

## WORK PROGRAM OF THE STATISTICAL COUNCIL – 2009

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The Business Plan of the Statistical Council (hereinafter referred to as the Council) for 2009 is the first Plan put forward in the context of the current Law governing the National Statistical System (NSS) – Law No 22/2008 of 13 May. Thus, its activities will be carried out “**in a context of transition to the implementation of the Law**”.

Hence,

Taking into account the new legal framework, the commitments assumed at the internal and external level by the entities composing the National Statistical System – the Statistical Council and statistical authorities – and also the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity for the 2008-2012 period, **the Statistical Council has set out the following objectives for 2009:**

- *To create appropriate mechanisms to carry out its powers in the context of the new NSS Law.*
- *To enhance its ability to coordinate the NSS, by implementing and optimising earlier Council deliberations and recommendations.*
- *To continue modernising processes associated with its internal organisation.*

The Plan is comprised of four chapters:

- Chapter 1 – Framing and cross-relating the General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity for 2008-2012 with the powers of the Council.
- Chapter 2 – Summary of the Council's objectives and details on new initiatives and initiatives to be developed from the viewpoint of continuity in the work carried forward from the previous Council.
- Chapter 3 – A complement to Chapter 2, with details on activities envisaged within the scope of the whole Council structure.
- Chapter 4 – Presentation of the organisation and functioning of the Council, which involves around 450 people, and of the budget, drafted in a context of fiscal tightening.

Thus, in accordance with the Council's objectives and powers, from among its activities in 2009 stress should be laid, in particular, due to their strategic nature, on **interventions in the following domains:**

- Definition of a new model for the preparation and elaboration of the NSS Statistical Activity Plan and Implementation Report and the respective monitoring methodology.
- Assessment of specific proposals of delegation of powers for the production of official statistics, to be put forward by Statistics Portugal.
- Devising of a strategy for the dissemination of official statistical data within the scope of the NSS.
- Approval and regulation of prior registration rules for statistical questionnaires of statistical authorities and other data collection media that can be used for statistical purposes.
- Approval of the "Situation Assessment Report of the National Statistical System" corresponding to the mandate of Council members for the 2006-2008 period.
- Creation of mechanisms allowing for compliance with the principle of statistical confidentiality and with the provisions of the NSS Law concerning this principle.

**At the operational level,** the Council's activities will be put into practice as follows:

- Adoption of an annual monitoring model of the "General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity" for the 2008-2012 period.
- Setting-out of an Action Plan within the scope of NSS human resources training.
- Monitoring of the Action Plan's implementation, aiming at compliance with cut-off dates for the availability of Portuguese statistics, namely in inventorying administrative sources existing in Portugal and their effective and potential use for statistical purposes.
- Definition of the criteria that must underlie decree-laws to be submitted by the Government to a prior opinion of the Council, pursuant to Article 14 of Law No 22/2008.
- Approval of the Portuguese Classification of Occupations/2009.

Due to the relevant role they play in society in general, the Council will continue to pay special attention to the **development of certain statistical areas**, namely labour market (particularly wage and employment statistics), consumer prices, international trade, education and training, information society, environment, trade and services and national and international migrations, and also territorial statistics.

The continued monitoring of the preparation of the 15<sup>th</sup> General Population Census and 5<sup>th</sup> General Housing Census (**2011 Census**) will make an important contribution to their success.

Monitoring the practical implementation of the **European Statistics Code of Practice** will be a concern for all NSS structures. Hence the relevance of the Council's new powers for compliance with the System's key principles, as envisaged in the law.

At the level of the **Council's internal organisation** and in a context of modernisation and greater operability and efficiency, the following initiatives will take place:

- Definition of Action Plans for each Council Section, of the respective organisation and operation model, as well as a reflection on the respective Working Groups.
- Completion of adjustments relating to the current NSS legislation on the Council's website and of its historical component; use of this communication instrument – as well as others to be defined – in the widespread promotion and dissemination of Council works across the society, seeking to raise its awareness of the importance of statistics.

Therefore, against this background of transition, **in 2009** 2 plenary meetings are forecast to be held, as well as 27 meetings of Standing Sections and Ad hoc Sections and 52 meetings of Working Groups.

Events proposed within the scope of Working Groups and others to be defined by the Council will be decided on by the respective Sections and the Council according to the priorities established and budget availability.