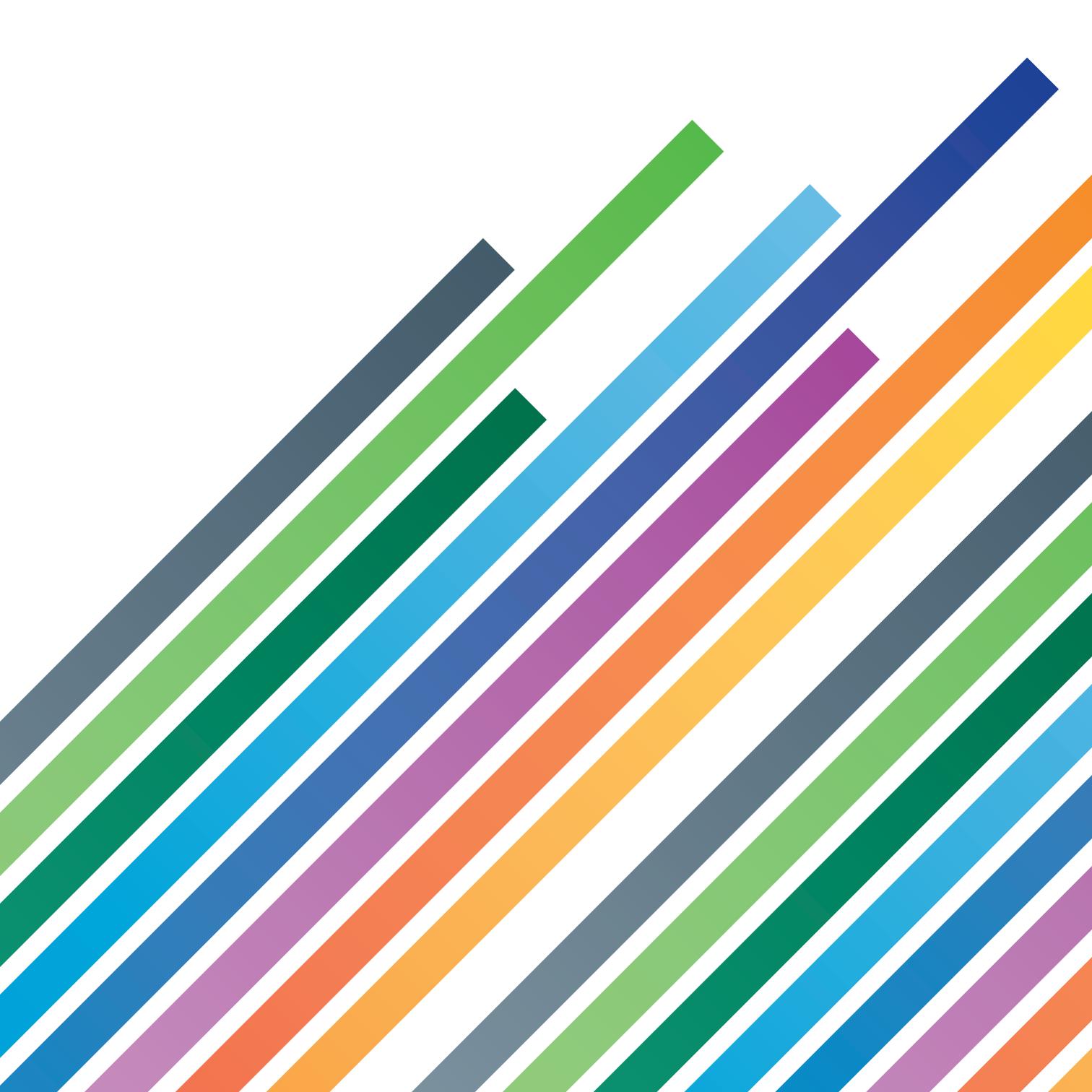


SYNTHESIS OF PROGRAMME





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INTRODUCTION

NORTE 2020 (2014-2020 North Portugal Regional Operational Programme) is a financial instrument intended to support regional development in North Portugal, which is part of the PORTUGAL 2020 Partnership Agreement and of the current cycle of structural funds provided by the European Union.

Under the management of the North Portugal Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-N), NORTE 2020 stands as an important contribution to the regional development strategy, based on a dual path of convergence with the European and national averages. Given the paradigm of the European cohesion policy, which channels most of the funds to less competitive regions, the allocation for NORTE 2020, of 3.4 billion euros, is the most relevant among regional operational programmes.

This financial envelope is complemented by other thematic operational programmes and financial instruments of which the North Portugal Region is a beneficiary, with the aim of materialising the vision of the regional development strategy planned in NORTE 2020:

“In 2020, the North Portugal Region will be able to generate a level of production of tradable goods and services that allows resuming the convergence trend towards the European level, ensuring sustainable increases in the population's income and employment levels and thus promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion”.

F S

FUNDING
STRUCTURE

NORTE 2020 is organised into nine Priority Axes, plus an axis related to the financial aid and technical assistance required to implement the programme.

Each Priority Axis is allocated a budget from a Structural Fund, ERDF and/or ESF, which is intended to co-fund applications submitted to CCDR-N as the Managing Authority.

Priority Axis	European Support	Relative Weight
Research, Technological Development and Innovation	402,800,510 (ERDF)	11.9%
Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises	1,262,318,221 (ERDF)	37.4%
Low Carbon Economy	158,521,762 (ERDF)	4.7%
Environment Quality	161,286,915 (ERDF)	4.8%
Urban System	384,754,583 (ERDF)	11.4%
Employment and Job Mobility	57,529,474 (ERDF) 137,787,630 (ESF)	5.8%
Social Inclusion and Poverty	79,861,737 (ERDF) 137,964,542 (ESF)	6.4%
Education and Learning Throughout Life	172,748,474 (ERDF) 263,076,411 (ESF)	12.9%
Institutional Capacity Building and ICT	32,247,872 (ERDF) 44,137,600 (ESF)	2.3%
Technical Support	83,735,000 (ERDF)	2.5%
TOTAL	3,378,770,731	100%



SPONSORS AND EXAMPLES OF
ACTIONS REQUIRING FUNDING

The NORTE 2020 Priority Axes are divided into subsets of specific goals, which, in turn, contain types of actions and actions requiring support.

For detailed descriptions of the types of interventions associated to each of the NORTE 2020 priority axes, as well as other specifications, read the full version of the programme, available at www.norte2020.pt.

1

Priority Axis 1 Research, Technological Development and Innovation

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Increasing internationally recognised, high-quality scientific production, geared towards smart specialisation, with the aim of boosting a technology-based economy with high added value, by rationalising and modernising R&D&I infrastructures and privileging excellence, cooperation and integration into international R&D&I networks.</p>	<p>Public sector research, STS (Scientific and Technological System) entities, companies and other public and private entities developing R&D&I activities.</p>
<p>Enhancing the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge for the business sector, promoting greater efficacy in the I&I System and the creation of value.</p>	<p>Companies, business associations, STS entities and other public or private entities working in the field of R&D&I.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) R&D projects fully aligned with the priority areas of smart regional specialisation, entailing cooperation and interaction with the regional economy and favouring networking, sharing of best practices, cooperation and the launching of joint initiatives; (ii) participation in EU-funded R&D&I programmes, namely in the preparation of applications, disclosure and dissemination of R&D results, particularly HORIZONTE 2020.

Investing in infrastructure and equipment included in the Portuguese Roadmap of Research Infrastructures (RNIIE).

(i) activities aimed at interaction and the transfer of existing knowledge to businesses, in order to improve their competitiveness, promoted by STS entities (e.g. technology centres, technology transfer centres, new technology institutes, science and technology parks); (ii) activities aimed at disseminating and spreading new knowledge and technologies generated in R&D projects (demonstrator projects); (iii) patenting and licensing of industrial property; (iv) “seed” projects (supporting PhD or Post-Doctoral students in the development of prototypes and/or processes intended for a specific market and/or industry sector); (v) investment in infrastructure and equipment for the creation and expansion of technology centres and science and technology parks.

1

Priority Axis 1 Research, Technological Development and Innovation

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Increasing investment in R&D&I by companies, strengthening the link between businesses and the regional STS entities and promoting an increase in knowledge-intensive economic activities, as well as the creation of value based on innovation.</p>	<p>Companies, business associations, STS entities and other public or private entities working in the field of R&D&I.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Incentives for corporate R&D: (i) projects developed or co-sponsored by companies (consortia and networks of STS companies and entities), aimed at strengthening productivity, competitiveness and the integration of companies in the global market, by conducting industrial research and pre-competitive development activities; (ii) creation and promotion of R&D centres in companies (investment in equipment and strengthening the companies' internal competences in the production of knowledge with potential effects on business competitiveness and innovation), under an initial R&D activity plan and for a limited period of time; (iii) participation in other R&D programs funded by the EU: support for potential beneficiaries in the preparation of applications and the publication and dissemination of the results of the respective R&D projects; (iv) participation of local companies in European industrial R&D projects, such as the "Eureka" projects, which are not funded by national or European public funds.

Simplified TR&D project: in the form of a simplified tool to support small business initiatives by SMEs, restricted to companies without any approved investment projects in the area of intervention of TR&D, constituting first contacts between companies and the other players in the I&I system (both national or foreign). Support shall be given for the hiring of consulting services in technological research and development activities, as well as in technology transfer services.

1

Priority Axis 1 Research, Technological Development and Innovation

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Strengthening networks and other forms of partnership and cooperation aimed at strengthening innovation and the internationalisation of companies and value chains, thereby promoting smart regional specialisation.</p>	<p>Companies, business associations, STS entities and other public or private entities working in the field of R&D&I.</p>
<p>Increasing corporate investment in innovative activities (product, process, organisational and marketing methods), promoting increased tradable and exportable production and a shift in the productive profile of the economy.</p>	<p>Companies, business associations, STS entities and other public or private entities working in the field of R&D&I</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Clustering and collaborative networks: (i) activities aimed at demonstrating the economic potential of TR&D results (dissemination of results and best practices in corporate R&D&I, etc.); (ii) clustering (creating and promoting networks and partnerships) initiatives targeting related varieties of smart specialisation areas, which improve the efficacy and efficiency of systemic innovation processes and promote international competitiveness, involving companies, regional STS entities and interface institutions.

Incentives for innovation for non-SMEs: (i) Development of innovative solutions based on R&D results and entailing the integration and convergence of new technologies; (ii) Increased innovation efforts in products and production processes for large companies, support is restricted to innovation projects, according to the definition of the Oslo manual and to national and/or international requirements. Such support for large companies shall be restricted to small-scale projects (less than 3M euros), whose effects include one or more priority areas of the smart specialisation strategy.

2 **Priority Axis 2** **Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises**

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Promoting qualified and creative entrepreneurship.</p>	<p>SMEs, business associations, business incubators and accelerators, public agencies, municipalities and inter-municipality communities, and other private and public entities developing activities aimed at promoting entrepreneurship.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Qualified and creative entrepreneurship: (i) creation of new companies and new businesses that are knowledge, technology and creativity intensives, particularly in smart specialisation areas; (ii) collective actions to stimulate entrepreneurship, business creation and the exchanging of experiences that allow identifying the best practices in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Simplified entrepreneurship project: simplified tool to support small business initiatives by SMEs, restricted to newly created enterprises (less than 1 year). Support shall be given for the hiring of consulting services in the field of entrepreneurship, namely the preparing of business plans, as well as consulting in the field of digital economy.

Business incubation and acceleration: infrastructures for the incubation and accelerating of technology-based companies, in line with the (regional and national) smart specialisation strategy. The funding of incubation infrastructures (infrastructures, equipment and, in case of new incubators, support in terms of management capabilities for a limited initial period) that may come to be identified as priority in the planning of such infrastructures includes the widening or shifting of the focus of activity of the existing incubators, as well as any new infrastructures.

2 Priority Axis 2 Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Strengthening the entrepreneurial skills necessary to develop new business models and new corporate models, as well as investing on internationalisation, thus aiming at increasing companies' competitiveness, with a positive impact on exports and on the visibility of the North Portugal Region as a NUTS II region, and as the most export-intensive in the country.</p>	<p>SMEs, business associations and public entities (involved in the development of collective activities or collective projects for SMEs) and the body that implements the financial instrument or the fund of funds.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Support for business internationalisation: (i) Projects to develop and implement new business models that promote the access and presence of SMEs in international markets, namely related to international marketing processes. (ii) knowledge-gathering and prospecting actions with the aim of obtaining reliable knowledge on international markets, in view of the concrete specificities of the companies' offer.

Simplified internationalisation project: a simplified tool to support small business initiatives by SMEs, restricted to companies that have not started their internationalisation process. Support shall be given for the hiring of consulting services in the field of market prospecting.

Support for collective actions: (i) development of projects aimed at promoting cross-company cooperation or the application of new business models aimed at increasing the size and/or the added value within the respective tier and thus increase the companies' capacity for internationalisation; (ii) participation of companies in international networks, in collaborative internationalisation and knowledge sharing processes, in the development and international promotion of brands, in the prospecting, knowledge and access to new markets and in promotional campaigns that ensure their presence and visibility in international markets; (iii) international promotion and appreciation of the different products and tourist destinations in the North Portugal Region, to be carried out by public and private non-profit organisations.

2 **Priority Axis 2** **Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises**

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Strengthening the business capacity of SMEs in the North Portugal Region for the development of products and services.</p>	<p>SMEs, business associations and public entities involved in collective actions, governing body that implements the financial instrument or the fund of funds and business park managing entities.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Direct support for qualification and innovation in SMEs: (i) SME capacity building and qualification projects, which promote the expansion of internal skills for the development and enhancement of dynamic competitiveness factors, greater organisational efficiency and innovation; (ii) projects aimed at strengthening fashion and design capabilities, product development and engineering, digital economy, services and processes, including the creation or enhancing of laboratory skills, consulting and support for innovation, brand creation and registration, as well as the certification of products, services or management systems with relevance for the company's competitiveness and innovation; (iii) projects aimed at strengthening organisational and management skills; investment in information and communication technologies (market access through an effective presence in the digital economy); (iv) production investments focusing on innovation, which translate not only in the production of high-quality, differentiating goods or services, with a high level of national content, creating opportunities for internationalisation or strengthening the presence in international markets, but also in the improvement of production, organisational and marketing processes.

Simplified innovation project: a simplified tool to support small business initiatives by SMEs, restricted to companies without any approved investment projects in the area of qualification/innovation (provided in PI 3.3). Support shall be given for the hiring of consulting services in the field of innovation, such as consulting in the areas of management, technological support, consulting in the field of digital economy, consulting on the acquisition, protection and marketing of intellectual and industrial property rights and on licensing agreements, consulting on the use of testing and certification services and standards.

2 Priority Axis 2 Competitiveness of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Strengthening the business capacity of SMEs in the North Portugal Region for the development of products and services.</p>	<p>SMEs, business associations and public entities involved in collective actions, governing body that implements the financial instrument or the fund of funds and business park managing entities.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Support for collective actions: (i) activities related to demonstration, awareness-raising, dissemination of best practices on topics relevant to SMEs (i.e. ICT opportunities, business cooperation and network operation, information management and management of innovation processes, non-regular programmes intended to monitor the progress of the national, regional or sectoral economic activity); (ii) projects aimed at developing the strategic capabilities and competitive management of SMEs, building their knowledge on modern distribution networks and on product and service placement, which enable them to assert themselves as potential suppliers before large companies.

Business hosting: projects for the creation and expansion of areas of business hosting and of functional, logistic and organisational structuring of existing business clusters. Business clusters previously backed by European funds are not eligible for structuring projects.

3

Priority Axis 3 Low Carbon Economy

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Increasing energy efficiency in enterprises, supporting the implementation of integrated measures to promote energy efficiency and rationalising consumption.</p>	<p>Companies, Private Social Solidarity Institutions and the body that implements the financial instrument or fund of funds.</p>
<p>Increasing energy efficiency in the public infrastructures of local administration, supporting the implementation of integrated measures to promote energy efficiency and rationalising consumption.</p> <p>Increasing energy efficiency in the social housing sector, supporting the implementation of integrated measures to promote energy efficiency and rationalising consumption.</p>	<p>Local public administration, public entities managing social housing and the bodies responsible for implementing financial instruments or the fund of funds.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) conducting of energy audits and support for the development of Energy Consumption Rationalisation Plans, provided the implementation of the investments in energy efficiency resulting from those plans is verified; (ii) specific actions applied to production processes as technological low-carbon measures, to be applied specifically to some industrial sub-sectors (e.g. the application of membrane processes in the food industry, the use of new catalysts in the chemical industry, technological interventions on electrical engines, heating and cooling, lighting and other measures aimed at increasing efficiency in industrial processes); (iii) specific actions, mainly associated with the service sector, in efficient equipment, such as efficient lighting, efficient windows, efficient insulation, green heat and energy management system support in service buildings; (iv) energy production technologies from renewable sources for own consumption, as long as these are included in the integrated project; (v) in case of cargo transport companies, support may be given for the renovation or conversion of freight vehicle fleets with the aim of switching to cleaner energy.

Support for integrated investment in energy efficiency in public infrastructures and in the social housing sector, through (i) the conducting of energy audits and support for the preparation of Energy Consumption Rationalisation Plans (PREN), provided the implementation of the investments in energy efficiency resulting from those plans is verified; (ii) investment in energy efficiency refurbishments in the buildings and equipment of Local and Sub-regional Government, through investments such as the integration of solar water heating, incorporation of micro-generation, lighting systems, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), interventions on building façades and roofs); (iii) the creation of urban thermal energy networks, provided these are used exclusively to power more heat- and cold-consuming public building clusters. (iv) investments in equipment to improve the energy efficiency of public lighting.

3

Priority Axis 3 Low Carbon Economy

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Promoting more sustainable environmental and energetic mobility, within a wider framework of decarbonisation of social and economic activities and promotion of economic and social cohesion, while guaranteeing territorial equity in the access to infrastructure, collective equipment and general interest services.</p>	<p>Public entities and operators of public passenger transport services.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Support shall be given to actions resulting from Mobility and Transport Plans: (i) increasing soft modes (walking and cycling), by building cycle paths or footpaths (excluding those created mainly for recreational purposes), which may require the elimination of points of accumulation of accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists; (ii) strengthening of multimodal integration in urban passenger public transportation systems, through the improvement of integrated ticketing solutions; (iii) improving the network of collective public urban transport interfaces, with special attention to the quality of the service, accessibility for pedestrians and bicycles, its functional organisation and its integration into the urban territory, with a view to increasing the use of public transportation and the aforementioned non-motorised soft modes; (iv) structuring high demand urban corridors, namely by prioritising access to infrastructure by public transport and soft modes, through the creation of specific corridors “in the proper place”; (v) adopting systems that allow providing real-time information directly to users; (vi) development and acquisition of equipment for information and management systems used in innovative and experimental transportation solutions, suitable for linking urban areas and sparsely populated territories, including flexible transportation solutions, powered by cleaner energy.

4 Priority Axis 4 Environment Quality

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Promoting the appreciation of the excellence of the cultural and natural heritage in the context of distinctive regional strategies for tourism development.</p>	<p>Local, central and regionally disperse public administration, municipal enterprises, private non-profit entities, cultural agents and environmental non-governmental organisations (ENGOs).</p>
<p>Promoting the environmental, urban and landscape quality of low density, scarcely populated territories, as a factor of regional differentiation and assertion.</p>	<p>Local, regional and regionally disperse public administration and the body that implements the financial instrument or fund of funds.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) appreciation and promotion of historical and cultural public assets and culture-oriented equipment with high tourist value. (ii) qualification, development of an integrated service offer and promotion of networks of protected/tourist value areas; (iii) territorial marketing of areas with high natural, cultural and landscape value, including tourism promotion directed at the domestic market; (iv) organisation and promotion of cultural events with high international impact in terms of projecting the image of the North Portugal Region and that boost the development of tourism.

(i) comprehensive refurbishment of buildings (priority to buildings aged 30 years or over), particularly those intended for housing, public use equipment, trade and/or services; (ii) refurbishment and conversion of abandoned industrial units, namely for housing, public use equipment, trade and/or services; (iii) recovery, expansion and enhancement of urban ecological systems and structures and green infrastructures; (iv) rehabilitation of the public space, as long as it is integrated into the rehabilitation of the surrounding buildings; (v) qualification of public spaces; (vi) demolition of buildings with a view to create public spaces, as long as it is integrated into the rehabilitation of the surrounding buildings; (vii) development of innovative experiments and pilot actions in the field of sustainable urban development; (viii) preparation of studies to improve air quality and reduce noise in urban settings; (ix) monitoring of air quality and noise, involving support for the acquisition of equipment, with integration into the national information system (QualAr).

5

Priority Axis 5 Urban System

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Promoting more sustainable environmental and energetic mobility, within a wider framework of decarbonisation of social and economic activities and consolidation of cities as privileged spaces for the integration and coordination of regional development policies and anchors.</p>	<p>Public or private entities.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) increasing soft modes (walking and cycling), by building cycle paths or footpaths (excluding those created mainly for recreational purposes), which may require the elimination of points of accumulation of accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists; (ii) strengthening of multimodal integration in urban passenger public transportation systems, through the improvement of integrated ticketing solutions; (iii) improving the interface network (including different categories, such as those suggested in the Mobility Package, for e.g., point of arrival and connection or small- and medium-sized interfaces), with special attention to the quality of the service provided, accessibility for pedestrians and bicycles, its functional organisation and its integration into the urban territory, with a view to increasing the use of public transportation and the aforementioned non-motorised soft modes; (iv) structuring high demand urban corridors, namely by prioritising access to infrastructure by public transport and soft modes, through the creation of specific corridors “in the proper place” (namely conventional BUS corridors, BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) corridors or LRT (Light Rail Transport) corridors); (v) adopting systems that allow providing real-time information directly to users; (vi) development and acquisition of equipment for information and management systems used in innovative and experimental transportation solutions, suitable for linking urban areas and sparsely populated territories, including flexible transportation solutions, powered by cleaner energy.

5

Priority Axis 5 Urban System

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Promoting the environmental, urbanistic and landscape quality of urban centres of higher hierarchical levels as a factor of territorial structuring, social well-being and regional competitiveness.</p>	<p>Local, regional and regionally disperse public administration and the body that implements the financial instrument or fund of funds.</p>
<p>Promoting social inclusion in poorer urban areas, through physical, economic and social regeneration initiatives.</p>	<p>Public or private entities, both collective and individual, and the body that implements the financial instrument or the fund of funds, which promote urban projects under integrated plans.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) comprehensive refurbishment of buildings (priority to buildings aged 30 years or over), particularly those intended for housing, public use equipment, trade and/or services; (ii) refurbishment and conversion of abandoned industrial units, namely for housing, public use equipment, trade and/or services; (iii) recovery, expansion and enhancement of urban ecological systems and structures and green infrastructures; (iv) rehabilitation of the public space, as long as it is integrated into the rehabilitation of the surrounding buildings; (v) qualification of public spaces; (vi) demolition of buildings with a view to create public spaces, as long as it is integrated into the rehabilitation of the surrounding buildings; (vii) development of innovative experiments and pilot actions in the field of sustainable urban development; (viii) preparation of studies and air quality plans and to reduce noise at the urban scale; (ix) air quality and noise monitoring systems (support for the acquisition of equipment, with integration into the national information system (QualAr)).

(i) urban rehabilitation and qualification (including housing, arrangement of public spaces, eliminating physical barriers restricting the mobility of disabled people, urban hygiene and sanitation programmes); repurposing of public facilities (with high potential for social or economic purposes) and derelict urban areas.

6 Priority Axis 6 Employment and Job Mobility

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Encouraging the creation of self-employment and businesses by the unemployed and other disadvantaged or inactive people.</p>	<p>SMEs, business associations, municipalities and social enterprises and third-sector entities, local development agents, the cooperative sector and the body that implements the financial instrument or fund of funds.</p>
<p>Ensuring the economic valorisation of endogenous resources in low-density areas, through the implementation of specific strategies to promote territorial competitiveness.</p>	<p>Public and private non-profit organisations that promote rural and low-density areas, as well as the economic valorisation of endogenous resources.</p>
<p>Reinsertion of inactive and unemployed people into the labour market.</p>	<p>Local administration bodies.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) small investment for the expansion of business activities and the creation of micro-enterprises, in which the creation of employment is a key criteria for funding; (ii) business initiatives to create micro- and small-sized locally based companies, especially in areas with low population density, promoting the creation of self-employment and diversifying local economy; (iii) investment for the expansion or creation of social enterprise incubators.

Support for integrated actions with the purpose of: (i) promoting operations to qualify and promote emblematic villages and rural centres (signage, promotional material, recovery of public assets, conducting studies and documents on tangible and intangible heritage, particularly that associated with place names and, therefore, with strong links to history, culture, archeology and geography, etc.); (ii) tourist activities, development of crafts and traditional, quality products (iii) valorisation and management of local productive systems (covering joint initiatives for promotion and marketing, cooperative development, pooling of equipment or of certification or social and technological innovation processes), (iv) provision of collective tech support services, joint promotion of local products and services and access to markets, involving organisational and technological models adapted to these territories.

Traineeships in Local Administration.

6 Priority Axis 6 Employment and Job Mobility

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Encouraging the creation of self-employment and businesses by the unemployed and other disadvantaged or inactive people.</p>	<p>Public entities in the employment and training sector, micro-enterprises, entrepreneurs and social enterprises, public bodies and non-profit organisations, which operate in the social and employment areas, local development agents, the cooperative sector and the body that implements the financial instrument or the fund of funds.</p>
<p>Increasing the number of workers and employers that are able to adopt new techniques, technologies and organisational methods to improve their employability.</p> <p>Increase the hiring of highly skilled human resources, thereby contributing to increase entrepreneurial skills in R&D&I and intensify interactions between companies and regional STS entities.</p>	<p>Companies, business associations and business clusters, public entities and social enterprises.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) initiatives aimed at creating self-employment by the unemployed and youths seeking their first job; (ii) actions aimed at creating self-employment by recipients of unemployment benefits, through the total or partial advance payment of such benefits, in order to ensure the private national co-financing of the operations; (iii) initiatives in the sector of crafts and traditional trades, through the professional integration of unemployed people, thus promoting self-employment; (iv) actions by micro-enterprises that promote job creation, particularly in low-density areas, and cooperative entrepreneurship; (v) green micro-entrepreneurship and social micro-entrepreneurship actions; (vi) job-creation initiatives and entrepreneurship, through the micro-credit system.

Training for business innovation, through (i) training and qualifying innovation and business management for managers; (ii) training actions that lead to greater efficacy in the innovation processes of companies, associated with investment projects.

(i) actions aiming at integrating highly qualified human resources into companies; (ii) initiatives to hire PhD and Postdoc graduates coming from regional STS entities.

7

Priority Axis 7 Social Inclusion and Poverty

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Qualifying and adapting the current network of social and health services and equipment in order to meet the needs of the population.</p>	<p>Public entities and third-sector non-profit entities working in the social and health areas.</p>
<p>Creating locally-based socio-economic development strategies led by the respective communities.</p>	<p>Public entities, non-profit private entities, companies and Local Development Associations.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Health equipment: (i) construction, requalification and equipping of units providing primary health care (including Family Health Units and Long-Term Care Units), thereby consolidating the Primary Health Care network; (ii) refurbishment and improvement of hospital emergency services; (iii) acquisition and development of information systems that enable health institutions to work as a network and improve communication with users, thus promoting better citizenship in health;

Social facilities: (i) social infrastructures in the areas of childhood, disability and old age, involving the construction, conversion and adapting of facilities; (ii) investment in equipment and technology in therapeutic areas directed at people with disabilities; (iii) acquisition and development of information systems that enable social institutions to work as a network and improve communication with users.

(i) projects aimed at qualifying and promoting innovation in product development in the primary sector; (ii) actions aimed at promoting and enhancing the natural and cultural heritage; (iii) initiatives aimed at supporting entrepreneurship, creation of businesses, self-employment and jobs (iv) social innovation projects with a strong focus on inclusiveness and solidarity; (v) actions aimed at stimulating innovation in terms of new social answers for social challenges identified.

7

Priority Axis 7 Social Inclusion and Poverty

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Promoting social inclusion initiatives that foster innovating and/or experimental partnerships and that involve a wide range of entities.</p>	<p>Non-profit public and private entities.</p>
<p>Boosting the creation of locally-based socio-economic development strategies led by the respective communities.</p>	<p>Public entities, non-profit private entities, companies and Local Development Associations.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) integrated innovation, social experimentation and territorial animation programmes, involving sub-regional social networks; (ii) "Employment-Insertion Contracts" (CEI) with unemployment benefits or income support supplement beneficiaries (RSI) registered with the public employment service, to carry out socially necessary local work, and working at non-profit public (namely municipalities) or private entities, which must: (a) promote the employability of these unemployed people, preserving and improving their social and professional skills by maintaining them in contact with the labour market; (b) promote contacts between the subsidised unemployed and RSI beneficiaries and other workers and activities, thereby avoiding the risk of them feeling isolated, demotivated or marginalised; (c) support socially useful activities, in particular those that meet the local or regional needs, including supporting the conservation and maintenance of the natural, cultural and urban heritage; (d) assign unemployed people to activities that meet temporary social or collective needs, enhancing their professional advancement and with a view to improving their employability profile and working towards their future (re)integration into the labour market.

(i) actions aimed at qualifying and promoting innovation in product development in the primary sector; (ii) actions aimed at supporting entrepreneurship, creation of businesses, self-employment and jobs (iii) social innovation projects with a strong focus on inclusiveness and solidarity; (iv) initiatives aimed at stimulating innovation in terms of new social answers for social challenges identified; (v) actions aimed at qualifying people, including supporting technically qualified young people in the implementation of social innovation projects in critical urban areas or rural and low-density coastal areas.



Priority Axis 8 Education and Learning Throughout Life

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Continuing the refurbishment/modernisation of pre-school, primary, secondary and higher education facilities and of vocational training facilities, bridging gaps and improving the conditions for education, teaching and vocational training, in addition to actions aimed at improving the quality of the system.</p>	<p>Municipalities and other entities in the sector of education and training.</p>
<p>Promoting improvements in the educational success of students, reducing dropouts, combating school failure and strengthening measures that promote equitable access to basic and secondary education.</p>	<p>Municipalities, pre-school, primary and secondary schools, public entities, social economy entities and local development agents.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) interventions in schools of the second and third cycles of basic education and secondary education transiting from the 2007-2013 programming period; (ii) interventions aimed at refurbishing schools of the second and third cycles of basic education and secondary education that are degraded and/or whose requalification is part of solutions to reorganise the network and enable the diversification of supply in secondary education and enforcement of compulsory education; (iii) interventions on the pre-school and first cycle of basic education networks, namely on facilities that promote the rationalisation of the school network; (iv) acquisition of facilities for higher education, intended for new TeSP/ISCED level 5 short duration higher education courses or for the creation of new higher education programmes directly aimed at the needs of the labour market; (v) interventions to requalify and modernise the vocational training infrastructure.

Actions that favour the improvement of educational success, either through nation-wide development programmes (TEIP, but also “Programa Mais Sucesso Escolar” - Fénix models, “Turma Mais” and “hybrid” projects) or through support to integrated and innovative approaches to combating underachievement at a local or intermunicipal level, particularly in the context of municipal educational projects.

Information, monitoring and assessment actions on the measures and devices implemented to prevent school dropouts and promote academic success, with a view to improve the quality, efficiency and efficacy of such measures and devices.

Actions aimed at promoting equality in the access to preschool, primary and secondary education, through plans to assist special education students transition into post-school life and programmes aimed at supporting special education students in preschool, primary and secondary education.

Actions aimed at strengthening the school’s social action in primary and secondary levels, namely in terms of school food programs.



Priority Axis 8 Education and Learning Throughout Life

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Increasing the number of tertiary education graduates by creating conditions for the continuation of studies at level ISCED 5 of higher education, broadening and diversifying this offer.</p> <p>Increase the number of PhDs and Postdocs, by creating conditions for the completion of the respective study programmes, in a framework aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of higher education, with a view to strengthening research, technological development and innovation in the regional areas of smart specialisation.</p>	<p>Higher education institutions, General Directorate of Higher Education.</p>
<p>Increasing the number of graduates from post-secondary education and vocational training, strengthening the supply of specialised technicians that economic development requires, favouring a smooth transition from school into working life and promoting improvements in the efficiency of the education and training systems.</p>	<p>Training Entities offering Technological Specialisation Courses.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) mobility grants for displaced students, under “Programa + Superior”, aimed at students of higher education institutions with lower demand and based in sub-regions with lower population pressure; (ii) advanced professional technical courses (TeSP/ISCED5), which represent a new type of non-degree higher education courses, taught in polytechnic education establishments and integrating general and scientific training components, technical training and training in a work environment, through internships, focusing on priority areas of the Norte Region’s Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3); (iii) PhD and Postdoc programmes and actions developed by R&D Centres and Universities, in coordination with companies, focusing on priority areas of the Norte Region’s Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3);

Funding shall be provided for Technological Specialisation Courses (CET), which are post-secondary education technical training courses combining general and scientific training, technological training and work environment training. At the regional level, the offering of these courses shall be coordinated with the offer of Higher Education Professional Technical Courses. In higher education, CETs shall be progressively discontinued, and this offer shall be maintained by entities duly authorised to administer them, including vocational schools, technical schools and vocational training centres under direct or contract management.

9 Priority Axis 9 Institutional Capacity Building and ICT

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Increasing access to and use of local and regional digital public services and improve the internal efficiency of public administration through ICT.</p>	<p>Disperse and local public administration and public enterprises.</p>
<p>Qualifying the delivery of public services, through the qualification of services and training of workers, promoting the reduction of context costs and creating a favourable environment for regional and local development.</p>	<p>Local administration.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Regional and local electronic public services, directed at citizens and businesses, which provide flexible and customised ways of interacting with the public administration and a reduction in context costs (e.g., digitalisation of municipal services and their availability through different platforms, using electronic identification);

Creation of spaces or adoption of mobility solutions through which users can access electronic public services in a mediated way (e.g. installation of citizen spaces, which provide assisted digital public administration services);

Innovative projects using ICT in response to emerging societal challenges (e.g., actions aimed at experimenting and disseminating innovative technologies in public administration, in terms of the development of electronic public participation mechanisms);

Solutions that enable the creation of open, flexible and interoperable digital public services (e.g., development and integration of internal and back office systems between different sectors and levels of government);

Solutions that promote greater internal efficiency in public services (e.g., actions aimed at reengineering, simplifying and de-materialising internal processes, which promote efficiency gains and eliminate bottlenecks in local government).

Training actions associated with administrative modernisation projects, which encourage the use of new decentralised models for network public service delivery and prepare public services for regulatory simplification processes and shared services, strengthen their technical capacity, managerial and monitoring abilities and assess public policies.

9 **Priority Axis 9** **Institutional Capacity Building and ICT**

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Strengthening the ability of actors and networks for the promotion of territorial development actions in the fields of education, employment and entrepreneurship, lifelong learning, vocational training and social policies.</p>	<p>Disperse and local public administration and other relevant regional agents</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

Actions aimed at (i) providing technical support for the coordination, promotion, implementation and follow-up of territorial and sectoral action plans; (ii) modernising and implementing best practices across institutional actor networks, including international benchmarking practices; (iii) training of agents involved in territorial development; (iv) strengthening competences for the promotion, monitoring and follow-up of policy assessment and territorial dynamics; (v) territorial promotion and enhancement.

10 **Priority Axis 10** **Technical Assistance**

Specific goals	Sponsors
<p>Creating the conditions for the effective and efficient exercise of the competences and duties of the Managing Authority.</p> <p>Ensuring the involvement and active participation of “stakeholders”, by disseminating information to citizens and businesses and empowering beneficiaries.</p>	<p>CCDR-N and other public bodies involved in the management of NORTE 2020.</p>

Types of actions and examples of actions requiring funding

(i) activities related to the management, preparation, promotion, follow-up, control and assessment of the Programme; (ii) studies and projects; (iii) acquisition or rental of computer equipment and software for the development of the management, follow-up and monitoring systems; (iv) services required for the publication and dissemination of the measures co-funded by ERDF and ESF as part of the Priority Axes and of the Regional Programme in general, including promotion and initiatives to raise awareness to the potential beneficiaries; (v) preparing of documents, namely aimed at providing information and guidelines on technical procedures within the goals of the co-funded policy measures; (vi) Monitoring Committees and other meetings and working sessions necessary for management, follow-up, monitoring, assessment, dissemination and public participation.



WEBSITE

The NORTE 2020 website, available at www.norte2020.pt, provides all the information, links and contacts necessary to apply for the programme's support opportunities. It concentrates the regulatory texts that set out the functioning and implementation of NORTE 2020, notices of calls for applications and all the supporting information, as well as the respective results, including the list of sponsors, with the designation of the projects backed and the amounts co-funded.

In addition to a privileged channel of communication and access to NORTE 2020, the website is also intended to be a tool to support the dissemination of best practices in the application of EU funds. Specifically, the areas "Notícias" (News) and "Multimédia" (Media) will be used to disseminate initiatives launched by the sponsors of the programme.



CONCEPTS

Repayable aid or incentive - Financial support, of a temporary nature, granted to a beneficiary, which must be repaid according to a fixed timetable.

Managing Authority - Entity designated by the Member State to manage the operational programme, being responsible for its effectiveness and its correct management and performance.

Notice - Call for applications to the Operational Programme, by tender or by invitation, which must contain, among other elements, an indication of the need for a pre-application stage, the nature of the beneficiaries, types of operations and intervention areas to be supported, an indicative allocation of the fund to be granted, the maximum number of applications that may be submitted by each beneficiary, the rules and limits on expenditure eligibility, the conditions for the funding, including its nature, charges and the minimum and maximum amounts and the criteria for the selection of operations to be funded. A full list of the elements of the Notice is available in Article 16(6) of Decree-Law No. 159/2014.

Application - Formal request for public financial support (national and/or European) submitted by the beneficiary/ sponsor to the managing authority of an operational programme, with the aim of ensuring the implementation of projects eligible for funding. The application is formalised by filling in the online standard form available at the Balcão 2020 website: <https://balcao.portugal2020.pt/Balcao2020/Utilizador/Utilizador/Login> and providing any other documentation required by the Managing Authority.

Tender - Procedure for the submission of applications whenever there are multiple potential beneficiaries applying for the same type of operation.

Operation - A project selected by the Management Authority or under its responsibility, according to the selection criteria established by the Monitoring Committee and implemented by one or more beneficiaries/sponsors.
Intermediate Bodies - Public or private entities performing management duties delegated by the managing authority.



ACRONYMS

CIC Portugal 2020	Comissão Interministerial de Coordenação do Portugal 2020 (Inter-ministerial Committee for the Coordination of Portugal 2020)
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EMFF	European Maritime and Fisheries Fund
ERDF	Regional Coordination and Development Committee
ESIF	European Structural and Investment Funds
ESF	European Social Fund
NORTE 2020	Operational Programme for the North Portugal Region 2014-2020
NUTS	Nomenclature of Statistical Territorial Units
STS	Scientific and Technological System



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