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Mapping and stock taking of Scouts for Green Apprenticeship

Country Snapshot Portugal

Developed by: CEPROF

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Quantitative indicators on indicators on SDGs and Green Deal implementation in your country across the VET and business ecosystem in Portugal

Portugal has been proactive in its efforts to support the implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Green Deal within the vocational education and training (VET) and enterprise ecosystem. The country recognizes the crucial role that VET and businesses play in achieving a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future, and is taking measures to ensure they are equipped with the necessary skills and resources to make this transition.

One of the key initiatives in this regard is the "Green Skills Alliance." This partnership between the Portuguese government, companies, and VET institutions is aimed at promoting environmentally sustainable practices in the workplace and integrating green skills into VET curricula. The alliance provides resources, training, and support for VET institutions to incorporate sustainable development and environmental protection into their curricula, ensuring that future generations of workers are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to drive a more sustainable future.

The Portuguese National Qualifications Framework (PNQF) has also been updated to include green skills and competencies, aligning the country's VET system with the principles of the Green Deal. The PNQF provides a framework for the recognition of qualifications and skills in the country, and the inclusion of green skills and competencies helps ensure that the VET system is preparing workers for the demands of the green economy.

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In addition to these efforts within the VET system, the Portuguese government has launched various funding initiatives and programs to support the transition to a green economy. For example, the "Green Project" and the "Green Business" program provide resources and support for businesses to adopt more sustainable practices and integrate green technologies into their operations. These programs offer financial assistance, technical support, and training to help businesses reduce their environmental impact and improve their sustainability practices.

Portugal is taking a comprehensive and integrated approach to supporting the implementation of the SDGs and the Green Deal within its VET and enterprise ecosystem. By aligning its VET system with the principles of the Green Deal, promoting sustainable practices in the workplace, and providing resources and support for businesses to transition to a green economy, Portugal is well-positioned to lead the way towards a more sustainable future.

The lack of knowledge from the teachers' side shows that there are not many initiatives, or the ones that exist in Portugal are not disseminated enough. One interviewed professional said that it has had several training sessions regarding sustainable resources and manners, however, the lack of new content is demoralising.

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Qualitative descriptions of SDGs and Green Deal implementation in your country across the VET and business ecosystem

The level of awareness and understanding of the implications, challenges, and opportunities arising from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the European Green Deal among operators in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and enterprise ecosystem in Portugal is an important issue. As businesses and organizations operating in this sector play a critical role in the achievement of these global goals, it is crucial to understand their level of engagement and understanding.

The SDGs, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 17 goals, ranging from no poverty to clean water and sanitation, are interdependent and cover a broad range of economic, social, and environmental issues. Meanwhile, the Green Deal, proposed by the European Commission, is a comprehensive plan aimed at transforming the EU into a climate-neutral continent by 2050. It focuses on achieving this goal through the implementation of policies and initiatives related to clean energy, circular economy, and sustainable mobility, among others.

While there is a growing trend of Portuguese companies becoming more conscious of their environmental and social impact, the exact level of understanding of the implications, challenges, and opportunities related to the SDGs and the Green Deal is not well established. Nevertheless, there is evidence to suggest that Portuguese companies are taking steps to implement more sustainable practices in their

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operations, such as reducing their carbon footprint, improving energy efficiency, and investing in renewable energy.

To gain a better understanding of the situation in Portugal, various reports and studies can be consulted. For example, the Portuguese Association of Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability has published a study entitled "Sustainability in Portuguese Companies". The study provides valuable insights into the sustainability practices of Portuguese companies and their understanding of the SDGs and the Green Deal. Additionally, there are several interviews and reports available that focus on sustainability and corporate social responsibility in Portugal, which can provide valuable insights into the situation.

The majority of our interviewed professionals confessed to not knowing any implementation initiatives regarding SDGs or Green Deal. Some considered the subjects taught in school to integrate sustainable matters – some of the examples given were the installation of solar panels, reusing materials, cooking with leftovers – however they considered it insufficient to raise awareness to this matter.

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Opportunities: training available and operational tools

Portugal offers various opportunities for training and operational tools related to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Green Deal. These initiatives aim to promote sustainable development, mitigate climate change, and foster environmental protection. Here are some avenues you can explore:

1. **Training Programs and Courses:** Several organizations in Portugal provide training programs and courses on SDGs and the Green Deal. These include:
 - **Nova School of Business and Economics:** The Nova SBE offers executive education programs on sustainable development and corporate sustainability, covering topics like SDGs, circular economy, and green finance.
 - **Instituto Superior Técnico:** This renowned engineering school offers courses on sustainable development, renewable energy, and environmental engineering. They cover subjects such as climate change mitigation, energy efficiency, and sustainable urban development.
 - **Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics:** The school offers courses on sustainable business and management, focusing on topics like sustainable supply chains, green marketing, and sustainability reporting.



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2. Green Deal Hub: The Green Deal Hub in Portugal serves as a platform to support businesses, entrepreneurs, and organizations in transitioning to sustainable practices. It provides access to resources, networking opportunities, and information about funding and financing options for green projects.
3. SDG Impact Assessment Tool: The Portuguese Government has developed an SDG Impact Assessment Tool to assist companies in evaluating and aligning their activities with the SDGs. This tool helps businesses measure their impacts, set goals, and monitor progress towards sustainable development.
4. Green Growth Acceleration Program: The Portuguese government launched the Green Growth Acceleration Program to support sustainable and innovative projects. This program provides financial incentives, technical support, and access to a network of partners to help businesses develop and implement green solutions.
5. Research and Innovation Funding: Portugal actively supports research and innovation in sustainable development. Programs such as Portugal 2020 and Horizon Europe offer funding opportunities for projects related to SDGs and the Green Deal. These funds can be accessed by businesses, universities, and research institutions.



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As the majority of our interviewees had no knowledge of available training and/or operational tools in Portugal, their contribute does not add anything to the literature revision. This “problem” only shows that the little initiatives in Portugal are not known through the general public.

Case Study / Good Practice / Example

The Portuguese Tourism School (Escola de Hotelaria e Turismo de Portugal) offers courses and workshops on sustainable tourism management. These

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Needs

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Green Deal in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and business ecosystems of Portugal requires a comprehensive and integrated approach that addresses the challenges and barriers faced. Here are some of the measures and solutions that would support the implementation of the SDGs and the Green Deal in Portugal, with a more detailed explanation of each.

During the course of this project, we interviewed 10 vocational education and training (VET) experts, who collectively highlighted the following aspects as significant in their discussions:

- **Awareness Raising and Education:** Raising awareness and educating relevant stakeholders, including students, educators, businesses, and policy-makers, about the importance of sustainable development and their role in achieving the SDGs is crucial. The education should aim to foster a culture of sustainability and to increase the understanding of the benefits of sustainable practices. This education can be delivered through various channels, including schools, universities, vocational training institutions, and online platforms.
 - For instance, VET institutions can incorporate sustainable development into their curricula and offer courses and training programs that focus on sustainable practices and the use of renewable energy systems. This will not only help to equip students with the knowledge and skills they need to support the implementation of the SDGs and the Green Deal, but it will

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also contribute to the creation of a new generation of professionals who are committed to sustainable development.

- **Financial Incentives:** Financial resources are often a barrier to the implementation of sustainable practices in the VET and business sectors in Portugal. To overcome this challenge, financial incentives, such as tax credits, subsidies, and loans, can be provided to encourage the adoption of sustainable practices. These financial incentives can help businesses and VET institutions to invest in sustainable infrastructure, such as energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy systems, and other infrastructure that supports sustainable practices.
 - For example, the Portuguese government can offer tax credits to businesses that adopt sustainable practices and invest in renewable energy systems. Similarly, subsidies can be provided to VET institutions that invest in sustainable infrastructure and incorporate sustainable development into their curricula. Loans can also be made available to businesses and VET institutions to support the implementation of sustainable practices.
- **Investment in Sustainable Infrastructure:** Adequate infrastructure is essential for the implementation of sustainable practices in the VET and business sectors in Portugal. However, many VET institutions and businesses in Portugal lack the necessary infrastructure to support sustainable practices. To overcome this challenge, significant investment in sustainable infrastructure is required. This investment should be focused on the development of energy-efficient buildings, renewable energy systems, and other infrastructure that supports sustainable practices.



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- For example, the Portuguese government can invest in the development of renewable energy systems and energy-efficient buildings, such as wind turbines, solar panels, and green buildings. This investment will not only support the implementation of sustainable practices, but it will also create jobs and stimulate economic growth in Portugal.
- **Regulation and Policy Support:** The implementation of the SDGs and the Green Deal in the VET and business sectors in Portugal requires a supportive regulatory and policy environment. The Portuguese government can play a crucial role in creating this environment by implementing policies and regulations that support the adoption of sustainable practices.
 - For example, the government can implement regulations that require businesses to adopt sustainable practices, such as the use of renewable energy systems and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The government can also provide incentives for businesses that adopt sustainable practices, such as tax credits and subsidies.

In addition, the government can implement policies that support the integration of sustainable development into the curricula of VET institutions. This will ensure that students receive an education that prepares them for a sustainable future and equips them with the knowledge and skills they need to support the implementation of the SDGs and the Green Deal.

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Challenges

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Green Deal in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and business ecosystems in Portugal face several inhibitors and barriers. Addressing these challenges is crucial for achieving a sustainable and equitable future in Portugal. The following are some of the main barriers that need to be overcome to ensure the successful implementation of the SDGs and the Green Deal in Portugal.

- **Lack of Awareness:** A significant challenge is the lack of awareness and understanding among the relevant stakeholders regarding the importance of sustainable development and the role of VET and businesses in achieving the SDGs. This lack of understanding often results in a lack of engagement and commitment from these stakeholders, which can impede progress towards sustainable development. Therefore, it is crucial to raise awareness and educate all relevant stakeholders, including students, educators, businesses, and policy-makers, about the importance of sustainable development and their role in achieving the SDGs.
- **Limited Financial Resources:** Implementing the SDGs and the Green Deal requires significant financial resources, which are often limited in Portugal, particularly in the VET sector. VET institutions, in particular, face financial constraints that limit their ability to invest in sustainable practices and infrastructure. In addition, many businesses may view the transition to sustainable practices as an additional cost, rather than as an investment in their long-term viability. To overcome these financial



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barriers, it may be necessary to provide financial incentives for businesses and VET institutions to adopt sustainable practices and invest in sustainable infrastructure.

- **Inadequate Infrastructures:** In many cases, existing infrastructures and systems in Portugal are not equipped to support the transition to more sustainable practices. For example, many VET institutions may not have the necessary facilities or equipment to provide students with hands-on experience in sustainable practices. In addition, many businesses may lack the necessary infrastructure to adopt sustainable practices, such as energy-efficient buildings or renewable energy systems. Overcoming these barriers to infrastructure will require significant investment in sustainable infrastructure, both in VET institutions and in businesses.
- **Resistance to Change:** There may be resistance to change from stakeholders who are used to traditional ways of doing things and are not ready to embrace new sustainable practices. This resistance may be driven by a lack of understanding of the benefits of sustainable development, a fear of the unknown, or a belief that sustainable practices are not compatible with traditional practices. To overcome this resistance to change, it is essential to engage with stakeholders and educate them about the benefits of sustainable development and the importance of embracing new sustainable practices.



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- **Lack of Regulation:** The absence of clear and enforceable regulations and policies to support the implementation of the SDGs and the Green Deal in Portugal can also act as a barrier. This lack of regulation may result in a lack of accountability among relevant stakeholders, making it more difficult to achieve sustainable development. To overcome this barrier, it will be necessary to develop and implement regulations and policies that incentivize the adoption of sustainable practices in the VET and business sectors.

In the course of our project, we conducted interviews with 10 vocational education and training (VET) teachers and trainers in Portugal, who provided valuable insights into the major challenges associated with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Green Deal. These experts highlighted various obstacles, such as limited awareness and understanding of the SDGs and the Green Deal among stakeholders, insufficient integration of sustainability into VET curricula and training programs, lack of funding and resources for sustainable initiatives, and the need for capacity building and skills development in sustainable practices.

Based on their input, it is evident that addressing these challenges and successfully implementing the SDGs and the Green Deal in the VET and business ecosystems in Portugal will require a multi-stakeholder approach and a concerted effort from all relevant actors. This includes active involvement and collaboration between the government, businesses, VET institutions, and civil society organizations. Together, they need to prioritize sustainable development in policy frameworks, allocate adequate resources for training and capacity building, foster partnerships and knowledge sharing, and promote a culture of sustainability and innovation.



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By adopting such a collaborative approach, these teachers believe that Portugal can overcome the barriers hindering SDG implementation and accelerate progress towards a more sustainable and inclusive future. It is essential to recognize that the achievement of the SDGs and the Green Deal relies not only on individual actions but also on collective efforts and collective responsibility.

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