

Modernisation of the vocational training centres network of IEFP

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 PORTUGAL

Timeline

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 43523

Background

The Recovery and resilience plan (PRR) aims to implement reforms and investments to restore sustained economic growth, after the pandemic, reinforcing the objective of convergence with Europe over the next decade. Modernisation and (re)qualification of training centres is using investments in the construction of buildings and acquisition of training equipment to create the best operating conditions for citizens and providers, while responding to the emerging needs of the labour market; these are decisive factors for improving the social image of vocational training, its attractiveness and recognition as an effective response to the needs of companies and individuals. The VET agreement foresees the launch of a plan for the modernisation of IEFP vocational training centres in close dialogue with the social partners.

Objectives

- (a) Strengthening the action of the public employment and vocational training services;
- (b) Extending the territorial and sectorial coverage of the Institute for Employment and Vocational training (IEFP) vocational training centres network, to reduce territorial and sectorial imbalances and gaps, and ensure greater proximity to people, companies and the needs of the labour market;
- (c) (Re)qualifying and modernise the IEFP training centres network, making vocational training more attractive;
- (d) Diversifying the training areas considering current and emerging needs, providing the workshop spaces of the IEFP vocational training centres network with essential equipment for training practice, particularly high technological intensity, and including those supporting distance learning.

Description

In September 2021, the IEFP signed a financing agreement for the application of EUR 230 million with the *Estrutura de Missão Recuperar Portugal*, the body responsible for negotiating, contracting and monitoring the implementation of the national recovery plan, as part of the implementation of the investment Modernisation of the supply and of the educational and vocational training facilities.

The financing contract runs until 31 December 2025. It aims to provide 22 000 training workshop stations, integrated in laboratories, with the infrastructure, equipment, tools and materials necessary to develop high-quality vocational training, in line with the current and prospective demands of the labour market. This intervention will be implemented through the IEFP's network of training centres, 34 of which are directly managed and 24 of which are jointly managed. To broaden the territorial coverage, it is also planned to create five new training centres, one in each of the II NUTs. To increase the sectoral coverage, three new training centres will be created in the sectors of digital transition, green transition (environment, renewable energies and energy efficiency) and social economy.

These investments aim at modernising the existing laboratories and workshop spaces as well as new vocational training centres, besides modernising and increasing the quality of existing training. This is expected to open training to new areas, such as wind and photovoltaic energy production, hydrogen production, energy efficiency, water technology and water efficiency, electric mobility, as well as industry 4.0: smart factories, aeronautics, digital commerce, gerontology, precision agriculture, and maritime-port equipment.

2022 Implementation

This measure is part of the NIP under the umbrella package Innovation and resilience.

Under the Decree-Law No 29-B/2021 of 4 May 2021 (Establishing the governance model for European funds allocated to Portugal through the recovery and resilience plan) in 2022, equipment and laboratories for training centres were acquired, resulting in the rehabilitation or creation of 6 781 training workshops in 47 vocational training centres: 13% in environment and energy transformation (laboratories of domotics and energy efficiency); 51% in the area of digital transformation (laboratories of graphic design, industry simulators, drones); 12% in the area of Industry 4.0 (industrial control, 3D printing, industrial robotics, mechatronics) and 24% in strong sectors of the Portuguese economy (metallurgy and metalomechanics, wood industry, IT industry, cork industry and fishery industry).

2023 Implementation

As part of the modernisation of existing structures, IEFP continued modernising laboratories and training workshops in digital, industry 4.0, and environmental areas. This modernisation makes the offer of new training fields (wind and photovoltaic energy production, hydrogen production, energy efficiency, electric mobility) possible. The total investment is EUR 16 898 747.00, benefiting 7 883 training workshops.

Two training centres have also been set up to diversify the training offered:

- (a) The Energy Transition Training Centre to support a fair and equitable transition. This centre is the result of a partnership between the IEFP, the Energy Agency and the Portuguese Renewable Energy Association;
- (b) The Entrepreneurship Academy - a training centre for entrepreneurship, management and leadership, through a protocol established between the IEFP, the Portuguese Entrepreneurs Association, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the National Association of Young Entrepreneurs.

2024 Implementation

Close to EUR 38 million was invested in modernising existing structures, benefiting 22 649 training stations.

New legislation extended the Entrepreneurship Academy to include other sectors considered strategic to the national economy, specifically tourism, commerce, and services.

2025 Implementation

By the end of October, over EUR 44 million had been invested this year in modernising

existing structures, benefiting 26 435 training stations. At the same time, IEFP continued to modernise its training centres, making them more sustainable and greener.

Bodies responsible

- Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP)
- Energy Agency (ADENE)
- Portuguese Renewable Energy Association (APREN)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners with migrant background, including refugees
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers
Learners with disabilities
Adult learners

Thematic categories

Modernising VET infrastructure

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training
Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision
Making VET institutions sustainable and green

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as a driver for innovation and growth preparing for digital and green transitions and occupations in high demand

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Decree-Law \(Decreto-Lei\) No. 29-B/2021, of 4 May 2021](#)

[Recovery and resilience plan, C6: Qualifications and Skills](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Specialised technological centres

Specialised technological centres (*Centros Tecnológicos Especializados*) are an investment in modernising training in technological areas, particularly emerging sectors with a high potential for added value.

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Agreement for vocational training, qualification of the social economy

The agreement responds to the sector's training needs and emerging challenges, which require continuous knowledge and skill updating, an increase in specific training offers, and the development of tailor-made continuing training.

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

VET agreement

The VET agreement is to be a common ground of a tripartite understanding, between the government and the social partners, in the following areas of intervention:

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

CVET

“ … ” **Cite as**

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/43523>