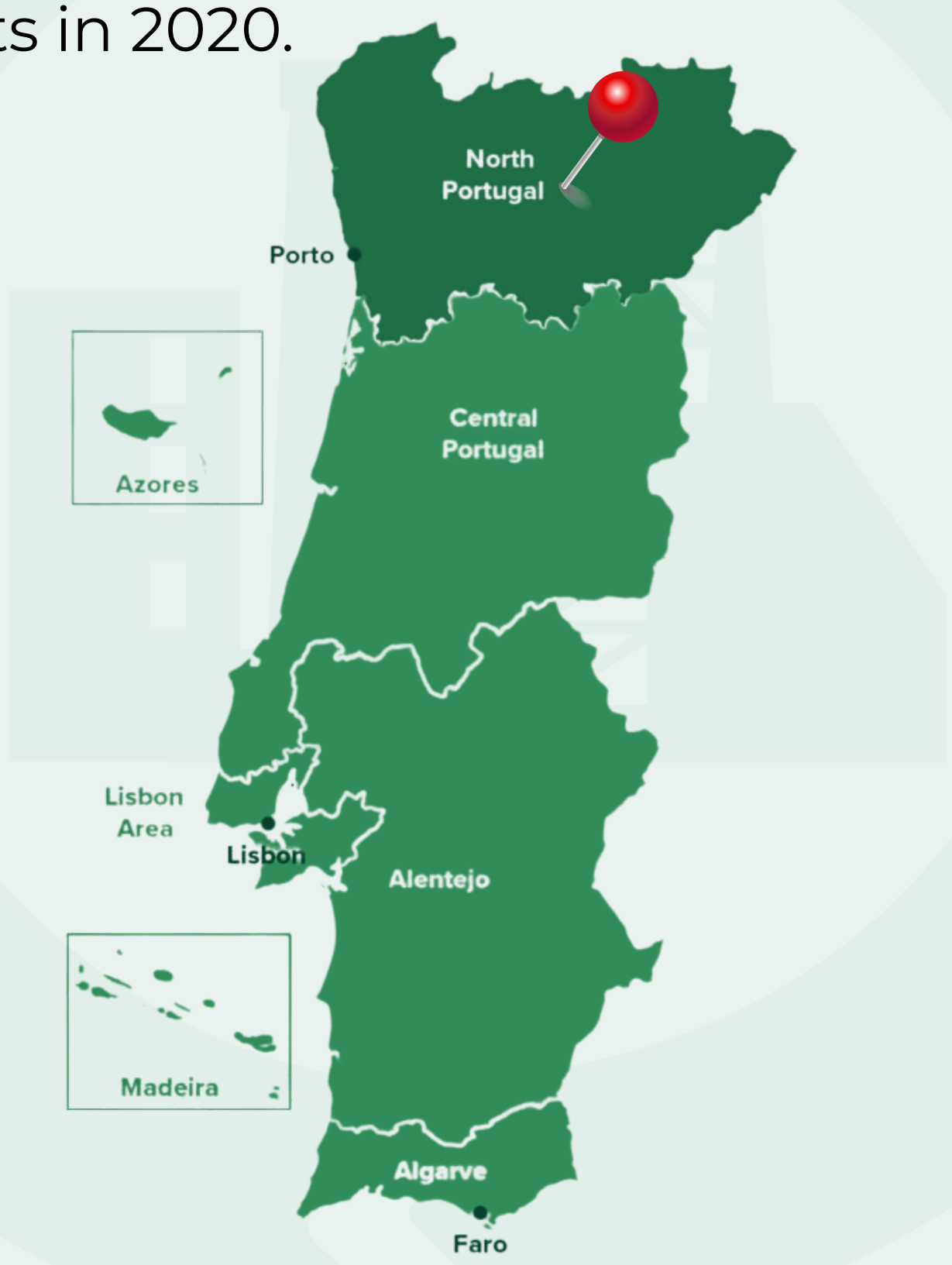
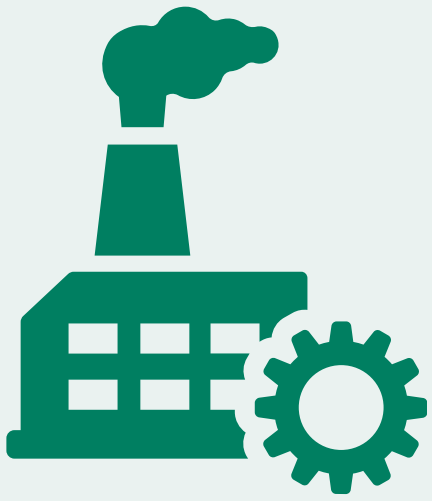
Do you want to learn more about Norte Region Portugal??

Norte Region Portugal

🌄 The Norte Region is located in the northern part of Portugal and is one of the country's seven NUTS II regions. Norte is the most populous NUTS II region of Portugal, with around 3.6 million inhabitants in 2020.



➡️ It borders Spain to the north and east, Centro Region to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.



Industry key players...

The region’s economic model is built on three pillars: industrialisation, internationalisation, and innovation.

Norte remains the most industrialised region in Portugal and the 11th most industrialised among the EU27’s 246 NUTS II regions.

In 2021, manufacturing accounted for 25% of total employment, with around 61,000 new manufacturing jobs created between 2013 and 2021, signalling a new industrial cycle.

Industrial growth has been accompanied by increased employment in service sectors essential for social, human, and technological development.

Main RTOs / R&D Centres in Norte Region Portugal

- **CITEVE** – textile & clothing innovation centre (testing, R&D, certification).
- **INESC TEC** – robotics, digitalisation, advanced production, AI.
- **CeNTI** – nanomaterials & smart materials (Nanotech@NortePT).
- **iMAN Norte Hub** – digital innovation in manufacturing (IoT, robotics).
- **Brigantia EcoPark** – tech park for eco-innovation and startups.
- **Universidade do Porto** – leading research institution (14 faculties).
- **Universidade do Minho** – reference in engineering, materials, digitalisation.
- **UTAD, IPB, IPCA, IPVC** – key contributors to applied R&D.

Priorities of the regional RIS3 strategy

1. Culture, Creativity & Fashion
2. Mobility & Environmental Industries
3. Advanced Production Systems
4. Agro-environmental Systems & Food
5. Life Sciences & Health
6. Tourism, Heritage & Symbolic Capital
7. Marine Resources & Blue Economy
8. Human Capital & Advanced Services

GreenStep contributions

- Networking & knowledge exchange
- Expertise in innovation for energy-intensive industries
- Joint learning and collaboration activities
- Participation in training courses
- Strengthening its positioning in European industrial & innovation ecosystems

Innovation interests

Priority Technological and Scientific Areas

- Advanced production & automation
- Agro-food innovation & sustainability
- Blue economy & marine tech
- Life sciences & biotech
- Creative industries, fashion & design
- Energy & environmental technologies
- Digital transformation (AI, IoT, Industry 4.0)
- Skills, talent & human capital development

Strategic Economic Sectors

- Textiles & fashion
- Automotive components
- Electrical & electronic equipment
- Footwear
- Machinery & production systems
- Agro-food
- Marine & fisheries
- ICT and digital services

Track record

The main innovation achievements of Portugal Norte Region are the following:

- High levels of EU trademarks and design registrations per capita, reflecting strong design-driven innovation.

- Robust export-oriented industrial innovation in key sectors such as textiles, footwear, electrical equipment, and the automotive supply chain.

- Strong research performance, with high rates of international scientific co-publications and significant research-intensive employment.

- Solid modernisation capacity, marked by substantial non-R&D innovation investment (machinery, process upgrades) and a high share of SMEs engaged in internal innovation.