

# Evaluation of the implementation of measures to strengthen the transition to a low carbon economy (TO4)

## Object: what is Thematic Objective (TO4) in the context of Portugal 2020?

The Europe 2020 strategy gives the decarbonisation of the economy a central role for smart and sustainable growth in the EU and identifies as priorities for its pursuit:

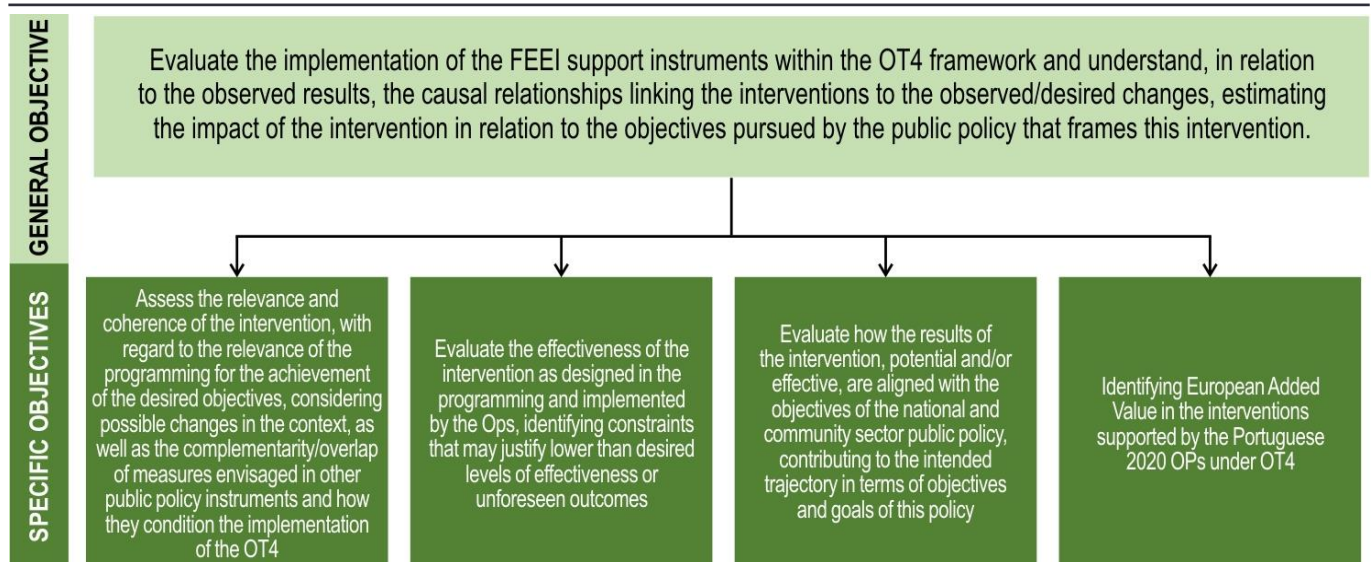
- **increase energy efficiency**
- promote greater incorporation of **Renewable Energy Sources** into gross final energy consumption
- **reduce the level** of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions

Assuming these commitments, the Portuguese State has developed as strategic references for this area of public policy, the **National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency (PNAEE 2016)** and the **National Action Plan for Renewable Energy (PNAER 2020)**.

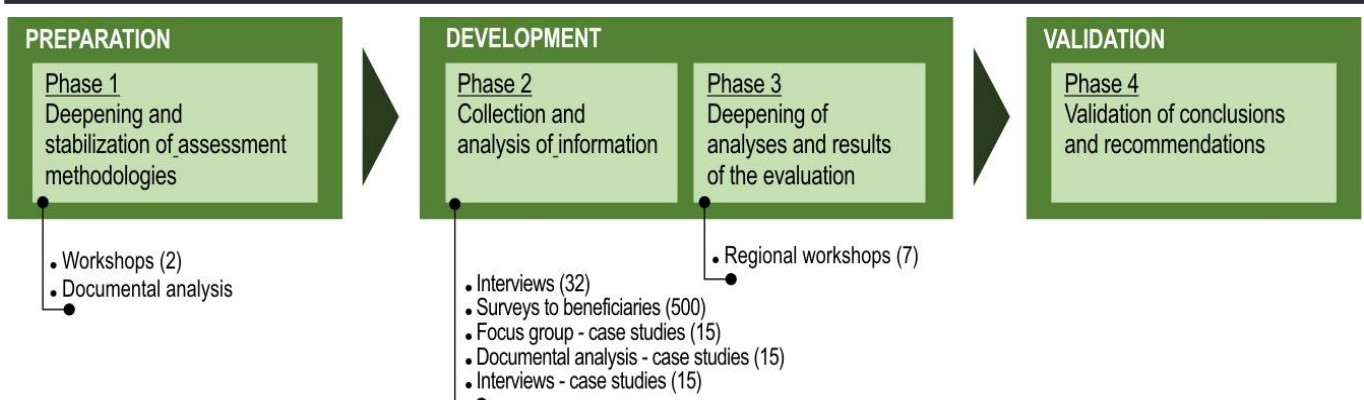
Public energy policy aims to **ensure that the European targets and commitments (Europe 2020)** are met and that the objectives and policy measures set out in these instruments (PNAEE e PNAER) **are achieved**.

The 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement set **OT4** within **five Investment Priorities (IPs)**, operationalised through POSEUR and the Regional Operational Programmes (ROPs) for the mainland and the Autonomous Regions, financed by FEEL (CF and ERDF):

- IP 4.1 Promotion of production and distribution of energy from renewable sources
- IP 4.2 Promotion of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in enterprises
- IP 4.3. Providing support for energy efficiency, intelligent energy management, and the use of renewable energy in public infrastructure, particularly in public buildings and the housing sector
- IP 4.4. Development of smart energy systems
- IP 4.5. Promotion of low carbon strategies for all types of territories, including urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and adaptation measures relevant for mitigation



## Evaluation process



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## Main findings and conclusions

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- **Programming process developed in a top-down logic**, with limited involvement and capacity of influence of local and regional actors
  - **Contextual changes are impacting** on demand mobilisation and implementation of approved projects
  - **Articulation and role of critical public policy implementing bodies** in the performance of the FEEI
  - The eligibility conditions in the CAAs **have not always ensured the mobilisation** of actors and potential beneficiaries
  - Dissemination of Community support for energy efficiency targeted at the housing crucial for the submission of applications
  - Compliance with ex-ante conditionalities and associated EU regulations, with repercussions on the late start and **operationalisation** of support instruments geared towards energy efficiency in buildings
  - **Sufficient globally allocated financial resources** because of the demand demonstrated by potential beneficiaries
  - **Most beneficiaries would not have made the investments** if they had not obtained the support of the FEEI mobilizable in OT4, which would have a significant impact on the pursuit of public policy results
  - **Important behavioural changes** in relation to the need to **reduce energy consumption**, boosted by the support provided under the OT4
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## Recommendations

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- R.01. Strengthening support to promoters to ensure achievement of OT4 objectives (all IPs)
- R.02. Increasing the scope and simplifying the eligibility criteria for expenditure (IP 4.3)
- R.03. Increasing the co-financing rates for "clean buses" (PI 4.5 - Energy Efficiency public passenger transport sector) in order to enhance the attractiveness of financing for fleet renewal
- R.04. Ensure that the Theory of Change is defined and made explicit in the programming documents
- R.05. Expanding target support typologies of operation (immaterial), associated with IP 4.3
- R.06. Ensure rapid and effective compliance with enabling conditions and related EU regulations
- R.07. Promoting greater participation and involvement of key actors in the design phase of the programming processes of support instruments
- R.08. Expand the target dimensions of support in the FEEI, which are currently found in other funding instruments
- R.09. Supporting and reconciling integrated investment rationales (Energy Efficiency housing; sustainable urban mobility)
- R.10. Reducing the spraying of support for similar areas in terms of energy efficiency in territories with lower critical mass of potential promoters (Azores)
- R.11. Continuing ongoing initiatives (PAMUS), not creating innovative instruments in the next programming period that have relevant learning costs and constrain operationalisation
- R.12. Adapting eligibilities and typologies to regional specificities in the dimension of Sustainable Urban Mobility
- R.13. Formalize an institutional agreement for partnership and JASPER support to the funding Operational Programmes
- R.14. Empowering the technical structures of the OPs on energy policy issues
- R.15. Promoting the dissemination of support and the simplification of the procedures for preparing and submitting applications
- R.16. Continue efforts to simplify procedures associated with payment claims and validation of expenditure
- R.17. Apply new criteria and requirements for support to produce electricity from renewable sources
- R.18. Increasing the attractiveness and implementation conditions of energy efficiency financing in companies, in the context of integrated projects
- R.19. Promote the implementation of energy efficiency operations in public administration, improving the conditions of implementation within the framework of budget execution rules (State Budget)
- R.20. Reviewing the criteria for access to Community financing for energy efficiency operations in public administration
- R.21. Adapting eligibility conditions targeted at energy efficiency in public administration to maximize savings potential
- R.22. Adapting eligibility conditions targeted at energy efficiency in private housing to maximise savings potential
- R.23. Review of procedures for the development and issue of energy certificates for energy efficiency investments in public administration
- R.24. Review procedures for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of contracts with ESCO in public administration
- R.25. Fostering the knowledge and demand of FIs for energy efficiency
- R.26. Define standardised benchmarks and calculation methodologies and make available tools for the calculation of output and result indicators
- R.27. Ensuring the continuity of policy and investment options in urban mobility that contribute to a sustainable transfer from private to public transport
- R.28. Outline strategies and control mechanisms to guard against potential rebound effects
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