

Policy Learning Forum (PLF)
Upskilling pathways: a vision for the future
Virtual event CEDEFOP - 5 and 6 November 2020



PORTUGAL
Nacional Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training
ANQEP I.P.

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Why? The policy challenge in Portugal

- Still half of the adult population (aged 25-64) have not completed upper-secondary education (53% in 2016, Eurostat).
- Only 33% of the aged 25-34 have completed secondary education (OECD 2016).
- Almost 500.000 people are illiterate (2011 Census).

Why? The policy challenge in Portugal

- Significant problems in basic skills (literacy, numeracy and digital skills).
- Facing obstacles to get in the labour market and to achieve full social integration.
- The less qualified tend not to participate in LLL activities (the low-skills trap).

What? The policy response in Portugal, a long way

- **2000: Centres for the Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences (RVCC Centres):** starting VNFIL; Certification of adults exclusively in the basic level of education
- **2005: New Opportunities Initiative:** Governmental programme to upgrade the qualifications of young people and adults (minimum upper secondary education)
- **2007: National Qualifications System; New Opportunities Centres network;** Certification of secondary level of education; Certification of professional competences (2008)
- **2013: Creation of the Centres for Qualification and Vocational Education (CQEP):** downsizing the national network and redesigning the process
- **2016: Launch of the Qualifica programme and creation of the Qualifica Centres:** a political priority of the Government (NRP): adult education and LLL and targeting the low skilled

What? The Qualifica Programme

- **Main objectives**

- Raise the qualification level of adults and their employability;
- Increase digital and functional literacy;
- Better align the training provision with labour market needs;
- Facilitate tailored training pathways that lead to raising the qualification level of adults (better combining RVCC with adult education and training).

- **Target groups**

- Less qualified adults;
- Unemployed people;
- Young NEET.

The Qualifica Programme

- **Goals until 2020**
 - 300 Qualifica Centres in 2017;
 - 50% of the active population with upper secondary education;
 - 15% of adults in LLL activities;
 - 600,000 adults involved by 2020.
- Presently, the network encompasses **310 Qualifica Centres**

The Qualifica Centres

- Play a key role in motivating adults for LLL and in the local networks for qualification (employers, ET providers, municipalities).
- Provide information and guidance to adults (18 or over and NEET) to:
 - RVCC processes (including at least 50 hours of complementary training)
 - or education and training pathways,
 - both for academic and/or professional, levels 1 to 4 of the NQF
- Implement RVCC processes that allow adults to certify prior learning acquired in formal, non-formal and informal contexts.

Qualifica Centres Network



NORTH
121

CENTER
86

LISBON
51

ALENTEJO
37

ALGARVE
12

MADEIRA

3

Viana do Castelo

Bragança

Vila Real

Porto

Aveiro

Viseu

Guarda

Coimbra

Castelo Branco

Leiria

Santarém

Portalegre

Lisboa

Setúbal

Évora

Beja

S. Vicente

Funchal

Faro

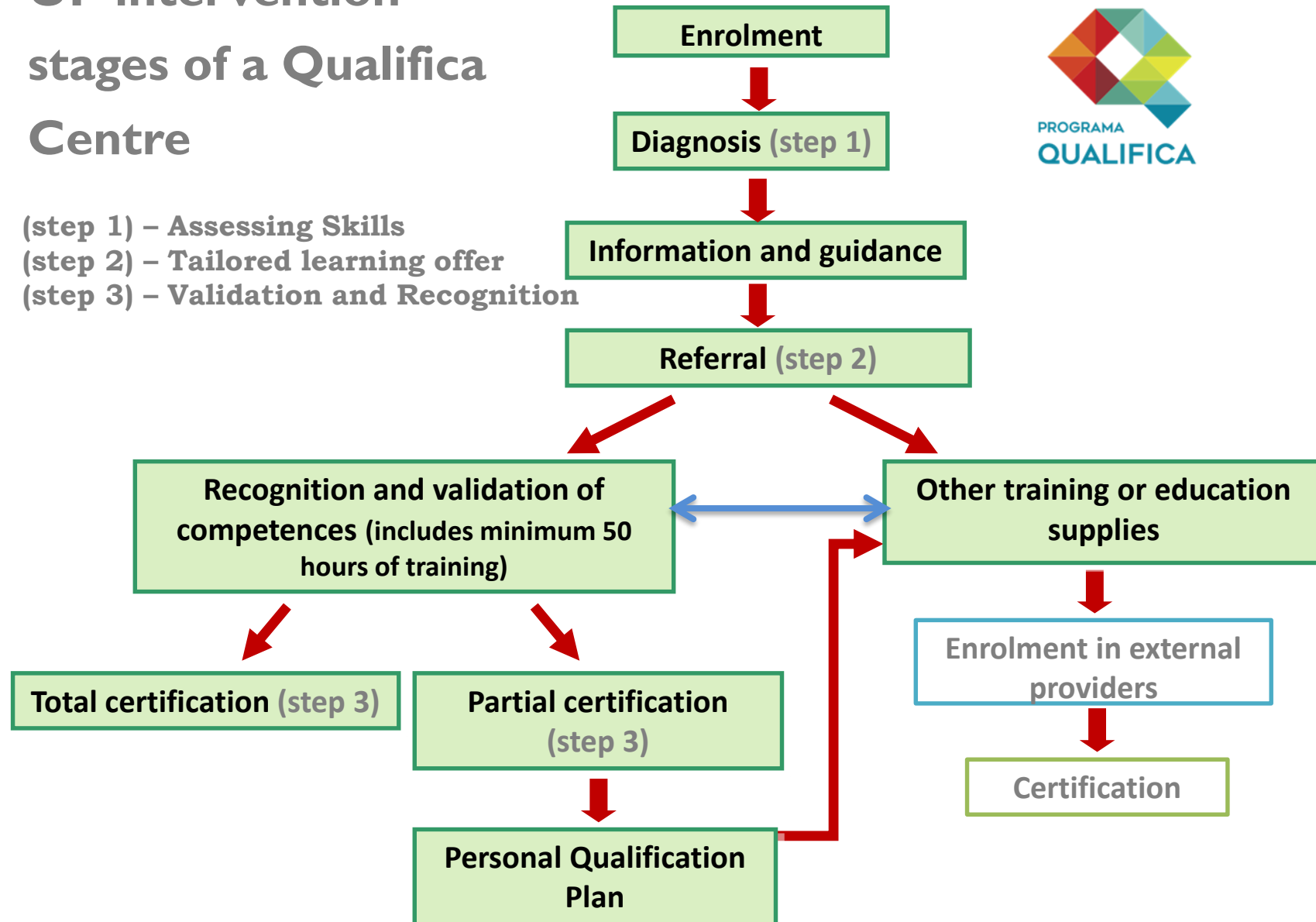
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PARA A QUALIFICAÇÃO E O
EMPREGO PROFSSIONALIZANTE



UP intervention stages of a Qualifica Centre

(step 1) – Assessing Skills
(step 2) – Tailored learning offer
(step 3) – Validation and Recognition



Managing the Qualifica

- A governance body for the implementation of the programme (ANQEP).
- Provide technical support to the Centres:
 - methodological guidelines
 - development of the platform for registering the activity quality standards and indicators
 - training the teams of the Centres
- Monitoring procedures and results on a systematic basis
- Ensure procedures for selecting (or closing) centres and funding the network

Key stakeholders of the Qualifica

- A diversified network of Qualifica Centres: PES and VET Centres, Public Schools and Professional Schools, other organizations
- Increasing local engagement with community associations, municipalities, ET providers and employers.

Key resources of the Qualifica

- **Human and financial resources:**
 - Staff of the Qualifica Centres: Technicians for guidance and VNFIL, teachers and trainers for specific fields of study/ occupational fields;
 - Monitoring teams at regional level: 5 teams, each one with ANQEP (coordination), IEFP and DGEstE members.
 - Funding: ESF and state budget up to 2020.

Key tools of the Qualifica

- Qualifica webportal www.qualifica.gov.pt
- Qualifica Passport
www.passaportequalifica.gov.pt

An online tool for LLL guidance using credit accumulation and transfer - ongoing developments based on the National Credit System for VET

Qualifica main results – 2017 – 2020 (september)

- 521.321 enrolments in Qualifica centres
- 84% (438.157) of them (enrolments) have already had their skills assessed (Lifelong Guidance and referral)
- Adults were predominantly (almost 323.805) oriented to ET pathways (tailored learning offer)
- More than 114.000 adults are in RPL processes and around 46% (52.745) attained a certification

Strengths and challenges in AE, in general

- **Strengths**

- increasing recognition on the importance of raising skill levels;
- the positive effects of RVCC on the individual (self-esteem; motivation towards future learning);
- and returns on skills and employability (especially when associated with training).

- **Challenges:**

- achieving wide consensus regarding AE as a policy priority;
- reducing the reliance on EU funds;
- improving the social value/recognition of diplomas obtained via RVCC;
- increasing the engagement of stakeholders, especially employers;
- and raising awareness of the benefits of learning so as to go beyond motivational barriers.

Thank you!

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