

DELIBERATION NO 174 OF THE *CONSELHO SUPERIOR DE ESTATÍSTICA* (STATISTICAL COUNCIL)**ON THE CREATION OF A NEW STATISTICAL AREA ON INFORMATION SOCIETY AND THE SETTING-UP OF A WORKING GROUP WITHIN THE STANDING SECTION OF PLANNING, COORDINATION AND DISSEMINATION**

Whereas the growing acknowledgment of the importance of the «Information Society» as an area and an essential condition for the development of modern societies and the inevitable need to evaluate how it is expressed in Portugal;

Having regard to the steps taken in recent years with the purpose of stimulating debate, reflection and openness in and on Portuguese society in terms of opportunities offered by the new information technologies;

Having also regard to the need for available tools permitting to evaluate the present situation and paths towards the development of the «Information Society» in the national context, with a view to monitoring policy measures to be implemented in this respect;

Whereas, in this context, the high relevance of the proposal submitted by the delegate of the Ministry of Science and Technology with the purpose of creating a new statistical area covering the production of indicators intended to confer visibility on the development and implementation of the different economic and social activities shaping, in general, the concept of «Information Society»;

Whereas, also, the *Linhas Gerais da Actividade Estatística Nacional* (General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity), approved by the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (Statistical Council) (hereinafter referred to as the Council) for the 1998-2002 period, consider as first priority «to create sub-systems responding to new recognised needs, in particular the new services related the development of the *Information Society*,.....»;

Whereas the term «official statistics» established in Deliberation No 118 of the Council of 10 December 1996 is based on the definition according to which official statistics producers shall be: Statistics Portugal, the entities with powers delegated by the latter pursuant to Article 16 of Law No 6/89 of 15 April, the Regional

Statistical Office of the Autonomous Region of Açores, and the Regional Directorate of Statistics of the Autonomous Region of Madeira;

Having also regard to the evaluation needs that, within this scope, have been developed by the Council, namely by its Working Groups and by the Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination;

The Council, at its plenary session of 8 July 1999, decides, within the scope of its powers, the following:

1. **To create a new statistical area on the Information Society, to be integrated in the Work Program of Statistics Portugal and of the entities with delegated powers;**
2. **To set up a «*Grupo de Trabalho para Acompanhamento das Estatísticas da Seceded de Informação*» (Working group for monitoring information society statistics) to operate within the Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination, with the following mandate;**
 - a) Coordination, integration and methodological harmonisation of the statistical data currently collected by the different bodies within the Information Society, and possible presentation of proposals with a view to creating new rating tools;
 - b) Ongoing conceptual and methodological reflection on the production of indicators for the Information Society;
 - c) Presentation of proposals relating to the production of statistical indicators that gauge the socio-economic impact and the level of penetration of the «Information Society» in the Portuguese society; for that purpose, the review and/or incorporation of methodologies will be necessary, reflecting also the country specificities;
 - d) Cooperation with Portuguese representations in international organisations, namely the OECD and EUROSTAT.

3. The **composition** of the Working Group is as follows:
 - Observatory of Science and Technology, **which will chair** the Group
 - Statistics Portugal
 - Labour, Employment and Vocational Training Statistics Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity
 - Institute for data processing of the Ministry of Finance
 - Communications Institute of Portugal
 - Council of Portuguese University Rectors
4. The Working Group may integrate other entities, on a non-permanent basis, or experts on problems deemed relevant for its mandate. The formal invitation shall be addressed by the Vice-Chairperson of the Council, under proposal of the Chairperson of the Working Group.
5. The representatives of the entities involved shall be appointed by the respective members of the Council, or by indication from the competent bodies of each entity in case they do not have a representative in the Council.
6. Within a period of fourth months after appointment of the Working Group representatives, a first report shall be submitted by the Standing Section of Planning, Coordination and Dissemination, with a progress report on the works developed and the schedules of actual proposals for future developments. On that date, the Section will define the term of office of the Working Group.

Lisbon, 15 July 1999

The Vice-Chairman of the Statistical Council, *Carlos Corrêa Gago*

The Executive Secretary of the Statistical Council, *Pedro Jorge Nunes da Silva Dias*