

DELIBERATION NO 1 | 2008 OF THE STANDING SECTION OF SOCIAL STATISTICS

ORGANISATION AND OPERATING MODEL OF THE SECTION

ACTION PLAN FOR THE SECTION

Whereas in accordance with the powers laid down in Annex D of Deliberation No 2 | 2008 of the Statistical Council, the *Secção Permanente de Estatísticas Sociais* (Standing Section of Social Statistics) carries on its activities in the following areas of social statistics – education and training, population, science and technology, information society, health, culture, disability and rehabilitation, labour market, employment and wages, and other social and household 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 Statistical 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.

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 Social Statistics, at its meeting of 18 June 2009, within the scope of its powers, decides to approve an ACTION PLAN, for the organisation of its activities (**Annex I**):

- General initiatives.
- Main lines of action.
- Presentation of methodologies and statistical production in the areas of responsibility of the Section.
- Initiatives in the field of technical statistical coordination instruments.

Lisbon, 6 July 2009

Chairman of the Section, Gustavo Cardoso

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

There has been an increment in the collection of data in the field of social statistics. This has contributed to the consolidation of the coverage of more traditional thematic areas such as those relating to the labour market, household income and expenditure, social protection, population estimates and projections. Areas with more recent developments are also included, such as innovation, and knowledge and information society.

The development of the production of social statistics is often associated with specific Eurostat regulations, representing widened consensus on the need to make available comparable data at EU scale.

This increased coverage of data production and availability translates into a significant number of commitments for statistical authorities, likely to be reflected, in turn, in a stable context of production and availability of data for users. While, admittedly, the increment in data supply largely results from the implementation of surveys, particularly to households, there is also a growing and pressing use of administrative data to respond to statistical data needs in a number of areas. In parallel, collection processes have been modernised with recourse to new collection technologies.

However, the demand for social statistical data continues to increase and is extending to emerging areas or areas of growing concern at public policy level, often requiring innovative responses from the methodological viewpoint, particularly when it comes to observing specific populations.

Hence, the social statistics field requires that all statistical producers have more efficient responses that enhance the abilities in place in terms of institutional links, data integration, recourse to state-of-the-art methodologies and intervention modelling, depending on whether it is an area in consolidation or an emerging area.

B. GENERAL INITIATIVES

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

1. At least 4 ordinary sessions for, inter alia, monitoring the methodologies and statistical production referred to in D below.
2. Thematic sessions/other events – for discussing specific subjects.

3. Meetings of the Section Chairperson with the Chairpersons of the Working Groups whenever deemed necessary, with the purpose of speeding up work.
4. Joint meetings with other Council structures.

C. MAIN LINES OF ACTION (pursuant to sub-paragraphs (b), (d), (f) and (g) of the Section mandate)

In order to ensure coordination and assessment of the needs and developments of social statistics produced within the scope of the NSS, the activities of the Standing Section of Social Statistics must be guided by the following priority axes, in accordance with the powers envisaged in its mandate (Annex D of Deliberation No 2 | 2008 of the Statistical Council).

1. To promote initiatives for streamlining procedures in the preparation of social statistics

- a) To promote diagnoses on social statistical data, for identifying gaps and redundancies by thematic sub-system or according to relevant issues;
- b) Following these diagnoses, recommendations shall be presented envisaging the viable methods for their implementation, namely the setting of priorities and entities to be involved in putting recommendations into practice;
- c) To promote inter-institutional links conducive to identifying and studying the feasibility of utilising administrative data for statistical purposes.

2. To monitor developments of statistical projects in the field of social statistics, particularly those associated with emerging areas, data integration and process innovation

- a) To promote the presentation of NSS statistical projects relevant to the structuring of social statistical data;
- b) To promote the presentation of NSS statistical projects envisaging innovation at the level of methodologies and data capture or data integration processes;
- c) To monitor developments in other statistical areas that may converge to an enriched social statistics system, in particular those associated with satellite accounts;
- d) To monitor international developments with an impact on the NSS statistical production, in particular those developed at the level of international organisations where NSS entities are represented.

D. PRESENTATION OF METHODOLOGIES AND STATISTICAL PRODUCTION IN THE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECTION (pursuant to sub-paragraph (b) of the Section mandate)

In order to allow for greater interaction between producers and users, and to ensure greater transparency and a better understanding of these statistical areas, a table is included in **Annex II** with the subjects forecast to be dealt with on the agenda. This regards methodologies and statistical production in the areas of responsibility of the Section, as well as matters whose analysis was requested beforehand.

The table, although also including the presentation of statistical production results, must be understood in a very broad sense, i.e. it focuses less on results than on methodologies and its discussion.

Subjects shall be adjusted according to meetings that may be held and with the advisable demand for homogeneity in agendas.

E. INITIATIVES IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL STATISTICAL COORDINATION INSTRUMENTS (pursuant to sub-paragraphs (c) and (e) of the Section mandate)

I – IMPLEMENTATION OF DELIBERATIONS RELATING TO CONCEPTS FOR STATISTICAL PURPOSES

The assessment of concepts for statistical purposes in the areas of responsibility of the Section is governed by the procedures of the Action Plan of the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination – Deliberation No 4 | 2008.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF DELIBERATIONS RELATING TO NOMENCLATURES AND CLASSIFICATIONS

The assessment of nomenclatures and classifications in the areas referred to is governed by the procedures of the Action Plan of the Standing Section of Statistical Coordination – Deliberation No 4 | 2008.

SUBJECTS/AGENDA
2009 | 2010

Methodologies Statistical production	Statistical authority other member	Year/Month
Social Inequality Indicators (INSEE study) – inclusion in the agenda requested by the representative of Union Confederations, Mr. Fernando Marques	CGTP	
Employment Survey – modernisation of the collection process	Statistics Portugal	2009 – Q4
Migration statistics: implementation of Article 3 of the Regulation on migrations and international protection	Statistics Portugal	
Survey on income and living conditions of households: at-risk-of-poverty and inequality indicators in income distribution	Statistics Portugal	
Data collection module programme (EPSS – European Programme of Social Surveys): Eurostat's three-year household survey programme	Statistics Portugal	
Set of common variables to the group of social surveys (core variables)	Statistics Portugal	
New method of statistical data collection in courts – presentation of a sub-project within the Hermes project	Directorate-General for Justice Policy	2009 – Q4
Modernisation of the employment and labour conditions information system of the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity (Portuguese acronym: MTSS) – single report	Office for Strategy and Planning/MTSS	2009 – Q4
Use of administrative data in education statistics	Statistics and Education Planning Office/ Ministry of Education	2009 – Q4
Links between education and training statistics	Statistics and Education Planning Office/ Ministry of Education	2010 – H1
Absenteeism in enterprises ¹	Office for Strategy and Planning/MTSS	
Survey on income and living conditions of households (widening of the sample). Feasibility study regarding representativeness for the Autonomous Regions ²	Statistics Portugal	

¹ Proposal put forward by the Confederation of Portuguese Industry (feasibility to be analysed jointly with the Office for Strategy and Planning and the Ministry of Labour and Social Solidarity).

² Proposal put forward by the Regional Directorate of Statistics of Madeira (feasibility to be analysed jointly with Statistics Portugal).