

Youth pass

POLICY DEVELOPMENT**PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE** **PORTUGAL**

Timeline

**ID number 28704**

Background

Within the framework of youth policies, non-formal and informal learning outside the school context are considered important for promoting active citizenship and skills development.

Objectives

The Youth pass (*Passe Jovem*) records the participation of young people (aged 12-18) in non-formal and informal learning, promoting the recognition and validation of their skills and competences, and supporting their employability. It can also help young learners acquire a certificate.

Description

The Youth pass was piloted from 2017 to November 2018. Its full-scale implementation started in 2019. An individual's competences, skills and experiences may be accumulated, leading to a certificate as soon as a minimum of 25 hours of activities per year is reached. The Youth pass can also be used when applying for a job. More broadly, it is intended to promote learning in a diversity of contexts.

The Youth pass is a free of charge tool. Users can upgrade their profile. The competence standards for recognition and validation of learning are organised into the following areas: communication in mother tongue; communication in foreign languages; mathematical competence and basic competences in science and technology; digital competence; learning to learn; social and civic competence; sense of initiative and entrepreneurship/ability to turn ideas into action; and sensibility/cultural expression/creativity.

It also allows young people to describe what they have done and learned through life experiences and key competences acquired in youth exchanges, European voluntary service, training courses or through youth workers' mobility.

The initiative was launched by the Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth (*Instituto*

Português do Desporto e Juventude, IPDJ), with the support of the National Youth Council (Conselho Nacional de Juventude) and the National Federation of Youth Associations (Federação Nacional das Associações Juvenis).

2017 Pilot

2018 Pilot

2019 Implementation

Implementation is continuing.

2020 Implementation

The Youth pass is operational and runs as a regular practice. In 2020, mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only 10 Youth passes were issued.

2021 Implementation

In 2021, 571 young people met the conditions for the issuance of the certificate.

A new legislation which defines the models of diplomas and certificates in electronic format of the educational and training offers was approved.

2022 Implementation

In 2022, 59 Youth passes were issued.

2023 Implementation

New certificates and diplomas allow register in the Youth pass the participation in a wide variety of activities, related to school sports, the Olympics, the National reading plan and in out-of-school activities .

In 2023, 216 Youth Passes were issued.

2024 Implementation

In 2024, 385 certificates of competence (Youth passes) were issued.

2025 Implementation

The Youth Pass is a certificate that records participation, promotes recognition, and validates the learning developed by young people aged 12 to 18 in processes and activities outside the school context. It is the 'story' of each young person in non-formal education.

No certificates (Youth Passes) were issued by October, as young people can only download them from the youth programmes' IT platform after the end of the year, once the programmes have finished.

Bodies responsible

- Portuguese Institute of Sport and Youth (IPDJ)
- National Youth Council (Conselho Nacional de Juventude)
- National Federation of Youth Associations

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices
Young people (15-29 years old)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Learners' possibilities of accumulation, validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired non-formally and informally

Subsystem

IVET CVET

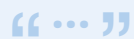
Further reading

[Ordinance \[Portaria\] No 336/2017, of 7 November 2017](#)

[Youth pass website](#)

[ReferNet Portugal; Cedefop \(2018\). Portugal: Youth Pass. National news on VET](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No 194/2021, of 17 September 2021](#)



Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Youth pass: 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/28704>