

Local projects promoting qualifications level B1/B2/B3

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 PORTUGAL

Timeline

2022 Approved/Agreed

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 43338

Background

The *Qualifica* Programme has been contributing, in a decisive way, to improving adults' qualifications and competences. However, the rates of attendance and conclusion of qualification paths of adults with very low qualifications are still low. The local projects promoting qualifications at level B1/B2/B3 (*Projetos Locais de Qualificação nível B1/B2/B3*) are part of the qualifications and skills component of the national recovery and resilience plan.

With a total allocation of EUR 40 million, 225 local projects are expected to be financed with the aim of covering/certifying around 22 500 adults by 2025.

Objectives

- (a) Promoting learning and increasing literacy skills - the ability to read and write (including read and write in a digital format).
- (b) Increasing the participation of adults in lifelong learning, particularly those with very low basic skills.
- (c) Ensuring that adults have access to formal education, that improving their literacy skills leads to effective certification and upgrading of their qualifications.

Description

The local projects promoting qualifications - an adult education and training offer tailored to the needs of the different territories - focus on the motivation of citizens with a low level of education and literacy, which are generally more difficult to engage in training or schooling activities. The target group is adults with very low qualifications (less than ninth grade, including no schooling).

These projects, promoted by the *Qualifica* centres are based on partnership networks with local and regional entities (training entities, companies and other employing institutions, organisations and community services), with a view to:

- (a) motivate adults with very low qualifications, particularly those belonging to

- disadvantaged groups; to integrate training opportunities leading to the achievement of a certification of level B1 (fourth grade), B2 (sixth grade) or B3 (ninth grade and level 2 of vocational qualification) of the National qualifications framework (NQF);
- (b) provide training at B1/B2/B3 levels, which is better adapted to the needs of adults;
- (c) create conditions for the participation of adults in qualification opportunities, taking advantage of the established partnerships;
- (d) follow up and support adults in an intensive and articulated way, from enrolment in a *Qualifica* centre to obtaining a certification, minimising dropout risks and optimising certification rates.

ANQEP, as responsible for the coordination of the implementation VET policies, is the entity responsible for the implementation of the measure.

2022 Approved/Agreed

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

In 2022 the Government created the measure. The application period ran from 19 September to 31 October 2022 through an electronic applications submission.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, 226 projects were approved, with a budget allocation of EUR 36 751 424.64.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, all 226 local projects promoting qualifications level B1/B2/B3 approved in 2023 remained active. From January to December 2024, the number of adults involved in local projects promoting B1/B2/B3 level qualifications was 11 231.

2025 Implementation

By September 2025, 97% of local projects promoting B1/B2/B3-level qualifications had been completed, benefiting 21 992 adults.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP)

Target group

Learners

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)

Learners with migrant background, including refugees

Low-skilled/qualified persons

Learners from other groups at risk of exclusion (minorities, people with fewer opportunities due to geographical location or social-economic disadvantaged position)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET promoting equality of opportunities

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[Resolution of Council of Ministries \(Resolucao do Conselho de Ministros\) No. 81/2022 of 26 September 2022](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No. 222/2023, of 15 May 2023](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Qualifica programme

The *Qualifica* programme is based on:

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Local projects promoting qualifications level B1/B2/B3: Portugal. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/43338>

