

Action plan for the digital transition

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

STRATEGY/ACTION PLAN

 PORTUGAL

Timeline



ID number 39096

Background

Digital transition of the economy is one of the priorities of the country's development strategy. In the 2021-27 programming period and the framework of the new EU cohesion policy, Portugal is planning to allocate considerable funds in this direction.

Objectives

The plan will set in motion a framework of actions promoting digital transformation that focuses on citizens, companies and public administration. It includes long-term initiatives aiming to reshape the country's economic structure and public sector and measures of immediate impact.

Description

The action plan for the digital transition has three main pillars. Each one comprises three sub-pillars:

- (a) Capacity building and digital inclusion of people
 - (i) digital education,
 - (ii) professional training and reskilling,
 - (iii) digital inclusion and literacy,
- (b) Digital transformation of enterprises
 - (i) entrepreneurship and investment attraction,
 - (ii) existing companies (with a focus on SMEs),
 - (iii) scientific and technological knowledge transfer to the economy,
- (c) Digitalisation of the public sector
 - (i) digital public services,
 - (ii) agile and open public administration,
 - (iii) connected and open local and regional administration.

The following programmes have been designed and already been carried out under the

umbrella of the action plan for the digital transition:

- (a) digitisation programme for schools;
- (b) intensive and specialised training programme in digital skills (UPskill programme), targeting 3 000 professionals;
- (c) digital inclusion programme, targeting one million adults;
- (d) digital innovation hubs for entrepreneurship;
- (e) Youth + Digital programme

Many of these actions are also under the umbrella of the National digital competences initiative e.2030, (Portugal INCoDe.2030). The action plan also includes an initiative offering the general public a lower (social) price for accessing internet services.

2020 Approved/Agreed

The action plan was approved on 21 April 2020. Several actions are already under way.

2021 Implementation

One of the most important actions and initiatives in the framework of the Action plan for the digital transition is the Digital training plan for teachers, which includes three phases of implementation: diagnostic phase, training the trainers phase, teacher training phase.

Diagnostic phase

Following the creation and implementation of the action plan, the mapping of teachers' digital competence levels emerged as an unavoidable necessity. In order to achieve this, two already available resources have been utilised: the European digital competence framework for educators (DigCompEdu) and the self-assessment tool based on it (Check-in). The following authorities were involved: the Directorate General of Education, which is responsible for the planning of the initial, continuous and specialised training needs of the teaching staff; the training centres of school associations, which are responsible for the training courses at local level; and the University of Aveiro, which was responsible for the study on the level of digital skills of teachers. As a result, a report was published.

The main results are related to:

- (a) Teacher proficiency levels and overall average scores;
- (b) proficiency levels by areas of digital competence, age group and years of service;
- (c) proficiency levels by recruitment group, age group and years of service.

Training of trainers phase

Training of trainers courses with a duration of 35 hours were developed and accredited by the Conselho Científico Pedagógico de Formação Contínua de Professores which is responsible for the accreditation of training providers and continuing teacher training courses and for monitoring the evaluation process of the continuing training system. It is also responsible for the accreditation of specialised training courses. Approximately 400 trainers from all regions of the country attended these courses.

A training phase for teachers (2021/22/23) foreseen under the responsibility of training centres of school clusters, started in September.

Ordinance (Portaria) No 179/2021, of 27 August 2021, created the programme, Digital skills certificate (Certificado de Competências Digitais). It targets people over 18 years old and offers 200-hour courses, aiming to raise the population's digital skills, promoting social inclusion and employability.

Another measure was the agreement of collaboration among IEFP, business associations and Portugal Digital, which extended the Programme Employment +

Digital (Emprego + Digital). It intends to train 25 000 active employees in ICT. The courses last between 25 and 150 hours, and offer a qualification level 2 or 4. It is included in the Recovery and resilience plan (RRP).

2022 Implementation

This PD measure is part of the NIP under the umbrella of the packages Green and digital transition, and Flexibility and diversification. In 2022, the following developments took place:

Within the scope of the digital schools capacity building initiative, the Directorate-General for Education developed a set of actions, which included 5 regional events, called 'Digital schools capacity building: support and monitoring of work in progress'.

The digital innovation hubs for entrepreneurship (DIHs) were launched. These collaborative networks work as a one-stop-shop, acting as a gateway to strengthen the innovation ecosystem as they result from cooperation between several partners with complementary skills and goals at both national and regional levels. It includes specific digital competence centres with the aim of disseminating frontline digital technologies to be adopted particularly by SMEs.

In the scope of the programme more digital employment (*Emprego + Digital*) since December 2020 until December 2022, 28 561 active employees were trained. A new edition of programme more digital employment 2025 (*Emprego + Digital 2025*) was launched.

In the scope of digital inclusion for adults, the programme 'I'm Digital' (*Eu Sou Digital*) was created. It aims to promote the digital inclusion of info-excluded adults, aged 45+, based on a national network of young volunteers and training centres. The contents involve the creation and management of the e-mail account, the ability to search online, the consultation and use of digital public services, access to services such as home banking or access to social networks. At the end of the session, the adult will do a practical exercise that will grant an *EUSOUDIGITAL* Certificate.

From the start of the +CO3SO Digital Programme, 4 923 new jobs were created. The programme aims at the reskilling (intensive training from three to six months), of workers in ICT activities and their establishment in the country's interior regions, contributing to reducing regional asymmetries and increasing the competitiveness of the different regions.

From the start of the Digital Skills Certificate programme until December 2022, 19 826 trainees were covered.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, the EUSOUDIGITAL programme was recognised with the seal 'an INCoDe.2030 action' in the area of inclusion. In this year, there were around 255 EUSOUDIGITAL Centres across the country, a national network of 6 500 mentors and 170 public-private partnerships. The programme contributed to the digital training of 13 000 adults.

2024 Implementation

European Schoolnet carried out the study 'Portugal's digital transition strategy for education', with the following findings being highlighted:

- (a) through the implementation of the action plan for the digital transition, Portugal has made significant progress in supporting schools to integrate digital education;
- (b) a very large number (about 70%) of teacher trainers and teachers have been trained - and some are still being trained - in a 'pedagogy first' use of technology, and their effective progress has been demonstrated according to the DigCompEdu framework tools;
- (c) a large majority of schools' groups (806 out of 809 clusters) have developed their

digital strategic plan and detailed concrete actions, many of which have already been implemented;
(d) innovative digital learning resources are still being developed.

By September, 33 556 trainees were enrolled in the Digital skills certificate programme.

2025 Implementation

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

Bodies responsible

- Presidency of the Council of Ministers [Presidência do Conselho de Ministros]
- Secretary of State for Digitalisation and Administrative Modernisation (until April 2024)
- Secretary of State for Modernisation and Digitalisation (since April 2024)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)
Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Adult learners
Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers
School leaders
Adult educators

Entities providing VET

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Modernising VET infrastructure

Improving digital infrastructure of VET provision

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Supporting teachers and trainers for and through digital

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

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

VET promoting equality of opportunities

Osnabrück Declaration

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Resolution of the Council of Ministers \[Resolucao do Conselho de Ministros\] No 30/2020, of 21 April 2020](#)

[Resolution of the Council of Ministers \[Resolucao do Conselho de Ministros\] No 31/2020, of 21 April 2020](#)

[Official webpage of Portugal Digital](#)

[Report Study on the level of digital skills of primary and secondary teachers](#)

[Report Teachers' confidence in the use of digital in the transition to distance learning](#)

[Digital Teacher Training Plan](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No 179/2021, of 27 August 2021](#)

[Action plan for digital transition- Indicators](#)

[Guidelines for Digital Innovation Hubs for Entrepreneurship](#)

[Regional Education Initiatives](#)

[Website of the Programme EUSOUDIGITAL](#)

[Portugal digital indicators](#)

[Report Portugal's digital transition strategy for education](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Portugal digital academy

This measure is part of INCODE.2030.

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

More digital employment 2025

More digital employment 2025 is a scheme providing free digital training for workers, managers and directors of companies, entities of the social economy and trainers.

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

UPskill - digital skills and jobs programme

The UPskill programme is the result of a partnership between the Portuguese Association for the Development of Communications (APDC), the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP) and the Coordinating Council of Higher Polytechnic Institutes (CCISP).

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

2025 Implementation

Youth + Digital

In October 2020, the training programme Youth + Digital (*Jovem + Digital*) was launched under the responsibility of the Institute of Employment and Professional Training (IEFP).

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2025 Implementation

National digital competences initiative (Portugal INCoDe.2030)

INCoDe.2030 is an integrated inter-ministerial strategy bringing together and encouraging collaboration between people with different experiences and knowledge as well as multiple public and private organisations.

This initiative has five major priorities:

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Strategy/Action
plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Action plan for the digital transition: 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/39096>