

DELIBERATION NO 1 | 2008 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF TERRITORIAL BASE STATISTICS

ORGANISATION AND OPERATING MODEL

ACTION PLAN

Whereas, in accordance with the powers laid down in Annex E of Deliberation No 2 | 2008 of the Statistical Council, the *Secção Permanente de Estatísticas de Base Territorial* (Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics) carries on its activities at the level of regional and local statistics.

Whereas, pursuant to Article 13(c) of Law No 22/2008 of 13 May, the Statistical Council is entrusted with the power "to approve technical statistical coordination instruments of mandatory use in the production of official statistics, and promote the respective understanding, publication and use, with the possibility of proposing that the Government extends this imperative use to general government".

Whereas the specific powers of statistical authorities as regards the production of official statistics.

Whereas pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the Council, approved by Deliberation No 1 | 2008 of 29 September 2008, a series of mechanisms is established to render more efficient the functioning of the Council's different structures, namely the conduct of restricted plenary sessions and restricted sessions of the Sections, the functioning of sub-groups within working groups and the written procedure.

Whereas the *Secção Permanente de Coordenação Estatística* (Standing Section of Statistical Coordination), in accordance with Deliberation No 2 | 2008 of the Council (Annex B) is entrusted with a series of cross-cutting powers, requiring the optimised functioning of this Section in particular and all Council structures in general.

The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics, at its meeting of 22 April 2009, within the scope of its powers, **decides to approve an ACTION PLAN**, for the organisation of its activities (**Annex I**):

- General initiatives – scope and functioning
- Main lines of action

Lisbon, 22 April 2009

Chairman of the Section, Manuela Proença

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

ACTION PLAN FOR THE ORGANISATION AND FUNCTIONING OF THE SECTION

A. FRAMEWORK

The Section shall be entrusted with – Annex E of Deliberation No 2 | 2008 of the Statistical Council:

- a) Cooperating with the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination in the preparation of the document *Linhas Gerais da Actividade Estatística Oficial* (General Guidelines of Official Statistical Activity);
- b) Monitoring the production of territorial base statistics, namely by assessing its adequacy to user needs;
- c) Monitoring, in strict cooperation with the appropriate Sections, the production of territorial base statistics through the analysis of statistical projects with relevant implications for statistical data at regional and local level;
- d) Issuing an opinion on the adequacy of technical tools for statistical coordination involving regional base statistics;
- e) Developing activities that foster maximum use of administrative data for statistical purposes, in cooperation with the appropriate Sections;
- f) Fostering the employment of existing statistical operations targeted at a maximum use of their potentialities for the enhancement of territorial base statistics;
- g) Monitoring, through national institutional participants, the activities of Committees or Working Groups operating within the European Union and the relevant international bodies regarding its scope of action.

The Section may define further procedures, if the works so warrant.

B. GENERAL INITIATIVES

In the pursuit of its mandate, the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics may adopt a flexible operating model, depending on the objectives and the degree of operability needed. Hence, there may be:

1. Ordinary sessions – on the Section's general functioning within the scope of its mandate.
2. Restricted sessions – for analysing specific issues whose nature and scope only concern part of the entities forming the Section or require a swift and flexible approach.
3. Thematic sessions/debates – for discussing specific subjects.

C. MAIN LINES OF ACTION (within the scope of the Section's powers)

The demand for territorial statistical data has been gaining growing importance.

The increasingly relevant role played by territorialised policies in the national and European policy agenda has been placing further pressure on the supply of such information. At the same time, against a background of increased statistical literacy, the demand for local information by private individuals and organisations has become more prominent. Finally, and in a more comprehensive way, the complexity of economic and social reproduction processes in societies nowadays, namely the growing expression of relationships of interdependence among different economic and social systems, has spatially differentiated effects. These should be monitored in the context of territory sustainability.

The current framework of demand for and pertinence of statistical data broken down at territory level, joined with the unavoidable limitation of resources available to produce such data, require a strong ability to identify priorities, as well as to optimise resources available and avoid redundancies in their production and availability. From this viewpoint, the use of administrative data should be prominent.

The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics, which gathers data producers with the main data users, is an ideal forum for the pursuit of the objectives referred to.

In order to ensure an effective coordination and assessment of territorial statistics made available by the NSS, and of paths to be set out for the development of such data, the initiatives of the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics shall be guided by 3 priority axis defined according to the powers envisaged in its mandate.

1. *To identify and prioritise the needs for statistical data of territorial focus*

- a) The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics is the appropriate forum to identify the needs for territorial information, by assigning them different degrees of priority:
 - i. The Standing Section must prepare diagnoses on territorial statistics that envisage the assessment of available statistical data, as well as the identification of information gaps;
 - ii. These diagnoses may be guided by issues of territorial relevance;
 - iii. Following the diagnoses made, recommendations and the respective priorities shall be put forward to address information gaps, which may be of different types, namely actions to enhance the use of administrative data for statistical purposes, improvements in the utilisation and dissemination of existing information or reinforcement of the regional representativeness for existing statistical projects. The recommendations shall also show the institutional context in which they can be developed.
- b) The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics shall be the structure supporting the construction of statistical instruments deemed necessary to the devising and monitoring of territorial policies, namely the National Strategic Reference Framework for 2007-2013. This should include defining indicator systems for specific issues and tools for analysing spatialised data, among other.

2. To enhance the use of territorial statistical data

- a) The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics, for gathering territorial statistics producers and its main users, is a privileged forum to enhance effective statistical data use. Within this scope, the Section shall promote:
- i. Debates on the adequateness of the available statistical data to specific subjects;
 - ii. Inter-institutional partnerships facilitating access to statistical data and the development of analytical studies for the production of pertinent derived data, namely from geographic information;
 - iii. Initiatives to value the Official Statistics Website as a privileged area to disseminate NSS territorial statistical data.
- b) In order to foster discussions, experts in territorial issues shall be involved in the meetings of the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics.

3. To monitor the development of statistical projects of a markedly territorial nature

- a) The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics shall monitor any changes in statistical projects with relevant implications on regional and local statistics, in strict collaboration with the appropriate Sections:
- i. Presentations shall be promoted on statistical projects of the NSS or other territorial statistics producers;
 - ii. The Secretariat of the Statistical Council, interlinked with statistical authorities, shall inform the Section on any changes in statistical projects, under discussion in other Standing Sections (or associated structures), with an impact on the dissemination of territorial statistics.
- b) The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics shall monitor and/or promote the development of territorial nomenclatures to be approved by the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination.
- c) The Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics shall be a forum for the exchange of information among represented entities, on ongoing projects where the meaning of territorial statistics is relevant, thus contributing to a more integrated and comprehensive understanding of the demand for territorial statistics, namely:
- i. Regional or sectoral projects developed within the framework of each entity's tasks, particularly as regards the monitoring of the National Strategic Reference Framework, in this programming period;
 - ii. Projects of international organisations where entities are represented (e.g. Eurostat and OECD).

D. INITIATIVES FOR ASSESSING NOMENCLATURES AND CLASSIFICATIONS – under sub-paragraph (d) of the mandate and in compliance with Line of Action 3 -(b)

Classifications and nomenclatures involving regional statistics shall be subject to prior assessment by the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics.

The assessment of nomenclatures and classifications in the area referred to shall comply with the following procedures:

1. Where there are structures previously set up for the purpose – Working Groups or Restricted Sessions of the Section – the technical analysis of classifications/nomenclatures shall take place at that level.
2. Prior to their sending to the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination for approval, the final assessment of classifications/nomenclatures is made in person at a meeting of the Standing Section of Territorial Base Statistics.
3. Updates of previously approved classifications/nomenclatures shall be sent to the Section for assessment. This can be made through a written procedure, where determined by the Section.
4. In those cases where the assessment of updates is made through a written procedure:
 - 4.1 Pursuant to the regulations, the Secretariat of the Statistical Council shall be responsible for carrying out the procedural steps inherent in the development of the process;
 - 4.2 The documents – proposal for the update of the classification/nomenclature, reasons for the proposal and draft Recommendation – shall be sent to the Section members, which shall issue an opinion within 10 business days;
 - 4.3 Should any Section member express their opposition, the subject shall be examined in a meeting;
 - 4.4 Should there be no reservations to a favourable assessment of the documents at Section level, the updates of classifications/nomenclatures shall be forwarded by the Secretariat of the Statistical Council to the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination for approval, pursuant to its Deliberation No 4/2008.