



José Mariano Gago

Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education in Portugal (since March 2005), in charge of Science and Technology, Information Society and Higher Education, Professor José Mariano Gago graduated as an electrical engineer from the Technical University of Lisbon and read for his PhD in Physics at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris. Prior to his appointment to the government, Prof. Gago was Professor of Physics at IST in Lisbon. He was an experimental high energy physicist for several decades at the European Organisation for Nuclear Physics (CERN), Geneva, and at Portugal's Laboratory for Particle Physics (LIP) that he chaired. Prof. Gago is member of the CERN Council.

Prof. Gago was also President of the National Board for Science and Technology and President of the Institute for Prospective Studies in Portugal. As Minister of Science and Technology between 1995 and 2002, he was responsible for science and technology and for information society policies. He launched the Ciencia Viva movement to promote S&T culture and S&T in society. During the Portuguese EU Presidency (2000) he prepared, along with the European Commission, the Lisbon Strategy for the European Research Area and for the Information Society in Europe. He has also launched in 1998 the Eureka-Asia Initiative in Macao.