

Cabo Verde Begins Implementation Phase of Microsoft Strategic Agreement

Cape Verde and Microsoft are pleased to invite your media organization to participate in a press conference that will take place on Thursday, November 14th, at the Web Summit Lisbon media village.

Following the signing of the agreement in 2023 between Cabo Verde's Secretary of State for Digital Economy, Pedro Lopes, and Microsoft's Vice President, Justin Spelhaug, witnessed by Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva during the United Nations General Assembly, Cabo Verde and Microsoft now move forward with the implementation phase of the Digital Development Program (DDP). This innovative partnership makes Cabo Verde the first country supported by the DDP, placing the nation at the forefront of digital transformation on the African continent.

This agreement marks the realization of several initiatives aimed at modernizing government, fostering digital inclusion in education, and strengthening the technological entrepreneurship ecosystem. The key gains for Cabo Verde in this implementation phase include:

1. Digital Inclusion for Teachers and Students

The implementation of the Cloud Solution Provider begins equipping schools across the country with:

- 8,000 M365 licenses for teachers and 135,000 for students, ensuring access to the latest digital tools and promoting large-scale digital inclusion.
- Changes in Education: With the integration of tools like Microsoft Teams and OneNote, teachers and students will have new resources to collaborate more effectively, incorporating distance learning and innovative digital technologies into the curriculum.

2. Public Administration Transformation with Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technology

With the launch of this new phase, Cabo Verde's public administration will benefit from:

- Increased Operational Efficiency: Through Business Intelligence and Power Apps integrated into Azure Cloud Services, processes will be automated, enabling faster responses to citizen needs.
- Continuous improvement in cybersecurity: Strengthening the State's Private Technological Network.
- AI-Based Innovations: The implementation of Co-Pilot technology, powered by artificial intelligence, will optimize workflows and improve the productivity of public services, modernizing the administration on multiple fronts.
- Advanced Data Analysis and Management: With Business Intelligence tools, public management will have more efficient data analysis capabilities, facilitating real-time strategic, tactical, and operational decision-making.

3. Strengthening Entrepreneurship – Support Programs for Startups

As a result of this partnership, Microsoft commits to including 100 Cabo Verdean startups per year in the Entrepreneurship for Positive Impact Program (EfPI), providing a robust platform for tech startups with a social impact focus. Key benefits, subject to eligibility, include:

- Up to \$150,000 USD in credits for access to the latest AI technologies, such as OpenAI GPT-4, along with full technology support from the Microsoft ecosystem.
- Global Innovation Network: Participation in a global community of innovators, with networking opportunities via the LinkedIn platform and direct access to industry experts.
- Exclusive and Educational Content: Access to educational resources and exclusive events such as webinars and newsletters to support startup development and promote positive impact in the local ecosystem.

A Partnership for Cabo Verde's Future

With the start of the DDP implementation phase, Cabo Verde is taking a decisive step in its digital transformation. This agreement with Microsoft not only modernizes key sectors such as public administration and education but also creates tangible opportunities for young entrepreneurs, positioning the country as a digital innovation hub in Africa.