

Qualification for internationalisation programme

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 PORTUGAL

Timeline

2021 Approved/Agreed

2022 Implementation

2023 Implementation

2024 Implementation

2025 Implementation

ID number 41456

Background

The programme Qualification for internationalisation was created under the Internationalise 2030 programme, approved by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers No 20/2021, of 19 March 2021. It was aimed at the qualification of human resources in the areas of internationalisation and international trade.

Objectives

The programme aims to develop micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Portugal by strengthening the professional skills of their employees in those areas.

The main objective is to qualify and train human resources in order to:

- (a) increase their employability, promote the integration of unemployed people in companies and contribute to preventing the risk of unemployment, in the case of the employed, and simultaneously increasing their contribution to the success of the employer's internationalisation process;
- (b) increase the supply of qualified human resources in the labour market in the areas of internationalisation and international trade;
- (c) adapt the vocational training provided to the labour market needs.

Description

The training courses are part of the national catalogue of qualifications (CNQ) and the training content is included in the thematic area of internationalisation.

The programme training is composed of a set of short-duration training units (UFCD) of the CNQ with a maximum duration of 350 hours.

Whenever deemed useful and pertinent, although not mandatory, the training paths, available online or face-to-face, may be complemented by work-based learning (WBL), with a minimum duration of 140 hours and maximum of 420 hours.

2021 Approved/Agreed

In 2021, a 275-hour training course was created about the internationalisation basics.

2022 Implementation

This measure is part of the NIP under the package Flexibility and diversification.

In 2022, five other training courses about internationalisation were created and published in the CNQ:

- (a) Prospecting, attracting and retaining customers (175 hours),
- (b) International Market and Digital Media (200 hours),
- (c) International logistics (150 hours),
- (d) Market Trends and Analysis (200 hours),
- (e) Monitoring and control of international business (125 hours).

From the start of the qualification for internationalisation programme, in March 2021, until December 2022, 2 282 trainees were covered.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, more than 5 000 trainees were enrolled in the Qualification for internationalisation programme, provided by the network of training centres of the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP).

2024 Implementation

From January to December 2024, 3 084 trainees obtained certification. The most popular courses were Market trends and analyses and Internationalisation fundamentals.

2025 Implementation

Until September, more than 5 000 trainees were involved in Qualification for internationalisation courses, of which 2 271 obtained certification. The most popular courses were International market and digital media; Market trends and analysis; and Fundamentals of internationalisation.

Bodies responsible

- Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP)
- Portugal Global - Trade and Investment Agency (AICEP)
- National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP)

Target group

Entities providing VET

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

European and international dimensions of VET

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[Resolution of Council of Ministries \(Resolucao do Conselho de Ministros\) No 20/2021 of 19 March 2021](#)

[Dispach \(Portaria\) No 272/2021 of 29 November 2021](#)

[Training framework](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Training action programme

Training action programme (*Formação - Ação*) is a training modality of the national qualification system for the reinforcement of SME management capacity and competitiveness; it combines training and consultancy.

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Qualification for internationalisation programme: 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/41456>