



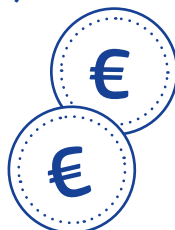
Médio Tejo - A region to invest in!

Assets and opportunities in Médio Tejo as it undergoes
a just transition



1 of 3

Portuguese regions supported by
the Just Transition Fund (JTF)



65

million
in JTF financing
available to support
Médio Tejo's
just transition

210,533

Inhabitants



Regional profile of Médio Tejo

Médio Tejo is a NUTS III sub-region of the Centro region and is comprised of 11 municipalities: Abrantes, Alcanena, Constancia, Entroncamento, Ferreira do Zezere, Macao, Ourem, Sardoal, Tomar, Torres Novas and Vila Nova da Barquinha.

The region is home to a total of 210,533 inhabitants, though half of the population is split between the three municipalities of Ourém, Tomar and Abrantes. The river Tejo, which flows through the region, gives it its name. Médio Tejo enjoys a privileged geographical position in the territory of mainland Portugal, given its central location and proximity to the administrative capital of the country, Lisbon, and the second most important city Porto.

Médio Tejo was home to the coal-fired Pego power plant in Abrantes until it ceased operation in November 2021. The closure of the power station is a unique opportunity for the region to align its decarbonisation and just transition process with a vision and strategy for future economic development.

- Stable and reliable energy supply in the region, consisting of a mix of renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, hydropower and natural gas.
- The coal phase-out offers an opportunity to use the coal plant for new renewable energy projects as well as to develop new jobs and industries for the region.
- ENDESA received a connection to the Public Service Electrical Grid (RESP) of 224 MVA to install 365 MWp of solar energy, 264 MW of wind energy with integrated storage of 168.6 MW and a 500 kW electrolyser for the production of green hydrogen.

Opportunities for Médio Tejo as it undergoes a just transition

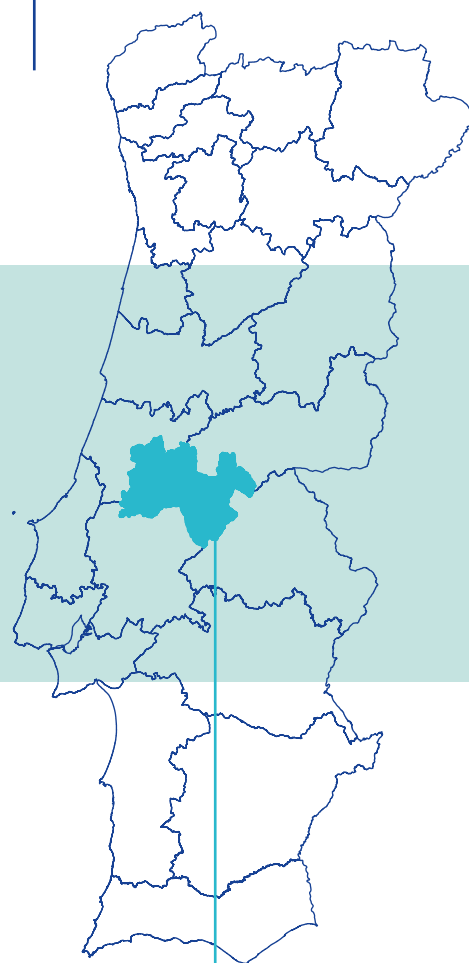
With the recent closure of its coal power plant and after the adoption of its Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP), Médio Tejo is one of three Portuguese Just Transition Fund (JTF) regions. Portugal receives a total of €223.8 million under the JTF, of which approximately €65 million is allocated to Médio Tejo. This EU support helps to deliver a just transition away from reliance on coal energy, moving from a linear economy to a low-carbon, circular economy, focused on the use of natural resources in a sustainable way.

The early coal exit in combination with the support provided under the JTF offers opportunities to diversify and substantiate Médio Tejo's economy by developing alternative sustainable industries. This can be achieved by supporting SMEs and large companies with innovative entrepreneurship, research and new technologies in emerging green sectors. In addition, Médio Tejo also will use JTF funds to support training and upskilling programs in the region.

Portugal:

€223.8

million JTF funding



€65

million JTF
funding
allocated to
Médio Tejo

Médio Tejo Assests at a Glance

1. Interconnected Region

Highly interconnected region to main urban centers

Railroad:

- 26 active stations and stops throughout the region, located along the 4 railway axes, which cross 8 municipalities
- Direct connections to Lisbon and Porto

Automotive:

Médio Tejo is crossed by two major national highways: The A1 connecting Lisbon to Porto and the A23, the main door to the east and Spain, and other motorways and national roads. In addition, there are different options for public transport: national bus connections, and regional offers, such as the regular public transport service by [MEIO](#) and public transport on demand through [LINK](#) service.

Airports:

By car, 1 hour drive to Lisbon Airport and 2 hours to Porto Airport.

2. Direct connection to the national grid

The Pego Power Plant (the former coal power plant) in Abrantes is directly connected to the Portuguese national electricity grid.

A direct grid connection is beneficial for renewable energy generation in Médio Tejo and distribution to other regions in and outside of Portugal. Portugal has nine cross-border interconnections and is integrated with Spain's electricity market.

The national transmission network has an installed transformer capacity of 38.463 megavolt-amperes. The transmission network has recently been reinforced to transmit more renewable electricity to Portuguese consumption centres. One single transmission system operator (TSO, Redes Energeticas Nacionais (REN)) and single distribution system operator (DSO, E-Redes) enable more streamlined grid connections for renewable energy projects.

3. Natural and Cultural attractions

Médio Tejo is characterized by a density of natural resources, such as natural parks, rivers and forests, including numerous walking and hiking routes. The region is also known for its important historical heritage, made up of the magnificent Convent of Christ, a World Heritage Site, six castles and a place of undeniable spirituality – the Sanctuary of Fátima. Get to know more at: <https://turismo.mediotejo.pt/>

4. Budding innovation ecosystem

The region of Médio Tejo has a promising network of entities stimulating innovation:

HyTAGUS – Médio Tejo – Hydrogen Valley

The Médio Tejo region has established itself as a Hydrogen Region, pioneering the promotion of hydrogen as a key energy source for the energy transition in Portugal.

HyTAGUS Valley aims to create a regional value chain for hydrogen, promoting the integrated use of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies (FCH) in different sectors and applications.

TAGUSVALLEY – Tecnopolo do Vale do Tejo

TAGUSVALLEY is a Science and Technology Park and business incubator located in Abrantes, dedicated to stimulating entrepreneurship, competitiveness, innovation and technology.

Focus sectors include: agriculture and food, metal, energy and information and communication.

Education facilities: [The Polytechnical school – Instituto Politécnico de Tomar](#) offers bachelor, master, doctorate and postgraduate studies, as well as further specialization and short courses in key industries to train workers as needed.

Examples of training courses include:

- Informatics and Multimedia Management
- Computer Sciences
- Mechanical engineering
- Business Management
- Tourism and Cultural Heritage Management
- Bioresources and Sustainability
- Health Management

5. Established industries with potential for evolution

Médio Tejo is home to various established industries which have potential for further sustainable development:

Mobility industry:

[Mitsubishi Fuso](#) currently has a factory located in Tramagal, Abrantes. It is the central production facility in Europe for Canter and eCanter trucks.

The regions mobility industry is characterized by established logistics and manufacturing supply chains with an opportunity to scale up e-vehicle production.

Agricultural industries:

The Tejo valley is one of the most productive agricultural regions in Portugal due to slight slopes, diverse topography, fertile alluvial soil which is rich in minerals and humus, and favourable climate conditions (hot in the summer and cold in the winter). The most commonly grown crops include olives, corn and various fruit crops.

Portuguese agricultural production occurs earlier than in Northern or Central Europe, allowing farmers to benefit from high prices for products outside the high season. This offers an opportunity for local farmers to complement other European produce growth cycles and leverage emerging trends for more local and regional produce.

Abrantes ZLT – Opportunity to test innovative solutions in the renewable energy sector

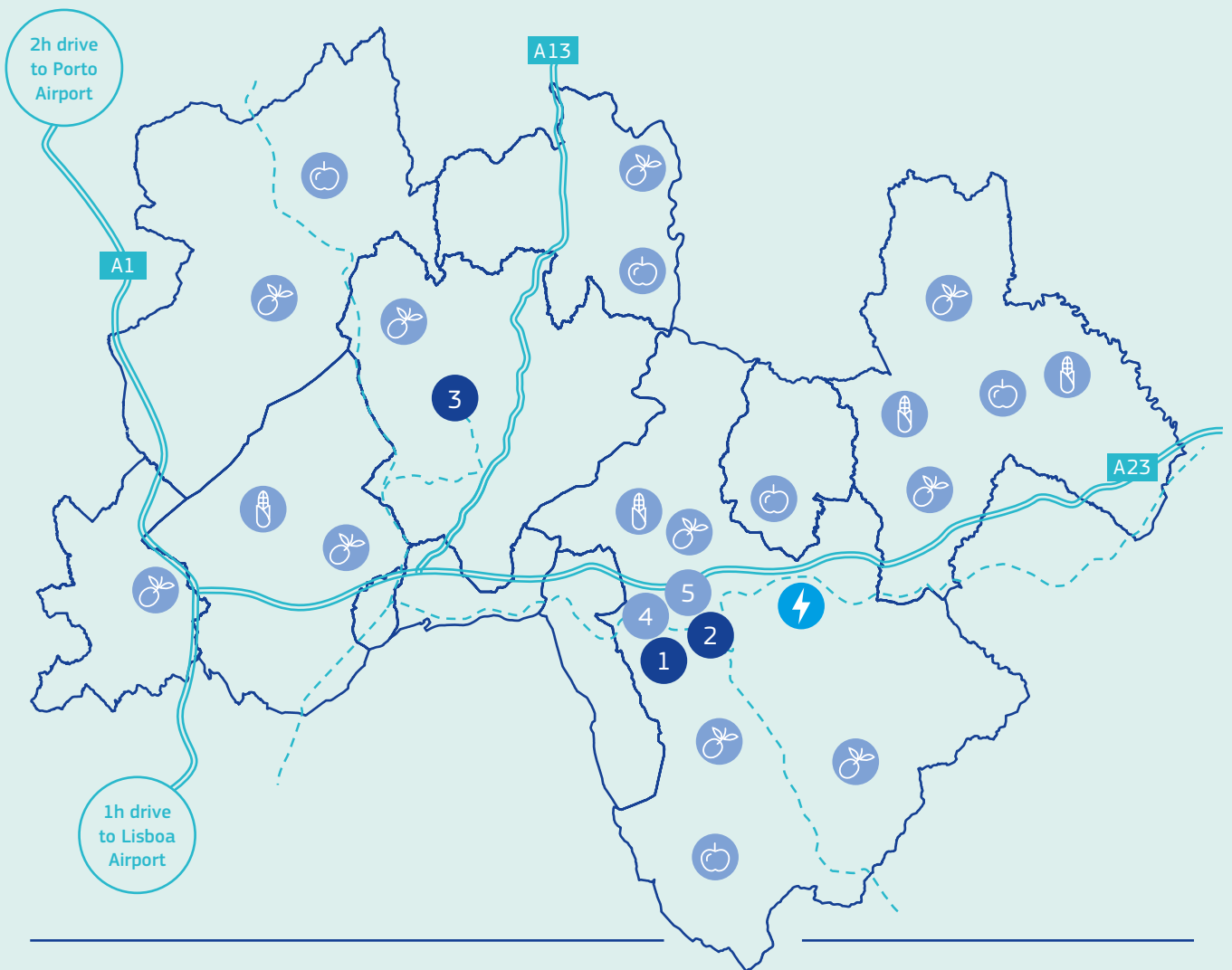
The Technological Free Zones (ZLTs) were created as a secure space, within a limited geographic area, where companies can perform tests and experiments to develop new technologies and solutions or innovative products, services and technology-based processes. These innovations can be developed in a real or near-real environment, without facing immediate regulatory repercussions. In Médio Tejo, the Abrantes ZLT offers the opportunity to promote and develop innovative projects in electrical production, storage, and self-consumption leveraging renewable energy, as well as fosters industrial innovation while complying with important decarbonisation objectives.

Overview of the assets of Médio Tejo:

The Médio Tejo is a region in the centre of Portugal made up of 11 municipalities: Abrantes, Alcanena, Constância, Entroncamento, Ferreira do Zêzere, Macão, Ourém, Sardoal, Tomar, Torres Novas and Vila Nova da Barquinha.

Each municipality demonstrates Médio Tejo's diverse assets and economic opportunities.

To learn more, please visit [here](#).



Interconnected Region

- Four railway axes: Northern Line, Beira Baixa Line, Tomar Branch and East Line
- Highways

Direct connection to the national grid

- Pego Power Plant - Tejo Energia Elecçgás

Budding innovation ecosystem

- HyTAGUS – Hydrogen Valley
- TAGUSVALLEY – Science and Technology Park in Abrantes
- Polytechnical Institute in Tomar

Established industries with potential for evolution

- Mitsubishi Fuso factory in Tramagal, Abrantes
- Agricultural industries of the most commonly grown crops: olives, corn, various fruit crops
- Abrantes ZLT – Opportunity to test innovative solutions in the renewable energy sector

For further information:

To learn more about Médio Tejo and opportunities to engage in and invest in the region, please contact the Comunidade Intermunicipal Médio Tejo (CIM MT) at geral@cimt.pt

Imprint

This publication was produced as a part of [JTP Groundwork](#), a co-creative technical assistance facility made available by the European Commission under the [Just Transition Platform](#).

Layout: Símpelplus

Publication date: November 2023

