



## Voluntary national report on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in Portugal

### I. Framework and methodology

The approach adopted by Portugal is one which recognises the importance of migration as a key asset for the country's demographic, economic, social and cultural development. For many decades, this recognition has been reflected in global and integrated public policies involving several stakeholders with targeted and cross-cutting responsibilities, at both local and national levels, in the promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration flows, thus enhancing integration into the fold of Portuguese society.

It is within this framework, and as set forth in the [first voluntary regional review of Portugal's Global Compact for Migration \(GCM\)](#), presented in 2020, that Portugal was also one of the first countries in the world to prepare a [National Implementation Plan of the Global Compact for Migration](#) (PNIPGM), which transposes the commitment established within the scope of the GCM<sup>1</sup> to the national context.

As Portugal is a Champion Country in the implementation of the GCM, it is the aim of this report to share the experience of implementing the National Plan and the advances achieved since 2020, when the first voluntary national report was presented. It further identifies the main activities performed, the best practices implemented and the main constraints and challenges.

The PNIPGM stands as an important milestone to achieve social justice in the national context. It is aligned not only with the accomplishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), but also with the Programme of the [XXII](#) and [XXIII](#) Constitutional Governments, which reflect Portugal's commitment to promoting safe, orderly and regular migration as the most effective means of framing human mobility, managing demographic dynamics and enhancing the contribution of migrants to the development of societies in the countries of origin, transit and destination.

Considering the important role that citizens and civil society organisations play in public institutions and in the fulfilment of migration policy, based on a whole-of-society approach, in

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<sup>1</sup> As, in fact, laid down in paragraph 53 of the GCM.



2021 the [High Commission for Migration](#) (ACM), in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), developed a [consultative process on the involvement of civil society in the PNIPGM](#). The aim of this process, which included information sessions and the development of a questionnaire to 49 entities, was both to ascertain civil society's degree of involvement in the PNIPGM, intervention areas and opportunities for synergy and to gather suggestions and recommendations to better execute the Objectives.

Also in articulation with the IOM, Portugal is currently participating in the [Migration Governance Index](#) (MGI), a tool within the scope of the SDGs and which seeks to identify best practices and possible gaps in the establishment of policies, programmes and institutional capacity in the area of migration. By making use of this tool, and with a view to promoting inter-institutional dialogue on well-governed migration, the participation of Portugal has relied on a whole-of-government approach.

In fact, the implementation of the PNIPGM has required the coordinated participation of 16 government departments and 28 public institutes in their different spheres of action, thus allowing for a broad vision and integrated approach to the migration phenomenon. The local and civil society dimensions, where integration processes are consolidated on a daily basis, are also included in this approach. These measures are cross-cuttingly reflected in the 10 guiding principles of the GCM and transpose concrete measures to the national context in order to achieve the Plan's 23 objectives based on 5 core pillars. The main conquests since 2020 may be highlighted as follows:

- I. **Promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration.** The mobility agreement between the Member States of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) was signed in July 2021, in Luanda, Angola, on the occasion of the 13th Conference of Heads of State and Government of the CPLP, with a view to expediting and easing regular migration flows, including circulation and residency, among the various Member States of the CPLP.
- II. **Improved organisation of migration flows and integrated border management.** The protocol for the establishment of procedures geared towards the prevention, detection and protection of (alleged) child victims of Human Trafficking – the National Referral System, launched in 2021, has served to strengthen and consolidate the coordination, cooperation and communication mechanisms among the professionals involved in the prevention and fight against child trafficking, with a particular focus on migrant children.



- III. **Promotion of the reception and integration of immigrants.** *Rede Integrar Valoriza*, the pilot project of the immigrant integration network launched in 2021, seeks to strengthen the integration policies at a local level, in a cross-cutting, articulated and integrated approach, through a network that relies on the participation of 19% of the municipalities on a national scale and the involvement of public entities.
- IV. **Support for migrants' attachment to their country of origin.** The National Diaspora Investment Support Programme launched in 2020, and which seeks to encourage the return and investment of the Diaspora in Portugal, as also to benefit from the presence of Portuguese communities overseas, has already enabled the attribution of over 200 Diaspora Investor Statuses.
- V. **Increased partnerships for development with countries of origin and transit.** In September 2021 and January 2022 labour mobility agreements were concluded with India and Morocco respectively, which are currently in the operationalisation process, in an attempt to increase and enhance the regularity of migration flows as an opportunity for the countries of origin and destination, and similar agreements are being negotiated with Moldova, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Georgia, the Philippines and Nepal.

In order to accompany and monitor the PNIPGM, as specified in the 2020 report, two spheres of intervention were established: at a ministerial level, through political coordination of the different departments involved in the Plan, and at a technical level, coordinated by the ACM, which aims to closely monitor the implementation of the 97 measures that are part of the PNIPGM.

The methodology adopted has progressively enabled not only swift concerted responses in the face of imposed challenges, as seen in the pandemic situation, but also the monitoring of the Plan's execution and the migration policy strategy in Portugal.

In 2021, Portugal attained a record number of foreign residents, exceeding 700,000, which reveals not only its capacity to attract and retain migrants, but also the positive and dynamic management of migration flows in Portugal. This increase, which has become consolidated in recent years, enabled Portugal to return to a positive migration appraisal in 2017, with migrants having a highly significant and positive impact on labour market dynamics, contributing (during



the global pandemic period) more than 800 million euros to the Portuguese social security in 2020.

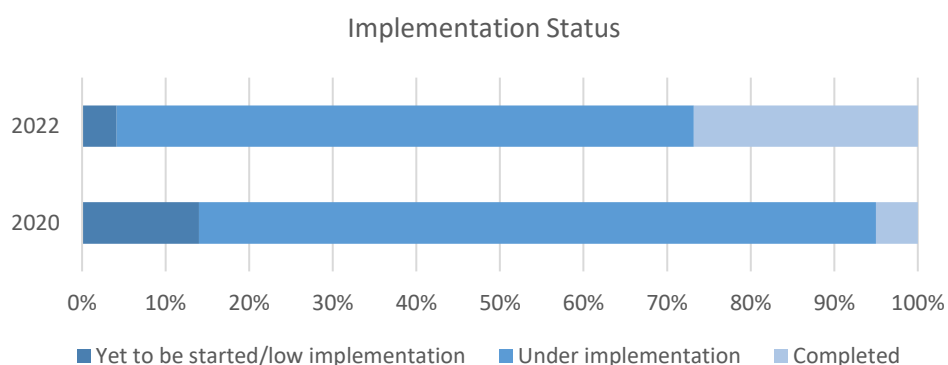
This significant increase in the number of foreign residents also highlights the need to proceed forward with policies to govern migration and promote integration, which should be geared towards regulated and integrated immigration, in favour of the country's development and sustainability, but also as an expression of a tolerant, diverse country that is open to the world.

It is against this background that the updated voluntary national report is presented, containing contributions resulting from the monitoring of the PNIPGM and the consultative process with civil society, with a view to contributing to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) and to the consolidation of an ambitious, universal and action-oriented Progress Declaration.

## II. Progress in the implementation of the PNIPGM

The inter-ministerial and technical efforts to promote and monitor the PNIPGM over more than two years have served to boost and implement a wide range of initiatives and activities that have put the measures into practice.

The Government has invested in the creation of ambitious targets for its National Plan, promoting not only measures with defined objectives, but also measures designed to be continuously implemented (58% of the PNIPGM measures), in an attempt to ensure a long-term approach in its response to migration challenges. In view of the Plan's methodology, the implementation of the measures can be quantitatively assessed, and it is worth noting that 21 measures have been accomplished and 70% of the Plan's measures have been continuously implemented since 2020.



Note: the continuous implementation measures shall not be concluded at the end of the PNIPGM, thus ensuring constant improved and continued action throughout the duration of the Plan.

It is within this framework that the developments below reflect the main features in the implementation of each PNIPGM objectives since 2020, pointing to new best practices as well as the results of ongoing action to achieve the 23 globally identified objectives for the **management** of migration flows.



**Objective 1.** The consolidation of public policies can be as exhaustive as the knowledge on the reality of migration flows. In addition to the annual production of reports on the integration of migrants by the Observatory for Migration, statistical reports are produced annually on the entry and permanence of foreign citizens, the Portuguese diaspora, and racial and ethnic discrimination practices and processes, among others. The ACM also has a decentralised response network to support migrants, ranging from national and local centres to support the integration of migrants ([CNAIM](#) and [CLAIM](#)) to Occupational Insertion Offices (GIP) where, since 2020, a management system has been implemented to collect information on the characterisation of migrants, with a view to better understanding their needs and profiles in order to better formulate intervention responses to the identified needs.

**Objective 2.** Portugal's participation in cooperation programmes, projects and initiatives within the multilateral framework promotes the construction, development and consolidation of national capacities in the countries involved. It seeks to contribute to combating the root causes of migration and forced displacement in partner countries, thus contributing to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda. The Strategic



Cooperation Programmes (SCPs) and Triangular Cooperation Agreements play an important role in this regard. In addition to the CPLP mobility agreement approved in 2021, Portugal has Memoranda of Understanding for Triangular Cooperation with countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Israel, Morocco, Peru and Uruguay, with a view to implementing triangular initiatives to promote sustainable development in third countries. Portugal manages and co-finances development support projects, notably in Mozambique, in order to increase economic opportunities in the Cabo Delgado region; in Cape Verde and Guinea Bissau in order to improve security levels and migration management. There is also active cooperation in the area of vocational training with Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Angola and East Timor.

**Objective 3.** In order to guarantee access to information on the process of reception and integration of migrants in Portugal, online information in Portuguese and English has been made available on [ePortugal](#), an electronic channel facilitating access to State services. This information, intended for migrants, addresses and provides clarification on how to access the different public services and respective procedures in various areas of integration. With the collaboration of several government departments, a [Migrant Reception Guide](#) was also launched, with useful information on issues related to the reception and integration of migrants in Portugal, aiming to serve as a guiding document to facilitate the work of public and private institutions and civil society and to support migrants wishing to live in Portugal.

**Objective 4.** The documentation process is crucial to enhance integration and prevent vulnerabilities in migration. Thus, the [new consular management model](#) has been optimised, seeking to ensure a dematerialised, simplified and standard service for the different consular acts. Serving 10 countries in Europe, by the end of 2021, it had received and handled over a million telephone and email contacts. A new Residence Permit model was also created for foreign citizens in 2021 which now includes information equivalent to that on the national Citizen's Card, with tax, health and social security numbers, thus guaranteeing resident citizens' access to basic services.

Amendments have also been made to the Nationality Law, extending access to original nationality and naturalisation to persons born on Portuguese territory.



**Objective 5.** In order to boost regular migration and the prevention of human trafficking, in addition to the aforementioned Labour Mobility Agreements with India and Morocco and the CPLP Mobility Agreement, Portugal finances civil society projects, namely through the European Union's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the priority of which is to develop a proactive policy for attracting Third Country Nationals and the labour and social insertion of these migrants into Portuguese society (at the end of 2021 four projects were being financed).

**Objective 6.** Seeking to strengthen the guarantee of decent working conditions for workers, between 2019 and 2021 over 11,000 inspections were carried out in various economic sectors such as agriculture and fisheries, construction, hospitality and catering, in articulation with the [Immigration and Borders Service](#) (SEF), the Authority for Working Conditions (ACT), the [Social Security Institute](#) (ISS) and the Security Forces, with the involvement of Spanish entities, among others. These articulated actions in the field are essential to enhance the application of migrant citizens' rights in society.

**Objective 7.** In articulation with other public entities, the ACM promotes grassroots responses to migrants through 4 CNAIM, and a network of 145 CLAIM, set up in partnership with local authorities, civil society entities and higher education institutions, which have assisted 500,000 people since 2020. The [expansion of the Network](#) has continued since 2020, with the opening of a new CNAIM and 43 new CLAIM (+40%) in order to ensure national coverage in supporting the response to the reception and integration of foreign citizens. Furthermore, in partnership with the ACM, the National Institute of Public Administration (INA) designed an [Intercultural Competences e-learning course](#) in 2022, targeting public service workers and the general public, which has already seen 6 thousand enrolments. The training of over 5 thousand civil servants was also promoted by several entities - ACM, Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP), National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP) and SEF – in areas that contribute to the integration of migrants, such as cultural diversity, identification and referral in the context of international protection, prevention of human trafficking, forced repatriation and the prevention of discriminatory practices, among others. These initiatives empower key actors to ensure a humane, swift and integration-oriented response to migrants' integration.

**Objective 8.** Strengthened coordination within the scope of saving lives at sea is included in the draft National Strategy for Integrated Border Management 2020-2023, currently under



approval. This national strategy acknowledges the need to strengthen the capacity to receive citizens in rescue situations at sea as a specific goal, and a draft Contingency Plan for Irregular Immigration by sea has been prepared to ensure the primacy of safeguarding human life.

**Objective 9.** SEF leads the Reinforcement of Integrated Migration Management (RIMM) project, which contributes to the regulation of migration flows between the European Union and third countries and beneficiaries, with Sao Tome and Principe as partner and Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde as beneficiaries, preventing the phenomena of counter smuggling, human trafficking and related crimes. It implements activities on two fronts: the development of local capacities to control migration flows (capacity building) and the prevention of human trafficking for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation, especially of minors. SEF also participates actively in the European Union's Law Enforcement Agency (EUROPOL), having promoted five joint initiatives with Member States in the area of illegal migration and human trafficking.

**Objective 10.** In addition to the established National Referral System of (alleged) child victims of Human Trafficking, in 2020 the [Portuguese Observatory on Human Trafficking](#) (OTSH) and Cabo Verde's Observatory for Monitoring and Rapid Identification of Situations of Trafficking in Persons signed a Cooperation Protocol, for the exchange of data and information as well as technical and scientific collaboration.

**Objective 11.** In order to ensure better border management, solutions have been developed for air and sea border crossings using biometric identification and the implementation of the European Entry-Exit System (EES), which is expected to be operational in May 2022. Additionally, under the National Contingency Plan for irregular immigration by sea, a hotspot for the arrival of people on the Algarve coast is in its final stages, and the creation of Screening and Registration Centres for third country nationals who do not meet the conditions for entry into national territory is also foreseen.

**Objective 12.** The security and predictability of migration flows have improved as a result of the implementation of the [MySEF](#) system in 2020 for more efficient and integrated document management, with particular emphasis on streamlining the decision-making process of the resident status, allowing foreign citizens to request the renewal of their residence permit without having to go to a help desk, thus enabling the renewal of over 187 thousand residence





permits. It should be noted that the dematerialisation of processes became all the more urgent when the pandemic forced SEF spaces to close.

**Objective 13.** With a view to promoting the referral of citizens to the support services for their regularisation and integration, the articulation channels among the institutions have been improved to obtain swifter and more effective responses. A Cooperation Protocol was also signed in November 2020 by the Bar Association, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Justice for the permanent provision of lawyers to provide legal advice and assistance to foreign citizens who are refused entry into the country at national airports, ensuring their full access to the Law and to the Courts to defend their legally protected rights and interests, having already mobilised such support to over 500 foreign citizens.

**Objective 14.** Seeking to guarantee consular protection for emigrants and immigrants, in addition to optimising the new consular management model, the network of Emigrant Support Offices (GAE) has been extended, providing support to emigrants who intend to return to Portugal as well as to Portuguese citizens intending to emigrate, with 187 GAE protocols with municipalities (+30% of geographical coverage since 2020) at the end of 2021, and this expansion of the network is ongoing.

**Objective 15.** Access to basic services is essential to ensure the dignity of all those seeking to build life projects in Portugal. In the area of Education, with the aim of promoting the educational success of migrant students who have recently entered the Portuguese education system, measures have been implemented to support their learning of the Portuguese language by [amending](#) the curricular area of *Portuguese as a Non- Mother Tongue Language* in primary and secondary education.

In the area of Health, the [National Health Plan 2021-2030](#), aligned with Agenda 2030, foresees a strong fight against inequalities and health inequalities to "ensure access to quality health and promote well-being for all", regardless of an individual's migrant status. To ensure effective communication between health professionals and migrants, 631 calls were made between 2019 and December 2021 by the ACM's Telephone Translation Service (STT) to health-related institutions and 5,634 health calls were made at the CLAIMs.



In the context of Housing, a protocol was signed in 2021 between the ACM and the Institute for Housing and Urban Rehabilitation (IHRU), with a view to successfully achieving the inclusive and intercultural implementation of the new generation of housing policies. Activities have been carried out with the purpose of building housing responses to address the vulnerabilities of the immigrant population, not only for emergencies and temporary solutions, but also to build autonomous dwellings. Awareness-raising efforts are being conducted with local authorities, 177 of which have already presented Local Housing Strategies to improve housing conditions for the general population, including the immigrant population.

**Objective 16.** Acknowledging the importance of articulation among all the entities working on integration at the local level, a total of 36 municipalities designed 43 Municipal Plans for the Integration of Migrants (PMIM) between 2019 and 2021, including inter-municipal plans, to work on effective responses tailored to the context of each municipality. With the publication of the Ministerial Order that created the Portuguese Host Language (PLA) courses in 2020, in which important amendments were made such as the increased offer, the involvement of civil society and the flexibility of the number of students per group, over one thousand training initiatives were created involving over 19 thousand participants. Additionally, in acknowledgement of the importance of immigrant associations as a form of active citizenship, 34 training courses on capacity building for associations were promoted for a total of 644 technicians from migrant associations.

**Objective 17.** Portugal's commitment to the elimination of all forms of discrimination led to the approval of the first [National Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination 2021-2025](#) in 2021, which aims to promote equality and combat racism and racial discrimination, targeting 10 areas of intervention and taking a cross-cutting approach to the issue of migration. In this context, the [Plan for the Prevention of Manifestations of Discrimination in the Security Forces and Services](#) of 18 March 2021 was also approved at the sectoral level, and a human rights officer has been created in all the security forces and services.

**Objective 18.** Seeking to promote the recognition and use of migrant skills, legislation was published which served to strengthen both the simplification of the access and permanence process of higher education students and the cooperation and communication mechanisms among the entities with competence in this area. An electronic app was designed, [MySuperior](#), which, in a single place and by means of mobile devices, enables those applying for recognition



of foreign academic degrees and higher education diplomas to view the case number, the entity/institution of higher education responsible for its analysis and its status.

**Objective 19.** In acknowledgement of the important Portuguese diaspora spread around the world, in 2021 Turismo de Portugal launched the 1st edition of the *Online Summer School 2021* for people of Portuguese descent living outside Portugal, which included 5 "schools" to promote regional tourism with contents in Portuguese and English. 534 people of Portuguese descent from 46 different countries were involved in this initiative. Additionally, 2021 saw the publication of the [Guide to Support Investment in the Diaspora](#), which aims to facilitate and clarify investment opportunities in the diaspora, both for Portuguese emigrants and people of Portuguese descent living abroad, as well as national entrepreneurs seeking to internationalise their businesses through the diaspora.

**Objective 20.** The promotion of remittance transfers is essential for the financial inclusion of migrants. Therefore, an assessment of migrants' problems and difficulties in transferring remittances to their countries of origin was carried out to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of this process. Additionally, the revision of the non-habitual resident tax regime made it possible to overcome the difficulties in hiring workers revealed by employers of various sectors, having strengthened the attractiveness factors of workers who move to Portugal.

**Objective 21.** All those wishing to return to their countries of origin should be supported in this process. Between 2020 and 2021, 453 migrants benefited from the [Voluntary Return and Reintegration Support Programme](#) (ARVoRe VII) promoted by the IOM, which aims to support migrants who wish to return voluntarily, enabling them to be supported in their reintegration. The CNAIMs also offer support in the referral of cases to ARVoRe VII, having provided over 350 consultations on voluntary return since 2020.

**Objective 22.** As far as the portability of migrants' social protection rights and benefits acquired outside Portugal is concerned, the Ibero-American Multilateral Convention on Social Security currently covers 12 countries – Portugal, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay. New bilateral conventions are also being negotiated with Algeria, China and Israel, and negotiations are foreseen with Serbia.



**Objective 23.** Considering its Champion position in the implementation of the GCM and with a view to cooperating and exchanging experiences and best practices, Portugal has participated in several Forums such as: Champion Country consultations, in the meetings of the Friends of Migration group and in several working groups of the United Nations Migration Network; sharing best practices regarding access to services by migrants within the scope of the Migration Network; participation in the meetings of the Global Forum on Migration and Development; participation in the Global Forum for Responsible Recruitment 2021; negotiation, on behalf of the EU, of the United Nations General Assembly resolutions [International Migration and Development](#) and [Protection of Migrants](#).

During the pandemic the Government continued to ensure responses aimed not only at guaranteeing public health, but also at ensuring migrants' access to legal protection, healthcare, social support and information. The measures mentioned in the voluntary national report of 2020 have continued, with the following additional features:

- Extension of the [temporary and extraordinary regularisation](#) measure for foreign citizens with pending cases as of 31 December 2021, with a view to ensuring protection for all citizens residing in the territory, with their descendants becoming eligible for family benefits. Additionally, document validity has been extended until the end of June 2022.
- The COVID-19 Vaccination Plan, which came into force at the end of 2020, covers asylum seekers and irregular immigrants, and it was possible to vaccinate around 600 thousand foreign citizens (SEF data indicates that 662 thousand foreign citizens were residing in Portugal in 2020), thus ensuring significant support for group immunity. To achieve this scale, an online platform was created to register citizens without an NHS number, which contributed to the allocation of over 45 thousand NHS numbers. Complementary initiatives were also undertaken to ensure that everyone had access to vaccination, namely through initiatives in partnership with the business community and collective vaccination processes for agricultural workers.
- The extraordinary measures and support mechanisms created by the Government within the scope of social protection ensured direct support to 153,000 foreign citizens in 2020 and 146,000 in 2021, in measures such as access to layoff.
- Continued production and dissemination of information content on Covid-19 and vaccination in multiple languages.



Portugal assumed the [Presidency of the Council of the European Union \(PPUE\)](#) in the first semester of 2021, under which it sought to develop efforts to materialise a humanistic and holistic approach to

migration and make progress in promoting a safe Europe, with a focus on prevention and protection and defending and promoting the fundamental values of the European Union (EU). Against this background, it should be noted that the informal 'jumbo' meeting of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers and Home Affairs Ministers, which had not occurred for six years, was an important step in the acknowledgement of migration as a matter of concern within the EU's internal and external policies. The Ministers discussed ways of developing comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnerships with third countries, as called for in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. During the PPUE the revision of the Blue Card directive was also approved and sought to promote legal migration channels for highly qualified third-country nationals. A provisional agreement was also reached between the Presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Parliament on the Regulation establishing the European Union Agency for Asylum. In addition, different dialogue and discussion arenas regarding integration policies for migrants within the Union were reactivated.

The **involvement of civil society** in the implementation of the PNIPGM was assumed by the Government as an essential premise for the achievement of the established objectives and to ensure compliance with the guiding principles of the GCM. In this regard, IOM's consultative process highlighted, inter alia, civil society's sparse knowledge of the PNIPGM. However, as a contribution to the national report, civil society entities offer particular contributions to seven of the objectives with activities such as:



- support for migrants' regularisation process and acquisition of documents;

- provision of direct support to migrants in regularisation situations, social issues, the search for employment, legal issues, signposting and referrals and the provision of information on their rights;

- advice and support for migrants in the access to basic services related to health, social support, labour market issues;



16 INCLUSION AND  
SOCIAL COHESION

- training and capacity building initiatives, dissemination of information and awareness-raising (targeting migrants and entities), and the promotion of intercultural activities;



17 ELIMINATE  
DISCRIMINATION

- initiatives within the scope of information, training, awareness-raising, and activities to promote equality, inclusion and non-discrimination.

### III. Implementation means and next steps

This report falls within the scope of the national monitoring of the PNIPGM, therefore its consolidation relied on sectoral contributions from all the players involved, in articulation with the national strategies and plans in force regarding the promotion of human rights and social justice. Furthermore, this report is also foreseen in Portugal's roadmap for the preparation of the first IMRF. In addition to the submission of the updated national voluntary report, Portugal has also ensured other initiatives in the preparation of the Forum:

- Dissemination on the part of the IOM and ACM of the report on civil society's involvement in the PNIPGM in the Council for Migration<sup>2</sup>, as well as the sharing of initiatives prior to the Forum, appealing for the active participation of civil society .
- Submission of national best practices aimed at disseminating resources and actions that may be replicated in other contexts and territories.
- Identification of commitments, namely the adaptation of the national implementation plan of the GCM to the Progress Declaration that will be adopted during the IMRF, thus seeking to align national implementation with internationally established commitments.
- Active participation in the preparatory dialogues as well as in the co-organisation of three bilateral events, on the 100 days prior to the IMRF, on migrants' health and on alternatives to detention.
- Endorsement of joint declarations, in particular the declaration of the Champion countries on the presentation of the [report of the Secretary General of the United](#)

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<sup>2</sup> Consultative body that ensures the participation and collaboration of public and private entities in defining and implementing migration policies, including migrant populations.



[Nations on the implementation of the GCM](#) and the declaration of 16 Member States of the European Union in support of the Progress Declaration, as well as the [Rabat Declaration](#), adopted following the Ministerial Meeting of the Champion countries of the GCM.

Over two years into the PNIPGM's implementation, it is of utmost importance to ensure cohesive and coordinated national responses to consolidate the public policies that promote safe, orderly and regular migration flows and to invest in close monitoring, involving all the players with responsibility in the design and implementation of migration policies.

However, the constraints arising from the pandemic considerably affected and conditioned some of the timescales and activities foreseen in the PNIPGM. The national strategy and work methodology proved to be a crucial platform for dialogue in the fight against the pandemic, ensuring a transdisciplinary approach and a swift readaptation to emerging needs. Furthermore, the implementation of the PNIPGM has so far been subject to three legislatures, which has added impacts on the political coordination of the Plan and the ability to implement structuring measures, namely those that require profound legislative changes.

The creation of concrete responses for migrant citizens during and after the COVID-19 period shed light upon the potential of the concerted work carried out by the different government departments and public institutions, as a holistic approach implemented together with civil society and the development of local policies. Considering the challenges faced, the close coordination and articulation at political and technical levels enabled swift implementation, adjustment and adaptation processes to overcome the difficulties experienced, which translated into a high level of accomplishment of the established objectives for migration and integration policies.

Nevertheless, acknowledging the need to continually improve national mechanisms and strategies and to ensure adaptability to changing migration phenomena, and also considering the recommendations resulting from the consultations with civil society, there are still further steps to be taken:



- Pressing ahead with the policies already underway, which may be developed within the scope of the implementation of the National Plan, based on the ongoing comprehensive review process, deepening them and/or developing new policies for emerging issues;
- Implementing the measures providing for legislative changes which, despite the work carried out, have yet to be implemented, given the political changes in Portugal since the Plan's approval;
- Continuing to optimise articulation among the different government departments and services involved in the implementation of more complex measures, promoting articulation with other key players;
- Strengthening the monitoring mechanisms, namely through an electronic platform, enhancing continuation of the work, even in periods of transition;
- Encouraging the involvement of civil society in the implementation of the PNIPGM, with greater dissemination of its objectives and active participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plan;
- Developing and disseminating national best practices in other countries, leveraging Portugal's position as a Champion country and promoting more transnational policies.

#### IV. Final Considerations

This report has presented the main achievements of the PNIPGM as another step in the entire society's involvement in the improvement of national public policies and international cooperation. It has also demonstrated Portugal's commitment to promoting safe, orderly and regular migration.

The report highlights the achievements since 2020, after the presentation of the first voluntary national report and the [public appraisal of the first year of the PNIPGM's implementation](#), reinforcing the national intention to ensure that contingency measures are carried over into structural public responses, enhancing the replication of best practices. It is against this background that the already developed measures are still being implemented today, strengthened by the responses created in the meantime as a means to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration. The challenges faced prompted the establishment of new strategies for the coordination of migration flows, and the commitment of all government departments has proven to be fundamental for the achievement of the GCM objectives.





Portugal looks forward to the first IMRF, which will serve as an inter-ministerial platform for dialogue to promote best practices, challenges and future commitments in well-governed migration. The Progress Declaration will define the steps and priorities for the oncoming years and, rest assured, Portugal will be at the forefront in its implementation and accomplishment.