistics, for a total of 30;
- within the framework of the design and implementation of mechanisms to strengthen the monitoring of compliance with the principles of the NSS in the SAs and the definition of 20 indicators that will make it possible to monitor compliance with these principles on an annual basis;
- in monitoring new developments in the Official Statistics Portals and institutional and inter-institutional cooperation actions developed within the NSS;
- in the context of the involvement of the Council in monitoring the process of methodological changes introduced by the SAs in their statistical operations;
- on indicators of social inequalities in the framework of a Workshop to present the work developed by the specialized Working Group in the areas of health, labour and employment, education, housing and taxation, and income, in which 10 researchers/experts in the areas of analysis participated for discussion and collection of contributions;
- the expert Working Group began to reflect on the definition of the methodology for analysing macroeconomic, sectoral, and microeconomic indicators.

Other relevant actions in the context of the activities carried out in 2019 are also highlighted:

- the approval of the synthesis of the statistical activity of the NSS in 2018.
- the specialised section's assessment of the synthesis of the statistical activity of the NSS in 2020 only at the end of 2019, with recommendations to the plenary, which approved it in early 2020.
- under Article 14 of Law No. 22/2008, the issuing of a favourable opinion, with recommendations, on the draft law establishing the legal framework for institutions engaged in research and development (R&D).
- the adoption for use within the NSS:
 - of the National Classification of Goods and Services 2016 - CNBS/2016;
 - the updating of the Administrative Division Code;
 - the updating of the ISO Alpha 2 - Country Nomenclature Standard.
- the biannual monitoring of the activities of the SAs: punctuality and accessibility to official statistics.
- the follow-up of the evaluation by the SICAE management bodies of the Council's recommendations concerning the Classification of Economic Activities Information System - SICAE.
- The conclusion of the analysis of the basic content and variables to be observed in the Census 2021. At the request of the Working Group on Census 2021 - "Ethnic/Racial Questions" set up by Ministerial Order, the Section issued an opinion on the inclusion of a question on ethnic/racial origin/pertain in the questionnaire for the Census 2021.
- The monitoring of sectoral statistical information systems and subsystems, among others: Social Security, Labour Market, International Migration, Health and Income, and Living Conditions.
- the analysis and favourable assessment of the Synthesis Report on the survey of Information Requirements in the field of labour market statistics.

Conselho Superior de Estatística

- The monitoring of the degree of implementation of the recommendations continued:
 - of the now-extinct Working Group on Health Statistics;
 - of the now-extinct Working Group for the establishment of the Portugal 2020 context/result indicator system.
- In the context of the latter, the five Regional Coordination Commissions presented various perspectives on the "Implementation of Portugal 2020" in their Regions in a session specially dedicated to this subject.

Statistics Portugal

The efficiency, effectiveness, and quality objectives defined for Statistics Portugal under its Evaluation and Accountability Framework (QUAR) for 2019 considered the Mission, Vision, and Established Values statements, continuing the ongoing strategy. The self-assessment of QUAR 2019 reached 115.275% with the attribution of GOOD, having been homologated by the Hierarchy.

The year 2019 continued to be marked by the development of strategic areas in the context of technological innovation, the integration of data from multiple sources for statistical purposes, the improvement of dissemination and communication, and making available higher added value statistical information to the society. It should be noted the continued implementation of the National Data Infrastructure at Statistics Portugal, the certification of the Information Security Management System (ISMS), in the context of the preparation for the exchange of microdata from intra-EU trade, following the Portuguese Standard ISO/IEC 27001:2013 and the IT Security Framework of the European Statistical System. In this context, the Information Security, Statistical Confidentiality and Privacy and Personal Data Protection Policies have been disclosed. The StatsLab space in the Statistics Portugal's website dedicated to the presentation of statistics under development is also highlighted. The use of electronic data collection in business surveys and the intensification of the use of the telephone (CATI) and web (CAWI) collection mode in household surveys remained a strategic line.

Concerning statistical production and dissemination, Statistics Portugal and the EDCs made available 98.8% of the statistical information foreseen in the Activity Plan, 97.1% on schedule or in advance. Statistics Portugal recorded 98.4% on or in advance of the calendar.

The following should also be highlighted:

- The beginning of the collection of the 2019 Agricultural Census, which runs until October 2020.
- Continued preparation of the 2021 Population and Housing Census.
- Quarterly dissemination of statistics on average monthly gross remuneration per employee, using administrative data from the Social Security Monthly Remuneration Declaration.
- Quarterly publication of the results of the Labour Cost Index (new base), using the administrative data from the Monthly Statement of Social Security Remunerations and integrating information from the Contribution List of Caixa Geral de Aposentações' subscribers.

Conselho Superior de Estatística

- Dissemination of the final results of the Living Standards and Income Survey (EU-SILC) 2018, disaggregated by NUTS II.
- Availability of the results of the 2017 Survey on the Financial Situation of households, under the responsibility of Statistics Portugal/Banco de Portugal.
- Information collected from the 2019 National Health Survey.
- Information collected from the Pilot Survey on Security in Public and Private Space.
- Compilation and dissemination of the new National Accounts base, with 2016 as the reference year, with information back to 1995.
- Disclosure of Regional Accounts consistent with the 2016 base of National Accounts.
- Dissemination of the Social Economy Satellite Account for the year 2016 and the results of the 2018 Voluntary Labour Survey.
- Dissemination of the results of the 2018 Social Economy Sector Survey.
- Presentation of provisional 2018 data on Accidents at Work at the seminar "Statistics in the Planning of the Fight against Accidents at Work". [GEP/MTSSS]
- Dissemination of data relating to the Pilot Survey of Special Needs for Education in Higher Education Establishments - characterisation of the educational situation of the student. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- Availability of the "Statistical metadata" website, with concepts, classifications, methodological documents, calendars, and Code of Practice for European Statistics. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- The provision of statistical information on eleven new themes, highlighting two new ways of presenting civil and criminal justice data, entitled "Overview of civil justice" and "Overview of criminal justice". [DGPJ/MJ].
- Implementation of a communication protocol that ensures the automatic transfer of data between the National Republican Guard (GNR) computer application and the Justice Statistics Information System, which will increase the quality and timeliness of the statistical data on recorded crime collected from this entity. [DGPJ/MJ]
- Implementation of new rules for validating data in online surveys of aquaculture production, improving the quality of the information collected. [DGRM/MM]
- Change in the pattern of availability of statistics on retail prices of liquid and gaseous fuels to month (n) +31 days. [DGEG/MAAC].

Banco de Portugal (BdP)

The Banco de Portugal (Portuguese Central Bank), as a national statistical authority, fully met the objectives and deadlines defined in the statistical activity plan for 2019.

It published revised series on government debt, following the new rules defined by Eurostat, and revised series on national financial accounts and external statistics, consistent with the 2016 base of Portuguese national accounts. This work, carried out in close cooperation with Statistics Portugal, has increased consistency between the non-financial and financial components of national accounts, as well as consistency with the balance of payments statistics.

Conselho Superior de Estatística

It launched the new BPstat portal, where statistics on the Portuguese economy and the euro area economy produced by Banco de Portugal and other national and international statistical authorities are released. With a simpler navigation logic, the new BPstat allows users to cross statistical data, build graphs, share information, and access news and infographic contents that facilitate the understanding of the published statistics.

It continued to support various national and international cooperation actions by promoting and participating in seminars, workshops, and conferences. To promote knowledge about the Portuguese economy and increasing levels of statistical literacy, in addition to the regular dissemination of statistical information notes, infographics, and has affirmed its presence in social networks, the BdP also intensified its communication actions with schools, universities, and business associations.

Regional Statistical Office of the Azores (SREA)

The activity carried out by SREA in 2019 was under the objectives defined in the QUAR. With the rates achieved, in 2019 SREA was rated as GOOD performance-wise (183.8%), as a result of exceeding all the objectives defined (268% in the Effectiveness objectives, 139% in the Efficiency objectives, and 105% in the Quality objectives).

As regards the statistical production:

SREA carried out 168 statistical operations in 2019 (103 as Delegation of Statistics Portugal and 65 as SA). The average response rate to surveys conducted in the Region was 92.7% (77.4% of operations had a response rate of 100%), while the rate of telephone interviews achieved was 93.4% (2 percentage points higher than the target set) and in the electronic collection, there was a response rate of 96% (5 p.p. above the target set).

Main projects - Estimation of the entry/exit of goods by sea; Region's foreign trade in the main regional products; Economic Activity Indicator; Private Consumption Indicator; Tourism Indicator; Food Sales Index; Quarterly GDP estimate; Local Housing Survey in two segments: accommodation with 10 and more beds and with less than 10 beds; Preparation of 2016 and 2017 the Satellite Account for the Sea.

In terms of the dissemination:

Publication of the 2015 Tourism Satellite Account and the 2018 Residents Survey on Tourism in the Azores.

In its role as an SA, SREA published 15 publications, of which 8 were annual, 5 monthly, and 2 quarterly, all within the set deadlines, and received 206 requests for statistical information through traditional channels (e-mail, telephone, and face-to-face), having satisfied about 95% of these requests: 83% completely and 12% partially.

In terms of cooperation:

Conselho Superior de Estatística

In 2019, the project Econometric Methods applied to Economic Environment Series (ECO-MAC) was continued, together with DREM and ISTAC (Canary Islands Institute of Statistics, Canary Islands), under the 2014-2020 Territorial Cooperation Programme MAC (Madeira, Azores, Canary Islands).

General information / activities:

In June 2019, the XI SREA Statistical Days on "Consumption in Regional GDP" were held, with the presence of INE, BdP, DREM, ISTAC, and ANACOM.

In the field of statistical literacy, 30 sessions were held in 14 schools in 9 municipalities on 5 of the 9 islands, for about a thousand pupils and 50 teachers.

Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM)

The statistical activity of the DREM carried out during 2019 was focused on statistical production and dissemination, both at national and regional levels.

The final evaluation of the DREM within the framework of the SIADAP-RAM Structure Self-assessment was 110.4% which, in qualitative terms, means an overall GOOD performance. The results achieved were derived from the following contributions: the 117.6% achievement rate in the Effectiveness objectives; 104.5% in the Efficiency objectives and 121.0% in the Quality objectives.

In the area of statistical production:

The DREM was involved in 105 statistical operations, of which 89 were national (84.8% in total) and 16 (15.2%) were exclusively regional.

In statistical operations with collection through a direct interview, the total gross response rate reached 83.5%, with telephone collection set at 82.6% of the total number of interviews possible through this channel. In statistical operations with collection by self-filling, the total gross response rate was 96.4%. Of the total questionnaires received, 94.3% were filled in and sent by electronic means (Webinq).

As a Delegation of Statistics Portugal, the highlight is the start of the 2019 Agricultural Census on the scheduled date, reaching a completion rate of around 15% by the end of 2019 and the continuation of the work inherent in the preparation of the Satellite Account for the Sea.

As an SA, the production of studies on the Extractive Industry, the Agrifood Sector and the Acquisition of Real Estate from Non-Residents in the Autonomous Region of Madeira, the change of the 2011 base to the 2016 base of the Regional Public Administration Accounts and the codification of the Regional Economic Activity Indicator (IRAE) in R, enabling the process of updating that indicator to be automated, are noteworthy.

In the area of statistical dissemination:

In 2019, there was an increase (+4.9%) compared to 2018 in the volume of information published on the DREM internet portal. Of note is the dissemination of new information on Science and Technology and on Banking and Insurance in Região Autónoma da Madeira; the start of the dissemination of the final results of ICOR 2018 for Região Autónoma da Madeira; the restructuring of the annual publication of

Conselho Superior de Estatística

Tourism; and the launch of the first edition of the "Statistical Atlas of Região Autónoma da Madeira", dedicated to Demography and Mortality. The 2nd Regional Statistics Colloquium, dedicated to discussing economic matters, was also held.

The implementation of the Dissemination Plan stood at 99.2%. The regional media followed the dissemination of the DREM, with 508 news items in the region's newspapers (+17.1% than in 2018). The DREM portal was accessed by 18.1 thousand users, responsible for 51.7 thousand sessions, corresponding to 455.3 thousand pages viewed (+15.7% than in the previous year).

Within the scope of promoting Statistical Literacy to the school community, DREM, in 2019, held 5 dissemination/training sessions, of which 2 corresponded to study visits promoted to 2 secondary schools in Funchal, the remaining 3 were directed to 2 higher education institutions in Madeira (ISAL and UMa). In total, 117 students and 6 teachers were involved.

In the context of statistical cooperation:

- The participation of DREM staff in various training and technical meetings held at Statistics Portugal and by videoconference, as well as the active participation in the various Sections of the Council by the Director of the DREM, is noteworthy;
- The international partnership project ECOMAC - Econometric Methods applied to economic conjuncture series, co-funded under the INTERREG MAC 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme, involving SREA, DREM, and ISTAC, continued.

B. Resources

Under the NSS Law, the financial burden of the functioning of the Council was supported by the budget of Statistics Portugal.

For the development of the actions included in their Activity Plans, the SAs relied on the financial means included in their annual budgets and on the human and material resources available for this purpose.

Financial resources

The financial resources allocated to the NSS in 2019 - the functioning of the Council and the statistical activity of the SAs - were as follows:

- Statistical Council – **EUR 267,288**;

Conselho Superior de Estatística

- Statistics Portugal and entities with a delegation of powers – **EUR 35,651,403; 89.5% of which falling under the responsibility of Statistics Portugal²**
- Regional Statistical Office of the Azores - **EUR 1,482,891**
- Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **EUR 1,309,810.**

Human resources

The following human resources have been allocated to the activity of the National Statistical System:

- The **Council Secretariat** consists of **6 persons**, to support the activities of the Council, involving a total of about **280 participants** (Council members and other participants, including in Working Groups).
- The **Statistical Authorities**, for the development of statistical activities carried out in 2019, **had 922.4 staff members**, thus distributed:
 - Statistics Portugal - **623,4³**
 - Banco de Portugal – **87**
 - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **51**
 - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **48**
 - Entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal - **113**

November 2020

² Includes costs related to the activity of the Council. The Asset Accounting approach considers the activity costing method used by Statistics Portugal, which allows the identification of costs by statistical and non-statistical areas reported either by Statistics Portugal or EDCs.

³ Includes the human resources allocated to the Secretariat of the Council.
Number of employees in the 2019 Statistics Portugal's Social Balance: 816.