

# Adults impulse programme

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT****PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** PORTUGAL

## Timeline

**2022 Implementation****2023 Implementation****2024 Implementation****ID number 43360**

## Background

Within the scope of the national Recovery and resilience plan (RRP), and in line with the work developed within the scope of the University without Walls (EUA-European University Association) and Skills 4 post-COVID - Skills for the future (Labour market relevance and outcomes, LMRO, OECD and the European Commission) initiatives, a set of reforms and investments were defined that contribute to increasing youth participation in higher education and encouraging their qualification. The aim is also to increase research and development in Portugal, reinforcing the goal of convergence with Europe over the next decade.

## Objectives

The Adults impulse (*Impulso Adultos*) programme aims at strengthening and diversifying postsecondary training, ensuring the retraining and upgrading of skills through the development of flexible qualification solutions, able to respond to the transformation of labour markets and the new requirements of employability.

This reinforces the connection to the systems of science and higher education in the search for joint solutions that improve both the relevance of acquired skills and the success of graduates in the labour market, as well as new collaborative arrangements guided by scientific knowledge.

The goal is to involve 95 000 adults.

## Description

Financial support for programmes promoted and to be implemented by HEIs, in partnership or in consortium with enterprises, public and/or private employers and including local, regional and national authorities and public bodies. They may take the form of schools, alliances and/or programmes, oriented towards initial and post-graduate higher training of adults (including short-term post-graduate diplomas and masters' degrees), in all areas of knowledge. They work towards lifelong training, as well as at reinforcing the national and international affirmation of HEIs.

The Adults impulse programme aims to strengthen and diversify the participation of adults

in upskilling and reskilling of higher education skills. It covers short-term higher education, initial and post-secondary education as well as lifelong learning.

A network of at least 10 schools and/or alliances for post-graduate training in collaboration with companies, with at least four initiatives in the interior of the country by the third quarter of 2023, were foreseen. The proposed investment amount is EUR 130 million across 2021-26, with 48% of the investment allocated to the modernisation of infrastructures and equipment.

## 2022 Implementation

This measure is part of the NIP under the package Skilling and reskilling.

Until December 2022, 75 HEIs were involved in the design and implementation of projects such as post-graduate training, short-term training courses, micro certifications and microcredentials.

## 2023 Implementation

In 2023, as planned, with this programme roughly halfway through its implementation, a mid-term evaluation report was carried out by Directorate General of Higher Education, and some of the findings were:

- (a) a total of 76% (30 853 participants) of the target for adult qualifications (40 496) was achieved in collaboration with companies;
- (b) in terms of curricular offer, micro-credentials predominate, an innovative practice in the context of the curriculum and very much driven by these programmes;
- (c) face-to-face teaching predominates; however, distance learning and blended learning should not be neglected;
- (d) women (61%) predominate, mostly in the age group 30 to 54 (31%) years old;
- (e) higher education institutions faced significant challenges in attracting adults to training programmes, particularly older and larger institutions;
- (f) among the positive aspects to be highlighted is the strengthening of the links between higher education institutions and their territories through the design and provision of training in differentiated areas, in line with the real needs of stakeholders, in a logic of lifelong learning.

## 2024 Implementation

The financial execution of *Impulso Adultos* by October 2024 is EUR 57 109 678.25 (45% of the total allocated).

# Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (Until April 2024)
- Directorate General of Higher Education (DGES)
- Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MECI)

# Target group

## Learners

Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)  
Unemployed and jobseekers  
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment

# Thematic categories

## **Governance of VET and lifelong learning**

Coordinating VET and other policies  
Optimising VET funding  
Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

## **Modernising VET infrastructure**

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training

## **Modernising VET offer and delivery**

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

## **Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation**

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

# **European priorities in VET**

## **VET Recommendation**

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

## **Osnabrück Declaration**

Sustainability - a green link in VET

# **Subsystem**

CVET

## **Further reading**

[Programme website](#)

[Report of Implementation indicators](#)

[Decree-law \(Decreto-lei\) No 27/2021 of 16 April 2021](#)

[Mid-term evaluation report](#)

## **Related policy developments**

---

2024 Implementation

### **Youth STEAM incentive**

Financial support for projects promoted and to be implemented by higher education institutions (HEI), in partnership or in consortium with enterprises, public and/or private employers, municipalities and local, regional and national public entities, as well as in close

cooperation with secondary



**Type of development**

Practical  
measure/Initiative

**Subsystem**

IVET

---

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Adults impulse programme: Portugal. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/43360>