

Revising teacher careers

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 PORTUGAL

Timeline

2023 Approved/Agreed

2024 Implementation

ID number 46619

Background

In Portugal, as in other countries, the ageing of the teaching workforce, the increasing difficulties in renewing them, and the declining demand for initial training courses in education, have led to difficulties in recruiting new teachers.

Aware of these challenges and recognising the value and impact of teachers on the quality of education, the XXIII Constitutional Government made a commitment in its Programme to guarantee public schools the number and quality of teachers needed to carry out their mission.

Objectives

The changes contribute to promoting the increase of candidates for the attendance of master's in teaching to ensure the necessary number of educators and teachers with the appropriate qualifications to meet the needs of the education system.

Description

The Teaching career law for pre-school, basic and secondary education has been reviewed. The organisation of initial teacher training courses is based, among other things, on the students' profile at the end of compulsory education and essential learning (knowledge, skills and attitudes to be developed by all students in each subject). Training now includes education for citizenship, inclusive education and the use of digital technologies.

Specific rules shall be laid down for the acquisition of a professional qualification for teaching for candidates who:

- (a) have at least 6 years of teaching service completed in the last 10 years, with a minimum assessment of 'Good', in the respective recruitment group;
- (b) to holders of the master's or doctor's degree in the scientific field covered by their recruitment group;
- (c) to students who have attended those courses but have not completed them.

For example, the first ones have the possibility of replacing supervised teaching practice with the presentation and defence of a scientifically supported theoretical-practical report

covering this teaching period. The second and third have the possibility to complete their master's degrees in teaching within a period of less than two school years.

The fixing of the maximum number of vacancies by higher education institutions should ensure supernumerary vacancies for candidates without a professional teaching qualification, with teaching experience.

Trainees will now be remunerated according to the assigned timetable, using index 167 of the career scale of children's educators and primary and secondary school teachers.

The status of the practice advisor teacher, who supervises teaching practice, is valued through measures such as limiting their teaching responsibilities to no more than six hours per week and allowing them to accumulate teaching functions in the higher education institution.

2023 Approved/Agreed

Decree-Law No 112/2023 of 29 November amends the legal regime governing professional qualifications for teachers in pre-school, primary and secondary education. It aims to effectively increase the number of candidates for the master's degree in teaching and to guarantee public schools the number and quality of educators and teachers needed to fulfil their mission.

2024 Implementation

Decree-Law No 23/2024 of 19 March amends the legal regime for professional qualifications for teaching in pre-school, basic, and secondary schools. The amendments aim to make the model of supervised teaching practice more flexible to strengthen the scientific and pedagogical autonomy of higher education establishments.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MECI)

Target group

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers

Thematic categories

Teachers, trainers and school leaders competences

Systematic approaches to and opportunities for initial and continuous professional development of school leaders, teachers and trainers

Attractiveness of the teaching and training profession/career

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

VET as an attractive choice based on modern and digitalised provision of training and skills

Osnabrück Declaration

European Education and Training Area and international VET

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

[Decree-Law \(Decreto Lei\) No 112/2023 of 29 November 2023](#)

[Decree-Law \(Decreto Lei\) No 23/2024 of 19 March 2024](#)

Related policy developments

2024 Implementation

Teacher continuing professional development

Dispatch No 779/2019 aims to define the priorities of continuing education for teachers. Training actions should focus on:

 PORTUGAL

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

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