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Taking into account the current context both as regards changes to the legal framework and the commitments made internally and externally by the entities comprising the National Statistical System, the following goals are established for 2007 for the *Conselho Superior de Estatística* (the Statistical Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council):

- To develop, where appropriate, studies aimed at a better integration of the National Statistical System.
- To enhance its capacity to coordinate the National Statistical System and the efficiency of its decisions.
- To modernise the processes associated with its internal functioning.

Hence, in accordance with these purposes and based on the powers entrusted to it, the business activities of the Council in 2007 will be specifically marked by interventions in the following areas:

- Monitoring of the **recasting process of the legal system governing the National Statistical System**, whose proposal was approved by the Council in 2006 and subsequently sent to the Government. Until it is approved by Parliament it shall be one of the most relevant tasks of the Council in 2007.
- Assessment of the implementation of the "General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity for the 2003-2007 period" and approval of the "General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity for the 2008-2012 period";
- Analysis of the principles in force in the field of the delegation of powers.
- Monitoring of issues relating to statistical confidentiality at the national and Community level and start of elaboration of a **new Regulation on Statistical Confidentiality**, following approval of the new National Statistical System's Law.

At the operational level the activities of the Council shall be carried on through the following initiatives:

- Implementation of a new **methodology** (approved in 2006) **for the monitoring of the Business Plan of Statistics Portugal** and of the entities intervening in national statistical production.
- **Approval of two Nomenclatures:** the Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities (revision 3) and the National Classification of Occupations 2008, and appraisal of a Decree-Law on the former.
- Monitoring of the **review of the "Typology of Urban Areas"**.
- Follow-up of works targeted at creating a **"Single Statistical Units File"** to be used within the scope of the National Statistical System.

- Monitoring of the use of **administrative data for statistical purposes** in general terms and particularly in the case of agriculture and fishery statistics, following approval of a report of the expert working group.
- Monitoring of the adoption of the **standardised format of the “Methodological Document”**, approved in 2005, **for all statistical operations** of the Statistical System.
- Appraisal of the **dissemination policy** of the National Statistical System.
- Monitoring of issues related to statistical **quality and audit**.

Given their important role, the Council shall pay particular attention to the **development of specific statistical areas** – labour market (in particular statistics on wages), education and training, information society, environment, trade and services and national and international migrations – and also to territorial base statistics.

The early monitoring of the preparation of the 15th Population Census and the 5th General Housing Census (**2011 Censuses**) within the scope of the expert Ad-hoc Section is an important milestone in the performance of the Council in 2007. The preparation of the **2009 General Agricultural Census** will be another operation of reference to be launched in 2007 and which the Council shall closely monitor.

Monitoring the initiatives deemed necessary for the practical implementation of the **European Statistics Code of Practice** will be a particular concern across all structures of the Council.

At the level of the **internal functioning of the Council** and in a context of modernisation and enhanced functionality, the following initiatives shall be pursued:

- Holding of a meeting of Section Chairpersons.
- Pondering on the process of analysis of concepts for statistical purposes.
- Pondering on the model of dissemination of the quarterly national accounts presented by Statistics Portugal.
- Gradual extension of the use of CIRCA (Communication & Information Resource Centre Administrator), which started in 2006, to the various structures of the Council (Plenary Session, Sections and Working Groups), as an instrument for the release of documents circulating at Council level.
- Reformulation of the Council's website through the creation of a sub-website within the Statistics Portugal website, and the consequent regular release of the whole documents produced by the Council.

In 2007 there will be 105 **meetings**, plenary sessions, standing and ad-hoc sections and working groups. Furthermore, **workshops** are also forecast at the level of the Council's working groups in the statistical areas of information society and trade and services, and in other areas to be defined, with the logistical support of the Council Secretariat.

- To assess the degree of implementation of the “General Guidelines of National Statistical Activity for the 2003-2007 period”.
- To implement the new methodology for the quarterly monitoring of the Business Plan of Statistics Portugal and of the entities intervening in national statistical production.
- To appraise the statistical dissemination policy for the National Statistical System, based on a revised document to be presented by Statistics Portugal.
- To approve the Portuguese Classification of Economic Activities (revision 3) and appraise the respective Decree-Law.
- To approve the National Classification of Occupations 2008.
- To monitor the review of the “Typology of Urban Areas”.
- To monitor the exercise of the powers of Statistics Portugal in the field of the certification of public accounts.
- To ponder on the “review policy” of national accounts.
- To monitor the initiatives deemed necessary for the practical implementation of the European Statistics Code of Practice, at the level of all structures of the Council.
- To make maximum use of administrative data for statistical purposes, key to resource saving and to the reduction of the statistical burden on respondents, in particular, and following the Report approved in 2006 in the field of agriculture and fishery statistics.
- To foster the analysis and monitoring of statistical areas relevant to decision-making, in which a few weaknesses prevail in the production of statistical data, namely in the scope of the labour market, in particular statistics on wages.
- To foster and monitor works relating to other statistical areas relevant to decision-making, such as education and training, information society, territorial base statistics, environment, trade and services and national and international migrations.
- To monitor the preparation of the 15th Population Census and the 5th General Housing Census (2011 Censuses) and of the 2009 General Agricultural Census.
- To promote the presentation, at the level of Section or Sections, of methodologies and subjects related to the quality of statistical operations, namely the methodology underlying the calculation of “average life expectancy”.
- To appraise the Statistical Production Procedures Manual, to be presented by Statistics Portugal, and launch its implementation at the National Statistical System level.
- To pursue works to improve a number of procedures relating to the functioning of the Council, namely as regards the internal coordination of the Council, the analysis of concepts for statistical purposes and the pondering on the model for monitoring the release of the quarterly national accounts presented by Statistics Portugal.

- To hold a number of events (in restricted or public sessions) and workshops within the scope of the Council's working groups in the statistical areas of information society and trade and services, with the logistical support of the Council Secretariat.
- To organise internal debates or debates targeted at specific audiences on issues of relevance to the Statistical System, with the purpose of pondering on the major current economic and social problems, in order for the statistical system to meet new demands.
- To create the website of the Council in 2007, integrated in the website of Statistics Portugal, with the purpose of making available the works of the Council.
- To widen the use of CIRCA to the various structures of the Council, as a privileged instrument for the release of working documents.

Reference should also be made to **Other actions to be undertaken** within the scope of the Council's powers:

- To adopt the measures allowing for full compliance with its powers to guide and coordinate the National Statistical System, namely:
 - by implementing and monitoring the recommendations integrating the Situation Assessment Report of the National Statistical System 1999-2001;
 - by monitoring the implementation of the Business Plan of Statistics Portugal and of the entities intervening in national statistical production, namely the commitments integrating the «Action Plan» on statistics deemed necessary to decision-making within the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU);
 - by monitoring the implementation of the Business Plan of the Council;
 - by monitoring, pursuant to Article 24 of the System's Law, legislation that directly or indirectly affects the functioning of the National Statistical System;
 - by prioritising the monitoring of the preparation of the Portuguese (annual and quarterly) national accounts, satellite accounts, the employment survey, the consumer price index and intra-Community trade statistics, both at the level of Sections and expert working groups.
- To improve procedures to monitor deliberations, decisions and recommendations, in cooperation with working groups and other entities, in particular Statistics Portugal, to which most recommendations are addressed.
- To increase the visibility of the works of the Council and simultaneously monitor the results obtained.
- To pursue works aimed at creating a Single Statistical Units File within the scope of the National Statistical System, following works launched in 2005.
- To monitor the implementation of the "Methodological Document" approved in 2005, for all statistical operations of the National Statistical System.

- To monitor issues related to the assessment of the burden on respondents.
- To pursue works involving the analysis, approval and monitoring of concepts for statistical purposes in the different fields of statistical information.
- To continue to monitor nomenclatures and other technical coordination instruments approved by the Council.

Furthermore, the Council shall be represented by its members in the event "ISI 2007", which will take place in Lisbon in August 2007.