



Portugal has a new (?) digital plan

The Action Plan for Digital Transition is a governmental roadmap for the digital transition in Portugal, including measures for individuals, companies and the public administration.

In times where the need for digital literacy and universal access is more apparent than ever, individuals, companies and the public administration will be pillars of the new Action Plan for Digital Transition (the “**Action Plan**”) just published by the Portuguese government, as part of a medium term digital strategy for Portugal to be implemented from 2020 to 2023.

Individuals’ digital inclusion is a keystone of the Action Plan, given that one quarter of the Portuguese population has never used the internet, which is significantly above the European average (this is having a negative impact on the student availability for online schooling during the Covid-19 crisis). The new Upskill program will requalify professionals in information and technology-related areas and is expected to allocate a number of requalified persons in companies in need of man work.

The Action Plan also aims to provide intensive training to three thousand participants over six months, in order to respond to the scarcity of IT human resources. The plan should bring at least one million adults into the digital economy, and it is also providing low fare tariffs for internet services. Interesting to see how its implementation will be affected by the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown measures.

As regards companies, territory-specific regulatory sandboxes are expected to be created in a number of Portuguese regions in order to promote research and development and testing of innovative products and solutions. Both +CO3SO Digital, a programme to bring digital entrepreneurship to less populated regions, and E-Residency, an Estonian-inspired virtual citizenship project, will target an international and digitally-inclusive outlook for the Portuguese economy.

Startup Visa, Tech Visa, Sign Up for Portugal and Startup Hub are examples of other company-oriented projects and programmes, specifically targeting the creation of a proper entrepreneurial ecosystem. Portugal is set to invest in the digital transition of businesses.

Public administration will be subject to transformative measures in the most used services by citizens, including the use of cloud computing, digital public services, digitally-enabled schools and internationally accessible public services.

To some extent, we can say that this Action Plan is mostly a repackaging or an extension of existing incentive plans, such as +CO3SO, or Startup Visa, focusing on digital transition. It comes along with the 5G auction, set to occur in 2020 (you can read more about the 5G Auction [here](#)), to the support the digital transition of Portuguese economy to the digital era.

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✉ Contacts

João de Macedo Vitorino
jvitorino@macedovitorino.com

Pedro Ramalho de Almeida
palmeida@macedovitorino.com

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