

Portugal is strongly committed to UNESCO in order to promote culture, education and science. Portugal knows that by investing in education through development of knowledge as well as quality teaching, nations are also investing in progress of their society. For Portugal, progress in education was, is and will be a priority within multilateral and bilateral relationships with partners.

Government has a high impact on Education in every single nation worldwide. There are several ways in which leadership within countries affects its citizens. In Portugal, lack of free tertiary education as well as discrimination against women are two major factors that are up to the government to improve. Other factors such as corruption do not directly improve Portugal's education system. Portugal is the 28th least corrupt nation out of 168, according to the Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. Portugal takes several steps to decrease corruption within its country. Portugal laws include prohibiting acceptance of bribes, establishing terms of liability for corruption offences, as well as amendments within its Criminal Code that comply with GRECO, UN and OECD's recommendations for battling fraud. However, Portugal still struggles with bribery on a daily basis. 75% of it's citizens believe that government's efforts to combat are ineffective. Most of the consequences of corruption are seen as pressure from financial sectors on political power. In 2013 Portugal began to work with Transparency International, the Association of European Professional Football Leagues as well as the German Football league to prevent match - fixing through Education. Portugal believes that the best way to fight corruption is by raising awareness. Educating citizens worldwide on the possible terrifying influence of corruption is the only way that nations can truly hope to stop the issue. The implementation of laws advanced to resolutions, but only through raising awareness and schooling will there ever be hope for a lobbying free future. Portugal is mindful of the fact that there are several countries which have extremely high rates of corruption that prevent youth from getting an education that they deserve. The United Nations must push for transparency and openness in government spending and should further establish international conventions to develop legal framework to battle corruption.

There are 15 World Heritage Sites within Portugal. The nation has been involved with UNESCO's World Heritage Committee since Tuesday, 30 September 1980 when it signed the Convention dealing with the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Portugal participates in conversations regarding The Mid- Atlantic Ridge and attended the World Heritage Youth Forum in 2011. During the beginning months of 2016 the World Heritage Centre received messages from citizens of Portugal that were worried about the Foz Tua dam project, which was extremely close, but outside, " Alto Douro Wine Region", a World Heritage Problem. After investigating the World Heritage Committee adopted a Decision, which was followed by a submission of a state of conservation report by Portugal. This example showcases how much work Portugal puts in to keep their protected regions away from danger. Portugal believes that while human life should be valued above all, it is also up to the United Nations and UNESCO to organize funds to discover and protect World Heritage Sites in unstable regions. While Climate

Change is a remarkably serious threat to world heritage, the most pressing is invasive species. Portugal believes that there are methods that can be implemented which can lead towards a better future for beautiful and ancient historical sites.

A fundamental part of Portugal's society is education. Education in Portugal is free and compulsory until age of 18, once students complete 12th grade. The first two education goals of Education 2030, according to Sustainable Development, are to “ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes”, as well as “ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education”. Due to the fact in Portugal preschool to higher education is generally free, there is an 100% enrollment rate for children aged 5 - 14. That being said Portugal also has the largest proportion of adults (25 - 26) without an upper secondary diploma, at 65 %. Portugal has worked hard on this issue and this number has increased from 32% to 56% from 2000 to 2001 (OECD). Another goal of Education 2030 is eliminating gender disparities in education to guarantee equal access to all levels of education. Portugal has relatively progressive equal rights. A law was passed by the Parliament in 2006 that required that each gender compose at least a third of candidates from any political party. Technically, Portugal's Constitution states that all citizens are equal before the law. Unfortunately that is not true when it comes to employment. One of the highest working female populations in the European Union is Portugal's. Regrettably, women are less likely to be employed than men and average earning of men are higher than their female counterparts. To fulfil targets of Education 2030 nations within the UN must come together and act as a whole. It is key for economically developed countries to lend support to their fellow nations whose level of education and life is substandard. The Educational goals of 2030 are vital to secure a bright future for this century, and all to follow.

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