

## Mission and Values Charter

### INTERREG Atlantic Area Programme 2021-2027

#### MISSION

The mission of the Managing Authority (MA) of the Interreg Atlantic Area Programme 2021-2027 (AA Programme) is to implement, manage, monitor, and execute the Programme in accordance with the applicable European and national legislation. In this way, it contributes to the policy objectives of the European Union (EU), as well as to economic, social, and territorial cohesion, by sponsoring transnational cooperation projects in the Atlantic Region.

The AA Programme is a transnational cooperation programme funded by the ERDF under the European Territorial Cooperation objective of the EU's Cohesion Policy. The Programme is anchored in several EU policy initiatives, including the European Blue Growth Strategy, the European Green Deal, the Territorial Agenda 2030, and the EU Atlantic Maritime Strategy.

The Programme's mission is to be at the forefront of the transition to a unique, carbon-neutral, and climate-resilient Atlantic Region. The Programme promotes the integration of sustainable economic development, social well-being, and the preservation of biodiversity.

To this end, it will bring together actors from different sectors and regions to develop and ensure the implementation of solutions that respond to the Programme's objectives and create benefits for those who live and work in the Atlantic Area.

#### GOALS

Considering the regulatory framework and the identification of the primary needs, challenges and funding priorities, the AA Programme presents a strategy structured in four

priorities in turn associated with the policy objectives defined in Article 5 of the Common Provisions Regulation, Regulation (EU) No. 1060/2021 and No. 14 of Interreg Regulation (EU) No. 1059/2021:

1. Blue innovation and competitiveness;
2. Blue/green environment;
3. Blue, sustainable and social tourism and culture;
4. Better governance for co-operation in the Atlantic Area.

The Programme is implemented based on the priorities identified during its planning. As the implementation of the Programme is concentrated on the chosen thematic priorities, eight specific objectives have been identified for the Atlantic Region.

## VALUES

To fulfil its mission, the Managing Authority (MA) subscribes to a Mission and Values Charter based on the highest ethical principles, namely those of justice, impartiality, equality, competence, responsibility, proportionality, transparency and good faith, integrity, information, and quality. Within this framework, the MA ensures the respect and trust of those involved, namely the members of the Joint Secretariat of the Programme and signatories of the Code of Conduct, guaranteeing a culture of "zero tolerance" towards fraud.

The MA's conduct is distinguished by criteria of quality, efficiency and effectiveness, simplification of procedures, cooperation, effective communication, and closeness to the citizen in order to maximize the results to be achieved. The MA, therefore, subscribes to a Mission and Values Charter anchored in **six principles**:

- **rigour** - careful, systematic, and demanding compliance with the highest standards of impartiality and quality in the pursuit of efficiency and effectiveness in the services provided;
- **objectivity** - promoting the principles, procedures, and practices of efficient, result-oriented management, promoting informed, factual, independent decision-making following control and auditing standards;
- **innovation** - designing innovative strategies to create value in the main areas of activity, with a view to continuous improvement;
- **trust** - fostering a culture of openness, flexibility, transparency, proximity, and accountability, promoting the active participation of employees, partners, and the public;

- **ethics** - respect for a set of principles and values in terms of professional ethics and deontology, promoting the spread of an ethical culture in the Cooperation Programme and a commitment to quality service;
- **integrity** - promoting honesty, impartiality, respect, and solidarity in professional conduct, manifesting a general environment of trust, independence, and integrity.

## **TARGETS**

The MA intends the AA Programme to be a reference policy instrument in achieving the objectives of contributing to innovative, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth in the EU, to economic, social, and territorial cohesion, and, in particular, to the European Maritime Strategy for the Atlantic Region. The Programme will assert its position in the respective areas of intervention to achieve the proposed goals as presented in the Atlantic Area 2021-2027 Approved Cooperation Programme.

## **MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

The MA guarantees the competences defined in Regulation (EU) No. 1060/2021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, specifically article 72, and in Regulation (EU) No. 1059/2021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, article 46. The MA is composed of a president who is inherently the President of the Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDR-Norte, I.P.) and an executive member appointed by *Despacho* no. 6498/2023 (*Diário da República*, 2nd series, no. 115, 15 June 2023, p. 38).

- President of the Managing Authority – António Cunha
- Executive Manager of the Managing Authority - Sandra Tavares da Silva

Porto, 5th July 2023

The President of the Managing Authority

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(António Cunha)

The Executive Manager of the Managing Authority

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(Sandra Tavares da Silva)