

# National credit system for VET

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 PORTUGAL

## Timeline



ID number 28702

## Background

A national coordination point (NCP) for the European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET) was established in 2012, through the National Agency for Qualification and VET (ANQEP). A community of practice is in place. Modularisation and transfer rules have been set up.

## Objectives

The implementation of the National credit system for VET has the following main objectives:

- (a) promoting flexibility in the qualification pathways and certification strategies within the scope of the national qualifications system (SNQ);
- (b) capitalising on individual training and lifelong learning paths, with a view to obtaining qualifications;
- (c) promoting the transparency of the learning outcomes achieved or to be achieved through its quantitative expression;
- (d) improving the certified learning in the context of SNQ based on the qualifications of the National catalogue of qualifications (CNQ);
- (e) improving continuing, relevant and quality training not included in the CNQ, for the purposes of certification under the SNQ;
- (f) supporting the mobility of European citizens through an approach based on learning outcomes by comparing learning outcomes and qualifications across countries.

## Description

In 2017, Portuguese legislation introduced a National credit system for VET in line with ECVET principles, which was intended to support permeability between VET pathways and higher education, as well as mobility within Europe. A major priority is that the system supports adult qualifications. It applies to level 2, 4 and 5 qualifications of the national qualifications framework, QNQ (*Quadro Nacional de Qualificações*). It also applies to certified training programmes/courses, which are recorded in the online information system

for the management of training provision (SIGO), and complies with the quality assurance criteria in place. An instrument for recording individual learning pathways (*Qualifica* passport) has also been created.

Currently, all double certifications included in the CNQ have credit points associated.

<b>2017 Approved/Agreed</b>
<b>2018 Implementation</b>
<b>2019 Implementation</b> In 2019, the Operational programme human capital (POCH), through the ESF, made available financial funds to ANQEP for the development of CNQ qualification standards that include credit points. The new qualification standards are structured in learning outcomes.
<b>2020 Implementation</b> The measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.
<b>2021 Implementation</b> The measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.
<b>2022 Implementation</b> The measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.
<b>2023 Implementation</b> The measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.
<b>2024 Implementation</b> The measure is operational and runs as a regular practice.

## Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP)

## Target group

### Learners

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

### Entities providing VET

VET providers (all kinds)

## Thematic categories

### Modernising VET offer and delivery

Using learning-outcome-based approaches and modularisation

## Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Using EU transparency tools (EQF, Europass, ESCO, ECTS, ECVET principles)

Comprehensive national qualification frameworks

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full

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

## Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

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

## European and international dimensions of VET

Mobility of learners and staff

## Subsystem

IVET CVET

## Further reading

[Ordinance \[Portaria\] No 47/2017, of 1 February 2017](#)

---

[Ordinance \[Portaria\] No 232/2016 of 29 August 2016](#)

---

[Decree-Law \[Decreto-Lei\] No 396/2007, of 31 de December 2007, modified by Decree-Law \[Decreto-Lei\] No 14/2017, of 26 January 2017](#)

## Related policy developments

---

2024 Implementation

### Qualifica programme

The *Qualifica* programme is based on:

 PORTUGAL

#### Type of development

Strategy/Action  
plan

#### Subsystem

IVET CVET

---

2024 Implementation

### Qualifica passport

The *Qualifica* passport is a guidance instrument and personalised register of all qualifications, achieved learning outcomes and competences acquired or developed by an

individual.

 PORTUGAL

**Type of development**

Practical  
measure/Initiative

**Subsystem**

IVET CVET

---

“ ... ” **Cite as**

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). National credit system for VET: Portugal. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2025). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2024 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/28702>