

# Digital Economy Strategy of Cabo Verde (EEDCV)

## Executive Summary

In recent years, Cabo Verde has distinguished itself as a resilient and innovative nation, confronting global challenges with determination and creativity. The commitment to digital transformation reflects this resilience and forward-looking vision: Cabo Verde aims to position itself as a Digital Nation, where technology serves as the driving force for economic, social, and cultural development.

The Digital Economy Strategy of Cabo Verde (EEDCV) outlines a clear path for the future, focusing not only on modernizing technological infrastructure but also on creating an environment where all Cape Verdeans can seize the opportunities brought by digitalization. We are fostering the development of a new generation of digital entrepreneurs and innovative companies/institutions that leverage technology to generate income, enhance efficiency, and boost competitiveness, contributing to the sustainable growth of the country.

The EEDCV is part of a broader vision of modernization and inclusive growth, aligned with the **Strategic Sustainable Development Plan II (PEDS II)**, which positions the digital economy as one of the main drivers for economic development and diversification in the country.

### EEDCV Vision

To transform Cabo Verde into a **Digital Nation** by promoting digital inclusion, innovation, and economic competitiveness, leveraging emerging technologies for sustainable development and driving a cashless economy.

### EEDCV Values

The five core values of the strategy encompass: **innovation, inclusion, sustainability, resilience, and trust**. These values ensure that digital transformation in Cabo Verde is comprehensive and equitable, creating opportunities for all citizens and ensuring environmental sustainability and economic resilience.

### General Objectives of the EEDCV

- Develop a robust digital infrastructure
- Accelerate the digital transformation of businesses
- Strengthen and expand the ecosystem of technology-based startups
- Promote digital inclusion and technological capacity building
- Create a favorable regulatory environment for the technology sector
- Promote the internationalization of startups and technology-based companies
- Increase resilience and cybersecurity
- Encourage sustainable development
- Support the transition to a cashless economy
- Foster public-private partnerships and collaboration with universities to drive Research and Development (R&D)

### Pillars and Strategic Objectives of the EEDCV

The Digital Economy Strategy of Cabo Verde is structured around 6 strategic pillars, comprising a total of 37 strategic objectives:

#### 1. Digital Infrastructure [ID]

Develop a modern infrastructure that ensures universal and efficient access to high-quality digital services for citizens, businesses, and public institutions.

- [ID 1] Develop the Public Digital Infrastructure
- [ID 2] Expand Connectivity
- [ID 3] Strengthen Data Centers
- [ID 4] Promote the Development of the Technology Park

- **[ID 5]** Establish Centers of Excellence in Emerging Technologies (CETEM)
- **[ID 6]** Strengthen the Digital Payments Infrastructure
- **[ID 7]** Develop the Infrastructure for Smart Cities

## 2. **Capacity Building and Brain Gain [CBG]**

Promote advanced digital skills across all age groups and contexts, creating an inclusive society prepared for digital transformation.

- **[CBG 1]** Develop ICT Training Programs
- **[CBG 2]** Launch Digital Inclusion Initiatives
- **[CBG 3]** Educate in Digital Finance and Prepare for the Cashless Economy
- **[CBG 4]** Establish Partnerships with Academia
- **[CBG 5]** Engage the Diaspora
- **[CBG 6]** Attract Digital Nomads

## 3. **Market and Innovation [MI]**

Drive innovation and support the growth of technology-based companies and startups by creating a favorable environment for new technologies and business models.

- **[MI 1]** Strengthen and Expand the Ecosystem of Technology-Based Startups
- **[MI 2]** Accelerate the Digital Transformation of Businesses
- **[MI 3]** Foster the National Technology Sector
- **[MI 4]** Promote the Internationalization of Technology-Based Companies and Startups
- **[MI 5]** Boost Research and Development (R&D)
- **[MI 6]** Stimulate the Development and Integration of Intellectual Property in the Digital Market
- **[MI 7]** Create Regulatory Sandboxes
- **[MI 8]** Advance Financial Innovation: Fintech and Cashless Economy
- **[MI 9]** Implement an AI Strategy
- **[MI 10]** Promote Technology Events

## 4. **Governance and Policies [GP]**

Establish a regulatory framework that promotes trust and supports the sustainable development of the digital economy.

- **[GP 1]** Legislate and Regulate for the Digital Economy
- **[GP 2]** Implement the Startup Act
- **[GP 3]** Encourage National Participation in Public Technology Procurement
- **[GP 4]** Promote and Regulate New Technologies
- **[GP 5]** Create a Digital Observatory
- **[GP 6]** Form Public-Private Partnerships
- **[GP 7]** Regulate Open Access Regime for Infrastructures and Submarine Cables

## 5. **Inclusion and Sustainability [IS]**

Ensure equitable access to the opportunities of digital transformation, balancing technological progress with environmental responsibility.

- **[IS 1]** Include Vulnerable Populations
- **[IS 2]** Promote Sustainable Development
- **[IS 3]** Ensure Sustainable Digital Financial Inclusion

## 6. **Security and Resilience [SR]**

Strengthening cybersecurity, protecting sensitive data, and ensuring the resilience of digital services, fostering trust among citizens and businesses in a secure digital environment.

- **[SR 1]** Update and implement the national cybersecurity plan
- **[SR 2]** Ensure digital resilience
- **[SR 3]** Strengthen data protection in Cabo Verde
- **[SR 4]** Train and raise awareness in cybersecurity

The implementation of this strategy will require a concerted effort from all sectors: government, private sector, academia, and civil society. It is only through this collaboration that we can ensure the benefits of digitalization are shared by all and that Cabo Verde establishes itself as a leader in digital governance and technological innovation in the region and beyond. We are confident that by following this vision, we will transform Cabo Verde into a robust, connected, and future-ready **Digital Nation**.

