

Zonas Livres Tecnológicas — Portugal's Cross-Sector Regulatory Sandbox Regime, With an AI and Autonomous-Systems Zone in Aveiro

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Portugal

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Portugal's Decree-Law 67/2021 created a cross-sector regulatory-sandbox regime, the Zonas Livres Tecnológicas. The Aveiro zone (2025) tests autonomous systems and AI; early evidence is limited to about five companies preparing trials.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability beyond pilot	1/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-10-03

Agência Nacional de Inovação (ANI) / Universidade de Aveiro — accessed 2026-10-03

NOVA Consumer Lab — Technological Free Zones and the Portuguese Regulatory Sandbox Legal Framework — accessed 2026-10-03

Interreg Europe — ZLT Aveiro, a Living Lab for Future Technologies — accessed 2026-10-03

AIDA CCI — New Free Technological Zones in Aveiro and Viana do Castelo — accessed 2026-10-03

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