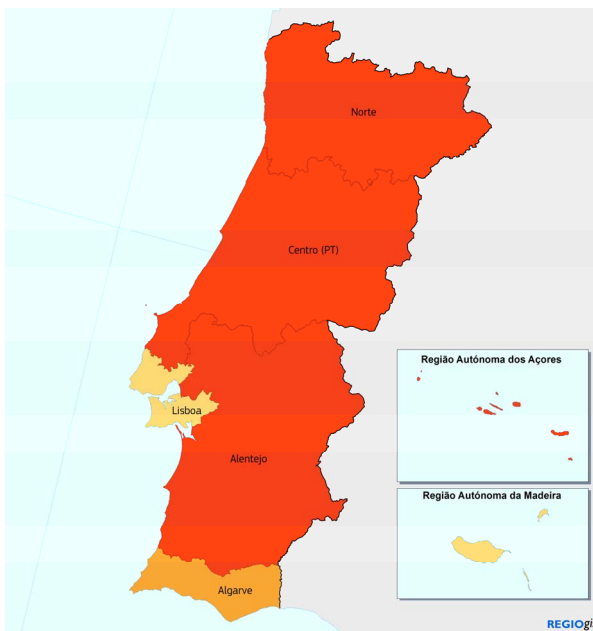


Cohesion Policy and Portugal

In 2014-2020, Portugal will manage **eleven operational programmes** under EU Cohesion Policy. Seven regional operational programmes will receive funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). One operational programme will receive funding from the ERDF, the ESF and the Cohesion Fund. Two operational programmes will receive funding from the ESF. One operational programme will receive funding from the Cohesion Fund.



Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) eligibility 2014-2020

- Less developed regions
(GDP/head < 75 % of EU-27 average)
- Transition regions
(GDP/head between ≥ 75 % and < 90 % of EU-27 average)
- More developed regions
(GDP/head ≥ 90 % of EU-27 average)

How much will the EU invest in Portugal from 2014-2020?

For 2014-2020, Portugal has been allocated around **€ 21.46 billion** (current prices) in total Cohesion Policy funding:

- **€ 16.67 billion** for less developed regions (Norte, Centro, Alentejo and Açores);
- **€ 257.6 million** for transition regions (Algarve);
- **€ 1.28 billion** for more developed regions (Lisboa and Madeira);
- **€ 2.86 billion** through the Cohesion Fund;
- **€ 122.4 million** for European Territorial Cooperation;
- **€ 115.7 million** special allocation for the outermost regions;
- **€ 160.8 million** for the Youth Employment Initiative.

Of this, ESF in Portugal will represent **€ 7.6 billion** which will help redress the social impact of the economic crisis and support a job-rich recovery.

What are the main investment priorities for Portugal?

Priorities for Portugal are set out in a Partnership Agreement with the European Commission. The priorities include:

- Improving entrepreneurship and business innovation – developing the e-economy, and improving SME access to finance and advanced business services;
- Boosting R&D knowledge transfer between academia and businesses, strengthening research and innovation systems in enterprises and developing an innovation-friendly business environment;
- Increasing the economic competitiveness by enhancing the production of tradable goods and services;
- Tackling unemployment, in particular youth unemployment through the Youth Employment Initiative, improving the quality of education and training and a better match with labour market demand, raising the qualifications and skills of the active labour force and preventing early school leaving;
- Poverty reduction through improved access to services and support to the social economy;
- Contributing to the modernisation of the public administration through capacity building and investments in human resources development and e-governance;
- Supporting the shift to a low carbon and resource-efficient economy: energy efficiency and improved management of natural resources.

What results have been achieved so far?

The total allocation from Cohesion Policy funding for the 2007-2013 period was € 21.5 billion.

Since the beginning of the 2007-2013 period, EU Cohesion Policy investments have helped Portugal, among other achievements, to:

- Reinforce flood, fire and other protection systems for the benefit of around 7 million people;
- Invest in over 12 200 companies (12% of which were start-ups and 6% in knowledge intensive and high-tech sectors);
- Improve urban transport systems for the benefit of around 87 000 people;
- Extend access to broadband internet to 34 000 more people;
- Serve an additional 820 000 people through waste water treatment projects.

Through the ESF, since 2007 around 1.1 million people in Portugal participated in certified modular trainings, 1.6 million in skills recognition, validation and certification, and another 1.1 million in continuous training actions. Under the training-action programme, more than 16 000 enterprises and 300 000 trainees were supported. Over 90 000 people participated in actions aiming at social inclusion and development.

A series of measures were adopted in order to respond to Portugal's needs in the context of the economic crisis and to improve the absorption and use of EU cohesion funding:

- An additional amount of around € 516 million from the ERDF and Cohesion Fund has been paid to Portugal as a result of the increase in the co-financing rate (top-up mechanism). This measure reduced the requirements for national co-financing from the national budget by the same amount;
- Cohesion funding has been used to support Portugal's Impulso Jovem Strategy, helping to tackle youth unemployment by providing training for over 100 000 young people and supporting over 2000 actions for self-employment, micro-companies and SMEs;
- From 2011-2013, funding was reprogrammed in order to tackle the impacts of the crisis and improve the employment situation (including a transfer of over € 300 million to the European Social Fund);
- The European Investment Bank provided a framework loan to boost the capacity of Portugal to absorb EU cohesion funding, making € 1.5 billion available to cover co-financing for both public and private beneficiaries.

Cohesion Policy success stories

ERDF projects

- **Science and technology park at the University of Porto**

The [Science and Technology Park at the University of Porto](#) (UPTEC) is striving to become a world reference in its sector by 2020, driving change and reinventing the regional and national economy. In 2013, UPTEC conducted more than 150 initiatives to promote entrepreneurship and business development. It was recognized as one of the 4 best incubators /accelerators in Europe by 'London Web Summit Awards People's Choice', and won the RegioStars Awards in the Smart Growth category in 2013. Companies based at UPTEC created 1 199 highly-qualified jobs (90% of which were for graduates and post graduates who may otherwise have had to travel abroad in search of work).

Total cost: € 22 million (ERDF contribution: € 15.4 million)

- **Multi-municipal waste treatment system in LITORAL CENTRO**

This project has enabled the development of infrastructure for the mechanical and biological [treatment of solid urban waste in Litoral Centro](#), allowing the generation of energy through the use of biogas, and the construction of a new transfer station for urban solid waste. This project covers a geographical area of 36 municipalities (6 700 km²) and benefits a population of 970 000 inhabitants.

Total cost: € 115 million (Cohesion Fund contribution: € 97 million)

ESF projects

- **Training for social inclusion in Lisbon**

The Amadora district of Lisbon is home to many immigrants from former Portuguese colonies seeking a better life in the city. In response to high levels of poverty and unemployment, the cultural association [Moinho da Juventude](#) launched a series of specific training programmes to promote the employment and social inclusion of adults, young people and children from this disadvantaged community. With the help of local businesses this achieved excellent results and some 70% went on into work.

Total cost: € 130 000 (ESF contribution: € 66 150)

Find out more about EU cohesion policy projects in Portugal

For more project examples, as well as links to the complete list of beneficiaries of EU cohesion policy funding, see the following websites:

- [European Commission Regional Policy website](#)
- [European Social Fund website](#)