

About the NGOs in Portugal

Definition 1:

The study Survey on the NGO sector in Portugal developed by Catholic University of Portugal (UCP) contains the following definition of NGOs:

“Portuguese NGOs are collective entities of private law, with a voluntary basis,, without any profitable goals, irrespective of the juridical structure they display and that groups them, on the date of presenting this tender, according to the following requirement:

- a) Legally founded in Portugal;*
- b) Undertake objectives either in the general interest or for the common good;*
- c) Are independent of any local, regional or national authorities along with any other public entities or socio-professional or business organisations;*
- d) Are not party or political party organisations;*
- e) Are not religious organisations”*

Types of NGOs:

The NGO concept hitherto employed by the Active Citizenship Programme is consistent with that defined in Portuguese legislation that stipulates regulations for three specific types of NGOs, as follows:

- NGOs_A – environmental and similar Non Governmental Organisations;*
- NGOs_D – aid and development Non Governmental Organisations;*
- NGOs_{PD} – Non Governmental Organisations providing for disabled persons.*

Total number of NGOs in Portugal

DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NGOS BY CORE ACTIVITIES		
CORE ACTIVITIES	NO. NGOs	%
Culture and Arts	4258	25.0
Education and Research	1543	9.1
Healthcare	657	3.9
Social Services	6377	37.5
Civil Defence	537	3.2
Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development	1054	6.2
Development	1459	8.6
Human Rights and Active Citizenship	598	3.5
Philanthropy, Fund Raising, Sharing ReSOURCES and Encouraging Volunteering	113	0.7
International Activities	416	2.4
TOTAL	17012	100.0

SOURCE: Catholic University of Portugal (Porto) / Transversal Area of the Social Economy – Directory of the Social Economy