

Returning Portuguese Citizens AKA Regressar Program

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The Regressar Program is a government run program which offers a number of incentives to encourage former Portuguese emigres & descendants of such to return to Portugal to live & it offers a wide range of grants, loans & tax discounts as well as support with language, finding jobs & qualification recognition etc.

To the best of my knowledge they do not publish the criteria on which they base their approval/denial policies but common logic would suggest that it's largely based on what the applicant will be able to contribute to the country in the future which I believe will almost certainly include helping in the repopulation of the country as Portugal (especially the interior areas) has suffered a massive depopulation since the 1970s. In the case of the county of Leiria, it has lost more than two thirds of its population since the 1970s & most that left for pastures anew were the young, active, taxpaying population & most that are left are in their older years.

You can find full details of what the Regressar Program is & how it works on the link immediately below & be warned that whilst the website at first looks easy to navigate, it is the direct opposite & full of links within links within links & those who hold or are entitled to Portuguese citizenship and/or passports need to be very determined & learn how to navigate the site as well as they possibly can.

<https://www.programaregressar.gov.pt/en/>

If you do plan to apply for the Regressar Program then I strongly suggest that you do so by using the above link & NOT through any Embassy as the primary role of those Embassies & similar is to represent the interests of its citizens in the host country not to assist with migration issues to the home country & therefore it's unreasonable to expect them to be fully up to speed on issues such as migration to the home country.

There is also a separate info piece in the files section entitled 'Claiming Portuguese Citizenship' that might be of use to you.

NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH

In February 2020 the Portuguese Government announce a new program where some residents can claim €2400-4800 per person to relocate to designated parts of the central zone & whilst you will need to do further research as parts of it were paused during the CV19 pandemic.

<https://eportugal.gov.pt/en/noticias/programa-trabalhar-no-interior-incentiva-a-mobilizacao-geografica>

Also note that some areas in the interior regions including Pedrogao Grande are planning to offer restored homes & business premises at peppercorn rents to new immigrants who have the ability to work online and/or from home but we are currently awaiting further details of this new program.

On July 23, the Council of Ministers adopted a resolution establishing the National Investment Support Programme for Diaspora - PNAID. The diploma is still awaiting its publication in the Diário da República, so attached to the respective press release that was then issued.

This Program is designed to support Portuguese and Portuguese immigrants who want to invest or extend their economic activity in Portugal, as well as Portuguese entrepreneurs who want to internationalise their business through the diaspora. PNAID was announced at the IV Diaspora Investor Meeting held in Viseu in December 2019.

This Program brings new elements to this theme, namely the financial incentives that are own and dedicated to Diaspora investors in the regional incentive programs of the Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and the Regional Coordination and Development Committees, bringing a new truly differentiating element: the attribution of the Diaspora Investor status.

The NAPID will also promote the link to the other programmes already in place, such as the Return Program, the Interior Appreciation Programme and the Internationalisation Programme and will also enhance the creation of a Diaspora Investor Support Network - RAID that will be managed by the Diaspora Investor Support Office - GAID (operating in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs). Finally, I also inform you that PNAID is based on 4 major strategic objectives: 1. People: promote and support the return of Portuguese and Portuguese to national territory, invest in human resources and encourage initiatives and attraction of the qualified diaspora to Portugal; 2. Investment in Portugal: to support the

investment of the diaspora and through it informing about opportunities, programs and incentives, reducing context costs and facilitating project implementation, dissemination of results, etc; 3. Territorial Cohesion: contributing to the establishment of persons and enterprises in the interior territories and thus contributing to their economic development; 4. Internationalization: promoting the role of the diaspora as a platform for internationalization of Portugal and market diversification. I would like to thank you for the broader and more effective dissemination of this Program, especially to the associates of your institutions, Portuguese entrepreneurs and Portuguese and Portuguese entrepreneurs, as well as to others considered relevant in this theme.