

Portuguese host language programme

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 PORTUGAL

Timeline

2022 Approved/Agreed

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

ID number 43342

Background

The European Pillar of Social Rights addresses the need for education, training and lifelong learning to be key actors in promoting inclusion and full participation in society and the labour market. Portugal has been promoting an integrated set of strategies for inclusion and equal opportunities, focusing on access and participation of all in the different learning modalities and promoting the full exercise of citizenship. In response to the new challenges of immigration policies and the National implementation plan of the global compact for migration, the programme Portuguese host language (*Português língua de acolhimento, PLA*), for non-native speakers, was created to meet adult migrants' language learning needs in Portugal.

Objectives

The PLA main objectives are to:

- a. help migrants learn Portuguese, improve their communication skills and understand their basic civil rights;
- b. respond to the learning needs of migrant citizens, facilitate their social integration and help them find a job.

Description

The PLA programme, targeting migrants aged 16 or over, is organised according to training standards included in the national catalogue of qualifications, at levels A1 to B2 of the common European framework of reference for languages. PLA courses are organised in short training units and their duration varies according to previously achieved language competences. The short training units can be credited for school qualifications or dual certification, as part of the basic or upper secondary education key competences frameworks.

PLA is provided by public schools, vocational training centres from IEFP and *Qualifica* centres, under the responsibility of ANQEP, in cooperation with the High Commission for Migration (*Alto Comissariado para as Migrações, ACM*) which has a crucial role on information and specialised services to meet the needs of migrant communities.

2022 Approved/Agreed

This measure is part of the NIP under the package Inclusion and equal opportunities.

The programme was reviewed. New legislation, Ordinance No 184/2022 of 21 July 2022, introduced changes. The most significant changes are related to the extension of access to those aged 16, and citizens holding a short-stay visa.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, around 22 500 people belonging to 151 nationalities were certified.

2024 Implementation

Until the end of September 27 082 people were certified.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP)
- Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP)
- High Commission for Migration
- Directorate General for Education (DGE)

Target group

Learners

Learners with migrant background, including refugees

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

VET promoting equality of opportunities

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Inclusive education

The legislation introduced in 2018 and amended in 2019, aims to promote inclusive education and enable schools to recognise and respond to learners' diversity, individual needs and capabilities.

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). Portuguese host language 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/43342>