

# Training opportunities for people with disabilities

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 PORTUGAL

## Timeline

2015 Implementation	2016 Implementation	2017 Implementation
2018 Implementation	2019 Implementation	2020 Implementation
2021 Implementation	2022 Implementation	2023 Implementation
2024 Implementation	2025 Implementation	

ID number 28705

## Background

One of the main responsibilities of the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP) is to place a special focus on those at higher risk of exclusion.

The Employment and support programme for qualification of people with disabilities (*Programa de emprego e apoio à qualificação das pessoas com deficiência e incapacidade*), launched in 2009, defines the regime for granting technical and financial support to help beneficiaries obtain a qualification or (re)-enter the labour market.

## Objectives

People with disabilities can attend an initial or continuing training course to get a qualification. These courses aim to provide beneficiaries with knowledge, competences and skills necessary to be active in the labour market, maintain employment and have positive career prospects.

## Description

The number of hours of initial training courses can range from 1 200 to 2 900 hours (corresponding to a period from one to two and a half years). The certification depends on the training course attended. Continuing training courses have a maximum duration of 400 hours, leading to a training certificate.

In 2015 and 2016, IEFP, in cooperation with the National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP) and rehabilitation organisations, consolidated the available training programmes to increase the employability of those with disabilities.

Since 2015, companies that provide apprenticeships to young people with learning difficulties are entitled to receive financial support. This financial support covers any extra costs that may occur during the apprenticeship.

According to an IEFP activity report, in 2017, the number of people with disabilities who benefited from rehabilitation measures (guidance and professional training) exceeded targets by approximately 20%. Considering the whole activity, vocational training centres directly and jointly managed by IEFP contributed 51.7% and 14.8%, respectively; other institutions covered the remaining 33.5%. The IEFP budget for this activity in 2018 increased by 37.6% compared to 2017.

Financing is provided by IEFP and ESF, depending on the region.

<b>2015 Implementation</b>
<b>2016 Implementation</b>
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<b>2018 Implementation</b>
<b>2019 Implementation</b> In 2019, according to the IEFP activity report, the number of people with disabilities that benefited from rehabilitation measures (guidance and professional training) fell compared to 2018 by about 8%. Considering the whole activity, vocational training centres jointly managed by the IEFP offered approximately 10% of the activities. The IEFP budget for this activity in 2019 increased by 25% compared to 2018.
<b>2020 Implementation</b> The measure ran as a regular practice. In 2020, 19 244 persons with disabilities benefited from rehabilitation measures. Of these, 11 132 attended training programmes.
<b>2021 Implementation</b> In 2021, 23 002 people with disabilities benefited from rehabilitation measures. Of these, 9 158 attended training programmes.
<b>2022 Implementation</b> This measure is part of the NIP under the Inclusion and equal opportunities package. In 2022, 26 274 individuals with disabilities benefited from rehabilitation measures. Of these, 10 469 attended training programmes.
<b>2023 Implementation</b> In 2023, 37 757 individuals with disabilities benefited from rehabilitation measures. Of these, 10 830 attended training programmes.
<b>2024 Implementation</b> In 2024, 26 245 individuals with disabilities benefited from rehabilitation measures. Of these, 8 891 attended training programmes.
<b>2025 Implementation</b> No progress or developments on this policy were reported by October 2025.

## Bodies responsible

- Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP)

## Target group

### Learners

Learners with disabilities

## Thematic categories

### Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

## European priorities in VET

### VET Recommendation

VET promoting equality of opportunities

### Osnabrück Declaration

Resilience and excellence through quality, inclusive and flexible VET

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Decree-Law \[Decreto-Lei\] No 108/2015, of 17 June 2015](#)

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[Dispatch \[Despacho\] No 8376-B/2015, of 30 July 2015, modified by the Dispatch \[Despacho\] No 9251/2016, of 20 July 2016](#)

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[Ordinance \[Portaria\] No 70/2019, of 27 February 2019](#)

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[Qualification of people with disabilities](#)

## Related policy developments

### 2025 Implementation

### National strategy for the inclusion of people with disabilities

The ENIPD 2021-25 is based on eight strategic priorities: citizenship, equality and non-discrimination; promoting an inclusive environment; education and qualification; work, employment and vocational training; promotion of autonomy and independent living; measures, services and social supports;

**Type of development**

Strategy/Action  
plan

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

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