

PORTUGAL

IPAD-Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)www.ipad.mne.gov.pt

1) Describe your country's/ agency's overall strategy or approach in using ICT for development.

- a) *Overall strategy*
- b) *Guiding principles for use of ICT for development*
- c) *Objectives*
- d) *Areas of application*
- e) *References and web-links to any relevant strategy documents or guidelines*

The Portuguese Information Society strategy has been redefined by the 15th Portuguese Constitutional Government. In June 2003, the Council of Ministers approved two action plans and three core specific programmes:

- Information Society Action Plan
<http://www.unic.gov.pt/NR/rdonlyres/B3FDD123-98AF-4F47-A10B-AFBEE46E25E3/138/I Plano Accao SI.pdf>
- e-Government Action Plan
<http://www.unic.gov.pt/NR/rdonlyres/2EE26926-CC92-4FE4-AFCD-A9E2E1983E54/137/II Plano Accao eGov.pdf>
- National Broadband Initiative
<http://www.unic.gov.pt/NR/rdonlyres/90F90EFD-371D-44BD-AC5B-B2B443C47391/139/III Inic Nac Banda Larga.pdf>
- National Programme for the Participation of Citizens with Special Needs in the Information Society
<http://www.unic.gov.pt/NR/rdonlyres/26E9F10C-A9FA-4258-B93B-BEC95EB48594/140/IV Prog Nac Partic CNE.pdf>
- National Programme for e-Procurement
<http://www.unic.gov.pt/NR/rdonlyres/AFB676D0-193F-4FBE-BA91-50CB26E56E7C/141/V Prog Nac Comp Elec.pdf>

The main objective of Portuguese Development Cooperation is to help partner countries reduce poverty levels and reach sustainable development. In order to be efficient it has concentrated in specific sectors, taking into account the available resources and the specific needs of beneficiary countries. ICT promote information and knowledge exchange, improve health and education services, encourage civil society participation and help have access to new markets. ICT are an integral part of the MDG's and Portugal has also aligned itself to these important goals. Therefore ICT activities must be integrated in planning and implementation of development projects.

The overall Portuguese development cooperation is geared towards four main strategic sectors of intervention, in which ICT play a relevant role:

- **Education**
ICT promote information and knowledge exchange, which are essential for the building of an Inclusive Information Society.
- **Health**
ICT improve health services.

- **Capacity building and good governance**
The usage of ICT encourages civil society participation.
- **Economic Growth and Sustainable Development**
ICT improve access to new markets.

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Following the recently approved guidelines of the Information Society action plans and the principles of Cooperation policy, the Portuguese Government will soon launch a strategy for ICT for development.

2) Identify the main Modalities for ICT integration in your overall development strategy

- a) *Modalities for ICT integration and programme delivery*
- b) *Partnership, including the private sector*
- c) *Participation, if any, in joint or multi-donor ICT for development programmes*
- d) *Estimate of a global amount of funding with indications on the timeframe it covers*
- e) *Lessons learned from your country's/agency's experience*
- f) *Cases that are particularly illustrative/examples of best practices*

Portuguese cooperation policy towards ICT is based on the principle of recipient country ownership and should be in accordance with national and sectoral development priorities.

3) Describe the institutional arrangements made by your country/ agency for mainstreaming ICT within its development strategy

- a) *Main agencies involved in ICT for development (e.g. development co-operation agency, ministries, research institutes)*
- b) *The agencies' roles in the various stages (e.g. strategy, operations)*
- c) *Contact details of your country's/agency's ICT for development focal point*

Due to its cross-cutting nature, Information Society policy coordination is entrusted to the Minister Adjunct to the Prime Minister, within the framework of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Created in November 2002, **Information and Knowledge Society Unit (UMIC)** is strategically located in the Office of the Minister Adjunct to the Prime Minister in order to act horizontally across all ministries. This Unit was empowered to lead the conception, implementation, transversal coordination and monitoring of the national Information Society strategy. UMIC is an instrumental body supporting the development of government policies concerning the fields of innovation, information society and e-government.

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The **Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance (IPAD)** is the main national agency of the official policy for cooperation and development. The main attributions of the Institute are, as a state external representative agency, to support and develop the portuguese intervention and assure it a bigger relevance in the field of cooperation, in the accomplishment of international agreements assumed by the Portuguese State in the domain of cooperation for development.

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Portugal intends to work closely with other national organizations dealing with ICT matters, in close cooperation with the governments of each developing country, identifying strategies that will integrate ICT in their development priorities.

4) Country/ regional focus of the ICT- enhanced development strategy

- a) *General description of regional and country focus*
- b) *More detailed information on main recipients of your ICT-enhanced development strategy*

The Portuguese main development partners are Portuguese Speaking African Countries (PALOP)¹, East Timor and Brazil.

In the Information Society Action Plan, axis 3 – Ensuring a Universal Presence, the development of ICT cooperation is foreseen in a continuous way.

- Electronic government consists upon one of the most relevant dimensions of this cooperation framework. In the 4th Conference of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP)² [<http://www.cplp.org>], held in Brazilia in the Summer of 2003, a Declaration on Electronic Government was approved and a Permanent Committee for Electronic Government was created aiming at strengthening the cooperation among Member States in this domain.
- CPLP is also making efforts to coordinate the participation of its Member States in the World Summit on Information Society, following the resolution approved in the Coimbra Summit of the CPLP's Council of Ministers, held in June 2003.
- Portugal has participated actively in the conception of the E-Government Action Plan for Iberoamerica, developed by the Iberoamerican E-Government Working Group.
- The National Programme for the Participation of Citizens with Special Needs, approved in the current European Year of People with Disability, foresees cooperation for development initiatives. A digital gestural language processing programme is to be launched in 2004, in cooperation with Brazil and East Timor.

In terms of international cooperation frameworks, Portugal participates in several projects, mainly directed to african and ibero-american countries:

- @LIS – Alliance for the Information Society

@LIS is a cooperation programme between Europe and Latin America aiming to promote the Information Society and bridge the digital divide throughout Latin America.

Portugal actively participates in the pursuit of the following goals:

- Stimulate the cooperation between European and Latin-American partners;
- Meet the needs of local communities and citizens, as part of a sustainable development;
- Promote the dialogue between all players and users of the information society;
- Increase the interconnection between Research & Development communities of both regions;
- Implement applications based on demonstration projects.

¹ PALOP: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé.

² CPLP: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé, East Timor, Brazil and Portugal.

- CYTED
Portugal is a Member Country of **CYTED – Ibero-American Programme for Science and Technology for Development** [<http://www.cyted.org>].
Within CYTED, Portugal participates in the following networks:
 - **IBEROEKA**, which seeks to intensify technological cooperation between Ibero-American enterprises and institutions. Portuguese participation is assigned to AdI.
 - **RICYT – Ibero-American Science and Technology Indicators Network** [<http://www.ricyt.org>], which has as main purpose the production of statistical indicators in the fields of R&D and Information Society in Ibero-American countries.
- Observatory for the Information Society in Portuguese-speaking countries (UNESCO)
The Observatory for the Information Society in Portuguese-speaking countries [<http://osi.unesco.org.br>] is a UNESCO initiative aiming to:
 - Monitor the development of the Information Society in Portuguese-speaking countries;
 - Collect information on ethical, legal and social challenges of the development of a sustainable information society;
 - Publish the available information online, within a single website.

Portuguese participation is ensured and managed by UMIC (Innovation and Knowledge Society Unit).

Besides the mentioned projects/actions, Portugal has also developed ICT cooperation activities as diverse as:

- Education - there is an ongoing project for PALOP which aims at an exchange of scientific information between universities;
- Health – computerization of the health centres in some regions in Mozambique and provision of telemedicine equipment in Cape Vert;
- Statistics – projects to promote and disseminate statistical information and knowledge in Angola, Cape Vert and Sao Tomé;
- Mass media – there is an ongoing programme to support media agencies in PALOP;
- Culture - project in PALOP to create a database in the area of historical archives;

We would also like to stress other important projects/programmes in ICT domain:

- PUENTI – Educational usage of ICT (Pedagogical Institute and High Institute of Education);
- Cooperation in the framework of Nónio XXI Century Programme;
- Multimedia distance learning projects;
- Teachers' and Media Technicians training from Agriculture Regional Divisions;
- Seminars on ICT systems involving the Central Banks from CPLP (Portuguese Speaking Community Countries).

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