

Youth + Digital

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 PORTUGAL

Timeline

2020 Implementation 2021 Implementation 2022 Implementation
2023 Implementation 2024 Implementation 2025 Implementation

ID number 39067

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 and the Next Generation recovery instrument, Portugal is planning to invest considerable funds in this direction.

The Youth + Digital programme is implemented under the umbrella of the Action plan for the digital transition.

Objectives

The strategic objective of the Youth + Digital training programme is to reinforce the quality and effectiveness of vocational training and professional qualifications. Its specific objectives are:

- (a) to align professional training with the real needs of the labour market;
- (b) to improve the professional skills of young adults to support their employability.

Description

In October 2020, the training programme Youth + Digital (*Jovem + Digital*) was launched under the responsibility of the Institute of Employment and Professional Training (IEFP). This programme targets young unemployed people aged 18-35, who are upper-secondary or higher education graduates and registered at IEFP. It may also include those who have not completed the last year of secondary education or who are undergoing a process of recognition of prior learning at secondary level.

The training courses are part of the National catalogue of qualifications (*Catálogo Nacional de Qualificações, CNQ*) leading to a qualification at EQF levels 4 or 5. They have a maximum duration of 350 hours (short-term training units) and can be delivered face-to-face or through distance learning. There are training courses in 15 areas such as cybersecurity, digital commerce, productivity and collaboration tools, data analysis, business intelligence, programming languages and social network management.

The development of new training courses, or the updating of existing ones, is done according to the needs of the labour market regarding digital competences.

2020 Implementation

The programme was approved and launched in October 2020.

2021 Implementation

The first seminar, Young + Digital, was held on 9 July 2021 in the Business Association in Region Viseu. It raised awareness of the importance of digital competences. This seminar complemented the existing IEPF training programme – within the scope of the Actions Young + Digital – so that candidates can acquire the digital skills that companies seek when hiring employees in future. By the end of 2021, 2 130 unemployed young people had already benefited from the initiative.

2022 Implementation

This measure is part of the NIP under the package Green and digital transition.

By the end of 2022, 17 237 unemployed young people had already benefited from the initiative. Of those, 6 870 attended the courses during the year 2022.

More courses on customer relationship management, automation systems and No-code visual were created. The training courses allow to gain a qualification in the digital area at level 4 or 5 of the national qualifications catalogue.

2023 Implementation

In 2023, 4 845 unemployed young people benefited from the initiative.

2024 Implementation

From January to December 2024, 12 986 trainees were enrolled, of which around 6 100 obtained certification.

2025 Implementation

Until September, more than 9 400 trainees were involved in Youth + Digital courses, of which 4 416 obtained certification.

Bodies responsible

- Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP)
- Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security (MTSSS)

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses

Acquiring key competences

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET agile in adapting to labour market challenges

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Ordinance \[Portaria\] No 250-A/2020, of 23 October 2020](#)

[Portugal: digital training to fight youth unemployment](#)

[Profile of trainees by course and gender](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Action plan for the digital transition

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

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Strategy/Action plan

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:

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Type of development

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plan

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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