

Specialised technological centres

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 PORTUGAL

Timeline

2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation 2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 43355

Background

In recent years, Portugal has come a long way in qualification and modernisation in key areas to sustain economic progress. Promoting social, economic and territorial resilience is fundamental to resuming its growth, and the national Recovery and resilience plan (RRP) is highly focused on strengthening productivity and employment, through initiatives in education and training, aiding professional transitions to a green and digital economy, and supporting an increase in the competitiveness and resilience of the Portuguese economy.

Objectives

- (a) Reinforcing the technological infrastructure of the teaching establishments/schools that offer vocational education.
- (b) Reinforcing the attractiveness of dual certification secondary level training and increasing the number of young graduates in specialisation areas such as climate and digital transitions.
- (c) Modernising the training offer in technological areas with great potential for the creation of added value.
- (d) Investing in the development of qualifications/skills for innovation and industrial renewal.
- (e) Improving vertical articulation between the different levels of education and vocational training, contributing to lifelong learning.

Description

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. They re-equip and strengthen the technological infrastructure of education establishments providing lower secondary vocational education, and develop new courses linked to the green and digital transitions. It is intended to create 365 specialised technological centres, and to reorient vocational courses towards sectors of economic activity that are undergoing significant expansion. The creation of these centres implies a clear focus of investment and resources on four areas of specialisation: industrial, renewable energy, ICT, and digital. It aims to create 115 industrial centres, 30 renewable energy centres, 195 computer centres and 25 digital and multimedia centres.

The management is overseen by a coordination committee composed of representatives of the government and bodies responsible for education and training. The management of the investment's implementation is the responsibility of the Institute of Financial Management of Education (IGeFE) (replaced by AGSE in 2025), in conjunction with ANQEP, DGEstE (replaced by AGSE), and Parque Escolar (replaced by Construção Pública in 2023). ANQEP ensures the strategic alignment of the projects to be supported; DGEstE supports the directors of the public network of schools with vocational education; the Parque Escolar supports the definition of the requirements and technical specifications of the specialised technological centres

The creation of the specialised technological centres is scheduled for 2022-25, according to the planned annual and territorial distribution. The total budget for this measure is EUR 480 million. This investment involves the modernisation and rehabilitation of existing infrastructures and the acquisition of technological educational resources (equipment): EUR 199 million for industrial centres, EUR 36 million for renewable energy centres, EUR 210 million for computer centres, and EUR 35 million for digital and multimedia centres.

2022 Implementation

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

A call for tenders was published and responses examined. 104 applications were approved: 34 industrial centres, 5 renewable energy centres, 58 computer centres and 7 digital and multimedia.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, 261 new Specialised technological centres were approved in schools with vocational education, in four fields of specialisation: 137 in the IT field, 81 in the Industry field, 18 in the Digital field and 25 in the Renewable energy field.

2024 Implementation

In July, the Institute of Financial Management of Education (IGeFE) published a call for tenders to create 31 new Specialised technological centres in the same fields, but only for the CIM Beira Baixa and the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. Thus, 31 new specialised technological centres were approved in schools with vocational education, in four fields of specialisation: 14 for IT, 3 for industry, 8 for digital and 1 for renewable energy.

2025 Implementation

In January, the IGeFE (replaced by AGSE since August) published a call for tenders to create new Specialised technological centres in the same fields, but only for private cooperative VET schools, which in previous phases were unable to apply. 8 applications were approved: 2 for IT, 3 for industry, 2 for digital, and 1 for renewable energy.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP)
- Institute of Financial Management of Education (IGeFE) (until August 2025)
- Directorate General for Educational Establishments (DGEstE) (until August 2025)
- Parque Escolar (until June 2023)
- Construção Pública (since June 2023)
- Agency for Educational System Management (AGSE) (since August 2025)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET infrastructure

Modernising infrastructure for vocational training

Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Integrating green transition and sustainability in VET curricula and programmes

Integrating digital skills and competences in VET curricula and programmes

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

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Dispatch \[Despacho\] No 3470-B/2022 of 23 March 2023](#)

[Notice \(Aviso\) No 01/C06-i01.01/72022 of 17 June 2022](#)

[Resolution of the Council of Ministries \(Resolucao do Conselho de Ministros\) No 11/2023 of 3 February 2023](#)

[Specialised technological centres website](#)

[Notice \(Aviso\) No 01/C06-i01.01/72022 of 18 July 2024](#)

[Notice \(Aviso\) No 01/C06-i01.01/72022 of 8 January 2025](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Modernisation of the vocational training centres network of IEFP

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

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/43355>