Introduction

The *Regional Statistical Yearbooks*, firstly launched in the early nineties, were the key publication regarding the dissemination of statistical data at regional and municipal levels. The 2021 edition continues the new format of dissemination by subchapter, started in the previous year, in the area dedicated to municipalities of the Statistics Portugal Web Portal, allowing a more direct consultation of integrated data for the seven NUTS 2 regions of the country.

The contents are presented in Thematic Folders - Municipalities - Regional Statistical Yearbooks and are organised into four main chapters — *Territory*, *People*, *Economic Activity* and *State* — which are, in turn, analysed in 27 sections. Each section begins with a set of key indicators aiming at giving the user a glance at the position of the different territorial units on each topic. Tables are presented in a bilingual format (Portuguese and English) and with the respective links to the Statistics Portugal's online Database (www.ine.pt), making it possible to access to retrospective data series and to additional information including metadata.

In this edition, it is worth mentioning, in the *People* chapter, the section on **Population**, it was possible to include the results of the 2019 Fertility Survey by NUTS II and urban areas /non-urban areas, based on Classification of urban areas (TIPAU), reinforcing the knowledge about fertility in Portugal. In the *Economic Activity* chapter, in the **Agriculture and Forestry** section, data resulting from the 2019 Agricultural Census was incorporated, making it possible to widen the scope of statistical data on this topic and increasing the number of indicators by municipality. Lastly, in the *State* chapter, in the **Political Participation** section, it is worth mentioning the dissemination of the 2021 local government elections results, a goal that was a possible to accomplish due to a close cooperation with the General Secretariat of Internal Administration.

The 2021 *Regional Statistical Yearbooks* are based on the Common Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS 2013). The Portuguese NUTS 2013 were set out by the regulation (EC) No. 868/2014 and they have been into force within the European and National Statistical System since January 1st, 2015. For the analysis of information according to the intensity of urbanization, TIPAU 2014 was used, which constitutes an exhaustive classification of Portuguese parishes in three categories: predominantly urban area (PUA), medium urban area (MUA) and predominantly rural area (PRA). The territorial administrative division at municipality level – the territorial unit of reference for most of the information presented – is the one set out by the Administrative Division Code of the National Statistical System (NSS) and corresponding delimitation of the country's administrative boundaries according to the Official Administrative Map of Portugal (CAOP) produced by Directorate-General for the Territorial Development (DGT).

The period under analysis may vary as a result of a large variety of sources being used. Nevertheless, the reference year for most of the indicators corresponds to 2020.

Statistics Portugal (INE) wishes to thank all the institutions that have contributed with the timely provision of statistical data to make the *Regional Statistical Yearbooks* possible.

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