THE STATE OF NATIONAL URBAN POLICY IN PORTUGAL

Name of national urban policy	*Sustainable Cities 2020*
Date of national urban policy	2015
Explicit or partial	Explicit
Legal status (e.g. act of the legislature, executive order, administrative guidance, etc.)	National principles and non-binding guidelines; does not directly link to financing, which is instead framed within the EU Partnership Agreement
Previous/secondary policies	*Política de Cidades, 2007-2014*; EU urban planning programmes such as *JESSICA Initiative* (2009)
Stage of development	Implementation
How developed (e.g. through a participatory/stakeholder process, or act of parliament, etc.)	Government resolution
Implementing body	Directorate-General for Territorial Development
Government system	Centralised
Type of national urban agency	General national planning authority
Implementation mechanism (e.g. committee, involvement of multiple agencies, national-local co-ordination)	No information available

Current national urban policy

Portugal produced *Sustainable Cities 2020* (*Cidades Sustentáveis 2020*), its national principles and guidelines for sustainable urban development, in 2015. It covers three dimensions: interurban (urban cores), city-region (functional urban areas and urban-rural linkages) and interurban (networks of cities). Its 52 strategic guidelines are organised around four axes:

1. **smartness and competitiveness**, including connectivity, innovation, and information technology;

2. **sustainability and efficiency**, including urban regeneration, housing, low-carbon and climate-resilient development, and urban-rural integration;

3. **inclusion and human capital**, including social inclusion and fostering culture and urban communities; and

4. **place-based governance**, including knowledge-sharing and networking (Portuguese Directorate-General for Territorial Development 2015a; 2015b).

Sustainable Cities 2020 provides a strategic framework for sustainable urban development, but does not directly link its elements to financing. Financing and implementation is instead framed within the EU Partnership Agreement for the use of EU Structural and Investment Funds and its associated regulations, including Strategic Plans for Urban Development, Integrated Territorial Investment, and Community-Led Local

Development aimed at communities mainly within metropolitan areas (all within the context of Regional Operational Programmes) (OECD, 2015).

The Directorate-General for Territorial Development (*Direcção-Geral do Território*) produced the *Sustainable Cities 2020* framework (Portuguese Directorate-General for Territorial Development 2015a; 2015b). The *Instituto da Habitação e da Reabilitação Urbana* implements housing and regeneration policies. Portugal also has a number of EU-level urban initiatives, such as the *JESSICA Initiative*, which has been operating in Portugal since 2009. Many urban projects are focused on infrastructure, although there are a wide range of European funded urban projects, such as the *Urban Environment Improvement Program (MCOTA)*, the *Digital City Projects*, and the *Urban Rehabilitation Program PRU* (UN-Habitat, 2015).

Previous national urban policy and developments

Portugal's *Cities Policy* (*Política de Cidades*) 2007-2014, was an economic and spatial development plan that operated at the national level and was implemented at the regional and local levels. It had a broad mandate, covering areas such as innovation and competitiveness, integrated urban planning, urban governance, environment and social cohesion (Dodson et al., 2015).

Areas covered by current urban policy

Sector	Sectoral representation in *Sustainable Cities 2020*
Economic development	Extensive
Spatial structure	Moderate
Human development	Extensive
Environmental sustainability	Extensive
Climate resilience	Moderate

Specific issues covered by current national urban policy

Sustainable Cities 2020 includes the following characteristics:

Criteria for national urban policies	Appears in the policy
Responds to population dynamics	X
Promotes a territorial approach (in particular urban-rural linkages)	X
Addresses the urban systems (from large to medium and small cities) and the connectivity among cities	X
Prepares for infrastructure and services in cities (including public space)	X
Promotes urban land-use efficiency	X
Enhances environmental sustainability and resilience to climate change	X
Develops effective urban governance systems (horizontal co-ordination and vertical alignment)	X
Promotes effective municipal finance systems	
Supports partnership and co-operation between urban actors	X
Safeguards inclusiveness and participation in the process and outcomes (inequity, segregation, safety, etc.)	X
Ensures robust and comparable urban scale data	X

Bibliography

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