

## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Portugal to launch Deposit Return Scheme in 2026, setting a positive example for Southern Europe

**LISBON** – Portugal is set to launch its national Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for single-use beverage packaging in 2026, marking a significant step forward for environmental sustainability in Southern Europe. [SDR Portugal](#) will serve as the scheme administrator, while [Sensoneo](#), has been selected as the IT solution provider, expanding its footprint as the trusted IT partner for DRS implementations in its eighth European country.

As the first continental Southern European country to introduce a full-scale Deposit Return Scheme, Portugal is positioning itself as an innovator in the region. While Malta, as a small island, pioneered the concept in the Mediterranean with its own DRS launch in November 2022, Portugal's implementation will serve as an influential model for larger neighbouring nations such as Spain, France, and Italy. Known as a country of explorers, Portugal once again demonstrates its forward-thinking approach by adopting a system that promotes circularity, reduces waste, and enhances recycling rates.

Sensoneo's IT system will power the entire DRS infrastructure, covering all operational aspects, including the critical reverse logistics component known as the take-back system, ensuring efficient tracking, collection processes, and warehouse and transport management. The digital ecosystem will also include multiple mobile applications to enhance engagement and efficiency across stakeholders.

One of the most significant differentiators of Portugal's DRS is its integration of the HoReCa sector—hotels, restaurants, and catering industry. Leveraging its experience from Malta, where HoReCa participation significantly contributed to the system's efficiency, Sensoneo will optimize the process to ensure high collection rates across all participating venues.

With a population size and retail landscape similar to other European countries that have successfully implemented DRS, estimates suggest that Portugal could operate between **7,000 and 10,000 collection points**. These accessible points will make recycling convenient and effective for Portuguese consumers.

**Pedro Lago, IT Business Development and IT Director from SDR Portugal**, is very satisfied to have Sensoneo on board as an IT system provider: *"The first milestones achieved in this project have shown that we are on the right track for a smooth, yet rigorous and demanding, implementation. We still have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but I am confident that, thanks to strategic partners like Sensoneo, Portugal will have a well-functioning, trustworthy and advanced Deposit Return Scheme."*

**Martin Basila, CEO of Sensoneo**, expressed his enthusiasm for the project: *"We are proud to support another Deposit Return Scheme with our IT expertise, especially in a region that is implementing such a system for the first time. Our extensive experience from previous projects, particularly in Malta's HoReCa sector, will enable us to create a highly efficient and innovative solution for Portugal. By leveraging our technology, we are confident that Portugal's DRS will achieve outstanding results and serve as a model for other Southern European nations."*

Portugal's Deposit Return Scheme is a landmark initiative that will enhance recycling, reduce waste, and set a precedent for sustainable waste management in the region. With SDR Portugal at the helm and Sensoneo providing the IT backbone, Portugal's DRS is well-positioned to deliver lasting environmental and economic benefits.

**About SDR Portugal:**

SDR Portugal is the official administrator of Portugal's Deposit Return Scheme, overseeing the implementation, management, and efficiency of the system. By working closely with retailers, producers, and industry stakeholders, SDR Portugal is committed to improving recycling rates and fostering a more circular economy in Portugal.

For more information, visit: <https://sdrportugal.pt/en/>

**About Sensoneo:**

Sensoneo is a global technology company specializing in innovative waste management solutions. As the only company worldwide to have successfully implemented and operated IT systems for DRS in eight countries, Sensoneo's expertise in end-to-end software solutions has contributed to recycling performance rates exceeding 90%. Sensoneo's smart waste management technologies are trusted by cities, businesses, and governments worldwide, with deployments in over 87 countries across five continents.

For more information, visit: <https://sensoneo.com/>

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