

**DELIBERATION No. 68 OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL**

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM 2023**

Considering the scope of action of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) within the scope of the articulation and strategic orientation of the National Statistical System (NSS).

Considering the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity (LGAEO) for the period 2023-2027 in which the major objectives and challenges of the NSS for that period are defined, as well as the actions considered priorities by the Council, resulting from reflections, analyses, and other work developed within the Council, particularly in the context of the Assessment Report on the State of the NSS 2017-2019.

Whereas it is specifically the Council's task to "*Examine the plan and budget of the statistical activity of the statistical authorities (...)*".

Whereas the Council, as a forum for strategic discussion and collaboration, will continue to have as its objective that the society is provided with official statistical information of quality, current and relevant, and will monitor the new developments and challenges facing the Statistical Authorities (SAs) with the use of new sources of information and data integration, and will keep a special focus on the processes of dissemination and communication of official statistics to users and information providers.

Whereas the activity of the Council and the SAs for 2023 is still defined in a context of some uncertainty and risk that has marked recent years in particular by the constraints related to insufficient human resources in both the number and adequacy of profiles and skills in the SAs, enabling them to pursue their work plans and the new challenges they face in terms of innovation.

Whereas the Statistical Activity Plans of the SAs for 2023 reflect the guidelines contained in the LGAEO 2023-2027, in particular concerning the high priority assigned to actions, which:

- a. Aim to continue to ensure quality statistical production, namely with the continued availability of indicators in the social, financial, economic, and environmental areas, as an indispensable tool for timely and accurate analysis and informed decision-making by economic agents and the sustained assessment of various policies;
- b. Allow meeting, to the extent of available resources and in particular the adequacy of human resources, the growing demand for statistical information, at national, European, and international levels, the innovation and methodological and technological modernization of the statistical process, the development of information security management systems and the improved accessibility and use of official statistics;
- c. Make it possible to meet the challenges posed by the dissemination of official statistics, associated with a strategic communication function oriented to digital media, systematically and continuously

improving access to official statistical information through the innovation of products better suited to the different user needs. Several activities are also planned to promote statistical literacy for various target audiences;

- d. Continue to pay special attention to strengthening institutional and inter-institutional cooperation, namely in conducting specific projects relevant to the National and European Statistical Systems, namely in strengthening the use of administrative sources, taking advantage of alternative data sources, from public and private entities, and integrating new statistical domains.

Considering that the Work Programme of Statistics Portugal and the entities with delegated powers by Statistics Portugal (EDC) for 2023 fit into the strategies defined by the European Statistical System and that almost all the planned statistical activities are obligations assumed by the Portuguese State in the context of the European Union.

Whereas the Banco de Portugal Statistical Work Plan for 2023 seeks to meet the strategic objectives defined at the level of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB).

Also considering the Statistical Authorities' compliance with the respective statistical quality benchmarks: Statistics Portugal, EDC, SREA, and DREM with the principles laid down in the European Statistics Code of Practice; and Banco de Portugal with the principles enshrined in the "Public commitment by the ESCB in the field of European Statistics".

Considering "Principle 3 - Adequacy of resources" of the European Statistics Code of Practice which states that *"the resources made available to statistical authorities are sufficient to meet the requirements of European Statistics"*.

Whereas the activity of the SAs for 2023 is still defined in a context of some uncertainty and risk that has marked recent years in particular by the constraints related to insufficient human resources in terms of the number and adequacy of profiles and skills in the SAs, to enable the implementation of their work plans and the new challenges they face in terms of innovation.

Under the terms provided in articles 3(2) and 13(g) of Law no. 22/2008, of May 13, and in paragraph c) of no. 3 of article 10 of the Rules of Procedure of the statistical Council, **at the plenary meeting of December 16, 2022, the Statistical Council**, after a favourable opinion from the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination, **has decided:**

1. **To approve** the Synthesis of Statistical Activity for the National Statistical System 2023, annexed to this deliberation;
2. **To approve** the Council's Work Plan for 2023;
3. **To issue a favourable opinion** on the Work Programme of the Statistical Authorities for 2023;
4. **To approve** the dissemination of these documents through an information note to the Media;
5. **To recommend to the competent authorities** that the Statistical Authorities be provided with the human resources - in number, profiles, and skills - and financial resources, on time, necessary for the implementation of their Work Programs for 2023, so that their activity is not put at risk.

Lisbon, December 16, 2022

The Vice-Chairman of the Statistical Council, Francisco Lima

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

### 2023 WORK PROGRAMME | NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

#### SYNTHESIS

##### NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

###### Statistical Council (CSE or Council)

**Statistical Authorities (SAs)** under Law No. 22/2008 of May 13

**Statistics Portugal (INE)**

**Banco de Portugal (BdP)**

**Regional Statistical Office of the Azores (SREA)**

**Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM)**

**Entities with delegated powers by Statistics Portugal** (according to Law no. 22/2008 of 13 May):

- Directorate-General of Natural Resources, Marine Resources and Safety Services of the Ministry of Sea (DGRM/MM)
- Directorate-General for Energy and Geology of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Action (DGEG/MAAC)
- Directorate-General of Education and Science Statistics of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (DGEEC/MEd | MCTES)
- Directorate-General for Justice Policy of the Ministry of Justice (DGPJ/MJ)
- Department for Strategic Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security (GEP/MTSSS)

According 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.

The Work Programme of the National Statistical System (NSS) for 2023 consists of this synthesis, which highlights the main objectives and activities to be achieved in 2023, and the Activity Plans of the Council and the Statistical Authorities (SAs), which provide more detailed information in their respective spheres of competence.

The Plans set out the objectives and actions to be taken by these entities, within their national and European frameworks, respectively:

- In the exercise of the competencies established in article 13 of Law no. 22/2008, of May 13, and under the guidelines issued under the terms of no. 2 of article 3 of the same Law through the Deliberations and Recommendations of the Council.
- The General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity (LGAEO) for the period 2023-2027.
- Recommendations from the State of the SEN Evaluation Report (RAESEN) 2017-2019.
- In the strategic guidelines of the European Statistical Programme 2021-2027, established by the Regulation (EU) 2021/690 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021,

establishing the European Programme for the Single Market, and in annex II of this regulation are the main actions in the field of statistics.

- In the statistical activity programmes approved by the European System of Central Banks (ESCB).
- And, also, in compliance with the good practice indicators of the European Statistics Code of Practice and the Public Commitment of the European System of Central Banks in the field of European Statistics.

In 2023, a new five-year strategic cycle begins in national statistical activity, established in the General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity (LGAE0) 2023-2027, approved by the Council, which constitute a strategic reference document for the framing and development of the NSS, with relevant guidelines for the annual programming of the activities of the Council and the SAs.

The Council, as a forum for strategic discussion and collaboration, will continue to have as its objective that society is provided with official statistical information of quality, current and relevant, and will monitor the new developments and challenges facing the SAs with the use of new sources of information and data integration, and will keep a special focus on the processes of dissemination and communication of official statistics to users and information providers.

The activity of the Council and the SAs for 2023 is still defined in a context of some uncertainty and risk that has marked recent years in particular by the constraints related to insufficient human resources in the number and adequacy of profiles and skills in the SAs, to enable the implementation of their work programmes and the new challenges in terms of innovation.

The SAs Work programmes for 2023 establish a set of objectives, which aim to continue to ensure quality statistical production, namely with the continued availability of indicators in the social, financial, economic, and environmental areas, as an indispensable tool for timely and accurate analysis and informed decision-making by economic agents and the sustained assessment of various policies.

In this context, priority will continue to be given, as far as available resources and, in particular, the adequacy of human resources, to meet the growing demand for statistical information, at the national, European, and international levels, to the innovation and methodological and technological modernization of the statistical process, to the development of information security management systems and the improvement of accessibility and use of official statistics.

The dissemination of official statistics, associated with a strategic communication function-oriented to digital media will remain a challenge, systematically and continuously improving access to official statistical information through the innovation of products better suited to the different user needs. Several activities aimed at promoting statistical literacy for various target audiences are also planned.

The SAs will also continue to pay special attention to strengthening institutional and inter-institutional cooperation, namely in conducting specific projects relevant to the National and European Statistical Systems, namely in strengthening the use of administrative sources, taking advantage of alternative data sources, from public and private entities, and integrating new statistical domains.

## **A. Main goals and activities of the Statistical Council for 2023**

### **Goals**

The activity to be carried out by the Council in 2023, should:

- I. Be focused on the implementation of the strategy defined for the next five-year period, consisting essentially of the promotion of reflection actions for the identification and proper implementation of measures that allow the realization of the LGAEO 2023-2027;
- II. Create mechanisms to optimize its organizational model by enhancing its role as a forum for strategic discussion and collaboration;
- III. Continue to monitor the constraints reported by the Statistical Authorities, namely in terms of human resources in the number and adequacy of profiles and skills.

The planning of the Council for the next year is a challenge, and it is not possible to dissociate it from the possible constraints that may arise in the implementation of the planned activities, particularly those that have a direct or indirect intervention of the SAs and the users of official statistics.

### **The following actions and priority areas should be highlighted:**

#### **Global in scope**

- Holding reflection sessions on the initiatives to be developed by the Council, within the scope of its competencies, to identify and adequately implement measures that will enable the concretization of the LGAEO 2023-2027, of global and sectorial scope;
- Approval of the adjustments to the draft bill establishing the NSS Law, approved in 2017 by the Council, so that it reflects the national and European changes that have since occurred in the field of statistics and adapt it to emerging evolutionary trends;
- Monitoring of the SAs' compliance with the NSS Principles in 2022;
- Assessment of the degree of implementation of the LGAEO 2018-2022;
- Definition of a more agile and effective model for monitoring the LGAEO 2023-2027;
- Follow-up on the Recommendations contained in the 2017-2019 SEN State Assessment Report;
- Monitoring the developments of the National Data Infrastructure of statistics Portugal (INE) and raising the awareness of Public Administration entities and private entities, with a view to the use of administrative data for statistical purposes.

#### **By sectors**

- Creation of a Working Group to review the 2014 Typology of Urban Areas and start a reflection on this matter;
- Adjustment of the Sectoral Sections' Action Plans according to the priorities established in the LGAEO 2023-2027;
- Consideration of the final evaluation report of the Census 2021, to be prepared by Statistics Portugal;
- Approval of the final synthesis report of the Census 2021 Monitoring Section (SEAC 2021), to be presented by the Chair of SEAC 2021 to the Plenary;
- Consideration of the Report of the Working Group on Social Inequality Indicators;

- Monitoring the modernization of the "Single Report" that is being carried out by the Office of Strategy and Planning of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security, as a unique source of data for the production and analysis of multiple statistical dimensions for monitoring the evolution of the labour market in Portugal;
- Promotion of actions, together with the competent entities, to take stock of the situation regarding the creation of a file of establishments for use within the SEN;
- Monitoring of the Simplified Business Information (IES), an essential source of information for the development of official statistics;
- Continuation of the presentation by the SAs, of significant innovations, namely methodological, introduced in the statistical production and presentations, by the users of statistical information, studies, and innovative applications of official statistics.

### **B. Main goals of the Statistical Authorities for 2023**

#### **Statistics Portugal (INE) and Entities with Delegated Powers (EDC)**

**In 2023**, the motivation for a more robust National Data Infrastructure (NDI) will be at the top of Statistics Portugal's priorities, with the integration of new data sources. The state of maturity of the NDI will allow, in addition to its increasingly comprehensive integration into the statistical production process, to extend its use for research purposes, in close coordination with the Entities that hold the data.

Projects presented in the context of StatsLab - Statistics in Development, a structure where new statistical products are presented before they acquire their final format and which make use of new statistical processing techniques, will continue to be developed. With an innovative slant, it will seek to gain increasing relevance in the context of new statistical domains, using new data sources, and new statistical technologies and methods.

The Information Security Management System of Statistics Portugal will maintain its path of broadening the scope of certification by ISO 27001.

#### **Among the activities to be carried out by Statistics Portugal in 2023, the following developments in terms of statistical production and dissemination should be highlighted:**

- Availability of the 2021 Census results (XVI General Population Census and VI General Housing Census), including new ways of using the census information, following the release of the definitive results in November 2022.
- Development of the Resident Population Base (BPR) and edition of the BPR 2022.
- Review of the data series of demographic statistics 2011-2020, namely on Emigration and Immigration, Resident Population, and Demographic Summary Indicators.
- Availability of the results of the Survey on the Conditions, Origins, and Paths of the Resident Population in Portugal in 2022.
- Incorporation of statistical information for the observation of gender inequalities in the Gender Dossier.

- Availability of the quarterly and annual results of the Employment Survey and the Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates.
- Availability of the results of the Employment Survey 2022 ad hoc module "Vocational skills" and collection of information from the Employment Survey 2023 regular module "Pensions and labour market participation".
- Statistics on Average Monthly Earnings per Employee are available quarterly.
- Provisional results of the Household Expenditure Survey 2022 are available.
- Availability of the results of the Living Conditions and Income Survey 2023 and the regular Living Conditions and Income Survey 2022 modules on "Health" and "Quality of life".
- Availability of the results of the Adult Education and Training Survey 2022.
- Availability of the annual results of the Hospital Statistics 2022 and the Mortality Statistics by cause of death 2021.
- Availability of the results of the Public and Private Space Safety Survey 2022.
- Continued implementation of the "Territorial Cohesion and Services of General Interest" project in support of the 2021 - 2027 cohesion policy programming cycle.
- National and Regional Accounts results available: final results for 2021 and the provisional version for 2022.
- Availability of General Government accounts within the scope of the Excessive Deficit Procedure.
- Availability of the results of the regular Satellite Accounts, namely in the areas of Tourism, Health, Agriculture, and Environment (preparation of information for the compilation of three new modules - forest accounts, environmental subsidies and similar transfers, and ecosystem accounts).
- Availability of results of the Satellite Account of the Social Economy (2019-2020).
- Continued release of GDP flash estimates 30 days after the reference quarter, detailed data by industry at 60 days, and data by institutional sector at 85 days.
- Availability of the 2022 Management Practices Survey.
- Continuation of the release of the flash estimate of International Trade (30 days after the reference period), responding to the release of the quarterly flash estimate of GDP.
- Availability of results from the Services Export Outlook Survey, in addition to the goods export outlook.
- Availability of information about the Raw Materials and Energy Sources collected in the scope of the Annual Industrial Production Survey.
- Revision of the statistical series (2011-2021) of the Housing Stock Estimates, based on the definitive results of the 2011 Census.
- Beginning of the collection of tourism information based on SiT -- Integrated Tourism Information System, including the extension to new accommodation segments.
- Availability of the results of the Household Information and Communication Technology Use Survey 2023, which includes a specific module on the use of electronic identification and another on privacy and protection of personal information.
- Availability of the results of the Survey on Information and Communication Technology Use in Enterprises 2023, namely regarding the modules *cloud* computing, Artificial Intelligence, invoicing, and data use, sharing, analysis, and trade.



**Among the activities to be carried out by the Entities with Delegated Powers (EDC), the following stand out:**

- Preparation of the Earnings series (since April 2019) from the SS Monthly Remuneration Statements and provision of wage and pension indicators on women and men based on administrative data from the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity, and Social Security. [GEP/MTSSS]
- Continued development of the Education and Science Statistics Portal. [DGEEC/Med | MCTES]
- Conducting the Community Innovation Survey 2022 in conjunction with Statistics Portugal. [DGEEC/MEd | MCTES]
- Launch and implementation of the project of a new platform that integrates official statistics (under the Recovery and Resilience Plan), allowing the strengthening of the analysis of administrative data sources in the area of Justice, broadening the scope of the dissemination of Justice statistics and shortening the deadlines for the availability of statistical information, among other aspects. [DGPJ/MJ]
- Continued strengthening of the quality of official statistics and increasing the efficiency of the statistical production process of the fishery and aquaculture sector through methodological and technological development. [DGRM/MEM | MIH | MAA]
- Continued identification of indicators and needs for periodic information collection aiming at the follow-up and monitoring of the National Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (PNEC 2021-2030) and other European Regulations on energy, such as those concerning the reduction of gas consumption and emergency measures to control energy prices, to allow the European Commission to verify compliance with the established targets. [DGEG/MAAC]

### **Banco de Portugal (BdP)**

**The Statistical Activity programme of Banco de Portugal for 2023** consists of three main objectives that contribute to meeting the Bank's strategic goals defined in its strategic goals for 2021-2025, in the area of its statistical function:

1. Produce quality statistics, based on the efficient use of various sources of information, the application of robust methodologies, and compliance with the highest international standards;
2. Ensure the quality of the statistical department's databases by exploring and implementing innovative, efficient, homogeneous, and secure IT methodologies and solutions;
3. To provide a service of excellence to data users by integrating and sharing internal information and promoting knowledge about the Portuguese economy to society at large.

To achieve these goals, **the BdP sets out four main lines of action for 2023:**

- Ensure the quality of the information used for the production of statistics, through the efficient use of the various sources of information, close articulation with the reporting entities, and compliance with the normative base requirements;
- Use innovative, homogeneous, and secure methodologies and computer solutions that allow: (i) increasing the efficiency of the systems for statistical collection, production, and dissemination, and (ii) reinforcing the sharing and use of available information;

- Promote statistics to society by offering more comprehensive, timely, and granular official statistics and by modernizing the communication strategy;
- Guarantee the training, qualification, and continuous enhancement of human resources, investing in their transversality, diversity, and in forms of collaborative work.

### **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores (SREA)**

**SREA's Work Programme for 2023 is** based on three assumptions:

- To produce official statistics of exclusive interest to the Região Autónoma dos Açores (RAA);
- Act as a delegation of Statistics Portugal, concerning the official statistical production of national scope, where the RAA is included;
- Improve the statistical production and dissemination of official statistics of interest to Azorean users.

**In terms of activities to be carried out**, we most important ones should be:

- To collect and validate data from regional respondents, including providing support in completing the surveys;
- Act as an interlocutor with regional bodies, in the context of national projects;
- Prepare an estimate of the non-financial accounts and the regional government debt under the Excessive Deficit Procedure;
- To disseminate official statistical information;
- To promote statistical literacy in society.

In 2023, the development of studies aiming at the production of new regional statistics is foreseen, namely:

- Price index for agricultural products (first sale);
- Agricultural input price index;
- Feasibility study of a trade and services business cycle indicator for the Azores;
- Study on the Azorean population benefiting from social support;
- Study on Azorean philharmonic societies.

### **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (DREM)**

**The Work Programme of DREM for 2023 is based on the following strategic objectives:**

1. Strengthen the quality of official statistics;
2. Satisfy, with accuracy and timeliness, the needs for statistical information of the Society at large;
3. Contribute to the optimization of the functioning of the SEN.

The strategic objectives will be achieved through **operational objectives**, as follows:

- Consolidate the supply of official statistical information;
- Ensure the execution of the larger sampling operations;
- Promote statistical literacy within the school community and society at large;
- Make official statistical data available on time;

- Achieve high response rates in the different surveys, which ensures the quality of the information to be disclosed;
- Strengthen the appropriation and use of administrative data for statistical purposes;
- To value human resources through better remuneration and training;
- Ensure a high degree of customer satisfaction by providing quality statistical information;
- Progressively integrate regional statistical operations in Statistics Portugal's *Webinq* platform;
- Develop new functionalities concerning the dissemination of data, allowing easier understanding, by the users, of the disseminated statistics.

### **Concerning the 2022 DREM Work Programme, the following activities should be highlighted:**

#### **Concerning the production and dissemination of statistics**

- Expand the supply of official statistical information, essential for a well-founded knowledge of the economic, financial, social, and environmental reality of the Region and the appropriate decision-making, at a public and private level. The main highlights are the regional version of the Sustainable Development Goals and the thematic highlights of the Census 2021;
- To continue to actively participate in national projects carried out under the SEN, strengthening the mechanisms for control and validation of the information collected, to ensure high response rates and data quality. Worthy of note is the completion of the Farm Structure Survey and the Management Practices Survey, in both cases with representative samples for the RAM;
- Ensure the dissemination of official statistics, produced directly or indirectly under its responsibility, according to the Dissemination Calendar announced on the DREM portal;
- Improve communication channels and statistical dissemination, investing in the production of short videos and infographics, making the presence in social networks even more attractive. Work will continue on the redesign of the DREM internet portal and the generalization of dashboards for the different statistical areas.
- To continue to hold statistical dissemination sessions at schools in the region, to raise awareness of the younger population to the importance of statistics and fight statistical illiteracy. It is planned to send to the Regional Secretariat of Education a structured program of statistical literacy sessions, to be lectured in schools in the Region.

#### **In terms of cooperation**

- Maintain and, if possible, increase regional cooperation with some of the regional public administration bodies that hold information that can be converted into statistical data. It is worth highlighting the collection of administrative data from health agencies for the production of statistics on medicines and a regional health satellite account;
- In the context of territorial cooperation, DREM will implement the MEDECOAZUL-MAC project (on the blue economy) in conjunction with its counterparts in the Azores and Canary Islands, under the MAC Territorial Cooperation Program 2014-2020, which should end in 2023;

### **C. Resources**

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

The Statistical Authorities, for the development of the actions included in their Work Programmes, will rely on the financial means provided in their annual budgets and on the human and material resources available for this purpose.

## Financial Resources

The financial resources foreseen for the functioning of the Council and statistical activity of the SAs in 2023, are as follows:

- The forecast of the **Statistical Council's** operating costs for 2023 is EUR 294,346 (supported by Statistics Portugal's budget).
- Concerning **Statistics Portugal**, the execution of its Work Programme will involve a total budgeted cost of EUR 33.126 million.
- **Entities with delegated powers by Statistics Portugal** plan to allocate EUR 7.844 million to statistical activities.
- The **Regional Statistical Office of the Azores** foresees a budget of EUR 1.7 million.
- The **Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira** foresees a budget of EUR 1.7 million.

## Human Resources

The following human resources are expected to be allocated to NSS activities in 2023:

- The **Council Secretariat** consists of **6 people** to support the activities of the Council, which involve a total of about 150 participants (members of the Council, permanent representatives in Sections, and representatives and other participants in Working Groups).
- The **Statistical Authorities**, for the development of statistical activities planned for 2023, expect to involve **984 staff members**, distributed as follows:
  - Statistics Portugal - **687**<sup>1</sup>
  - Entities with powers delegated - **108**
  - Banco de Portugal - **87**
  - Regional Statistical Office of the Azores - **45**
  - Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira - **50**<sup>2</sup>

**December 16, 2022**

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<sup>1</sup> Senior statistical experts, technical assistants, and operational assistants, according to the 2023 staff plan. Includes resources assigned to the activity of the CSE.

<sup>2</sup> 35 interviewers expected.