

Second opportunity programme

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 PORTUGAL

Timeline



ID number 29182

Objectives

The Second opportunity programme, abbreviated as the 2O programme, is a socio-educational response to societal issues. It is designed and developed by schools, in collaboration with other entities and institutions, aiming at:

- (a) fighting early leaving from education and training, providing young people with tailored training;
- (b) closely monitoring socio-professional integration of young people and their autonomous development

Description

The 2O programme provides young early leavers from education and training, at risk of social exclusion, with training tailored to their needs, expectations, and specific interests, aligned with local labour market needs. Learners also benefit from monitoring of their socio-professional integration and autonomous development.

Each Second chance school develops its own pedagogical model and strategy, in close connection with the European network of second opportunity schools (European association of cities, institutions and second chance schools).

The programme targets young people over the age of 15, with no professional qualification and no job, who left school at least one year earlier. It has the following key aspects:

- (a) the possibility of creating classes for excluded young people to attend either an integrated education and training programme (PIEF) or an education and training programme for adults (EFA programmes);
- (b) the design and planning of a strategy, with the adoption of a personalised pedagogical model, which can support the gradual reintegration of beneficiaries in an education and training programme;
- (c) the elaboration of an individual training plan, tailored to the interests and characteristics of each learner;
- (d) the mandatory registration of excluded young people in a public school;

- (e) the obligation to follow-up young people for up to two years after leaving the programme.

The 20 programme is implemented through a cooperation protocol among Directorate General of Educational Establishments (DGEstE), schools and the entities or institutions that collaborate with them.

2019 Implementation

The 20 programme was launched in 2019.

2020 Implementation

A network of 35 socio-educational agents, including schools, *Qualifica* centres, parish councils, health centres, and the child and youth protection system, is actively involved in the 20 programme. In 2020, there were four second chance schools, providing assistance to 200 young people.

On 11 December 2020, the third national meeting of second opportunity education initiatives was held.

2021 Implementation

The Association for Second Chance Education was created.

2022 Implementation

There were seven second chance schools, providing assistance to 300 young people.

On 4 May 2022, the fourth national meeting of second opportunity education initiatives was held.

2023 Implementation

The programme is operational and ran as regular practice

2024 Implementation

The programme is operational and ran as regular practice

2025 Implementation

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

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education (until April 2024)
- Directorate General for Educational Establishments (DGEstE) (until August 2025)
- Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MECI) (since April 2024)
- Agency for Educational System Management (AGSE) (since August 2025)

Target group

Learners

Young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
Learners at risk of early leaving or/and early leavers

Thematic categories

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Dispatch \[Despacho\] No. 6954/2019, of 6 August 2019](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Combating youth unemployment

The government promoted a set of active employment measures, including vocational training, associated with the creation of self-employment and youth entrepreneurship, which stand out for their impact on this target group:

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Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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