

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE CITY OF PORTO - strategic framework -

Municipal Directorate of the Presidency Services
International Relations Office

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2. Mission

To contribute to the enlargement of the city's metropolitan and regional importance by increasing its competitiveness and by softening the effects of its peripheral geographic location in Europe.

To promote the visibility of the city / the city's visibility / projection.

To articulate interests of different local agents *vis à vis* international initiatives.

3.1. Guideline: *Lusophony*

General Objectives: to foster the privileged relationship and cooperation between people who share the Portuguese language and legacy in several countries throughout the world; to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the Portuguese speaking populations and to preserve / enhance the Portuguese heritage.

Specific objectives and its platforms:

- **development aid** actions and **promotion of the Portuguese language**, through the **City of Porto Cooperation Fund** (4.1), through Town-Twinning and Cooperation Agreements and Non Governmental Organizations.

- the promotion of **initiatives addressing the Portuguese communities** through **civic associations** that ensure their representation, **diplomatic bodies** and other organizations.

3.2. Guideline: Decentralised Cooperation

General objectives: to foster this Municipality's capacity / competence / capability as a mean of international promotion of its technical know-how, its economic activities, its cultural and tourism reality, and as a mean of internal improvement by encouraging the reciprocal exchange of best practices.

Specific objectives:

- **To consider** the economic and cultural diplomacy in the existing bilateral relations, namely in the scope of Town Twinning – long term agreements with wide thematic extent – and Cooperation Agreements – short term agreements with specific thematic extent;
- **To establish priorities** for the existing multilateral relations, namely for the participation in international associations and projects;
- **To rationalise** the involvement in decentralised cooperation actions through the continuous assessment of the added value brought by these in the global framework of the Municipality's international activity;
- **To favour the development of Cooperation Agreements** in new bilateral relations with a specific incidence context / framework; future Town Twinning should only be signed / take place as a consequence of the involvement of the municipal services and of the local stakeholders;

3.2. Guideline: Decentralised Cooperation

Platforms:

-**Town Twinning and Cooperation Agreements (4.2);**

-International Associations (4.3), specially:

- **Eurocities:** due to its geographic extent / range and to the wide range of themes (working groups dealing with all the technical areas important to the cities) and its performance as a lobby association towards European institutions.

-**Great Wine Capitals Global Network:** as a worldwide association related to wine, in order to foster Porto as a “wine capital”, as it is one of the products that best promotes the international image of the city and the region.

- **Diplomatic and consular representations:** to foster the relations / connections between cities sharing / which share similar interests and realities and to find / point out new opportunities for cooperation.

3.3. Guideline: Regional Agenda and the European Union

General objectives: to promote cooperation in order to increase competitiveness and territorial solidarity; to work on the regional and European agendas in accordance with the interests of cities; to enhance the urban dimension in European policies.

Specific objectives and its platforms:

- to promote an **active political participation:**

in the **regional agenda**, through international organisations with a / of regional extent such as the **Eixo Atlântico do Noroeste Peninsular (Northwestern-Penisula Atlantic Axis)**, the **Associação Ibérica de Municípios Ribeirinhos do Douro – AIMRD (Iberian Association of Municipalities in the Douro River)**, the **Conferência das Cidades do Arco Atlântico (Conference of the Atlantic Arc Cities)** and through institutions such as the **Fundação Rei Afonso Henriques (Afonso Henriques Foundation)**.

in the **European agenda**, especially through **Eurocities**, the **Conferência das Cidades do Arco Atlântico (Conference of the Atlantic Arc Cities)** and the **Committee of the Regions**.

3.4. Guideline: Proximity to Citizens

General objectives: to promote an active and participative citizenship, namely: from the citizens towards the European Union, and from foreign communities in Porto towards their participation in the city's life.

Specific objectives and its *Platforms*:

-To disseminate of the European issues through / promoted by ***Europe Direct*** (4.4.1.) .

-To stimulate / motivate the ***Municipal Council of the Foreign Communities of Porto*** (4.4.2.), created in 2005, as a platform for **permanent dialogue** between the City Council and foreign communities living in the city.

3.5. Guideline: Internal Organization and Communication

General objectives: to articulate the international activities of the Municipality in order to promote a consistent global action; to impel the creation of an international communication policy of the city based on the display of its innovative projects.

Specific objectives and its *Platforms*:

To increase the **involvement / awareness** and **coordination between officers and politicians** and to **maximize** the advantages of the Municipality's **participation** in different projects and associations by creating an internal ***officers' network*** (4.5.);

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To support an adequate **Human Resources policy** to international activity: ***specific training actions*** for officers working in the field;

To have ***communication tools*** to promote **innovative projects** and best practices developed by the Municipality, based on an international communication policy of the city.

4.1. Cooperation Fund

Definition: an instrument for the promotion of a set of development aid concerted initiatives in the *Lusophone* (Portuguese-speaking) countries, fostering the latter in what regards / as regards heritage, culture and language.

Objectives:

- to promote development aid;
- to coordinate the Municipality's resources that can be targeted at these actions, in order to achieve efficiency;
- To raise public awareness among regional and local stakeholders towards development aid, creating the basis for long-lasting cooperation.

Beneficiaries: the local and regional authorities of the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries; the geographical areas where the Portuguese heritage and presence are significant. Priority is given to the group of twinned cities.

4.1. Cooperation Fund

Fields of activity:

- Education & Human Resources

- Training actions;
- Equipment of educational facilities;

- Language & Culture

- Creation of “City of Porto” / “Porto” / “Cidade do Porto” / “Room Porto” reading rooms;

- Public Health

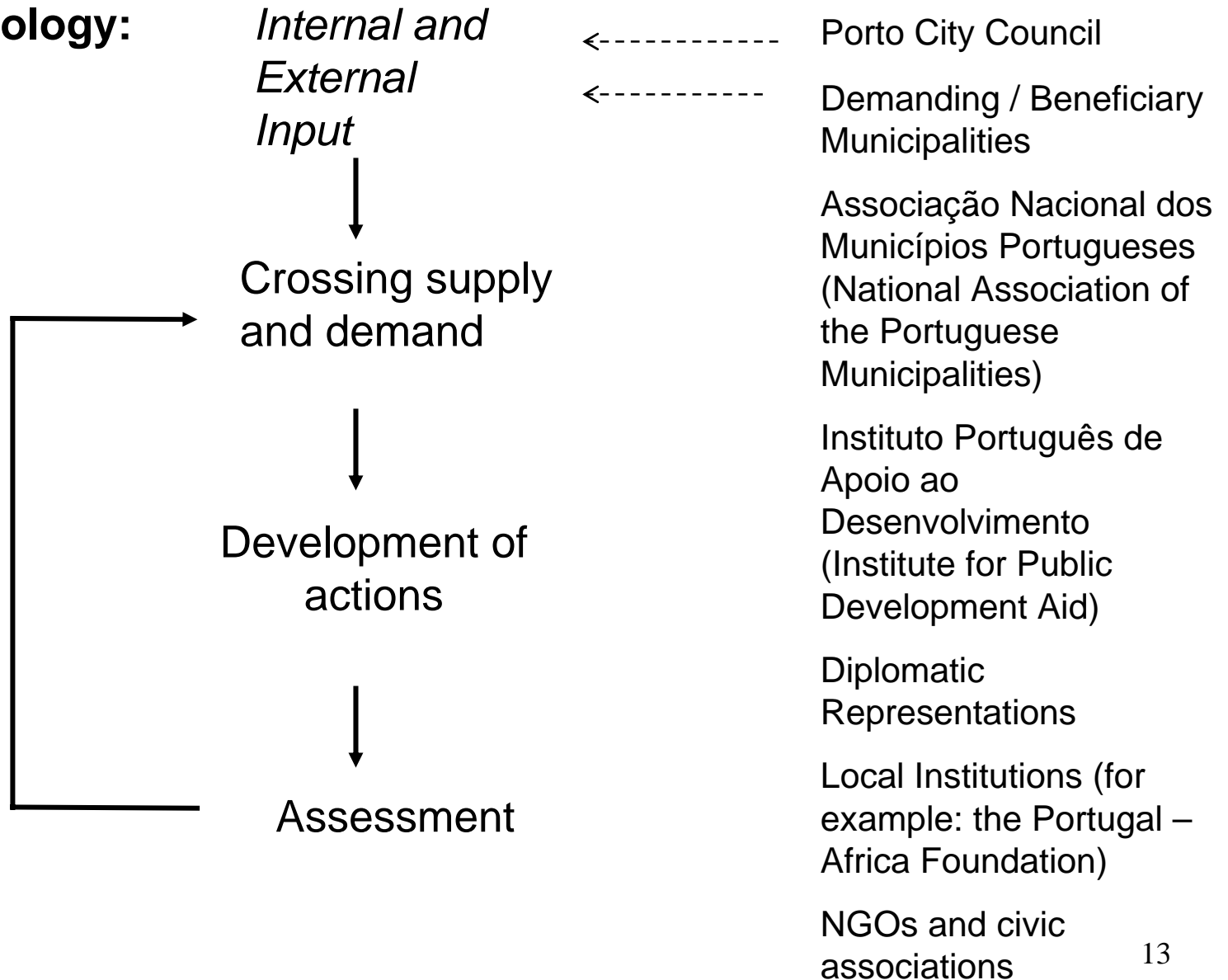
- Awareness Campaigns;
- Facilities’ equipping / Equipment of facilities.

- Heritage & Urbanism

- Support to urban and heritage rehabilitation projects.

4.1. Cooperation Fund

Methodology:



4.2. Town Twinning

Geographic extent

Europe

1977, **Liège** (Belgium)

1978, **Bordeaux** (France)

1984, **Bristol** (United Kingdom)

1984, **Jena** (Germany)

1986, **Vigo** (Spain)

1989, **Duruelo de la Sierra** (Spain)

2001, **León** (Spain)

4.2. Town twinning

Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries

1981, **Recife** (Brazil)

1987, **Neves** (Sao Tome and Principe)

1989, **Beira** (Mozambique)

1992, **Mindelo** (Cape Verde)

1999, **Luanda** (Angola)

Africa

1978, **N'Dola** (Zambia)

Asia

1978, **Nagasaki** (Japan)

1995, **Shanghai** (China)

1997, **Macao** (China)

4.2. Cooperation Agreements

Geografic extent and main areas of cooperation

Europe

2004, **Brno**, (Czech Republic): economic relations, culture, research and development

Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries

2001, **Canchungo** (Guinea Bissau): development aid

2005, **Boa Vista** (Cape Verde): development aid

4.3. International Associations

Geographical extent Extent of Cooperation	Global	Regional
General		<p>**/** Eurocities (www.eurocities.com)</p> <p>*** Associação Ibérica dos Municípios Ribeirinhos do Douro AIMRD (Association of Riparian Municipalities of the Douro River)</p> <p>**/** Associação do Eixo Atlântico do Noroeste Peninsular (Northwestern-Peninsula Atlantic Axis) (www.eixoatlantico.com)</p> <p>**/** Conferência das Cidades do Arco Atlântico (Conference of the Atlantic Arc Cities) (www.arcat.org)</p>
Specialised	<p>** Organisation of World Heritage Cities (www.ovpm.org)</p> <p>** Educating Cities Network (http://www.bcn.es/edcities/aice/estatuques/angles/sec_educatin_g.html)</p> <p>**/** Great Wine Capitals Global Network (www.greatwinecapitals.com)</p>	<p>** European Forum for Urban Security (www.urbansecurity.org)</p> <p>** Urban Forum for Sustainable Development (http://www.urban.nl/Network%20of%20Urban%20Forums/Forum/projects/streams.html)</p> <p>** Cinema Cities Network (www.filmcities.com)</p> <p>** Network of European Cities of the Discoveries</p> <p>** Association of Monumental Graveyards of Europe</p>

4.4.1. *Europe Direct*

Definition: official information relay from the / of the EU hosted by the Municipality of Porto;

Objectives: to inform local and regional audiences about / on European issues, raising awareness on the importance of the supranational and European context for the country and the region, thus contributing for the building of the Europe of Citizens.

Tasks: to answer to general issues on the European policies, providing a wide range of information such as legislation, statistics, programmes and others; to address information requests to the most indicated European Union offices; to cooperate with similar services of information; to report back to the European Commission.

Beneficiaries: Local and regional community in general;

Partnerships: educational institutions and parish councils.

4.4.2. Municipal Council of Porto's Foreign Communities

Definition: advisory board of Porto City Council comprised of the associations which represent the foreign communities settled in Porto;

Objectives: to promote the cooperation between the Porto City Council and the foreign communities, aiming integrating the foreign citizens in the local society and contributing to the expression of their cultures;

Beneficiaries: foreign communities in the city of Porto.

Cooperation: Fundação para o Desenvolvimento Social do Porto (Social Development Organization / Foundation of Porto)

4.5. Contact Officers' Network

Definition

Group of officers from different services of the Municipality involved in international affairs.

Objectives

To implement a contact network that will allow regular dialogue among the services of the Municipality; thus providing a general overview of its international activity and favouring / privileging / benefiting a more consistent action.

Tasks

To promote synergies with other departments of the Municipality on international projects;

To coordinate and make the dynamics of the participation of the city in international affairs.

To identify new international cooperation **opportunities**.

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