

# Technological specialisation courses

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 PORTUGAL

## Timeline

2022 Approved/Agreed

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 43308

## Background

In order to improve the qualification levels of the Portuguese population, it is necessary to strengthen the education and training system, which will leverage the productive potential of the economy and contribute to reducing socioeconomic and geographic inequalities. The VET Agreement foresees the political design of an integrated and consistent strategy to boost VET supply, valuing the role of vocational training as a mechanism to promote social, professional and academic mobility. Considering lifelong learning as a strategic priority for the next decade, Portugal has defined a set of reforms, investments and measures to increase the participation of the population in initial and continuing training.

## Objectives

- (a) Promoting (re)qualification and professional reconversion in order to allow reinsertion and progression in the labour market;
- (b) Deepening the professional skills for better professional performance and better adaptation to technological and organisational changes;
- (c) Consolidating the initial training paths, reinforcing professional qualification and specialised technical competences;
- (d) Stimulating the pursuing of studies towards higher education.

## Description

Technological specialisation courses (CET) are a modality of education and training at post-secondary non-tertiary levels that enables specialised training paths in different technological areas, developing professional skills. These courses, leading to an EQF level 5, are referenced to the national qualifications catalogue. The qualification is obtained through the combination of a general or professional secondary education with a post-secondary technical education.

CET are designed for individuals who are 18 years of age or older at the start of the course, regardless of their employment status, and who fulfil one of the following requirements:

- (a) having successfully completed an upper secondary education course or a legally

- equivalent qualification and intending to obtain a vocational qualification or retraining;
- (b) having successfully completed basic education, is attending one of the education or training courses or an RVCC process, at upper secondary level;
- (c) having successfully completed EQF/NQF level 5 diploma or certificate, a specialised technology diploma or a higher education degree or diploma and intending to undertake vocational retraining.

The conditions for the functioning of each CET are regulated by an ordinance from the members of the Government responsible for the areas of economy, higher education, education and vocational training. ANQEP is responsible for defining and disseminating a monitoring model.

### **2022 Approved/Agreed**

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

In 2022, the measure was reviewed by the Decree-Law (Decreto- Lei) No 39/2022 of 31 May 2022 and Ordinance (Portaria) No 206/2022 of 19 August 2022 which defines the operating conditions for technological specialisation courses, as well as the model and conditions for issuing the respective certificates and diplomas.

The revision re-launched the CETs, making the approval processes and curricular programmes more flexible and easier, in terms of territorial coverage and institutional framework, reinforcing the link with the dynamics of the labour market and the need for training responses for intermediate technicians, level 5 of EQF.

### **2023 Implementation**

The number of students enrolled in Technological specialisation courses (CET), in the school year 2022/23, was 4 862, of which 97.9% were in public schools.

### **2024 Implementation**

From January to December, 2 224 new trainees registered in Technological specialisation courses (CET), according to records maintained by the training providers in the online information system for the management of training provision (SIGO platform).

### **2025 Implementation**

Until the end of September, the number of adults involved in Technological specialisation courses (CET) was 2 198.

## **Bodies responsible**

- National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP)
- Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (until April 2024)
- Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security (MTSSS)
- Ministry of Economy and Maritime Affairs (MEM) (between 2022 and 2024)
- Ministry of Economy and Territorial Cohesion (since April 2024)
- Ministry of Education (until April 2024)
- Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MECI) (since April 2024)

## **Target group**

### **Learners**

Young people (15-29 years old)

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

## Thematic categories

### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

## 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

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Decree-Law \(Decreto-Lei\) No 88/2006 of 23 May 2006](#)

[Decree-Law \(Decreto-Lei\) No 39/2022 of 31 May 2022](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No 206/2022 of 19 August 2022](#)

## Related policy developments

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:

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#### Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

#### Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

## Qualifica programme

The *Qualifica* programme is based on:

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### Type of development

Strategy/Action  
plan

### Subsystem

IVET CVET

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#### “ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Technological specialisation courses: 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/43308>