

# Agreement for vocational training, qualification of the social economy

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 PORTUGAL

## Timeline

2022 Approved/Agreed

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 41472

## Background

The social economy entities generate 3% of the gross value added of the national economy, contributing in a relevant way to the creation of wealth and promoting social, economic and regional cohesion.

Vocational training is of growing importance for the social economy sector and there is a need to strengthen the access of managers and workers to lifelong training and qualification.

Vocational training as a strategic investment essential for the sustainable growth of the country and the territories requires a joint effort of articulation between the public and private sectors and the social economy, to implement processes of modernisation and reform of vocational training in Portugal.

## Objectives

The agreement is set around the following objectives:

- (a) identification of training needs for the social economy sector and development of partnerships;
- (b) raising the qualifications of the social economy sector;
- (c) innovation and flexibility in the training implementation;
- (d) increasing incentives for the training participation of social economy institutions and individuals;
- (e) creation of a vocational training centre for the social economy sector.

## Description

The agreement responds to the sector's training needs and emerging challenges, which require continuous knowledge and skill updating, an increase in specific training offers, and the development of tailor-made continuing training.

On 11 January 2022, the Ministry of Labour and the National Council for the Social Economy (CNES) members signed the Agreement for vocational training, qualification of the social economy. For the implementation of this agreement, the Government plans to define a timeline and an action plan which will be proposed for joint discussion to the members of the CNES.

In December the Government launched the Training Centre for Social Economy and Innovation (*Centro para a Economia Social*) (CEIS). It is a partnership among the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP), the António Sérgio Cooperative for the Social Economy (CASES), the Portuguese Confederation of Social Economy (CPES), the Centre of Iberian Studies (CEI) and the Institute of Social Security (ISS). CEIS aims to build the capacity of social economy organisations, promote vocational recognition, validation and certification of competences, and the provision of services and technical support to social economy organisations.

### 2023 Implementation

In 2023, 7 training courses on different topics were held, and 116 trainees were enrolled. The training courses were delivered in face-to-face, online, or blended formats.

### 2024 Implementation

Until September, 180 training courses were carried out. The most popular topics were First aid, Psychopathology of the elderly, Mental health of the elderly, Professional stress management, Conflict management. The trainees enrolled were 2585, most of them were women (2 037), the male trainees were 548.

### 2025 Implementation

No progress or developments on this policy were reported by October 2025.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security (MTSSS)
- National Council for the Social Economy (CNES)

## Target group

### Learners

Adult learners  
Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)  
Unemployed and jobseekers

### Other

members of the social board, heads of department and workers and volunteers of social economy institutions

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

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

### 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

### Subsystem

IVET CVET

### Further reading

[Agreement for vocational training, qualification of the social economy](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No 302/2022, of 21 December 2022](#)

### 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

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##### Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

##### Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

#### Valorizar social programme

The training programme is based on a set of specialised training sessions in management, finance, leadership, innovation and digital areas.

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##### Type of development

Practical measure/Initiative

##### Subsystem

CVET

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

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#### “ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/41472>