



Recognition, validation and certification of competences (RVCC) – IEFP / Qualifica Centres

POLICY LEARNING
FORUM

Vocational training
for the long-term unemployed

Learning from inspiring
practices

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CEDEFOP
European Centre for the Development
of Vocational Training

What it is

- ▶ IEFP is part of the network of Qualifica centres under the administration of the Education Ministry and the Labour, Solidarity and Social Security Ministry
- ▶ The qualification of adults is a strategic national priority. It is important to ensure the labour force, either employed or unemployed, can see their competences/skills formally recognized to support career progression, European mobility, and continuing studies and to prevent unemployment
- ▶ Recognition of non-formal and informal learning is a key measure in IEFP's focus to reinforce innovative methodologies, vocational training and employment measures and mechanisms. The methodology was developed in 2005 and later adopted by the national system
- ▶ Beneficiaries are employed or unemployed adults with relevant professional and life experiences and needing to develop and strengthen their knowledge and skills. While the measure does not specifically target the long-term unemployed, its rigorous and flexible methodology allows assessing different competences and beneficiaries with different profiles. RVCC has proved its value for unemployed experienced professionals – in terms of avoiding long-term unemployment and long and unnecessary vocational training
- ▶ In every public vocational training centre/employment centre a Qualifica centre was established
 - 2005 – experimental character
 - 2007 – applied to a small number of national standards
 - 2010 – applied to a larger number of standards
- ▶ Programme characteristics
 - LTUs/trainees benefit from career guidance;
 - Competency profile analysis
 - Application of methodologies of balance of competences and construction of portfolios
 - Support of pedagogical teams
 - Leading to national certificates
 - Participation of the social partners
- ▶ Participation: 3.500 candidates (2015) and 5.700 (2016) in the IEFP vocational Centres

How it works

The program focuses on recognizing competences acquired in non-formal and informal contexts to obtain a national qualification certificate or diploma. Candidates are evaluated towards the national standards. Candidates carry out a practical demonstration before a jury

The certification can be total, allowing the obtaining of a diploma, or partial. In the case of partial certification, only the validated competences will be certified and additional training will be necessary to develop the missing competences. This enables learners to obtain the final diploma

Partial certification is accepted, by many employers, for access to the job market

There is no difference between a diploma obtained within this program and a diploma obtained within the mainstream vocational training system

This program is already available for about 150 national standards

The partial certification combined with vocational training is one of the most innovative aspects of the programme: it allows the recognition of all the competences and makes it possible to focus vocational training on necessary elements. For that purpose, the national standards were organized in modules of 25 or 50 training hours

A 2016 legislative amendment was the basis for expanding the network and introducing changes to the assessment methodology

Who is involved

1. Public and private Vocational training centres
2. Public and private Schools
3. Public employment services
4. Social partners

More information

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On the web

<http://www.iefp.pt>

(IEFP website, in Portuguese)

<https://www.qualifica.gov.pt/#/modalidades>

(RVCC website, in Portuguese)