RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. AN OVERVIEW OF THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION OF EU MEMBER STATES'S RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLANS

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Framework

Paper presented within the scope of the Project **"Recovery Monitoring - Proposal of a conceptual model and methodology for monitoring the economic and social recovery of Portugal in the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic context"**, UMPP - Public Policy Monitoring Unit of the University of Évora, Project financed by the Technical Assistance Operational Program (POAT 2020), (POAT-01-6177-FEDER-000049), of the Portuguese Partnership Agreement, PORTUGAL 2020.

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Main purpose

The objective of this paper is to present the Project **"Recovery Monitoring - Proposal of a conceptual model and methodology for monitoring the economic and social recovery of Portugal in the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic context"**, as well as the work already carried out so far.

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Structure

1. The purpose the of Project **“Recovery Monitoring - Proposal of a conceptual model and methodology for monitoring the economic and social recovery of Portugal in the COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic context”.**
2. T**heoretical approach underlying the conceptual model and methodology** of the proposal
3. The **methodological approach** of the study.
4. The **territorial dimension** into the proposed model.

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1. The purpose of the "Recovery Monitoring" Project

- The **Project "Recovery Monitoring - Proposal for a conceptual model and methodology for monitoring Portugal's economic and social recovery in a COVID-19 and post-pandemic pandemic context",** focuses on the analysis of the economic and social impacts and effects of the pandemic and on the economic and social impacts arising from the implementation of Portugal's Recovery and Resilience Plan, as well as the Portugal 2020 Partnership Agreement and Portugal 2030.

- The elaboration of this Project is being co-financed by the **Technical Assistance Operational Program (POAT 2020) of PORTUGAL 2020**, within the scope of the Notice for Submission of Applications n.º 06/POAT/2021, AXIS I - Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Audit (FEDER), Studies on Monitoring and Evaluation Methodologies.

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1. The purpose of the "Recovery Monitoring" Project

- The **methodological proposal**, object of this Project, is based on the simultaneous **combination of a sectoral approach and a territorial one**.
- In order to respond to the provisions of the *Post-Programme Surveillance Report - Portugal, Spring 2021* of the European Commission, **will also** allow **monitoring the level of structural reforms that will be implemented in Portugal in the course of its economic and social recovery process in a pandemic and post-pandemic context, and the level of of changes in Portugal's competitiveness conditions registered in the meantime.**
- This proposal for a conceptual model and methodology **will focus on monitoring the performance of some of the economic sectors most affected by the pandemic, but also in monitoring the performance of some of the most resilient sectors**. In this sense, will be monitor recovery but also resilience.

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1. The purpose of the "Recovery Monitoring" Project

- The conceptual model and monitoring methodology will be designed to also take into account and **analyse the way in which the use of the European Union's European Structural and Investment Funds to support economic and social recovery** - namely through the implementation of the Portugal's Recovery and Resilience, as well as the Portugal 2020 and Portugal 2030 Partnership Agreements - **are also contributing to the achievement, in Portugal, of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.**

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2. Theoretical approach underlying the conceptual model and methodology of the proposal

- For the formalization of the conceptual model, and of the proposed monitoring methodology will be taken into account the work developed by the **European Commission's *Knowledge4Policy (K4P) platform***, which supports the formulation of public policies based on evidence. In particular, the work carried out by its following units:

  ***i) Knowledge Centre for Territorial Policies*;**

  ***ii) Competence Centre on Modelling*;**

  ***iii) Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation*;**

  ***iv) Center for Research on Impact Evaluation* of the Joint Research Center** (JRC) of the European Commission (EU), which is part of the *Competence Center on Microeconomic Evaluation*.

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2. Theoretical approach underlying the conceptual model and methodology of the proposal

- As well as the following set of activities developed by the OECD and by the European Commission:

  i) OECD Tackling coronavirus (COVID-19) Initiative;
  ii) OECD Regional Recovery Platform;
  iii) OECD COVID-19 Recovery Dashboard;
  iv) EC European Sctrutural and Investment (ESI) Funds Open Data Platform;
  v) EC-JRC Research and Actions on COVID-19 Initiative;

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3. The methodological approach of the study

- **The proposal for a conceptual model and monitoring methodology**, which is intended to be the basis for the definition of the future monitoring system for the economic and social recovery of Portugal in a pandemic and post-pandemic context, **will aim to allow an on going monitoring to be carried out of Portugal's economic and social recovery, as well as its results, dynamics and impacts.**

- Among the twenty Components on which Portugal's Recovery and Resilience Plan is structured, the conceptual model and the proposed monitoring methodology **will focus especially**, but not exclusively**, on those with the greatest potential for a more immediate impact on economic and social recovery of our country.**

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3. The methodological approach of the study

- In this sense, the conceptual model and monitoring methodology to be built will be structured in four analytical dimensions, namely the following:

  i) **Monitoring and evaluation of processes** - which will focus on procedural aspects of the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, namely with regard to the its implementation and communication, as well as Portugal 2020 and Portugal 2030 with regard to its performance in areas especially focused on economic and social recovery in a pandemic and post-pandemic context;

  ii) **Monitoring and evaluation of the governance model** – focusing on procedural elements inherent to the governance model and the functioning of the Recovery and Resilience Plan and its articulation with Portugal 2020 and Portugal 2030;

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3. The methodological approach of the study

- The conceptual model and monitoring methodology to be built will be structured in four analytical dimensions, namely the following (cont):

  iii. **Monitoring of achievements -** which will analyze the achievements and performance of each of the activities provided for in the Recovery and Resilience Plan and Portugal 2020 and Portugal 2030 with regard to its performance in areas especially focused on economic and social recovery in a pandemic context and post-pandemic;

  iv. **Monitoring and evaluation of results and impacts –** namely the analysis of direct and indirect effects resulting from the implementation of each of the activities.

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3. The methodological approach of the study

- It will also be the objective of the methodology **to analyse how the use of the European Structural and Investment Funds of the European Union in support of economic and social recovery will also contribute to the achievement, in Portugal, of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations.**

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4. The territorial dimension into the proposed model

- **Almost all the Member States** of the European Union **chose not to focus on a territorial dimension** the definition of the operationalization and implementation of the respective Recovery and Resilience Plans.
- But **it will be essential to take this analysis dimension into account when defining the recovery monitoring proposal.**
- Once the emergency of the pandemic is over**, the public debate on the implementation of the PRR will inevitably question the spatialization model underlying the strategy and the territorialization model of its effects and impacts.**

Thank you for your attention!

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