



**REPLACE**

Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



Round table  
**Funding instruments in  
Focus Sector**

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# The policy-mix framework for CE

## An overview

- The **Just Transition Fund** is an EU funding tool to help regions that are dependent on fossil fuels and high-emission industries on their transition.
- The **Recovery and Resilience Facility**, which is the key instrument at the heart of NextGenerationEU, that supports measures to tackle the green and digital transitions.
- The **Portuguese Environmental Fund** was created to support environmental policies relating to climate change, water resources, waste and nature conservation and biodiversity.
- The **Regional Operational Programme** of Centro region (for 2014-2020), which is specially oriented towards the reinforcement of companies' competitiveness and the creation of jobs, by promoting a knowledge and sustainability-driven economy.
- **National Operational Thematic Programmes** (within PT 2020) that also fund proposals presented by partners from the convergence regions (Centro, Norte and Alentejo), such as:
  - POSEUR (Operational Programme for Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources),
  - PDR (Operational Programme for the Rural Development), and
  - COMPETE (the National Operational Competitiveness Programme), which is one of the most relevant instruments for Centro stakeholders (and namely SMEs).

# The policy-mix framework for CE

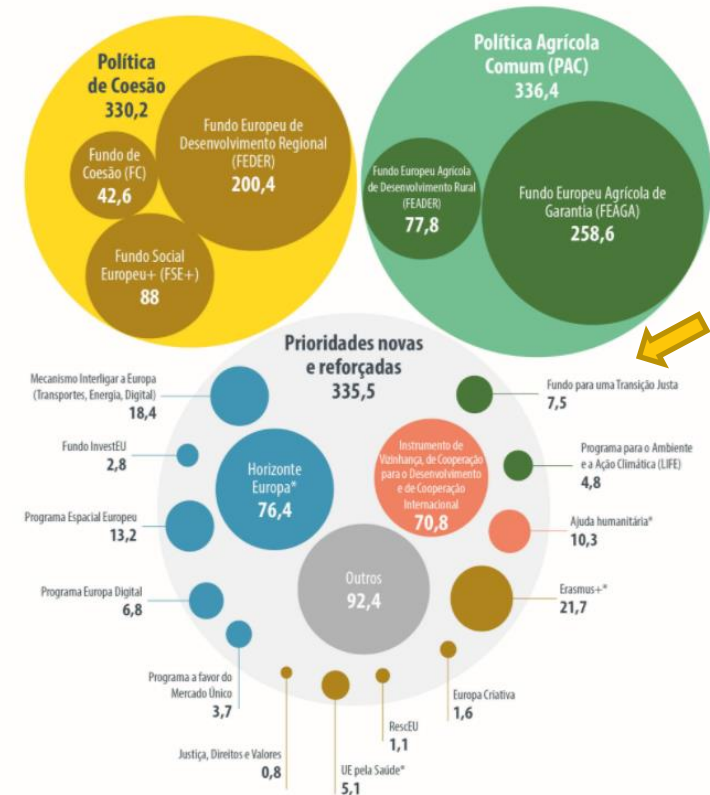
## The Just Transition Fund

The fund aims at:

- i) alleviating the socio-economic costs triggered by the climate transition;
- ii) supporting the economic diversification and reconversion of the affected territories;
- iii) helping people to adapt in a changing labour market.

It will do so by supporting:

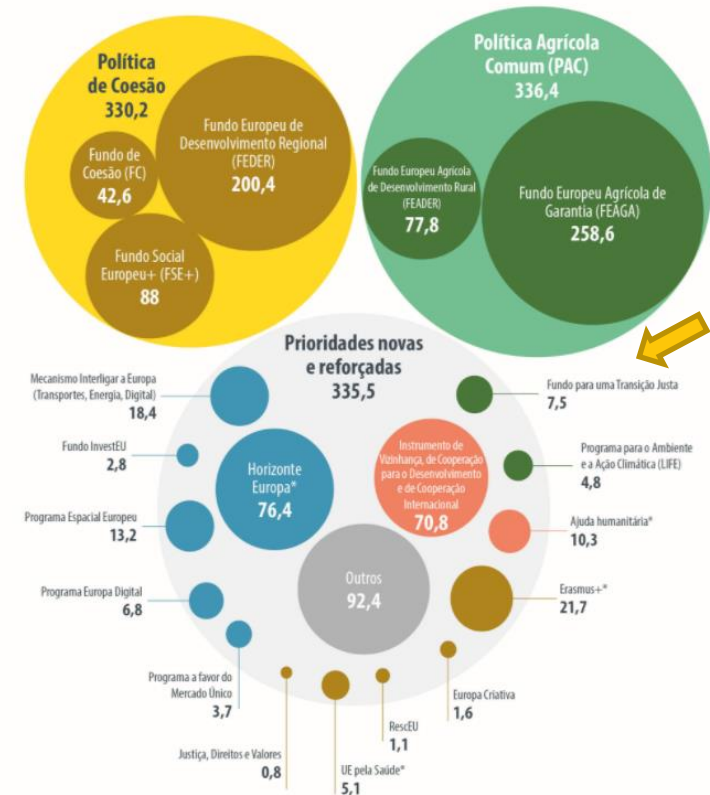
- productive investments in small and medium-sized enterprises
- research and innovation activities
- environmental rehabilitation
- clean energy
- up- and reskilling of workers
- job-search assistance and active inclusion of jobseekers
- transformation of existing carbon-intensive installations when these investments lead to substantial emission cuts and job protection.



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## The Just Transition Fund

- In Centro region, two territories are potentially eligible for the development of Territorial Plans for the Just transition.
  - In 2021, Centro 2020 launched a call for the expression of interest for the development of investment projects targeted at promoting the economic diversification of one of these territories
- These Plans (TJTP) will be programmed within the context of the upcoming Regional Operational Programme.

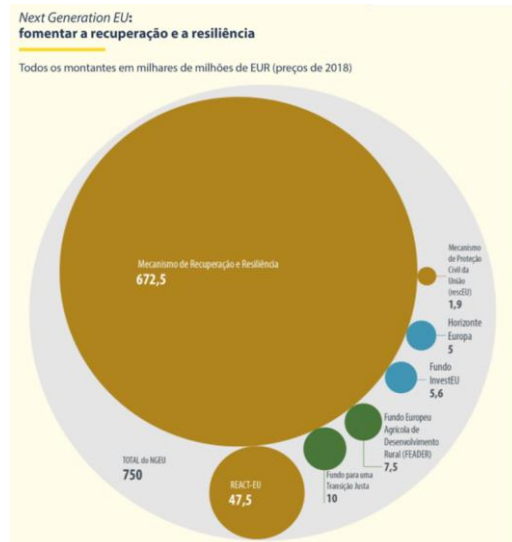


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## - The Recovery and Resilience Plan

The RRP is the investment plan for Portugal, based on three structuring dimensions: Resilience; Climate Change; Digital Transition.

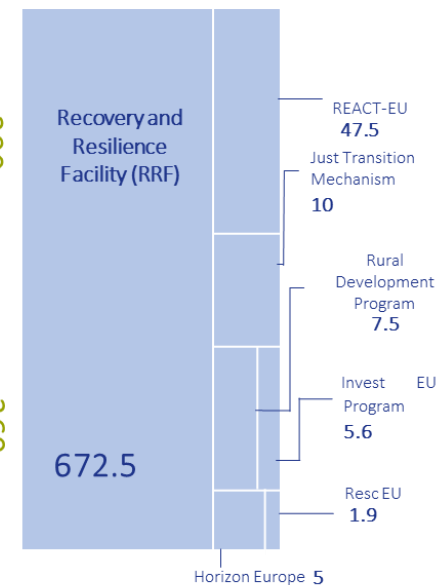
The Plan will implement a set of reforms and investments aimed at restoring sustained economic growth, supporting the goal of convergence with Europe over the next decade.



2021-2026

subsidies 390

loans 360

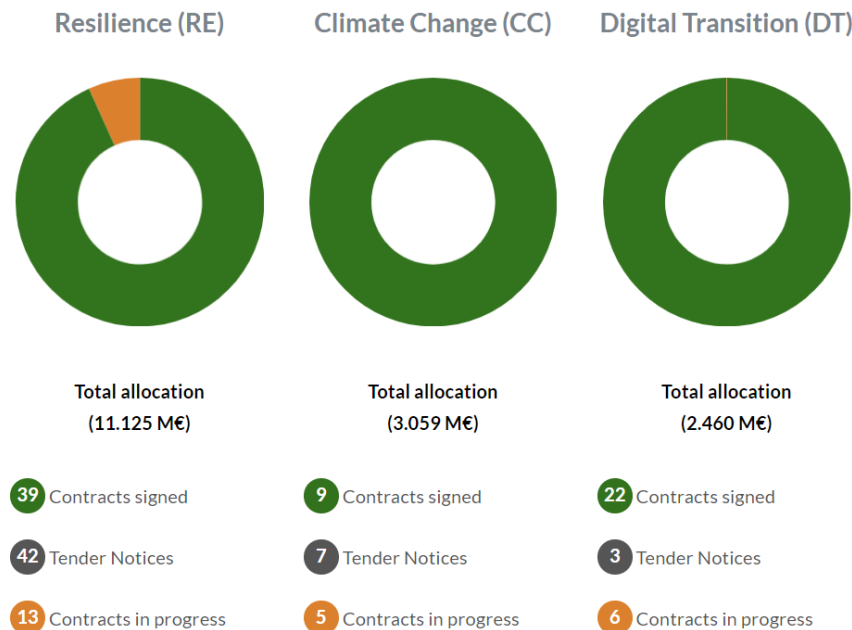


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## - The Recovery and Resilience Plan

Some examples of investments that specifically target “Circular Economy”:

- i01: **Decarbonisation of industry** (715 M€)
- i01: Energy efficiency in residential buildings (300 M€)
- i01: Bioeconomy (145 M€)
- i01.02: **Business Innovation Green Agendas/Green Alliances** (372 M€)
- i02: Green and Digital Transition and Fisheries Security (21 M€)
- i03: Research and innovation agenda for the sustainability of agriculture, food and agro-industry (Agriculture Innovation Agenda 20|30) (93 M€)



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## - The Portuguese Environmental Fund

Calls that targeted Circular Economy

FUNDO  
AMBIENTAL

- Supporting Circular Economy in Public Procurement (CIRCULAR – Compras Públicas)
- Supporting the transition to a Circular Economy
- Supporting Circular Economy in parishes (JUNTA)
- Supporting Circular Economy in the Construction sector (CIRCULAR - Construção)
- CIRCULAR: Startups
- Supporting incentive systems for packaging return
- Programme to support the preparation of studies on Bio-waste collection systems
- Bio-neighborhoods
- **Rethink Plastics in the Economy: Design, Use, Regenerate (DURe)**

encourage companies to present projects that allow the development or implementation of solutions that integrate the principles of circular economy in the plastic value chain, especially in disposable plastics, from fossil sources.

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## The **Regional Operational Programme / National Thematic Operational Programmes**

Some practical examples

- A **Circular Economy Voucher** (AVISO N° 20/SI/2018), mobilised within the context of Portugal 2020 (PT2020), that aimed at creating an opportunity for SMEs to have a first interaction with the Circular Economy approach.

The beneficiaries would receive financial support to, within a period of 12 months, purchase:

- Consultancy services for the identification of a strategy leading to the adoption of circular economy business plans;
- Advisory services for the implementation of solutions that result from the outlined circular economy strategy.





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## The **Regional Operational Programme / National Thematic Operational Programmes**

Some practical examples

- Within **TO3**, funding rate mark-ups have been operationalised through **PT2020** for approved proposals that demonstrate alignment with the established “**Sectoral Policy Priorities**” (being Circular Economy one of them).

Projects could benefit from a **mark-up in their funding rate** if the investment should materialise a strategy leading to the adoption of the Circular Economy principles.

During the application process, applicants were expected to outline the objectives to be achieved regarding eco-efficiency in terms of reduction in CO2 emissions, reduction of energy consumption, reduction of water consumption per unit of product, among other indicators, using internationally recognised protocols or measuring methodologies.

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## The **Regional Operational Programme / National Thematic Operational Programmes**

### Some practical examples

- Within the **ROP's** TO8, one call was launched in the beginning of 2021 for supporting national production, in coordination with the regional Intermunicipal Associations of the territory. This call aimed at **stimulating national production** to boost the economic recovery from the pandemic, targeting micro and small businesses.
- In this call, a mark-up of up to 10% was established in the funding rate for approved projects led by companies that were to develop the project according to a strategy aligned with the transition to a Circular Economy, including the adoption of principles of energy transition.

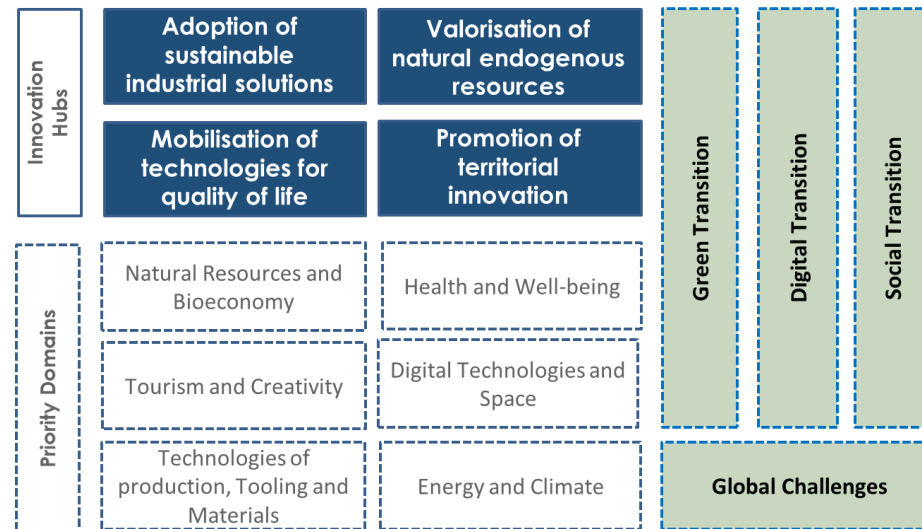
# The policy-mix framework for CE

## The Regional Operational Programme / National Thematic Operational Programmes

For what's ahead:

- For the EU budget 2021-27 and Next Generation EU, the political agreement set an overall **climate target of 30%** applicable to the total amount of expenditure.
- Our **regional S3** is clearly aligned with the CE approach and the climate transition ambition

This highlights the importance of discussing the promotion of the climate transition through different instruments (and not only dedicated calls).





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## Thank you!

March 10<sup>th</sup> 2022