

## VET in Portugal

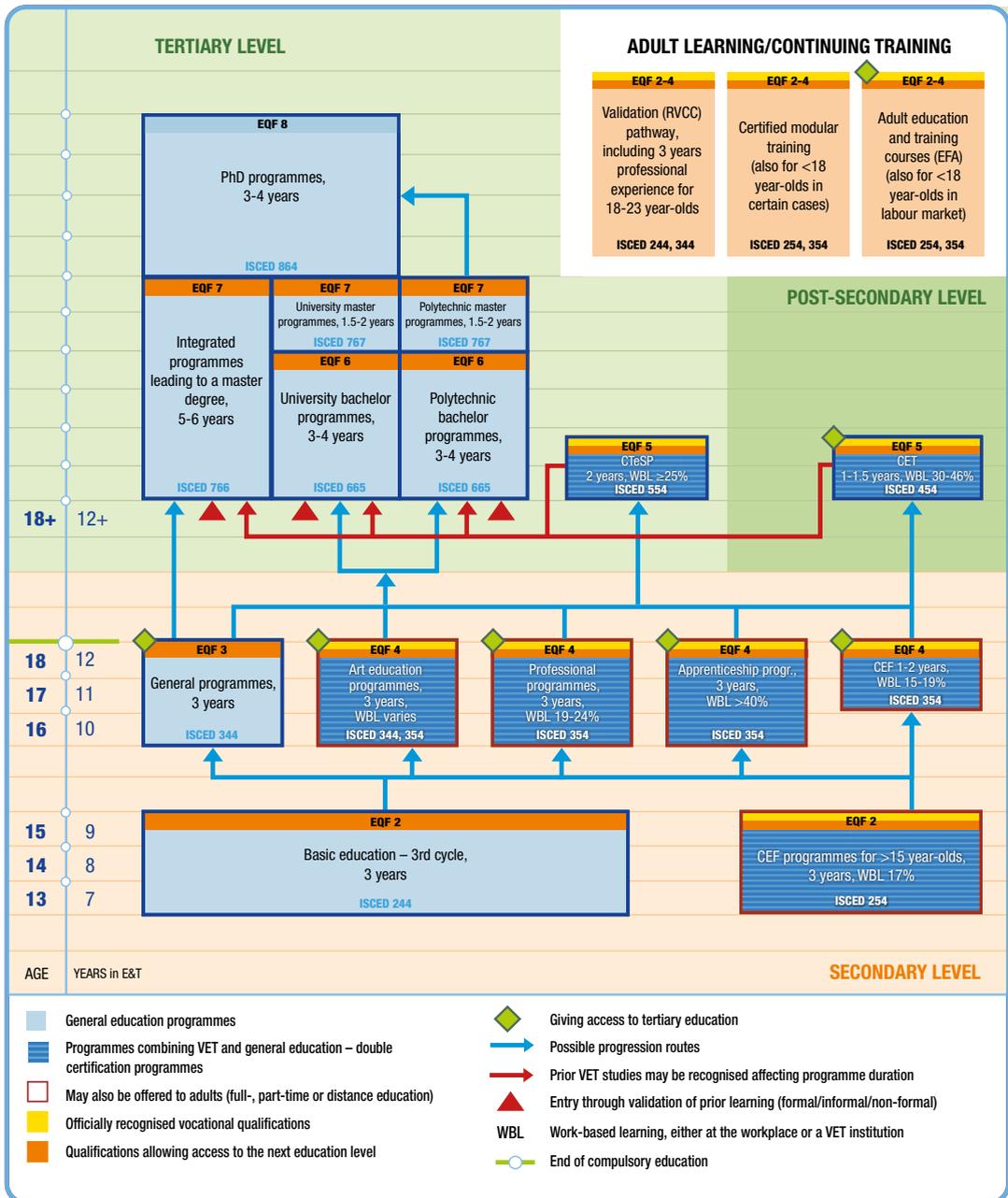
Vocational education and training (VET) is under the remit of the ministries of education and labour. The national qualification system (*Sistema Nacional de Qualificações*, SNQ) reorganised VET into a single system. It ensures scholarly and professional progression of citizens through a double certification training, comprising the national catalogue of qualifications (*Catalogo Nacional de Qualificações*, CNQ), and the recognition of prior learning (recognition, validation and certification of competences, RVCC).

Permeability between general and VET programmes is ensured. Young people can choose among different types of VET programme, provided that they meet admission requirements in terms of age and education achieved. All VET programmes grant double certification: an education certificate and a professional qualification. Apart from those at lower secondary level, VET programmes combine general education, science and technological training with work-based learning (WBL). The main VET programme types are:

- at lower secondary level, education and training programmes for young people (CEF, ISCED 254; EQF 2) are school-based and include practical training. They target those aged 15+ who completed the first cycle of basic education (four years) and who are at risk of early leaving. Progression is possible to upper secondary education;
- at upper secondary level, VET programmes (ISCED 354, EQF 4) lead to employment or further studies, including higher education. School-based VET programmes are:
  - three-year vocational programmes (nationally referred to as professional);
  - one- to two-year CEF programmes;
  - three-year art education programmes;
- apprenticeship programmes are for young people up to age 25. Programmes include 40% WBL. A training contract between the apprentice and the enterprise (training provider) must be signed;
- at post-secondary level, technological specialisation programmes (CET, ISCED 454; EQF 5) last from one to one-and-a-half years and incorporate 30% to 46% WBL. Through agreements with higher tertiary institutions CET graduates are credited up to 90 ECTS points.
- at tertiary level, two-year high professional technical courses (CTeSP, ISCED 554; EQF 5) are offered by polytechnics (internship lasting at least 25% of study time). Graduates are credited 120 ECTS points and receive a high-level technician diploma.

Over the past decade, policy developments have aimed at upskilling adults by offering the following programmes:

- adult education and training programmes (EFA, ISCED 254 and 354) are training schemes for learners who want to complete lower or upper secondary education and/or obtain a professional qualification at EQF 2 to 4;
- certified modular training is based on short-term training units (UFCD) and allows learners to select an individual learning path. Some of these learning paths can lead to a double certification at EQF 2 to 4.
- RVCC (ISCED 244, 344) is a process based on the lifelong learning (LLL) principle, which comprises the identification of formal, non-formal and informal competences developed throughout a lifetime. The two RVCC paths (academic and professional) can lead to either a lower or upper secondary education certificate at EQF 2 to 4 or a professional qualification. Adults lacking competences required for a qualification are guided to relevant training programmes to acquire them.



NB: ISCED-P 2011.

Source: Cedefop and ReferNet Portugal.



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