

DELIBERATION No. 60 OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL

ON THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM 2020

Considering that the scope of action of the Statistical Council (Council) in strategic guidance of the National Statistical System (NSS) 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 2020 reflect the strategic orientations defined for the period 2018-2022, the deliberations of the Council, the European Statistical Programme 2013-2017 extended to 2018-2020, the programme of activities of the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and respect the quality benchmarks set in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the ESCB Public Commitment on European Statistics.

The GGOSA for 2018-2022, adopted by the Council in 2017, constitute the strategic reference document for the development of the NSS in general and has been considered in the programming of the activities of the Council and the SAs for 2020.

Considering that in 2020, due to the epidemiological situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Council and the SAs was significantly affected in terms of work organisation, and it was necessary to introduce adjustments in the functioning and working methods according to the specificities of each of the entities. But, that the capacity to respond to the challenges posed by this extraordinary situation, of organisation, innovation and institutional and inter-institutional articulation and cooperation, was accompanied by the development of new methodologies and the production of new statistical information namely within the scope of the assessment of the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, allowing to affirm the Mission of NSS and the relevance of official statistics.

Considering that Council has continued to follow with particular attention matters relating to:

- The adequacy of the human and financial resources allocated to the NSS to safeguard the efficiency and quality of the 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 facing official statistics;
- the communication of official statistics and institutional and inter-institutional coordination and cooperation within the NSS, with a view to intensifying the use of administrative information for statistical purposes and, consequently, the possibility of developing new statistical products and reducing the statistical burden and associated costs.

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Whereas, although in the exceptionally adverse context of the COVID-19 pandemic and of resource constraints, namely insufficient human resources in number and adequacy of skills, affecting the desirable extension of the supply of official statistics and on the deepening of other matters relevant to the NSS, in 2020 the SAs:

- carried out the planned activities with as little disruption as possible while continuing to make significant progress and develop new statistical information;
- continued the efforts to modernise/rationalise statistical production and dissemination processes and actions to promote statistical literacy;
- consolidated the progress achieved in the quality of official statistics;
- continued to give high priority to actions to improve accessibility and use of statistics;
- numerous actions were developed within the scope of institutional and inter-institutional statistical cooperation, namely with Public Administration bodies;
- the increase in the use of administrative data to produce official statistics, the integration of data from multiple sources in the production of statistical information and the intensification of technological innovation, the use of more advanced collection methods and with lower costs, which continued to allow for the reduction of costs associated with the production of statistical information and the burden on respondents.

Considering that the GGOSA 2018-2022, particularly Goal 1. - "To increase the relevance of official statistics for the appropriate knowledge of reality and to support decision making, ensuring the modernization of production systems, resources and infrastructures, through the adoption of the latest innovations in methodological, scientific and technological areas, safeguarding the constitutionally enshrined fundamental rights, and contributing to the transformation of Information into Knowledge", sets out the following Line of Action: LA 1. Strengthen the appropriation and use of administrative data and data from other available data sources, namely digital, through deepening the cooperation with public and private entities that hold relevant and credible information to produce official statistics, aiming to minimize the burden on citizens and other entities in meeting the needs of the Statistical Authorities".

Considering the following Principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice (2017 edition):

- Principle 2 - "Mandate for data collection and data access" which states that 2.1 "The mandate of statistical authorities to access and collect information from multiple data sources for the development, production and dissemination of official statistics is defined by law"; and 2.4 "Access for statistical purposes to other data, such as data from private databases, is facilitated while ensuring statistical confidentiality and data protection".
- Principle 3 - "Adequacy of resources" which states that "the resources made available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet European Statistics requirements".

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Under Article 3(2) and 13(g) of Law No. 22/2008 of 13 May, **at the plenary meeting on 12 July 2021, the Council**, following a favourable opinion from the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination, **has decided:**

1. **To approve** the Council's 2020 Annual Report;
2. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the Statistical Authorities' annual reports for 2020;
3. **To approve** the Synthesis of Statistical Activity of the 2020 National Statistical System;
4. **To widely disseminate these documents**, namely through an information note to the media.

The Council further recommends:

- I. The areas where statistical authorities have made progress in recent years should continue to be a priority for the National Statistical System.
- II. Efforts to access administrative data and other alternative data sources, including private ones, that may be suitable for use for statistical purposes should continue.
- III. The insufficiency of human resources in number and adequacy of skills in the Statistical Authorities is addressed.

The Council has some concerns about:

- The postponement of the release and/or possible suspension of the "Single Report" under the responsibility of the Office for Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, given that it is the only source of data for the production and analysis of multiple statistical dimensions for monitoring the evolution of the labour market in Portugal. It takes note of and values the work to modernise this instrument that is being carried out by the GEP/MTSSS in articulation with Statistics Portugal;
- The possible postponement of the release of information associated with Simplified Corporate Information (IES) due to its impact on several official statistics concerning enterprises and national accounts;

Hoping that the obstacles will be overcome so that the NSS will continue to have these sources of information, essential to official statistics and which have been pointed out as successful achievements at national and European level.

Lisbon, 16 July 2021

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

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

2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

SYNTHESIS

The Annual Report of the National Statistical System (NSS) 2020 consists of this Synthesis, which highlights the main achievements and results achieved, and the Annual Reports of the Statistical Council (CSE or Council) and the Statistical Authorities (SAs)¹, which provide more detailed information on the activities undertaken.

In 2020, the NSS continued to develop its activity based on the guidelines enshrined in the Work Programs of the Council and the SAs for 2020, the 2018-2022 General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity (GGOSA), the Council Resolutions, the 2013-2017 European Statistical Programme extended to 2018-2020 for the European Statistical System (ESS), the programme of activities prepared within the Statistics Committee of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB) and, furthermore, in compliance with the common ESS quality framework set out in the European Statistics Code of Practice and the ESCB Public Commitment on European Statistics.

The 2018-2022 GGOSA, approved by the Council, constitute the strategic reference document for the development of the NSS in general and were taken into consideration in the programming of the activities of the Council and the SAs for 2020.

In 2020, due to the epidemiological situation resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Council and the SAs was significantly affected in terms of work organisation and adjustments had to be made to the functioning and working methods according to the specificities of each of the entities. However, it is important to recognise the capacity to respond to the challenges posed by this extraordinary situation, of organisation, innovation and institutional and inter-institutional articulation and cooperation. It is noted that this enabled the development of new methodologies and the production

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.

of new statistical information namely within the scope of the evaluation of the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, allowing the assertion of the Mission of the NSS and the relevance of official statistics.

In 2020 the Council continued to closely monitor matters related to:

- the adequacy of the human and financial resources allocated to the NSS within the framework of budgetary constraints, to safeguard the efficiency and quality of the 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 facing official statistics;
- the reporting of official statistics;
- institutional and inter-institutional coordination and cooperation within the NSS, with a view to intensifying the use of administrative information for statistical purposes and, consequently, the possibility of developing new statistical products and reducing the statistical burden and associated costs.

Worth noting the continued record of significant progress in the performance of the SAs, which was achieved in an exceptionally adverse context of the COVID-19 pandemic and resource constraints, particularly with regard to insufficient human resources in number and skills adequacy, with repercussions on the desirable broadening of the supply of official statistics and on the deepening of other relevant matters for the NSS, both under the scope of the activity of some SAs and in the activities of the Council. The efforts to modernise/rationalise the statistical production and dissemination processes and actions to promote statistical literacy continued; the progress achieved in terms of the quality of official statistics was consolidated; high priority continued to be given to actions to improve accessibility and use of statistics; and numerous actions were developed within the scope of institutional and inter-institutional statistical cooperation, namely with Public Administration bodies.

Of note is the close cooperation between Statistics Portugal and Banco de Portugal (BdP), which made it possible to increase consistency between the non-financial and financial components of national accounts.

Associated to the increased use of administrative data to produce official statistics, the integration of data from multiple sources in the production of statistical information and the intensification of technological innovation, the use of more advanced collection methods and with lower costs continued to allow for the reduction of costs associated to the production of statistical information and the burden on respondents.

In compliance with the NSS Law, the SAs participated in the meetings of the Plenary and of the different Sections and sub-structures of the Council. Statistics Portugal and SREA chaired and vice-chair, respectively, the Council's Permanent Statistical Co-ordination Section, 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 Competitiveness and Productivity of the Portuguese Economy.

A. National Statistical System's key activities | 2020

Statistical Council

In 2020 the internal reflection within the Council took place in Plenary and Sections and Working Group meetings on the following matters, among others:

- in connection with the approval of the 2017-2019 NSS State Assessment Report submitted, in accordance with the NSS legislation, at the end of the term of office of the members of the Council.
- in the context of monitoring compliance with 20 indicators for monitoring the Fundamental Principles of the NSS - statistical authority, technical independence, statistical confidentiality, quality, statistical accessibility, and cooperation between SAs.
- as part of a presentation and reflection on the "Statistical Council's 30 years" which completed in April 2020.
- in the access to new sources of information and data integration, developments on new statistics in the StatsLab area and the comparison with similar international experiences, from the situation points on the developments that occurred in the "National Data Infrastructure at Statistics Portugal".
- on the development and realisation of the actions contained in the 2018-2022 GGSOA during 2019.
- on various subjects contained in the 2018-2022 GGSOA, within the Sectoral Sections of economic, social, and territorial-based statistics and Working Groups, based on the presentation of methodologies and/or projects by the SAs, but also by users of official statistics, 14 in total.
- continued reflection on indicators of social inequalities in the areas of health, labour and employment, education, housing and taxation and income and on indicators of competitiveness and productivity of the Portuguese economy.

Other relevant actions in the context of the activities carried out in 2020 should also be highlighted:

- the approval of the synthesis of statistical activity for the NSS in 2021 and approval of the synthesis of statistical activity for the NSS in 2019.
- the adoption for use within the NSS of the updated Administrative Division Code.
- the biannual monitoring of the activities of the SAs: punctuality and accessibility of official statistics.
- Under Statistics Portugal initiative, preparatory aspects regarding the Census 2021 were discussed, particularly considering the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: the existing scenarios were discussed, based on arguments in favour and against keeping the Census in 2021 or, considering the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, postponing the Census 2021 to 2022.
- Statistics Portugal kept the Council informed about the preparatory work and the developments planned for the implementation of the Census 2021.
- Monitoring developments in education and training statistics.
- Monitoring of the degree of implementation of the recommendations has continued:
 - **of the now-extinct Working Group on Health Statistics, through joint information provided by Statistics Portugal and the Ministry of Health, with a view to creating a consistent information system in this area;**

- **of the now-extinct Working Group for the creation of the Portugal 2020 context/outcome indicator system - state of play presented by Statistics Portugal and the Agency for Development and Cohesion.**

Statistics Portugal

The efficiency, effectiveness and quality objectives defined for Statistics Portugal under its Evaluation and Accountability Framework (QUAR) for 2020 considered the established Mission, Vision and Values statements, continuing the ongoing strategy. The self-assessment of QUAR 2020 reached 119.289%, with a proposal for the attribution of GOOD.

In addition to the activities that met the objectives set in the QUAR context and the other developments and activities foreseen in Statistics Portugal's Activity Plan, the year 2020 was marked by the epidemiological situation due to COVID-19, which constituted a challenge for Statistics Portugal's activity in general. During 2020, Statistics Portugal always sought to keep Society informed, executing the activities foreseen in the Activity Plan with the least possible disruption, and simultaneously responding to new needs for statistical information, within the scope of the evaluation of the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. Despite this context, it strengthened the development of strategic areas concerning technological innovation, integration of data from multiple sources for statistical purposes, improvement of dissemination and communication and making available to the society statistical information with greater added value, namely:

- Continuation of the implementation of the National Data Infrastructure at Statistics Portugal (IND), with the aim of intensifying the use and integration of data from various sources for statistical purposes in the production of statistical information (including administrative sources) and to promote inter-institutional articulation actions for the increasing appropriation of new sources of information.
- Availability of statistics under development in the StatsLab space.
- A set of new products was made available, aimed at monitoring the economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, arising from the conducting of new surveys, the integration of new modules and questions in existing surveys, access to new data sources, the integration of new statistical analyses and the creation of new indicators. Of note is the availability of a specific page on the Statistics Portugal website - INE COVID-19 Special.

Statistics Portugal and the EDCs made available 98.4% of the statistical information set out in the Activity Plan, with 94.4% on schedule or ahead of schedule. Statistics Portugal made available 98.8% of the statistical information foreseen in the Activity Plan, with 96.3% on schedule or ahead of schedule.

Also noteworthy:

- Availability of the first (provisional) results of the 2019 Agricultural Census.
- Continuation of the preparation work for the 2021 Population and Housing Census, having carried out the CENSUS 2020 test and the preparation of a Contingency Plan within the scope of the COVID-19 pandemic, which reinforces the strategy of the option to respond via the internet and introduces the

possibility of responding by telephone. It also considers a Public Health Security Protocol under the rules issued by the health authorities.

- The setting up of the Resident Population Base continues.
- Dissemination of the fortnightly COVID-19 press releases: a statistical vision integrating territory and demography", "COVID-19: a territorial reading of the demographic context and socio-economic impact" and "Mortality in Portugal in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic" (deaths per week).
- Release of the results of the 2019 Fertility Survey.
- Dissemination of the results of the 2020 ad hoc module of the Employment Survey on "Accidents at work and work-related health problems".
- Dissemination of the quarterly results of the ad hoc module of the Employment Survey "Working from home".
- Continuation of the quarterly release of a benchmark statistic on average monthly gross earnings per employee, benefiting from the availability of administrative data.
- Release of the results of the 2019 Living Conditions and Income Survey.
- Dissemination of the results of the 2019 National Health Survey, conducted in conjunction with the National Institute of Health Dr. Ricardo Jorge.
- Further development of the Gender dossier.
- Production and dissemination of Income 2018 Statistics at the local level.
- Start of the multi-annual projects "Charter of Social Facilities and Services of General Interest" and "Asymmetry indicators at local and inter-regional level".
- Dissemination of the results of the 2018 Land Use and Occupancy Statistics, from the new Land Use and Occupancy Charter (technical cooperation framework with the Directorate General of the Territory).
- Maintenance and updating of the indicator system to support the context and result monitoring of "Portugal 2020".
- Launch of the COVID-19 Dashboard, which provides information for a territorial reading of the demographic context and the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in Portugal.
- Dissemination of population mobility indicators at NUTS III level, obtained from the Facebook "Data for Good" initiative, within the StatsLab set of activities.
- Release of a new edition of the 2017 Symmetric Input-Output Matrix.
- Publication of the results of the Satellite Account of the Sea (Base 2016) for the three-year period 2016-2018, with results broken down by NUTS I (Mainland and Região Autónoma dos Açores e Região Autónoma da Madeira) for the first time.
- Start of the release of the flash estimate of the Quarterly National Accounts 30 days after the reference period.
- Dissemination of the results of the 2020 Survey to Identify the Need for Qualifications in Enterprises in the StatsLab area through the "What qualifications are companies looking for? - 2020" press release.

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- Dissemination of the results of a new survey conducted with the aim of identifying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the activity of enterprises, "Fast and Exceptional Enterprises Survey" with a weekly and then fortnightly dissemination (in collaboration with BdP).
- Bringing forward the release of the results of the 2019 International Trade Statistics to nine months after the reference period.
- Dissemination of a press release to the Media on the acquisition of real estate by non-residents, which included information for the period 2012-2019.
- Dissemination of monthly flash statistics on air transport, anticipating the previous dissemination on a quarterly basis.
- Beginning of the monthly release of a flash estimate of Tourism Activity statistics, bringing forward by about two weeks the respective regular release;
- Production and dissemination of the estimated arrival of international tourists in 2019.
- Dissemination of a Press Release "Stats E - Study on innovative enterprises", which resulted from combining information from the 2016-2018 Community Innovation Survey with other sources within the business data component of the National Data Infrastructure at Statistics Portugal, namely the System of Integrated Business Accounts, information from lists of staff and the results of the Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Enterprises.
- Dissemination of the 2020 Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Enterprises, with the inclusion of the following topics: electronic invoicing, cloud computing, Big Data, Internet of Things, use of 3D printing and use of Robotics.
- Dissemination of the 2020 Survey on Information and Communication Technology Use by Households which integrated a new set of questions on teleworking and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Dissemination of the results of the 2018 Structure of Earnings Survey. [GEP/MTSSS]
- Dissemination of the second pilot Survey on Special Needs Education in Higher Education Establishments - characterisation of the student's educational situation. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- Bringing forward the release of the results of the 2019 Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Public Administration and the 2019 Survey on the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Municipalities. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- Production and dissemination of flash energy consumption estimates, with the aim of identifying and describing the effects of the pandemic on national energy consumption (consumption of electricity, natural gas, and main oil products). [DGEG/MAAC]
- Bringing forward the date of availability of the Statistics on coal, crude oil and oil products and natural gas, the Monthly Electricity Statistics - Country, the Statistics on retail prices of liquid and gaseous fuels and the Energy Balance. [DGEG/MAAC]
- Broadening of the scope of dissemination of Justice statistics to new areas of interest to society, with the integration in the new consultation system for Justice statistics and availability of statistical information on twelve themes, with four new themes: Justice Professionals, Length of Court Proceedings, Economic Justice and Economic Crime. [DGPJ/MJ]
- Development of a new open data functionality, with the aim of making several sets of data available in the online consultation system for Justice statistics. [DGPJ/MJ]

- Survey of georeferenced information in fisheries and aquaculture with dissemination of information on fisheries, catches by area. [DGRM/MM]

Within the scope of external statistical cooperation at Statistics Portugal, the emphasis should go to the active participation in European structures, in particular those of the ESS, namely in its committee, and intensification of partnerships with Member States and Eurostat, in accordance with the objectives set out in Vision 2020 for the ESS. Also the preparation of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, to be held in the first half of 2021, which included the meetings for transferring the Presidency of the Working Party on Statistics of the Council of the European Union, from the Croatian to the German Presidency, and from the German to the Portuguese Presidency.

Banco de Portugal (BdP)

In 2020, Banco de Portugal (Portuguese Central Bank) maintained and met all the targets and deadlines set in the statistical activity plan for that year. Faced with the context of uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bank sought to boost several initiatives to ensure full compliance with its mission as statistical authority.

In March, the BdP reinforced the articulation with the information providers who anticipated difficulties in guaranteeing the regular reporting of information and found solutions to overcome the problem. This articulation was the basis to ensure the availability of the necessary information to monitor the impacts of the pandemic on the economy and the financial system.

The BdP brought forward the release of balance sheet statistics on monetary financial institutions, interest rates and securities issues and published new information in BPstat on public debt, budget execution, non-financial sector indebtedness and the new preliminary indicator for the travel and tourism item of the balance of payments. In partnership with Statistics Portugal, the BdP participated in the Fast and Exceptional Enterprise Survey (IREE). The evolution of these statistics is now regularly monitored through BPstat's page "Follow the impact of COVID-19 on the Portuguese economy", which presents the evolution, for 2020, of about 30 macroeconomic indicators, including GDP, inflation, public debt and non-financial sector indebtedness.

The BdP also adapted its reporting to the Central Credit Register to accommodate the receipt of granular information on moratoria, which enabled an accurate internal analysis of this reality, important for different functions of the BdP, including advice on public policies in the context of the pandemic and, already in 2021, the public disclosure of statistical series.

The BdP started producing pension fund statistics according to the harmonised methodology for the euro area defined by the European Central Bank.

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With the purpose of disseminating statistical information, the BdP, in partnership with the Directorate General of Education, held two webinars aimed at secondary school economics teachers and, to mark the beginning of the school year, promoted the communication campaign "What can I not do without when going back to school? #myBPstat", seeking to awaken the interest of students and teachers in official statistics and disseminate the new content available in BPstat. In 2020, the BdP also integrated into BPstat the information that was available in the Statistical Bulletin, allowing users to benefit from all the functionalities of the portal.

The BdP continued to support national and international cooperation activities by organising and participating in seminars, workshops and conferences, including the conference "Bridging measurement challenges and analytical needs of external statistics: evolution or revolution?", co-organised with the European Central Bank and the Irving Fisher Committee on Central Bank Statistics.

Regional Statistical Office of the Azores (SREA)

Despite the difficulties posed by the pandemic situation, particularly in terms of information collection, the activity carried out by SREA in 2020 was in accordance with the objectives defined in the QUAR: an overall performance of 107.4%, because of exceeding all the objectives defined (111.2% in the Effectiveness objectives, 104.5% in the Efficiency objectives and 105.4% in the Quality objectives).

In the context of statistical production:

SREA conducted 167 statistical operations in 2020 (101 as a Delegation of Statistics Portugal and 66 as SA).

The average response rate to the surveys conducted in the Region was 91.08% (77.50% of operations had a response rate of 100%), while in the electronic collection there was a response rate of 93.33%.

In terms of the dissemination:

As an SA, SREA published 13 publications, of which 6 annually, 5 monthly and 2 quarterly, all within the set deadlines, and received 206 requests for statistical information through the traditional channels (email, telephone, and in-person), having satisfied about 95% of these requests: 83% completely and 12% partially.

As regards cooperation:

The project on Econometric Methods applied to Economic Conjuncture Series (ECO-MAC) was continued, together with DREM and ISTAC (Instituto Canario de Estatística), under the 2014-2020 MAC Territorial Cooperation Programme.

General information / activities:

Due to the pandemic, it was not possible to hold SREA's annual Statistics Days.

Within the scope of Statistical Literacy and in collaboration with the Regional Directorate of Education, 6 sessions were held aimed at students from primary and secondary schools in the Region.

Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM)

The statistical activity of DREM carried out in 2020 was focused on statistical production and dissemination, both nationally and regionally.

In the context of statistical production:

The DREM was involved in 104 statistical operations, of which 88 were national (84.6% in total) and 16 (15.4%) were exclusively regional.

In the statistical operations with collection using a direct interview, 10.8 thousand interviews were conducted, equivalent to an overall gross response rate of 78.5%. A total of 9.5 thousand responses were recorded in CATI (88.3%) and 305 in CAWI (2.8%). In statistical operations with self-filling, 38.1 thousand questionnaires were registered, of which 32 thousand through the Webinq. The overall response rate was 99.5%.

As a Delegation of Statistics Portugal, the emphasis went to the completion of the 2020 Test of the Census 2021; the conclusion of the work inherent in the preparation of the Satellite Account of the Sea; the closing of the data collection of the 2019 Agricultural Census; and the assumption by DREM of the regional coordination of the Fast and Exceptional Enterprise Survey (COVID-IREE).

As an SA, the production of new retrospective data series and the expansion of others with new information, in the fields of Justice, Meteorology, Local Administration, Construction and Housing and Transport; statistical study on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Região Autónoma da Madeira (RAM), in terms of mortality, health, labour market, prices, local enterprises, etc., re-edited in two other occasions with new information.

In the context of statistical dissemination:

In 2020, there was an increase (+9.0%; +23 occurrences) compared to 2019 in the volume of information disclosed on the DREM internet portal. Of note is the release of the main results obtained for the RAM within the scope of the 2019 Fertility Survey; the release of the first results of the 2019 Agricultural Census; and the release of the first 2016-2017 Sea Satellite Account.

The execution of the DREM Dissemination Plan stood at 98.6%, (95.4% on schedule). In the media there were 593 news items with explicit reference to DREM, +16.7% than in 2019. The DREM internet portal was accessed by 21.8 thousand users, responsible for 57.8 thousand sessions, corresponding to 524.3 thousand page views, +15.2% compared to 2019.

Concerning the promotion of Statistical Literacy among the school community, DREM, in 2020, held 12 dissemination/training sessions, of which 9 corresponded to study visits promoted to 8 secondary schools in Funchal, with the remaining 3 directed to 2 institutions of higher education in RAM (ISAL and UMa) and 1 to a professional school. In total, 286 students and 17 teachers were involved.

In the context of statistical cooperation:

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In terms of National Cooperation, DREM staff participated in various training courses and technical meetings held at Statistics Portugal and by videoconference, and the Director of DREM actively participated in the various Sections of the Council.

In terms of International Statistical Cooperation, the partnership project ECOMAC - Econometric Methods Applied to Economic Situation Series, co-funded under the 2014-2020 INTERREG MAC Cooperation Programme, involving SREA, DREM and ISTAC, continued and the MEDECOAZUL project, dedicated to the blue economy, began with the same participants.

Within the scope of the SIADAP-RAM 1 Structure Self-Assessment, the performance of DREM was 134.4%, which, in qualitative terms, means an overall classification of GOOD in terms of performance.

B. Resources

Under the terms of the NSS Law, the financial costs for the functioning of the Council were borne by the budget of Statistics Portugal.

To carry out the actions included in their respective Activity Plans, the SAs relied on the financial resources included in their respective annual budgets and on the human and material resources available for that purpose.

Financial resources

The financial resources allocated to the NSS in 2020 – the functioning of the Council and the statistical activity of the SAs - were as follows:

- Statistical Council – EUR 248,711;
- Statistics Portugal and entities with delegated powers – **EUR 45.2 million, 92.4% of which under the responsibility of Statistics Portugal²**;
- Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **EUR 1.6 million**;
- Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira – **EUR 1.3 million**.

Human resources

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

- The **Council Secretariat**, made up of **6 people**, supports the Council's activities, which involve a total of around **250 participants** (Council members and other participants, namely in Working Groups).
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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 the EDCs.

- The **Statistical Authorities**, for the development of statistical activities carried out in 2020, **relied on 1,048.6 staff members**, distributed as follows:
 - Statistics Portugal – **757,1³**
 - Banco de Portugal – **87**
 - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores – **51**
 - Regional Directorate of statistics of Madeira – **47**
 - Entities with powers delegated by Statistics Portugal – **107**

July 2021

³ Includes the human resources allocated to the Secretariat of the Council.

Number of employees in the 2020 Statistics Portugal's Social Balance: 602.