

Overcoming internal challenges arising from the pandemic emergency

The experience of Tribunal de Contas of Portugal

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2020 – A YEAR MARKED BY COVID-2019 PANDEMIC



Mar 2 – First case diagnosed in Portugal

Mar 6 – The **TdC Contingency Plan** was approved, where telework was foreseen

Mar 11 – WHO declared COVID-19 as a pandemic

Mar 12 – Beginning of **Telework** at Tribunal de Contas (more than 90% of workers)

Mar 18 – State of Emergency- Decree of the President of Portugal

Mar/Apr/May – **Action Plan 2020 Reviewed** – COVID reajustment

Dec 11 – **“Management Risk Prevention Plan”** update to year 2021, with risks arising from the COVID-2019 pandemic

THE CONTINGENCY PLAN OF TRIBUNAL DE CONTAS DE PORTUGAL

APPROVED AND ACTIVATED ON 6 MARCH 2020

OBJECTIVES

Contingency plan based on DGS* orientation with the following objectives:

- ❖ Prepare answer to minimize COVID-19 propagation conditions;
- ❖ Define coordination structure
- ❖ Prepare response to inward and outward communications needs
- ❖ Reduce contamination risk in workplaces;
- ❖ Ensure working of Tribunal de Contas;
- ❖ Promote coordination with official entities that can ensure support in the event of a pandemic;
- ❖ Manage Information (internal and external);

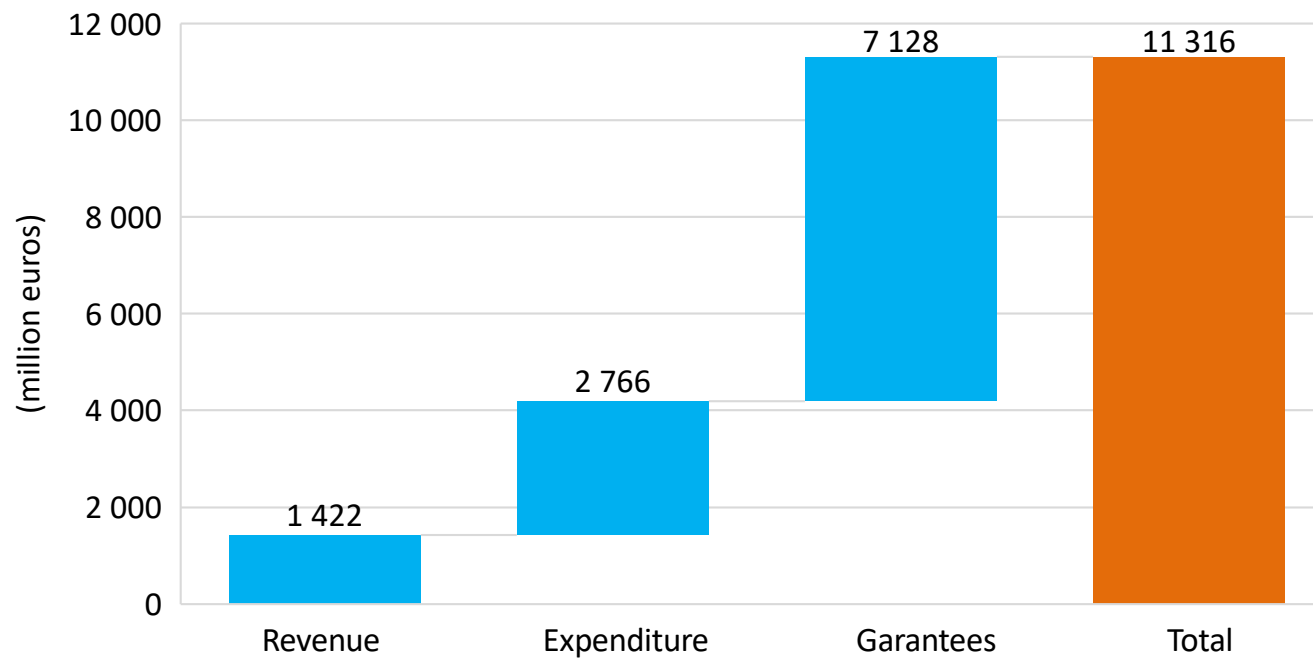
* DGS – Direção Geral de Saúde (General Directorate of Health))

Action Plan 2020 – Readjusting the tasks to be performed (this work began in early April)

27 new tasks , 2 of them crosscutting projects

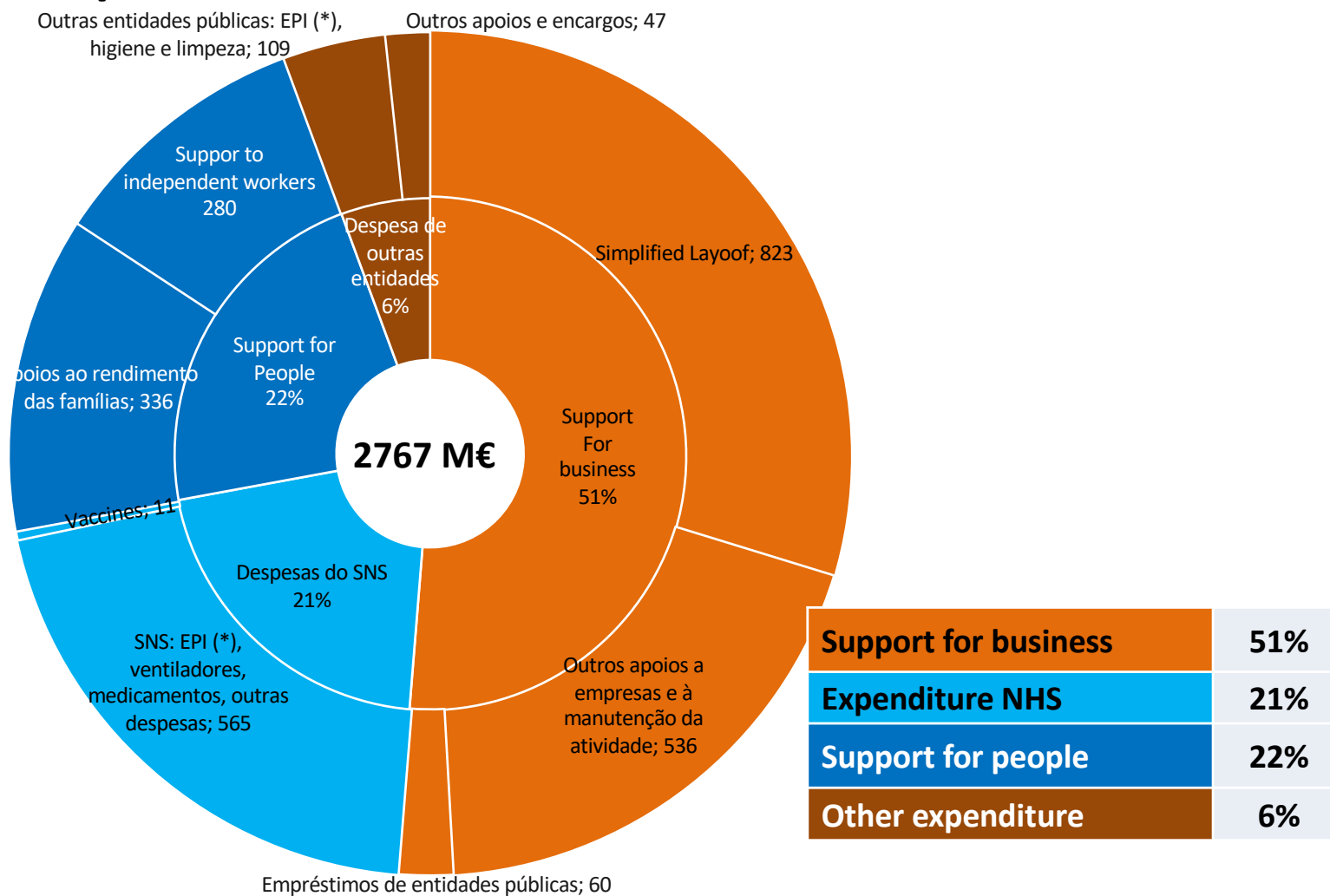
- **112 tasks with changes:**
 - Rescheduling (48), mainly postponing the term to 2021;
 - Shifting the focus of most of the actions planned, especially introducing a Covid 19 impact analysis;
- **19 tasks cancelled**

REVENUE, EXPENDITURE AND GUARANTEES



Source: DGO, AT, IGFSS, DGTF.

Expenditure with Covid 19 measures - 2020



(*) EPI - Equipamentos de proteção individual
 Fonte: DGO.

Follow-up of the measures related to Covid -19 Pandemic



DIGITALIZATION PROCESS

Issuing resolutions and guidelines of the Court for the electronic delivery of Contracts submitted to a priori control

May 2020 , July 2020 e January 2021



MONITORING COVID-19 CONTRACTS

Covered by the Exception Regime provided in Law No. 1-A/2020, including those exempt from priori control

3 reports issued for the period of analysis between March 12 to December 31, 2020

Follow-up of the measures related to Covid -19 Pandemic



RISK ASSESSMENT

Risks of using public resources in emergency management (COVID-19)

Report – June 2020



MONITORING BUDGET EXECUTION

Covid-19 - Measures and reporting in the first 3 months - Monitoring of budget execution

Report – July 2020

Follow-up of the measures related to Covid -19 Pandemic



COVID-19 - IMPACT ON THE SNS

Impact of the pandemic on the activity and access to the National Health Service

Report – October 2020



CONTROL OF EUROPEAN FUNDS

Audit of the Operational Programme to Support the Most Deprived – Change of EU rules and financial reinforcements in face of expanded needs and difficulties in food distribution

Report – October 2020

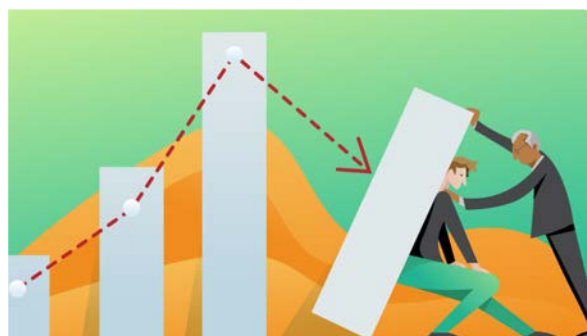
COVID 19 - IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES



Impact of measures to mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic taken by local government entities in Portugal mainland, including also public procurement

Report – December 2020

COVID 19 - IMPLEMENTATION OF SIMPLIFIED LAY OFF DURING THE PANDEMIC



Audit to extraordinary support for the maintenance of employment contracts, also known as "simplified" lay-off

Interim Report - January 2021

Lessons for the **future** learned from the *Covid 19*

Different audit methodologies, more **REAL TIME AUDIT**

To rely more and more on **DIGITALISATION**

The concept of **FIELD WORK** will remain valid?

Is **TELEWORK** there to STAY?

Will we still need traditional **OFFICES**? A new ERA on **facilities management**

Some control projects planned for the next 2 years.....

ONGOING EXAMPLES IN 2021

- **COVID 19 - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIMPLIFIED LAY OFF DURING THE PANDEMIC**
- **STUDY ON COVID MEASURES AND THEIR FINANCIAL IMPACT IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF PORTUGAL MAINLAND**
- **PERFORMANCE AUDIT TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC GLOBAL RESPONSE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH**
- **COVID-19 - HOTEL UNITS CONTRACTS/PROCUREMENT(?) FOR COMPULSORY CONFINEMENT (Autonomous Region of the Azores)**
- **FUNDING LINE COVID-19 (100 M€). SUPPORT TO COMPANIES LIQUIDITY TO KEEP JOBS (Autonomous Region of Madeira)**

IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE UN 2030 AGENDA (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS / SDGs)

1 NO POVERTY



2 ZERO HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



13 CLIMATE ACTION



14 LIFE BELOW WATER



15 LIFE ON LAND



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

