



PO SEUR - Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources

Portugal is deeply committed to a structural transformation in its model of development, thus making it more competitive and resilient and promoting a sustainable growth trajectory based on a lower consumption of natural and energy resources and that simultaneously generates new opportunities of employment, wealth and knowledge reinforcement in a dynamic perspective that relates competitiveness and sustainability and in the promotion of greater resistance to climate changes and catastrophes, thus trying to create conditions for an increased convergence and cohesion within the European context.

Within this framework, a new National Thematic Programme dedicated to the Environment - the Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources (PO SEUR) wishes to contribute to the assertion of Europe 2020 Strategy, particularly regarding sustainable growth, addressing transitional challenges to a low carbon economy, based on a more efficient use of resources. Portugal's performance within this area has greatly improved being that community funds have contributed largely for the mentioned improvement.

Despite the investments already made, it is necessary to face some challenges resulting from the Portuguese economy high energy intensity, inefficiencies in resources management and use, vulnerabilities when facing the different natural and technological risks and weaknesses in protection of environmental values. The approach to overcome the mentioned constraints is based on three vectors that shall be keystones for mobilising community funds of the next cycle: the transition to a low carbon economy focused on the promotion of energy efficiency, particularly in the decrease of energy consumptions in the public administration – ESCO or Eco.AP model, with the specific goal of a 30% decrease–, and the promotion of energy efficiency in housing buildings, companies and the transport sector; in the prevention of risks and adaptation to climate changes, with special focus on coastal erosion and forest fire fighting; and the environmental protection and resources efficiency promotion, based on the operationalization of strategies for the waste sector (PERSU 2020), the water sector (PENSAAR 2020), biodiversity and environmental liabilities.

Thus, the strategy foreseen for PO SEUR refers to a multidimensional perspective of sustainability based on the following thematic objectives:

- Support the transition to a low carbon economy in all sectors;
- Promote the adaptation to climate changes and risk prevention and management;
- Protect the environment and promote resource efficiency.