

## Portugal: Economic, Political and Social Issues

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The book "Portugal: Economic, Political and Social Issues" ([https://www.novapublishers.com/catalog/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=36052](https://www.novapublishers.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=36052)), edited by António José Bento-Gonçalves and António Avelino Batista Vieira, recently published by Nova Science Publishers (Hauppauge New York), intends to outline the Portuguese economic, political and social situation at the beginning of this new millennium.

This book includes 10 valuable contributions that reflect its title "Portugal: Economic, Political and Social Issues": development, education, innovation and technology, environment (forest fires and waste management), unemployment, migrations, energy and rural practices.

Caleiro discuss about the Portuguese business cycle and its synchronization with the European business cycle.

Amaral and Veiga presents a condensed view of the developments that have taken place in Portugal after the April revolution, examining the Portuguese higher education system, its strong points and main problems, as it moved in two decades from an elite

system with very low participation rates to a massified system.

Bravo and Naquin present the effects of technology transfer on economic growth and the role of international commercialization networks to accelerate market-oriented results from university research and thus enhance regional competitiveness. They discuss the importance of academic cooperation to close the gap between society's investments in science and its fair return on those investments.

Kikuchi and Gerardo discuss whether public participation is really linked with environmental decision making, through the analysis of a case study in the Central Region of Portugal.

Lourenço, Bento-Gonçalves, Vieira, Nunes and Ferreira-Leite analyze the problem of forest fires in Portugal, characterizing the number of occurrences and the areas scorched by forest fires in Portugal through an evolutionary (1968-2011) and spatial perspective, highlighting the critical years of 2003 and 2005, due to their unprecedented values in terms of occurrences and area scorched and social, economic and environmental impacts.

Caleiro tries to clarify some facts about the wealth of an economy, from the viewpoint of the Economics of Happiness, through the analysis of the relationship between happiness and unemployment in Portugal.

Neto and Mullet synthesized the findings from three lines of research on Portuguese migration. These studies have been conducted from 1991 to 2012, and were about the three classical stages of the migration process: depart, stay and return.

Oliveira Henriques, Pereira da Silva and Coelho in their chapter they systematize and revisit the energy liberalization process in Portugal, covering the evolution of the regulatory ruling, the tariffs setting, the role of the Iberian Electricity Market and the diversity of the most up to date legislative framework, with a special focus on the renewables field, in the context of an economic recession period. They also shed some light on the legacy costs which are to be imposed on the next generation

of consumers and citizens in a near future, due to the utmost goal of building a true competitive energy market.

Malico, Hernández and Marques analyze and discuss the current state and legal framework of the Portuguese biogas sector at the light of the country's and European legislation on waste management. Some important pieces of international environmental law are reviewed, followed by the identification of the European and Portuguese legal instruments that are related to the production, impacts and management of waste and to the biogas sector.

Bento-Gonçalves, Vieira, Ferreira-Leite, Salgado, Castro, da Vinha, Malta and Araújo show the importance of extensive livestock farming in mountainous areas of the Northwest of Portugal characterizing Vezeira da Ribeira (one of the few Vezeiras that has managed to resist), presenting its potentialities as well as the threats which seriously endanger its survival.