

promotional brochure

CCDRn
COMISSÃO DE COORDENAÇÃO E
DESENVOLVIMENTO REGIONAL DO NORTE

QR
QUADRO
DE REFERÊNCIA
ESTRATÉGICO
NACIONAL
PORTUGAL 2007-2013

 UNIÃO EUROPEIA
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 ON.2

O NOVO NORTE
PROGRAMA OPERACIONAL
REGIONAL DO NORTE

ONOVO NORTE

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prea mbule

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 the increased efficiency and quality of public and private institutions.

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

The North Portugal Region, driven by the structural funds and by the diverse NSRF Thematic Operational Programmes as well as 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.

January 2008

profile

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

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 the new cycle of the European Union structural funding for Portugal.

ON.2 is financed entirely by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), and it constitutes the most significant overall financial allocation for regional operating programmes - EUR 2.7 billion, representing 12.5 per cent of the NSRF budget. It is estimated, with this amount of structural funding, that approximately EUR 4.25 billion in investment will be achieved for the North Portugal Region by 2013.

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

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

“The North Portugal Region in 2015 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 five strategic priorities:

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- 1) Competitiveness, Innovation and Knowledge
- 2) Economic Valorisation of Specific Resources
- 3) Environmental and Territorial Enhancement and Improvement
- 4) Improvement of the Urban System
- 5) Governance and Institutional Capacity Building

financial structure

FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

ON.2 is structured into six "Priority Areas", corresponding to their strategic priorities (with the addition of one specific area, which is instrumental in nature, for technical and financial assistance concerning the implementation of the Operational Programme).

Each Priority Area possess 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 786.645 million	29,01%
2. Economic Valorisation of Specific Resources	EUR 280.000 million	10,33%
3. Environmental and Territorial Valorisation and Improvement	EUR 770.000 million	28,40%
4. Improvement of the Urban System	EUR 645.000 million	23,79%
5. Governance and Institutional Capacity Building	EUR 141.872 million	5,23%
6. Technical Assistance	EUR 88.129 million	3,25%
TOTAL	EUR 2.771.645 million	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 "North Portugal Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013", 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 services activities, encompassing, in an articulated manner, dynamics from the traditional specialist sectors as well as the dynamics based on new resources existing in the knowledge and qualifications fields.

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

Specific Objectives

- Consolidation of regional public services supporting innovation and promotion of the regional innovation 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
- Promotion and development of a network of science and technology parks and integrated operations concerning spatial planning and attracting businesses
- Recovery, innovation and reinforcement of value chains in specialist sectors
- Fostering collective business development initiatives
- Promoting the digital economy and knowledge society
- Fostering energy efficiency initiatives

Examples of Types of Action

- Restructuring and promotion of public services and the regional innovation support system
- 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
- Implementation and development of science and technology parks
- Integrated business attraction operations
- Technological and non-technological innovation in companies associated to "traditional business activities"
- Creation of R&D nuclei in companies
- Contracting advanced services
- Strategic action by business association structures
- Cooperation networks between companies/sectors
- Integrated supply of innovative services
- Demonstration initiatives in the new technologies field
- Creation and dissemination of online content
- Pilot energy efficiency projects

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 and 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.). Accordingly, 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 under-abundant in 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
- Douro Valley tourism development plan
- Sea economics
- Fostering a cluster of creative industries
- Support to the organisation of 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

Environmental and Territorial Valorisation and Improvement

Summary

This Priority Area aims to foster the integrated development of sustainable communities in environmental terms and from an inter-generational perspective, notably through environmental restructuring and valorisation actions, the active management of the Natura Network and biodiversity and the improvement of local public services.

Specific Objectives

- Environmental valorisation and improvement
- Active management of the Natura Network and biodiversity
- Improvement to local public services

Examples of Types of Action

- Management of the coastline, the water network and marine resources
- Valorisation and management of environmentally critical areas
- Optimisation of selective waste collection and sorting
- Prevention of natural, technological and health risks
- Valorisation and integrated management of the Natura Network and biodiversity
- Urban water cycle
- Restructuring of the level-one primary school network and of pre-school education
- Healthcare
- Cultural heritage and networks of cultural infrastructures
- Quality of life/leisure/sport
- Social development initiatives

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 Improvement of the Urban System

Summary

This Priority Area focuses on the cities and urban systems as the main support for organising the activities of people, businesses and other institutions, with the intention of obtaining better levels of competitiveness from a regional, national and European perspective. It aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the urban system, fostering improvements and the inter-connection of the North Portugal Region's urban network as a catalyser of regional competitiveness.

Specific Objectives

· Promotion of urban excellence and competitiveness and innovation networks

· Promotion of integrated operations in urban regeneration priority areas

· Promotion of urban mobility

· Promotion of connectivity within the regional urban system

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.

Examples of Types of Action

· Urban networks for competitiveness and innovation

· Valorisation of thematic vocation of cities and city networks

· Integrated economic valorisation operations

· Integrated urban regeneration operations

· Urban and suburban transport systems

· Urban centre road bypasses

· Improvement to the public transport system

· Elimination of black-spots

· Sustainable urban mobility plans

· Action in the logistics and micro-logistics fields

· Improvement to the service levels of supplementary roads and network of national and municipal roads

· Structural work on railways

· Structural work on river ports and navigable waterways

· Pilot initiatives for the integrated valorisation of the public transport system and network in rural areas

PRIORITY AREA 5 Governance and Institutional Capacity Building

Summary

This Priority Area intends to foster governance and institutional capacity building, thus contributing in a primarily instrumental manner to the modernisation of the institutional framework supporting regional and local development. In this context, e-government is promoted as an instrument at the service of reorganisation processes in decentralised and municipal public services.

Specific Objectives

- Modernisation of e-government and improvement to relations of businesses and citizens with the local government and decentralised Public Administration

- Promotion of institutional capacity-building and regional and local development

Examples of Types of Action

- Modernisation, improvement to efficiency and articulation of regional, sub-regional and local services

- Strengthening the mechanisms and structures facilitating the relations of local government and the decentralised Public Administration with businesses and citizens

- Territorial management and monitoring instruments

- Innovative projects and initiatives with a hefty impact demonstrating regional and local valorisation

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 6 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

- Capacity-building of the Management Authority in order to ensure the effective development of its competences

Examples of Types of Action

- Management, monitoring, control and evaluation

- Studies and projects

- Equipment acquisition and hire

- 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	Unit: EURO
1. Competitiveness, Innovation and Knowledge	786.645.133	661.614.905	247.317.023	414.297.882	1.448.260.038	
2. Economic Valorisation of Specific Resources	280.000.000	134.814.815	101.111.111	33.703.704	414.814.815	
3. Environmental and Territorial Valorisation and Improvement	770.000.000	330.000.000	282.857.143	47.142.857	1.100.000.000	
4. Improvement of the Urban System	645.000.000	347.307.692	260.480.769	86.826.923	992.307.692	
5. Governance and Institutional Capacity-Building	141.871.534	53.813.340	45.741.339	8.072.001	195.684.874	
6. Technical Assistance	88.128.466	15.552.082	15.552.082	0	103.680.548	
Total	2.711.645.133	1.543.102.834	953.059.467	590.043.367	4.254.747.967	

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.incentivos.qren.pt.

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

WEBSITE ON.2

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 regarding planning, implementation and management of the Operational Programme, including the Community and national regulations establishing how they function and are executed.

The English version of the website has also a compilation of the news headlines as well as the contacts of the ON.2 Executive Committee.

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 Executive 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 management 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 70 percent of the ON.2 budget.

find
out
more

FIND OUT MORE

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

General contacts and requests for clarification

Telephone line: + 351 22 608 63 55

E-mail: 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
Businesses' Investment Incentive System	www.incentivos.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
Instituto Financeiro para o Desenvolvimento Regional, IP (IFDR)	www.ifdr.pt
Instituto de Gestão do Fundo Social Europeu, IP (IGFSE)	www.igfse.pt
INTERREG IVC	www.interreg4c.net
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	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, and is thus responsible for the effectiveness and correct management and performance.

Management Bodies - Entities that ensure the launch of invitation 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 the www.qren.pt and www.incentivos.qren.pt websites.