

promotional brochure

CCDRn
COMISSÃO DE COORDENAÇÃO E
DESENVOLVIMENTO REGIONAL DO NORTE

QREN
QUADRO
DE REFERÊNCIA
ESTRATÉGICO
NACIONAL
PORTUGAL 2007-2013

 **UNIÃO EUROPEIA**
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O NOVO NORTE
PROGRAMA OPERACIONAL
REGIONAL DO NORTE

ONOVO NORTE

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preambule

A new opportunity. A New North!

The new cycle of structural and cohesion funds of the European Union for the 2007-2013 period represents for the North Portugal Region, and its businesses, institutions and citizens, a new opportunity and a great challenge in a more demanding economic and social environment.

It provides the North Portugal Region, under the National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for 2007-2013, via its "Operational Programmes", with an important range of support opportunities. This support aims to develop the region's competitiveness and cohesion, through the valorisation of knowledge and innovation, fostering economic growth, the qualification of the population and the valorisation of their territories and resources, in a context of equal opportunities and increased efficiency and quality of public and private institutions.

The Operational Programmes of the 2007-2013 NSRF provide a new and highly important instrument of strategy, encouragement and support for the structural difficulties and challenges that the North Portugal Region has faced and is still currently facing in the economy, in qualifications or in the territorial conditions underlying its development.

The North Portugal Region, driven by NSRF's structural funds and its diverse Thematic Operational Programmes, along with the "ON.2 - O Novo Norte" Regional Operational Programme, which is profiled herein, will be able to recover its dynamism, achieve greater social and territorial cohesion and once again converge towards Portugal's and the European Union's growth averages.

As a result of the very significant socio-economic changes and anticipating any implementation difficulties due to budget constraints, the structure herein presented arises from the reprogramming to which "ON.2 - O Novo Norte" was submitted in the second semester of 2012 and that was approved by the European Commission in December of that same year.

profile

“ON.2 - O Novo Norte” is the brand and name of the 2007-2013 North Portugal Regional Operational Programme.

It is a financial instrument which supports regional development in the North of Portugal (NUTS II), forming part of the 2007-2013 National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) and of the new cycle of the European Union structural funding for Portugal.

ON.2 is financed entirely by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and constitutes the most significant overall financial allocation for regional operational programmes - EUR 2.7 billion, representing 12.5 per cent of the NSRF budget. It is estimated, with this amount of structural funding, that an investment of approximately EUR 3.2 billion will be achieved for the North Portugal Region by 2013.

Being a financial instrument, ON.2 can also be defined through the strategic contribution it makes towards fostering a sustainable socio-economic and territorial development in the North Portugal Region.

Therefore, this programme, along with other Operational Programmes and financial instruments of which the North Portugal Region is a beneficiary, contributes towards the realisation of the “vision” established in the regional development strategy for North Portugal, over the time horizon to 2015, as stated in the 2007-2013 North Portugal Regional Operational Programme:

“In 2015, The North Portugal Region will be capable of generating a level of production of tradable goods and services that will enable it to resume its path towards convergence with Europe and ensure, in a sustainable manner, increases in income and in employment for the region's population, thereby promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion.”

Accordingly, ON.2 has established the following four strategic priorities:

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1) Competitiveness, Innovation and Knowledge
- 2) Economic Valorisation of Specific Resources
- 3) Enhancement of Regional Areas
- 4) Local and Urban Cohesion

financial structure

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

ON.2 is structured into four “Priority Areas”, corresponding to its strategic priorities (with the addition of one specific area, of an instrumental nature, for technical and financial assistance concerning the implementation of the Operational Programme).

Each Priority Area has a structural fund budget (from ERDF in this case) intended to co-finance the applications submitted to the Management Authority.

Priority Area	ERDF	Relative share
1. Competitiveness, Innovation and Knowledge	EUR 962,002,177	36.1%
2. Economic Valorisation of Specific Resources	EUR 230,406,824	8.7%
3. Enhancement of Regional Areas	EUR 260,814,425	9.8%
4. Local and Urban Cohesion	EUR 1,133,512,510	42.6%
5. Technical Assistance	EUR 74,909,197	2.8%
TOTAL	EUR 2,661,645,133	100%

specific objectives

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND BENEFICIARIES

Subsets of specific objectives have been created out of the ON.2 Priority Areas, with a view to the achievement of the established priorities. These specific objectives, in turn, give rise to the types of action established as the aims by the Operational Programme.

Note: For further details on the type of interventions under the ON.2 Priority Areas, as well as other data, see the “2007-2013 North Portugal Regional Operational Programme”, available on the ON.2 website.

PRIORITY AREA 1 Competitiveness, Innovation and Knowledge

Summary

This Priority Area focuses on the fields of intervention most directly aimed at rearranging the bases of the North Portugal Region's economy and relaunching the international competitiveness of tradable goods and service activities, encompassing, in an articulated manner, dynamics from the traditional specialist sectors as well as dynamics based on new resources concerning the fields of knowledge and qualifications.

ON.2 also obtains financing from the NSRF incentive systems for corporate investment through this Priority Area, focused on micro and small enterprises of the North Portugal Region and, in some cases, on business associations.

Specific Objectives	Examples of Types of Action
· Consolidation of regional public services supporting innovation and promotion of the regional innovation system	· Restructuring and promoting public services and the regional innovation support system
· Support for the creation and consolidation of emerging clusters and technology-based enterprises in sectors that promote interfacing with regional science and technology capacities	· Fostering technology-based entrepreneurship · Promoting support institutions and services for the establishment and consolidation of enterprises · Integrated initiatives to support the creation and consolidation of emerging clusters
· Promotion and development of a network of science and technology parks and of integrated operations concerning spatial planning and business hosting	· Implementation and development of science and technology parks · Integrated business attraction operations
· Recovery, innovation and reinforcement of value chains in specialist sectors	· Technological intensification in companies associated to “traditional business activities” · Technological and non-technological innovation in companies associated to “traditional business activities” · Creation of R&D nuclei in companies · Creation of scholarship systems for postgraduates with projects in strategic sectors · Contracting advanced services of technology and innovation
· Promotion of qualification, employment and employability	· Supporting the internship and training programme integrated in “Impulso Jovem” · Supporting local entrepreneurship and self-employment within “Impulso Jovem” and the “Support Programme for Entrepreneurship and Self-Employment” · Promoting the investment of SMEs supported by QREN · Innovation and management training

Specific Objectives	Examples of Types of Action
· Fostering collective business development initiatives	· Strategic action by business association structures · Professional and integrated management of business parks and business hosting infrastructures · Cooperation networks between companies/sectors · Integrated supply of innovative services · Demonstration initiatives in the new technologies field
· Promoting the digital economy and knowledge society	· Creation and dissemination of online content
· Fostering energy efficiency initiatives	· Energy efficiency pilot projects
· Upgrading e-government systems and improving the relations of businesses and citizens with the local and decentralized public administration	· Upgrading regional, sub-regional and local services · Reinforcing the relations of businesses and citizens with the local and decentralized public administration · Creating management and monitoring tools for the territory, public equipment and infrastructures NOTE: These actions become eligible in the POFC, thus ending that eligibility in ON.2. The ones that have been closed and do not meet the conditions for being transferred, will remain in ON.2
· Promoting institutional capacity building as well as regional and local development	· Promoting projects with a hefty impact on demonstrating regional enhancement · Improving the capacity to intervene of the main public authorities with competence in the field of regional, subregional and local development

Beneficiaries

Companies and entities of the North Portugal Region covered by the Businesses' Investment Incentives of the NSRF.

Direct or indirect services of Central Government, local government and respective associations, metropolitan councils, regional development agencies, other legal persons governed by public or private law and other similar public or private entities.

PRIORITY AREA 2
Economic Valorisation of Specific Resources

Summary

This Priority Area reflects the importance allotted to North Portugal's own resources (cultural, symbolic and distinguishing resources, etc.) In fact, the existence of specific resources is an important element in differentiating regional strategies, and its economic valorisation can generate activities with high competitive potential. This regional strategy component can be of particular relevance for areas less endowed with generic resources.

Specific Objectives

· Economic valorisation of the region's excellent tourism resources

· Economic development of new uses for the sea

· Valorisation of culture and creativity

· Valorisation of new economic activity agglomerations

· Economic valorisation of endogenous resources in low-density areas and diversification of economic activities in rural areas

Examples of Types of Action

· Porto - North Portugal” brand marketing programme
· Investments in support infrastructures for tourism and in initiatives for heritage qualification, restoration and conservation
· Douro Valley tourism development plan

· Sea economics

· Fostering a cluster of creative industries
· Supporting large-scale cultural events

· Valorisation of the competitive base
· Tourism development initiatives

· Rural excellence focal points
· Valorisation and integrated management of local production systems
· Promotion of a minimum standard of services in rural areas

Beneficiaries

Direct or indirect services of Central Government, local government and respective associations, metropolitan councils, regional development agencies, other legal persons governed by public and private law and other similar public or private entities.

PRIORITY AREA 3
Enhancement of Regional Areas

Summary

This Priority Area aims to enhance and qualify the levels of access and quality of provision of the main regional public services, balancing regional priorities with local needs, within a sustainable medium-term perspective. It covers regional networks of environmental valorisation and protection, of sustainability spaces, of culture and heritage or of health.

Specific Objectives	Examples of Types of Action
· Environmental qualification and valorisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Management of the coastline, the water network and its marine resources · Valorisation and management of environmentally critical areas · Optimisation of selective waste collection and sorting · Prevention of natural, technological and health risks <p>NOTE: The actions concerning the “Optimisation of Waste Management”, “Prevention and Management of Natural and Technological Risks - Tangible Actions” and “Rehabilitation of Contaminated Sites and Extractive Areas” become eligible in the POVT, thus ending that eligibility in ON.2</p>
· Qualification of the regional network of sustainability spaces	· Valorisation and integrated management of biodiversity and Rede Natura
· Qualification of Cultural and Heritage regional services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promoting tangible and intangible actions in the cultural area: public libraries, public archives, theatres and movie-theatres, cultural programming networks, cinemas, contemporary art centres · Improving the cultural heritage's safeguarding, valorisation and enlivening conditions
· Qualification of Health regional services	· Qualification or creation of hospital and emergency units, as well as of primary care and public health units

Beneficiaries
 Direct or indirect services of Central Government, local government and respective associations, metropolitan councils, regional development agencies, other legal persons governed by public and private law and other similar public or private entities.

PRIORITY AREA 4

Local and Urban Cohesion

Summary
 This Priority Area focuses mainly on placing people and their communities at the centre of a sustainable strategy for regional development, promoting their well-being, local cohesion and an inclusive society and developing a simultaneously competitive and balanced urban system. The actions to be implemented should also create opportunities for access to minimum levels of public services and fulfil the aspirations of a plural and diverse society.

Specific Objectives	Examples of Types of Action
· Qualification of public services of territorial proximity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Improving quality and efficiency of services in the areas of sewerage, education (from pre-school to lower secondary) and social cohesion (elderly, child and youth care) <p>NOTE: The actions of “The Water Urban Cycle” become eligible in the POVT, thus ending that eligibility in ON.2. On the other hand, there is a full transference of lower secondary schools from the POVT to ON.2, thus ending that eligibility in the POVT.</p>
· Qualification of the urban regional system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promoting integrated actions in priority areas for urban regeneration · Promoting urban networks for competitiveness and innovation · Promoting integrated actions of urban development <p>NOTE: The innovative actions of urban development are no longer eligible in the POVT, thus being transferred to ON.2</p>
· Qualification of transportation and mobility regional services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promoting urban mobility levels, in order to improve transport efficiency and mobility in urban centres · Promoting connectivity levels of the regional urban system <p>NOTE: The “Porto Metropolitan Area Light Rail System” project is transferred from ON.2 to the POVT, as any other project concerning light transportation systems.</p>

Beneficiaries
 Direct or indirect services of Central Government, local government and respective associations, metropolitan councils, regional development agencies, other legal persons governed by public and private law and other similar public or private entities.

PRIORITY AREA 5 Technical Assistance

Summary
 This Area is intended to assist with the costs arising from the implementation and operation of the coordination, management, monitoring, control, evaluation and communication systems, structures and initiatives of the Operational Programme.

Specific Objectives	Examples of Types of Action
· Capacity-building of the Management Authority in order to ensure the effective development of its competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Management, monitoring, control and evaluation · Studies and projects · Purchase and hiring of equipment · Advertising and dissemination · Document editing · Holding Monitoring Committees

Beneficiaries
 The main beneficiary is the Programme's management body (the Management Authority, which encompasses the Administrative Board and the respective technical support structure); nonetheless, other public entities with delegated or direct responsibilities in the management or implementation of the Programme, may likewise be deemed beneficiaries.

finan cing plan

FINANCING PLAN

Priority Area	Community Financing (ERDF)	National Financing	National Public Financing	National Private Financing	Total Financing
1. Competitiveness, Innovation and Knowledge	962.002.177	245.263.129	84.829.796	160.433.333	1.207.265.306
2. Economic Valorisation of Specific Resources	230.406.824	40.660.028	40.660.028	0	271.066.852
3. Enhancement of Regional Areas	260.814.425	46.026.075	46.026.075	0	306.840.500
4. Local and Urban Cohesion	1.133.512.510	208.248.366	199.489.969	8.758.397	1.341.760.876
5. Technical Assistance	74,909,197	13,219,270	13,219,270	0	88,128,467
Total	2.661.645.133	553.416.868	384.225.138	169.191.730	3.215.062.001

Unit:
EURO

incentive systems

BUSINESSES' INCENTIVE SYSTEMS IN ON.2

ON.2 participates, through its Priority Area 1, in the financing of the following North Portugal Businesses' Investment Incentive Systems of the NSRF: "Qualification and Internationalisation of SME", "Innovation" and "Technological Research and Development".

In the strategic focus on competitiveness and development, the support provided by ON.2 to investment by businesses (Micro and small enterprises and, in some cases, business associations), is articulated (in an independent manner) for medium and large enterprises with the credit lines and opportunities of the **Operational Programme for Competitiveness Factors**, as they are organised and channelled through the same systems.

The National Framework of Business Investment Incentive Systems sets out the principle of national coordination, resulting in the existence of a sole and centralised entry point for applications, accessible via the portal at www.novonorte.qren.pt/formularios.

The task of technical assessment and monitoring applications is handed over to public entities (technical bodies) which are legally competent in the areas in question. The Management Authority is responsible for taking the final decision on the approval of financing.

web site

THE ON.2 WEBSITE

The ON.2 website - www.novonorte.qren.pt - provides all the information, links and contacts necessary to access the Operational Programme and its support and co-financing, including those referring to the Business Investment Incentive Systems.

In this context, the ON.2 website provides access to all the fundamental documents vis-à-vis the planning, implementation and management of the Operational Programme, including the Community and national regulations establishing how they function and are executed.

As ON.2's privileged communication and access channel, all invitations to tender will be published on the website - "Invitations to Tender Notices" - , along with all the supporting information, as well as the respective results, through a list containing the beneficiaries, the submitted applications and the approved co-financing amounts.

management

MANAGEMENT: MAIN INNOVATIONS

The Management Authority

The Management Authority of ON.2 is chaired by its Manager, who is, by inherency of roles, the Chairman of the North Portugal Regional Development and Coordination Committee. The Management Authority is composed of an Administrative Committee, on which the Manager and four members (two executive members) sit. The Manager chairs this Committee, which also has a Technical Secretary.

Its tasks include the management, internal control, evaluation and communication of the Operational Programme for which it is responsible.

The governance of “ON.2 - O Novo Norte” comprises a Political Steering body (the Ministerial Coordinating Committee for Mainland Regional Operational Programmes), a Northern Region Strategic Counselling body (Observatory of Regional Dynamics), a supervisory body (the Monitoring Committee) and a managerial body (the Management Authority).

Application Procedures

One of the innovations of the NSRF mirrored in the management of ON.2 relates to the adoption of the principle of holding tendering processes for the presentation, analysis and approval of applications in the different fields of intervention of the Operational Programme.

In practical terms, submitting an application and its processing are subject to compliance with the terms and time limits established in the “Invitation to Tender Notices” that are approved and published by the Management Authority, besides being required to comply with the regulations applicable at that time. Those “Notices” also specify the type of operations encompassed, the admission and acceptance conditions vis-à-vis beneficiaries and operations, the selection criteria and the calculation methodology used to evaluate their merit, as well as other details.

All “Invitation to Tender Notices” and respective support documents are published on the ON.2 website.

A single-fund though flexible programme

The European Community has determined that each operational programme in the 2007-2013 NSRF is only financially supported by one structural fund (ERDF or ESF). Therefore, ON.2 is exclusively financed by the ERDF. Nevertheless, the operational programmes, as is also the case of ON.2, have a flexibility mechanism available which allows each one of the structural funds to co-finance investments and development initiatives enshrined under the intervention umbrella of the other structural fund, up to a limit of 10% of the financial allocations made per Priority Area.

The Incentive Systems in ON.2 - O Novo Norte

A regional operational programme will finance, for the first time to such a significant extent, business investment incentive systems, specifically aimed at the “Qualification and Internationalisation of SME”, “Innovation” and “Technological Research and Development” objectives. ON.2 will ensure, through its Priority Area 1, the feasible financing of these Business Investment Incentive Systems (micro and small enterprises) in the North Portugal Region. In parallel, the Operational Programme for Competitiveness Factors will finance the incentive systems when intended for medium and large enterprises.

Variable co-payment rates defined by regulation

The co-payment (co-financing) rates of the operations (project or coherent group of projects) that may be approved under ON.2 will be established and governed by standards related to the type of project, selection criteria and merit assessment. Supplementary loading may be applied in some cases. In relation to ON.2, the maximum co-payment rate will vary between the field of investment and project types, in compliance with the established rules, and may even attain the limit of 85% in certain cases.

Greater vocation for support to supra-municipal and integrated regional intervention

The focus in the context of the general NSRF guidelines and regional development priorities set forth through ON.2 will be on supporting and financing interventions on a supra-municipal or integrated regional scale, provided with a strategic content in accordance with the priorities and principles defined in the Programme, their sustainability and any structural impact in their scope of application.

A focus on the Lisbon Strategy (Earmarking)

In compliance with the NSRF guidelines, ON.2 should allocate at least 60 percent of its financial resources to the objectives established in the **Lisbon Strategy**, which are related in particular to raising regions' competitiveness and creating jobs. These themes currently account for 73 percent of ON.2's budget.

find out more

FIND OUT MORE

ON.2 undertakes to develop actions and communication channels vis-à-vis its potential beneficiaries, through which it intends to guarantee as clear a response as possible to the information requests it receives.

General contacts and requests for clarification

Telephone line (exclusive for ON.2): + 351 22 609 07 13
Operating on working days from 10:00 to 12:00 and from 15:00 to 17:00

Email: novonorte@ccdr-n.pt

URL: www.novonorte.qren.pt

useful links

USEFUL LINKS

Links to NSRF and to Operational Programmes aimed at the North Portugal Region

National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF)	www.qren.pt
ON.2- O Novo Norte (North Portugal Regional Operational Programme)	www.novonorte.qren.pt
Operational Programme for Competitiveness Factors	www.pofc.qren.pt
Territorial Enhancement Operational Programme	www.povt.qren.pt
Human Potential Operational Programme	www.poph.qren.pt

Links to other relevant institutions and to Cooperation Operational Programmes

European Union	www.europa.eu
North Regional Coordination and Development Commission	www.ccdr-n.pt
Lisbon Strategy	www.estrategiadelisboa.pt
Financial Institute for Regional Development (IFDR)	www.ifdr.pt
Institute for the Management of the European Social Fund (IGFSE)	www.igfse.pt
INTERREG IVC	www.interreg4c.net
Jessica Holding Fund Portugal	http://www.fundojessicaportugal.org/
Technological Plan	www.planotecnologico.pt
Atlantic Area Transnational Cooperation Operational Programme	www.coop-atlantico.com
South-West Europe Transnational Cooperation Operational Programme	www.interreg-sudoe.org

Links to Technical Bodies

Agência de Inovação (AdI) [Innovation Agency]	www.adi.pt
Agência para o Investimento e Comércio Externo em Portugal (AICEP) [Portugal Business Development Agency]	www.investinportugal.pt
Instituto de Apoio às Pequenas e Médias Empresas e ao Investimento (IAPMEI) [Institute to Support Small and Medium-size Enterprises and Investment]	www.iapmei.pt
Instituto de Turismo de Portugal [Portugal Tourism Institute]	www.iturismo.pt

acronyms and concepts

Acronyms

ERDF - European Regional Development Fund

ESF - European Social Fund

EU - European Union

NSRF - National Strategic Reference Framework

NUTS - Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics

ON.2 - North Portugal Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013

R&D - Research and Development

SME - Small and Medium-size Enterprises

Concepts*

Application - Formal request for public financial support (national and/or Community) made by the beneficiary to the manager of an operational programme, with the aim of guaranteeing the performance of projects eligible for financing under the OP. The application is formalised by filling in a standard form, which can be in electronic format, and which describes the operation to be financed, its objectives, its sustainability, the performance schedule and financial programming - and contains any other documents required for the analysis of the process.

Co-financing - The portion of the eligible expenditure or eligible public expenditure financed by Community funds.

Intermediary - Any public or private body or service with which the Management Authority has concluded a contract for the delegation of competences and which can play its role, on behalf of that authority, in relations with beneficiaries implementing operations.

Management Authority - National, regional or local public authority, or a public or private organism, designated by the Member State to manage the operational programme, thus being responsible for its effectiveness and correct management and performance.

Management Bodies - Entities that ensure the launch of invitations to tender processes, the final decision on the granting of incentives, their control and their financing.

Operation - A project or group of coherent projects selected by the Management Authority, or under its responsibility, according to the selection criteria established by the Monitoring Committee, and performed by one or more beneficiaries, permitting the achievement of the relevant Priority Area's objectives.

Specific Regulation - A set of rules applicable to an Operational Programme, a priority area or a category of investments, which must be complied with by the respective Management Authority, by the intermediaries and by the beneficiaries and which is approved by the respective Ministerial Coordinating Committee.

Technical Bodies - Entities that guarantee the analysis of projects, the contracting of incentives and the control and monitoring of their performance, as well as the liaison with the promoter.

* Information taken and adapted from www.qren.pt website.