

UN – Portugal Digital Fellowship

DIGITAL INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMATION



UNU
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REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA
NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS

C **CAMÕES**
INSTITUTO
DA COOPERAÇÃO
E DA LÍNGUA
PORTUGAL
MINISTÉRIO DOS NEGÓCIOS ESTRANGEIROS

 
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Capacity Building on Digital Innovation and Transformation

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Knowledge to transform the world

1. INTRODUCTION



1.INTRODUCTION

Digital transformation is the driving force of fast-evolving processes which are re-shaping societies, economies, and States.

Digital technologies can act as a cross-cutting accelerator of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, SDG 16 calls for effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels in the framework of peaceful and inclusive societies. Digital transformation of governance processes and procedures has a role to play in achieving such a goal. The use of digital technologies by Governments to improve their operation as well as ways to foster bidirectional interaction with citizens has been the subject of significant and steady progress in recent years. Its enormous potential in the progressive realisation of the SDGs is widely recognised.

The last two decades witnessed major efforts of the public sector first to introduce and later to manage the impact of ICT in their ecosystems. Although a number of lessons have been learned in relation to risk minimisation and outcome maximisation, digital transformation and digital governance require an extensive effort to build awareness, capacities, and competencies within the public sector.

Within its “2030 Development Cooperation Strategy”, Portugal recognises the importance of digital transformation to achieve the SDGs, in particular for developing countries. One of the strategy’s priority axes (axis 4A) is fostering prosperity, namely through digital transformation, in order to help advancing the 2030 Agenda and the implementation of the SDGs.

This is why Portugal is partnering with the United Nations University Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), who both are in an adequate position to assist developing countries in their digital development, to launch a capacity building programme focused on digital innovation and transformation. This concept note offers an overview for such a capacity building programme, which will start in 2024 and is designed to continue in subsequent years, in line with both the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the priorities of the 2030 Portuguese Development Cooperation Strategy. This overview outlines the programme’s structure, organisation and training outcomes, as well as substantive contents and learning methodology.

2. CONCEPT



2. CONCEPT

2.1 TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The envisaged participants of this capacity building programme are high-level officials from developing countries. Given the myriad of challenges stemming from their geographical isolation, priority will be given to Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), as well as Least Developed Countries (LDCs), in the first iterations of this programme.

Seminar cohorts will be dimensioned for 20-25 in-person participants. For each in-person participant, virtual access will be given to 5 further capital-based officials.

2.2 LEARNING OUTCOMES

This capacity building programme will articulate in a coherent way the following questions, addressed in the context of developing countries' specific challenges:

- How to develop, evaluate and monitor digital governance and associated public digital infrastructures/resources/policies in order to maximise the potential of digital solutions to improve management and deliver high-quality public services?
- How can digital transformation be conceptualised and implemented from an inclusive and citizen-centric perspective?
- What is the role of open data within innovative digital governance models?
- How to manage change and transformation in digital governance?
- How to build safe, secure, and resilient digital government services?

The reflections and discussions conducted around these questions will equip participants with knowledge and tools on the following elements:

- The relevance and impact of digital transformation for governments and sustainable development.
- The nuts and bolts of digital transformation and digital governance.
- The major opportunities, enablers, challenges and trends of digital transformation and digital governance.
- The new trends in the design and development of more inclusive and citizen-centred digital public services.
- The opportunities and risks of emerging technologies to digital governance.
- The central role of data, and open data, in promoting innovative digital governance models.
- The mechanisms to engage and empower citizens.
- The major legal and regulatory aspects impacting digital governance.
- The main assessment techniques, benchmarks, and indicators to assess and monitor digital governance development.
- The multi-nature challenges and existent mechanisms to manage change in digital governance.

- The different models and challenges for managing the digital transformation process in the public sector and the role and competencies of a Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO).

2.3 PROGRAMME

The five foundational questions laying down this Capacity Building Programme will be approached through 13 modules, structured into 5 parts, as presented below.

PART 1: Digital Transformation and Digital Governance: Rationale and Foundations

Module 1: Digital transformation and digital governance as a holistic tool to support the Sustainable Development Goals

Module 2: Digital governance foundations

PART 2: Digital Innovation and Transformation for Better Government

Module 3: Design and development of inclusive and citizen-centred digital public services

Module 4: Harnessing emerging technologies in public services delivery

Module 5: Open data and data governance for better government

PART 3: Digital Innovation and Transformation for Better Governance

Module 6: e-Participation: developing an engagement culture in government

Module 7: CivicTech: trends and use cases

Module 8: Inclusion, human rights, and participation

PART 4: The Governance of Digital Innovation and Transformation

Module 9: Digital governance assessment

Module 10: Change management in digital governance

Module 11: Governance models and the GCIO function

PART 5: Towards Safer and Trustful Digital Innovation and Transformation

Module 12: Secure and resilient digital government services

Module 13: Legal and regulatory issues on security and privacy

2.4 TEACHING METHOD

A mixed method approach will be applied to link both theory and practice.

Problem-based learning will be chosen to facilitate learning through the experience of solving an open-ended problem found in support material.

An active learning approach, with discussion and practice as key constituents, will be adopted. Peer-to-peer and problem-based learning will be encouraged in all the modules of the programme.

2.5 SCHEDULE AND COURSE STRUCTURE

The capacity building programme will start in 2024 and is designed to be continued, in line with both the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the priorities of the 2030 Portuguese Development Cooperation Strategy. Each iteration of the programme will be scheduled over five working days and will consist of 25.5 effective teaching hours in total, excluding lunches and coffee breaks. Teaching will be scheduled Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm.

Lunches will be served at a restaurant within walking distance, and all coffee breaks in UNU-EGOV premises.

The daily structure is outlined below but may be adapted.

DAY	TIME	
1	09:30 – 10:30	Opening and welcome
	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break

	11:00 – 13:00	Lectures & teamwork
	13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
	14:30 – 16:30	Lectures & teamwork
2	09:00 – 10:30	Lectures & teamwork
	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
	11:00 – 13:00	Lectures & teamwork
	13:00 – 14:30	Lunch
	14:30 – 16:30	Lectures & teamwork
...
5	09:00 – 10:30	Lectures & teamwork
	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
	11:00 – 13:00	Lectures & teamwork
	13:00 – 13:30	Course wrap-up and programme closing
	13:30 – 15:00	Lunch

2.6 LOCATION

The capacity building programme will take place at UNU-EGOV premises, located in the Campus de Couros, Rua Vila Flor 166, 4810-445 Guimarães, Portugal.

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/1nX91MSvaqws8iKh8>

Note: The nearest international airport is in Porto – Porto Airport (OPO) – some 50km from Guimarães. Several transportation options such as bus, train, taxi or car are available to/from airport, which is placed just north of Portugal’s second largest city – Porto.

2.7 DATE AND TIMELINE FOR OPERATIONALISATION

The operationalisation of the programme will be subject to the following timeline:

- July – Announcement of the programme at the margins of the United Nations High Level Political Forum.
- 30 August – Deadline for submission of applications
- September – Selection and announcement of participants
- 4 – 8 November – First iteration of the programme

2.8 CANDIDATES SELECTION PROCESS

To nominate a candidate to participate in the Fellowship Programme, two documents are required and should be sent by email to digitalfellowship@mne.pt.

- An official communication (i.e. Note Verbale) from the respective Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York listing all nominations from the Member State (if more than one nomination is made, these should be ranked by order of priority).
- A nomination form must be submitted for each individual candidate.

More information on the submission of nominations procedure, including the necessary documents, can be found at <https://unu.edu/egov/un-portugal-digital-fellowship>.

3. UNU-EGOV PROFILE



3. UNU-EGOV PROFILE

UNU-EGOV is a think tank dedicated to Electronic Governance (e-Governance), located in Guimarães, Portugal. As part of the United Nations University (UNU), UNU-EGOV is a core centre of research, advisory services and training. As an international reference of excellence in this area, UNU-EGOV brings together multidisciplinary and multicultural teams around complex problems and emerging challenges, with a focus on the 2030 Agenda, namely SDG 16.

The UNU is headquartered in Tokyo and is composed of several Institutes and Programmes located in 12 countries (<https://unu.edu>). It was established in 1972 by decision of the UN General Assembly to contribute, through collaborative research and education, dissemination, and advisory services, to efforts to address the issues of concern to the United Nations, including sustainable development.

UNU-EGOV was established in May 2014 by decision of the United Nations University Council (<https://unu.edu/about/unu-council>), which serves as the governing body of UNU. As per Article I of the UNU-EGOV Statute, the Operating Unit has the legal status necessary for the realisation of its purposes and activities and has the capacity to enter into agreements and contracts.

The mission of UNU-EGOV is to support the United Nations system and Member States of the United Nations in transforming the mechanisms of governance and building effective governance capabilities through strategic applications of information and communication technologies to *inter alia* contribute to inclusive social and economic development.

UNU-EGOV has extensive experience in digital transformation processes, at the level of design, implementation, and evaluation, in diverse contexts including in developing countries. UNU-EGOV experts have a high level of knowledge and extensive experience in collaborating with governments in the development of policies, strategies, and plans for e-Governance and in measuring and monitoring the progress of e-Governance development. UNU-EGOV experts specialized in the fields of information systems, public administration, change management, human resource management, legal, IT strategic planning and management, and project management.

More information on the submission of nominations procedure, including the necessary documents:



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