



formação para o sucesso

# Vocational Education and Training System in Portugal

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# Vocational Education and Training in Portugal – Overview

# The Vocational Education and Training in Portugal – Legislative Framework

- **1986** - General framework - Law n.º 46/86 of 14 October (Comprehensive Law ) – Guarantee of the right to Education and Training and insurance of equal opportunities of Access and achievement;
- **2001** - Guidelines for setting up, managing and assessing learning Basic Education curricula - this level of education is seen as the beginning of lifelong education and training
- **2004** – Reform of Secondary Education - guiding principles for the organization and management of curricula and for the assessment and certification of courses

# The Vocational Education and Training in Portugal – Legislative Framework

- **2007:** Set up of the **National Qualifications System (NQS)** – brings together under a new institutional framework:
  - vocational training taking place within the education system
  - and vocational training taking place in the labour marketproviding them with shared objectives and **instruments**:
  - **National Qualifications Catalogue (NQC)** - strategic management of qualifications and to regulate all dual certification training
  - **National Qualifications Framework** – based on the EQF (same 8 levels) .

The NQS also incorporated New Opportunities Centres, which replaced the Centres for the Recognition, Validation and Certification of Skills (informal, non formal learning contexts)

# The Vocational Education and Training in Portugal – Institutional Framework

## Ministry of Economy and Employment (MEE)

- Responsible for the promotion and evaluation of VET programs and measures, in particular with the Ministry of Education and Science (MES)
- The Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP) is the national public employment body responsible for implementing active employment policies, particularly those related to vocational training, such as initial and continuing VET courses.

## Ministry of Education and Science (MES)

- Responsible for:
  - the definition, coordination, implementation and assessment of the National Policy as regards the Education system
  - the coordination and integration of the national education and national vocational training policies (qualification levels)

# The Vocational Education and Training in Portugal – Institutional Framework

## Social Partners

- Active participation in VET policies, namely a major recent contribution in the development of the NQS
- Participation in advisory and social coordination bodies such as:
  - the Economic and Social Council
  - the National Vocational Training Council
  - the National Education Council

Social partners also have a seat on administrations, general councils and monitoring committees of the official bodies responsible for implementing, monitoring and funding vocational training policies (ex IEFP).

# Initial Vocational Education and Training



# Initial Vocational Education and Training

- Initial VET comprises:
  - pre-primary
  - basic education
  - secondary education
  - post-secondary non-tertiary education
  - and tertiary education.

# Initial VET - Basic Education

- Universal, compulsory and free
- 9 academic years – 6 – 15 years old
- Comprises 3 sequential and progressive cycles
- Leads to a diploma certifying completion of basic compulsory education.

# Initial VET

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## Secondary education

# Initial VET - Secondary education

- 3 years
- Comprises a single cycle and begins at the age of 15
- Can be completed either by:
  - studying general courses in the sciences and humanities with a view to pursuing studies at a higher level,
  - or by following vocational pathway (qualifying students to enter the labour market and also allowing them to continue their studies):
    1. Vocational courses
    2. Apprenticeships
    3. Education and training courses for young people
    4. Specialized art courses
    5. Technology courses
    6. Specialized art and technology courses for Adults
    7. Education and Training for Adults

# Initial VET - Secondary education - courses leading to a qualification

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## 1. Vocational courses:

- Last for 3 academic years
- Divided into modules of varying length - which can be combined in different ways
- 3 components: socio-cultural, scientific and technical training (52 % of total training hours - 13 % in a work context)
- Leads to a Level 3 vocational qualification + diploma in secondary education
- Provided by the network of State schools run by the MES and by vocational schools, most of which are privately run.

# Initial VET - Secondary education - courses leading to a qualification

## 2. Apprenticeship System

- For young people aged between 15 and 25
- Run by the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training
- Prepares and qualifies students for their first job and facilitates their entry into working life
- 14 fields of employment (incl. Commerce)
- Vary in length, depending on their nature, and include 3 components: socio-cultural training, scientific and technological training and practical/on job training (at least 30 % of total hours)
- Leads to a Level 2 vocational qualification + certificate of completion of cycle 3 of basic education, or a Level 3 vocational qualification + certificate of completion of secondary education, depending on the trainee's profile on entry.

# Initial VET - Secondary education - courses leading to a qualification

## 3. Education and training courses for young people

- Intended for:
  - young people aged 15 or over who have left or are at risk of leaving the regular education system
  - young people who have completed 12 years in school and wish to acquire a vocational qualification
- 4 training components: socio-cultural, scientific, technological and practical
- Duration: minimum of 1 125 hours and a maximum of 2 276 hours
- Lead to an academic certificate equivalent to Year 9 or Year 12 of school + Level 2 or 3 vocational qualification
- Provided by the network of State schools run by the MES ,private and cooperative education establishments, the IEFP's Vocational Training Centres and accredited training bodies.

# Initial VET - Secondary education - courses leading to a qualification

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## 4. Specialised art courses

- Provide vocational training and qualifications in the visual and audiovisual arts
- Lead to a certificate of secondary education and a Level 3 vocational qualification
- Provided by the network of State schools run by the MES.



# Initial VET - Secondary education - courses leading to a qualification

## 5. **Technology courses** (technical and technological)

- Aim to give access to the labour market and to allow students to pursue their studies at a higher level
- 3 academic years
- Curriculum covers general, scientific and technological training composed by:
  - 2 core disciplines + 2 technical and technological disciplines
  - 1 discipline of a practical or dual theoretical/practical nature within a specific technology area
- 240 hours Work placement
- Provided by the network of State schools run by the MES
- Leads to a diploma of secondary education + Level 3 vocational certificate.

# Initial VET - Secondary education - courses leading to a qualification

## 6. Specialized art and technology courses for Adults

- Alternative route to secondary education and provide adults a second opportunity to receive training
- Based on a system of credit units, designed to allow people to combine course attendance and working life
- Curriculum for each course (equivalent to 3 years) includes general training, specific scientific and technological training, and technical or artistic training
- Lead to a diploma of completion of secondary education + Level 3 vocational certificate
- Give access to tertiary education, subject to compliance with the requirements laid down by application rules
- Provided by the network of State schools run by the MES.

# Initial VET - Secondary education - courses leading to a qualification

## 7. Education and Training for Adults

- These courses give the possibility to acquire academic qualifications and/or vocational competences, aiming for (re) integration or progression in the job market.
- **Aiming at people with 18 years old or over** - exceptionally, the attendance of an EFA Course may be allowed to a trainee aged under 18, as long as he/she is duly integrated in the job market.
- Organized in modular training model, based on the NCQ training reference
- Lead to a double certification diploma a dual certification - Basic Education 3rd Cycle or Secondary Education level school degree + professional qualification
- Provided by public, private or cooperative education establishments; vocational training centres belonging to the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP) and other accredited training entities.

# Initial VET

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**Post-secondary non-tertiary education**

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**Specialised technology courses (CET)**

# Post-secondary non-tertiary education

## Specialised technology courses (CET) aim at

- people who have successfully completed a secondary-education course or equivalent
- people who have passed in all disciplines in Years 10 and 11 or have started but failed to complete Year 12 of a secondary-education course or equivalent
- people who have a Level 3 vocational qualification
- those who hold a diploma in specialized technology or a tertiary education degree and wish to qualify in another area
- people aged 23 or over who are recognised as having acquired through experience the skills and abilities they need to be eligible for the course in question.

# Post-secondary non-tertiary education

## Specialised technology courses (cont.)

- Based on a highly vocational curriculum that includes general, scientific and technological training as well as practical training in the workplace
- Successful completion of the course:
  - leads to a diploma in specialized technology + Level 4 Vocational Certificate
  - allows trainees to pursue their studies at tertiary education level following a special competition
- Provided by public, private and cooperative schools and training centres that are recognised and directly answerable to both MEE and MES.

# Initial VET

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## Tertiary Education

# Initial VET - Tertiary Education

- Comprises education (LBSE) in:
  1. Universities - responsible for “developing students’ capacities for design, innovation and critical analysis”
  2. Polytechnics - responsible for “conveying scientific knowledge of a theoretical and practical nature and its applications, with a view to the performance of occupational activities”

**1. University tertiary education** is provided by universities and by independent schools/institutes at university level

**2. Polytechnic tertiary education** is provided by polytechnic institutes comprising two or more tertiary education schools



# Initial VET - Tertiary Education

- Access is determined by the fixed number of places (*numerus clausus*) established each year at national level
- To gain access to tertiary education, students must have a diploma of secondary education or equivalent, or a diploma of post-secondary non-tertiary education
- A first degree (Cycle 1) or Master's degree (Cycle 2) can be awarded both by universities and by polytechnics. Doctorates can only be awarded by universities.

# Continuing Vocational Education and Training

# Continuing VET - Overview

- Aimed at working aged adults who are employed, unemployed or at risk of unemployment and groups at risk of exclusion.
- The **objective** is that trainees acquire or develop knowledge and skills in technical and social fields allowing them to re-enter or improve their position in the labour market.
- The **National Qualifications Catalogue** includes standards for these training pathways organised as short credit units that allow the independent certification of skills.

# Continuing VET - Training Available

## Adult education and training courses

- Aimed at adults over the age of 18 with no qualifications or whose qualifications are inadequate for their integration in the labour market
- The *Recognition, Validation and Certification of Skills process* is the most common platform for access to these courses
- Offer a combination of education and training that enhances their employability and certifies acquired learning
- Lead to a Cycle 3 basic education certificate + Level 2 vocational training certificate, or a secondary-education certificate + Level 3 vocational training certificate
- Designed and run by the respective instigating bodies or by a third party. In both cases, the training body must be part of the network of training institutions included in the NQS

# Continuing VET - - Training Available

## Other available training offers:

Aimed at active, employed and unemployed, undertaken either by public entities or by private entities, including:

- Courses of qualification and re-training
  - courses of professional specialization
  - updating and upgrading courses and
  - courses in organizational development and management.
- These training offers are characterized by being constituted by certifiable units or modules. They are usually developed accordingly to the needs and specific contexts of organizations and workers.

# Formal, non Formal and Informal Education and Lifelong Learning

# Formal, non formal and Informal Education and Lifelong Learning

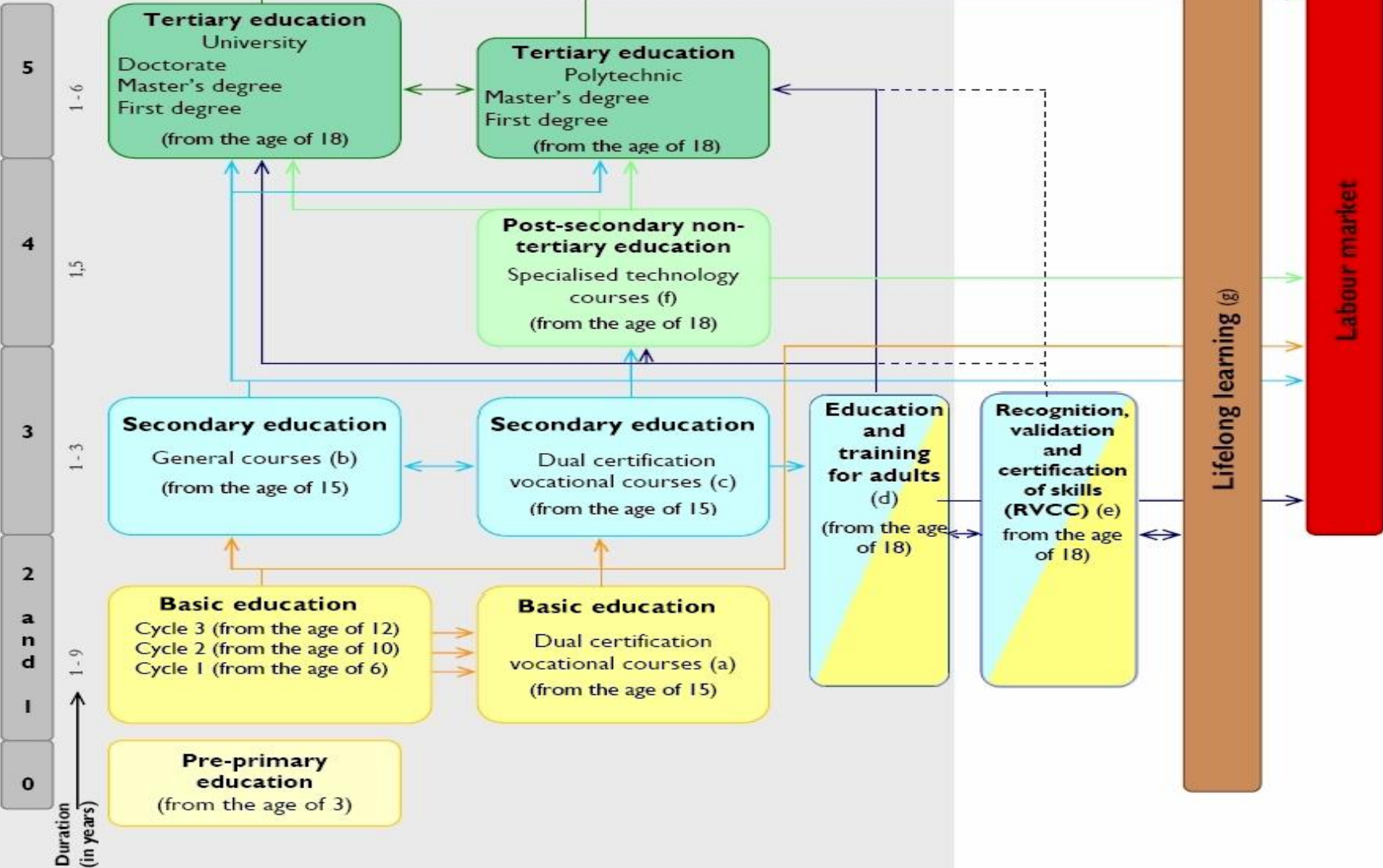
- All formal VET Qualifications are inscribed in the **National Catalogue of Qualifications (NCQ)**
- For each qualification, the NCQ comprises:
  - Professional profile
  - Training reference
  - Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences Reference Framework (basic and technological components)

# Formal, non formal and Informal Education and Lifelong Learning

- The NCQ aims to promote and facilitate access to double qualification certification for young people and adults through:
  - modularizing the training offer – defining courses organized in units of short-term training (25 and/or 50 hours) – Formal learning context and
  - providing reference frameworks for the **Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences (RVCC) processes** – informal and non formal learning contexts.
- The **National System for the Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences** allows individuals to recognize, validate and certify know-how and competences resulting from experiences in different life contexts. The certification achieved enables a personal, social and professional valorisation and allows the pursue of studies/training.



ISCED levels



# THANK YOU!



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