Cohesion, Solidarity and Development

Inclusion, solidarity, improved living conditions.

"Cohesion is not a luxury. It is the essence of the European project."

Jacques Delors,
President of the European Commission (1985–1995)

European integration has contributed to solidarity among Member States and to economic, social and territorial cohesion.
Cohesion Policy, through the Structural and Investment Funds, has reduced inequalities, revitalised less developed regions, and supported the outermost regions of Portugal – the Azores and Madeira – through programmes that have boosted regional development, social inclusion and job creation.
Vocational training, urban regeneration and employment support programmes have helped to reduce disparities and improve access to public services.

The impact of the EU is evident in projects that strengthen local communities and create opportunities across the country.
Portugal now benefits from greater regional convergence in essential infrastructure and living conditions, reflecting the impact of policies geared towards territorial and social cohesion.

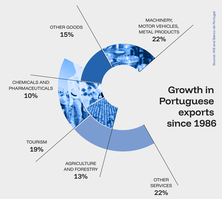
A more competitive economy open to the world

Competitiveness, innovation and skilled employment.

"Portugal's competitiveness is intertwined with its ability to innovate in partnership with Europe."

José Manuel Durão Barroso,
President of the European Commission (2004–2014)

The **European Single Market** has strengthened the competitiveness of Portuguese businesses. Growth in exports, increased foreign direct investment and industrial modernization are closely linked to European integration. Digitalization, technological development and entrepreneurship have benefited from EU programmes that support innovation and access to new markets. The business sector has diversified and upskilled, with a greater presence in international value chains. The **Portuguese economy** is now more integrated, oriented towards foreign trade and **aligned with European competitiveness standards**.



Sustainability and Environment

Green and Blue Economies

EU policies have contributed to reducing CO2 emissions, improving the environment and promoting renewable energy in Portugal. Following a period of rising CO2 emissions that peaked in the mid-2000s, the country is now on a path towards decarbonisation.

Ecological transition, blue economy, environmental and ocean protection.

"Sustainability is the new name for progress."

António Costa,
Prime Minister of Portugal (2015-2024)

Investments in renewable energy sources – hydroelectric, wind and solar – underpin the protection of ecosystems, while the development of the blue economy carves a path underpinned by regulations, climate targets and EU funding. Portugal today stands as an example of a country committed to the energy transition, the conservation of nature and sustainability.

In 2024
IN PORTUGAL
65,8% of electricity consumed was produced from **renewable sources** > **47,5%** **EU** average

Portugal in the World

A global European voice

Membership of the EU has expanded **Portugal's presence and influence in the world**. The country plays an active role in European integration and in the **Presidencies of the Council** of the EU (1992, 2000, 2007 and 2021), promoting cohesion, citizenship, intercontinental dialogue and the strengthening of European security.

Today, Portugal is a natural mediator between the EU, Portuguese-speaking Africa and Latin America, remaining faithful to its transatlantic and universalist vocation, while building bridges and bringing people, societies and cultures closer together.

The **Portuguese language** proves to be a valuable asset for dialogue with partners in the Global South, adding one of the world's most widely spoken languages to the official languages of the EU.

Portuguese Presidency of the Council 1992
Treaty on European Union
European Economic Area
United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)
Cooperation with Brazil

The Treaty on European Union during the EU Council Presidencies (1992)
Signing of the Treaty on European Union in Maastricht on 7 February 1992 (entered into force on 1 November 1993)

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992

Portuguese Presidency of the Council 2000
Lisbon European Council
First EU-Africa Summit
Intergovernmental Conference
ACP-EC Partnership Agreement

PORTUGAL 2000

Presidencies of the Council of the EU

Portuguese foreign policy is European at its core and open to the world – committed to **peace, democracy** and **human rights**.

Multilateral Dialogue

Portuguese Presidency of the Council 2007
Treaty of Lisbon
II EU-Africa Summit

International outreach, participation in European diplomacy and in building a Europe that is more open to the world.

"We are the heirs to a unique bond that unites us with the Portuguese-speaking peoples and countries. We proudly embrace an unquestionable European identity."

Paulo Rangel,
Minister of State and Foreign Affairs (2024)

Portuguese Presidency of the Council 2021
Porto Social Summit
Agreement on the European Climate Law
Approval of the programmes enabling the implementation of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework
Adoption of the Recovery and Resilience Facility
Greenlight for the EU Digital COVID Certificate
Team Europe's commitment to the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic
EU-India Leaders Meeting, Porto