

Strong Universities for Strong Regions

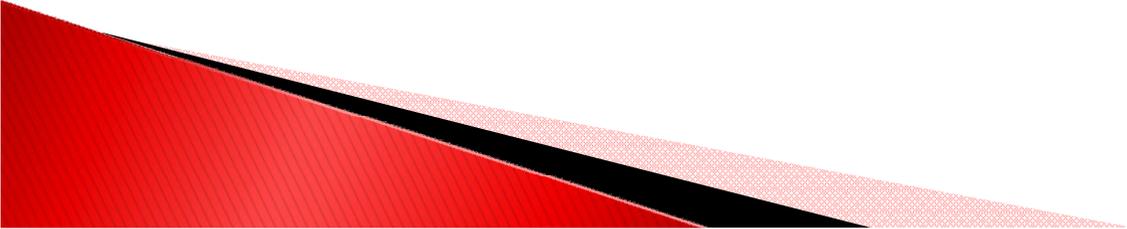


Seminar on

Strategic Partnership in Research and Education

The role of Universities

in the regional policy



M. Assunção, Rector
University of Aveiro (Portugal)

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“Universities intend to **shape the strategic debate** on their role within the Europe of knowledge.

Universities call on governments to view higher education and research budgets as an **investment in the future**.

Universities welcome the dialogue that started in Glasgow at the highest European political level and convey the message that a **strong Europe needs strong universities.**”

[EUA Glasgow Declaration, 2005]

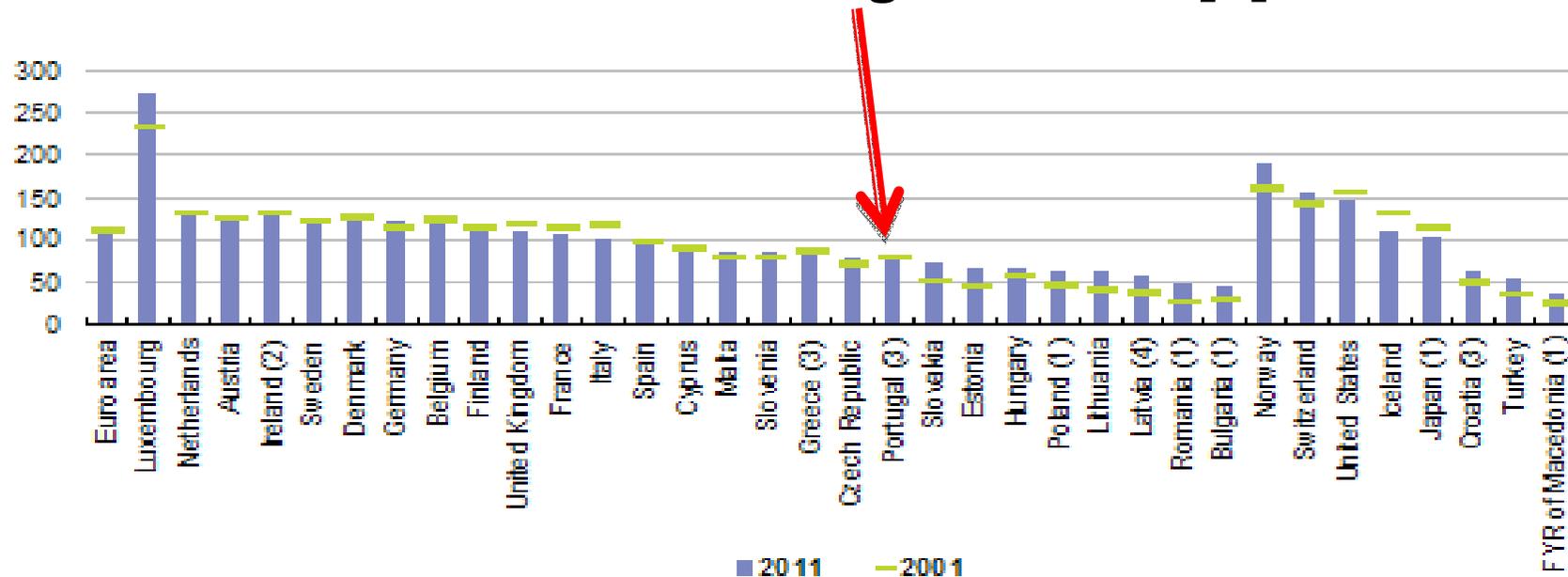
Strong Europe – Strong Regions – Strong Universities

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Where does Portugal stand ? [1]



(1) 2011, forecast.

(2) 2010 instead of 2011.

(3) 2011, provisional.

(4) Break in series.

Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nama_gdp_c and tec00001)

GDP per capita

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Where does Portugal stand ? [2]



COTEC
Jan 2013

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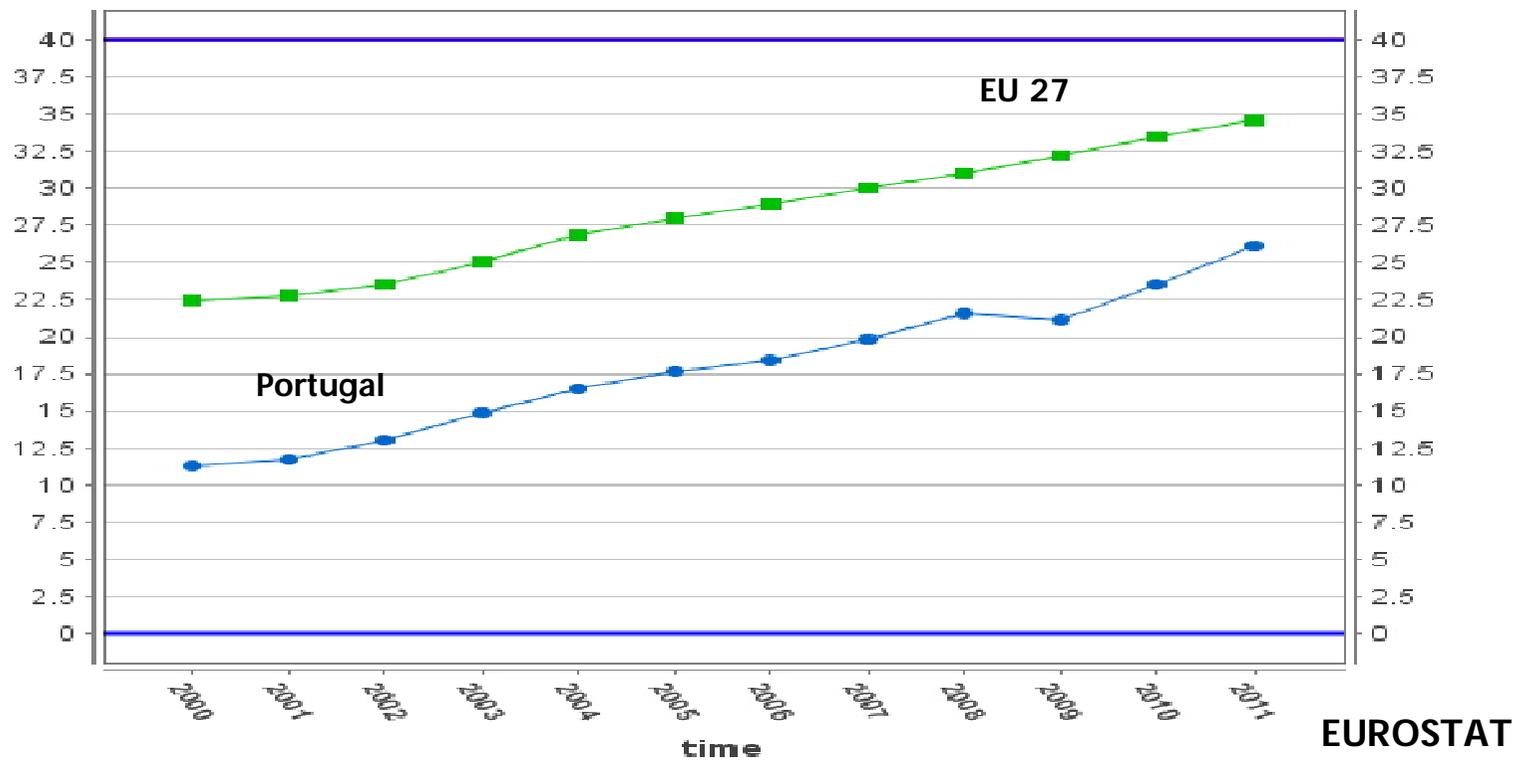
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Where does Portugal stand ? [3]

Higher Ed.
completion
(age 30-34)

Target 2020:
40%



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Where does Portugal stand ? [4]

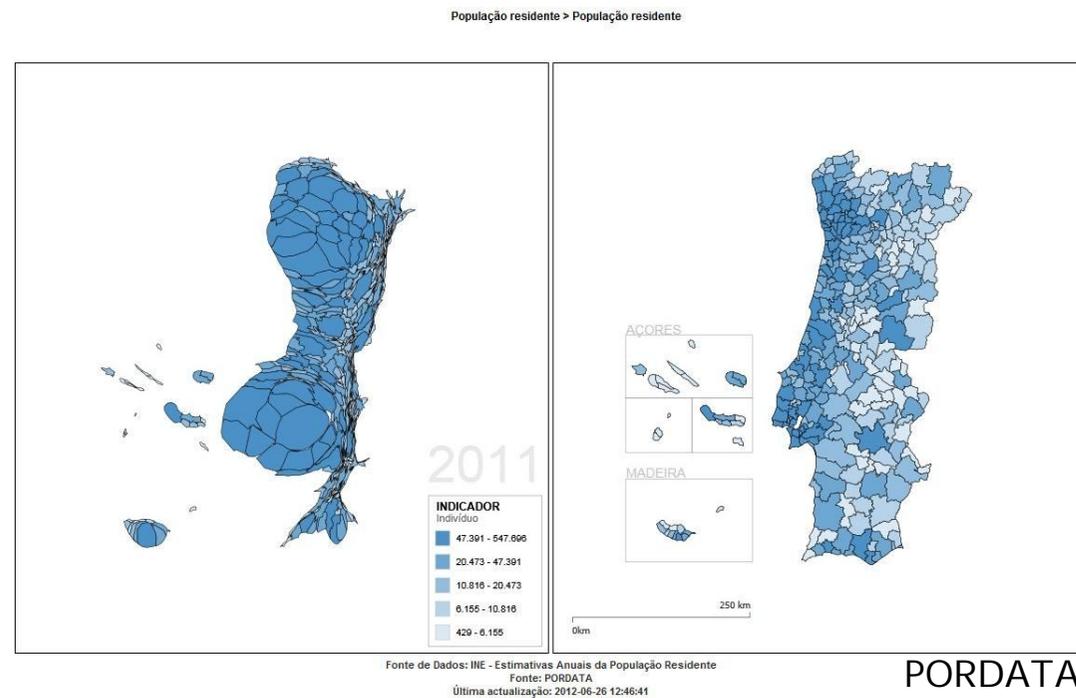
Portugal unusual shape

Huge regional imbalances

Sliding towards the sea

North / Centre

Still increasing, due to internal migrations and investment patterns



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How can we help ? [1]

- **Providing input as a stakeholder** – education; research; third mission
- Joint (universities + enterprises) knowledge creation
- PhD level employment
- Staff mobility across sectors
- Technology transfer; start-ups; ...

How can we help ? [2]

From knowledge to value:

- It is not a matter to move **from the Lab to the World**
- It is more **from the world to the lab and back**
[new ideas, problems to address, dreams]
- Plus, in many cases the **world is also the Lab**

How can we help ? [3]

- Discussion on the **societal challenges and responses**
- **Supporting policy development and decision making** dissemination and sound use of knowledge; debating and widening participation; short-term vs. long-term.
- **Follow-up and Assessment**

What do we need ?

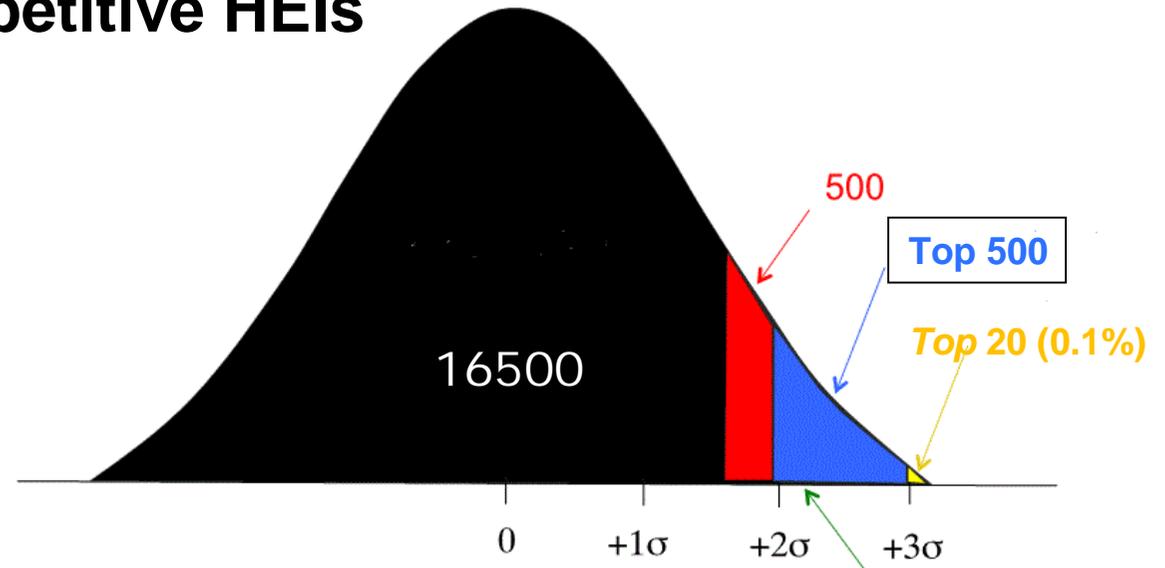
- **Regional based** cohesion and structural funds
- **Operational level regional programmes (PO)** – proximity decision and management
- **Flexibility** – ERDF / ESF components - Researchers / Equipments / Facilities
- **Regional R&D and Innovation policies** – Thinking and acting together

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Final remarks [1]

Internationally competitive HEIs



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Final remarks [2]

Increased third mission activities – larger income and a higher proportion of the overall institutional budgets
[even in a context of economic downturn and of significant public budget cuts]