

Supporting training and entrepreneurship in the arts and crafts sector

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 28498

Background

The development of arts, crafts and micro-enterprises working in this field can contribute to competitiveness based on differentiation. It also promotes local development and tourism, values professions with creative content and promotes qualified employment among the younger generation. Portugal has valuable and very lively traditions, a heritage that needs to be valued, expanded and renewed through an integrated policy. This should be a joint effort of various public services and bodies and different civil actors. The handicraft sector, therefore, has a particular economic and job creation potential in the country, particularly at the local level, that should be supported by active employment policies.

Objectives

The arts and crafts sector programme defines a set of support modalities within the scope of artisanal activities, contributing to their recovery and enrichment through the renewal of knowledge, promotion of skills, creation of employment and support for investment, promotion and marketing.

Description

In 2015, the Promotion of arts and crafts sector programme (*Programa de Artes e Ofícios*) was created to provide sectoral training, support entrepreneurship and job creation in the sector. The programme supports workplace training (for 12 months) and entrepreneurship (micro-businesses and self-employment) in the sector. This programme is promoted, developed and carried out in the mainland by the Institute for employment and vocational training (IEFP), which issued specific regulations and the supporting documents for workplace training.

The financial support for workplace training was updated in April 2017. The implementation of the programme was linked to the Employment stimulus measure (*Medida Estímulo Emprego*), which was later modified by the Ordinance nº 95/2019 and renamed

2015 Implementation

2016 Implementation

2017 Implementation

2018 Implementation

2019 Implementation

In 2019, a national handicraft prize was awarded (staged biannually).

2020 Implementation

The initiative *Contrato-Emprego* is replaced and currently implemented under the Incentive *ativar.pt (Incentivo ATIVAR.PT)*

In December 2020, to cope with the loss of income resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, an additional support measure for artisans and crafts producing units was created.

2021 Implementation

In December 2021, a new edition of the National handicrafts award was launched. It aims at promoting handicraft production, in its traditional and contemporary aspects, distinguishing Portuguese craftsmen and valuing their technical and professional skills and aesthetic capacity. 1 071 applications were submitted.

2022 Implementation

In January 2022, an exceptional and transitory measure of hiring incentives (*Compromisso Emprego Sustentável*) was created. The hiring supports in the sector of crafts take place in this general measure. It consists of granting financial support to the employer for the signing of an open-ended employment contract with an unemployed person registered with the PES: The granting of the financial incentive requires the employer to provide vocational training:

- (a) on-the-job training adjusted to the competences of the job, for a minimum period of 12 months, accompanied by a tutor appointed by the employer;
- (b) training adjusted to the competences of the job, in a certified training entity, with a minimum workload of 50 hours, carried out by a tutor appointed by the employing entity.

2023 Implementation

Financial support for entrepreneurship, under the '*Investe artes e ofícios*' programme, following the revocation of *Invest Jovem*, was carried out within the scope of the programme to support entrepreneurship and the creation of self-employment (*Programa de Apoio ao Empreendedorismo e à Criação do Próprio Emprego*) and the *Empreende XXI* Measure (created by Ordinance No 26/2022, of 10 January, amended by Ordinance No 44/2023, of 10 February). These measures are intended to support projects in any sector of activity. In addition to financial support, they also benefit from a) technical support for the creation and consolidation of projects and b) grants for participation in promotional and marketing activities.

2024 Implementation

The training in arts and crafts, linked to employment internships, was included in the new traineeships (*Estágios +Talento and Estágios INICIAR*).

2025 Implementation

In July 2025 a second application period for the internships measures *Estágios + Talento* and *Estágios INICIAR* opened, running until the end of November.

In July 2025, a new edition of the National handicrafts award was launched. and the applications ran until October 2025. In this edition, 107 applications were submitted and validated and were being examined. The prize will be awarded in 2026.

In July 2025, a revision of the Promotion of arts and crafts sector programme (*Programa de Artes e Ofícios*) was published, updating the list of supported handicraft activities.

Bodies responsible

- Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP)

Target group

Entities providing VET

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Promotion strategies and campaigns for VET and lifelong learning

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

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Specific regulation](#)

[Decree-Law \[Decreto-Lei\] No 122/2015, of 30 June](#)

[Incentive ativar.pt](#)

[Ordinance \[Portaria\] No 285/2020, of 11 December 2020](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No 38/2022 of 17 January](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No 26/2022, of 10 January 2022](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No 44/2023, of 10 February 2023](#)

[Ordinance \(Portaria\) No. 219/2024/1, of 23 September 2024](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Implementation

Promoting work-based learning and traineeships

Within the scope of this policy development, several initiatives have been set up by the National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP) and the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP).

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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