

Specialised artistic programmes

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 PORTUGAL

Timeline

2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation 2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 39087

Background

The education ministry has highlighted the importance of artistic culture in the training of children and young people and the growing need to extend access to specialised artistic programmes at basic and upper secondary levels. Such competences are also included in the student profile by the end of schooling, which applies to all graduates.

Objectives

The main objectives of this policy development are to:

- (a) promote links between schools providing general education and specialised artistic programmes;
- (b) improve the integration of curricula of different programmes at basic and upper secondary levels, respecting the specificities of each one;
- (c) review access procedures to higher education for specialised artistic programmes graduates.

Description

The ministry of education has approved the creation of a working group which will analyse the specialised artistic programmes. The main tasks of this working group are to:

- (a) describe and analyse the evolution over time of these programmes;
- (b) evaluate their current model of funding;
- (c) propose alternative scenarios for the reorganisation of these programmes, regarding, for instance, the curriculum or pedagogic methods;
- (d) recommend new ways of quality assurance;
- (e) recommend new methods of assessing learning outcomes;
- (f) suggest regulation changes, if needed.

The working group was created in January 2021; it is coordinated by the president of ANQEP and includes representatives from several directorates of the education ministry.

2021 Implementation

On 12 January 2021, Dispatch No 435-A/2021 set up the working group for specialised artistic programmes. In November, a report with the conclusions and recommendations of the working group was produced.

Theatre was to be included in basic-level arts courses following a suggestion by the Secretary of State for Education.

2022 Implementation

On 1 February 2022, Ordinance No. 65/2022 makes the first amendment to Ordinance no. 223-A/2018, of 3 August 2018, in its current wording, introducing the specialised artistic course on Theatre for the second and third cycles of basic education.

The basic Theatre course, aims to provide training in the theatre area, allowing improving specific technical and artistic skills and abilities within the scope of theatrical activity and, simultaneously, developing principles and values foreseen in the student profile by the end of compulsory schooling.

The inclusion of this course enriches the Portuguese educational system. It reflects the recognition of the relevance of training in this area for students wishing to pursue career studies in arts, namely as actors, scenographers and producers, among others, providing the necessary knowledge to understand aesthetic and cultural manifestations and the improvement of theatrical artistic expression.

2023 Implementation

In the school year 2022/23, the specialised artistic course on Theatre was implemented.

The Essential Learning of the specialised artistic training subjects of the Basic Theatre course was approved by Dispatch No 7736/2023 of 26 July and came into force in the school year 2023/24.

2024 Implementation

In 2024/25 school year, the Essential learning for maths for upper secondary, came into force for the 10th grade Specialised artistic programmes. The essential learning includes a subject of mathematical training for citizenship, aligned with the other mathematics subjects in upper secondary education. This strand is embodied in the themes Mathematical models for citizenship and statistics.

2025 Implementation

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

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education (until April 2024)
- National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP)
- Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MECI) (since April 2024)

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Dispatch \[Despacho\] No 435-A/2021, of 12 January 2021](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No. 65/2022, of 1 February 2022](#)

[Dispatch \(Despacho\) No 7736/2023, of 26 July 2023](#)

[Dispatch \(Despacho\) No 702/2023 of 13 January 2023](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Special competitions to access higher education

Legislation passed in 2020 introduced special conditions for upper secondary VET graduates to access higher education.

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

2025 Implementation

Inclusive education

The legislation introduced in 2018 and amended in 2019, aims to promote inclusive education and enable schools to recognise and respond to learners' diversity, individual needs and capabilities.

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Specialised artistic programmes: 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/39087>