

Virtual Annual Conference on Outreach and Access in Adult Learning Upskilling Pathways as an opportunity to improve outreach and access

20 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;
 - At least 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

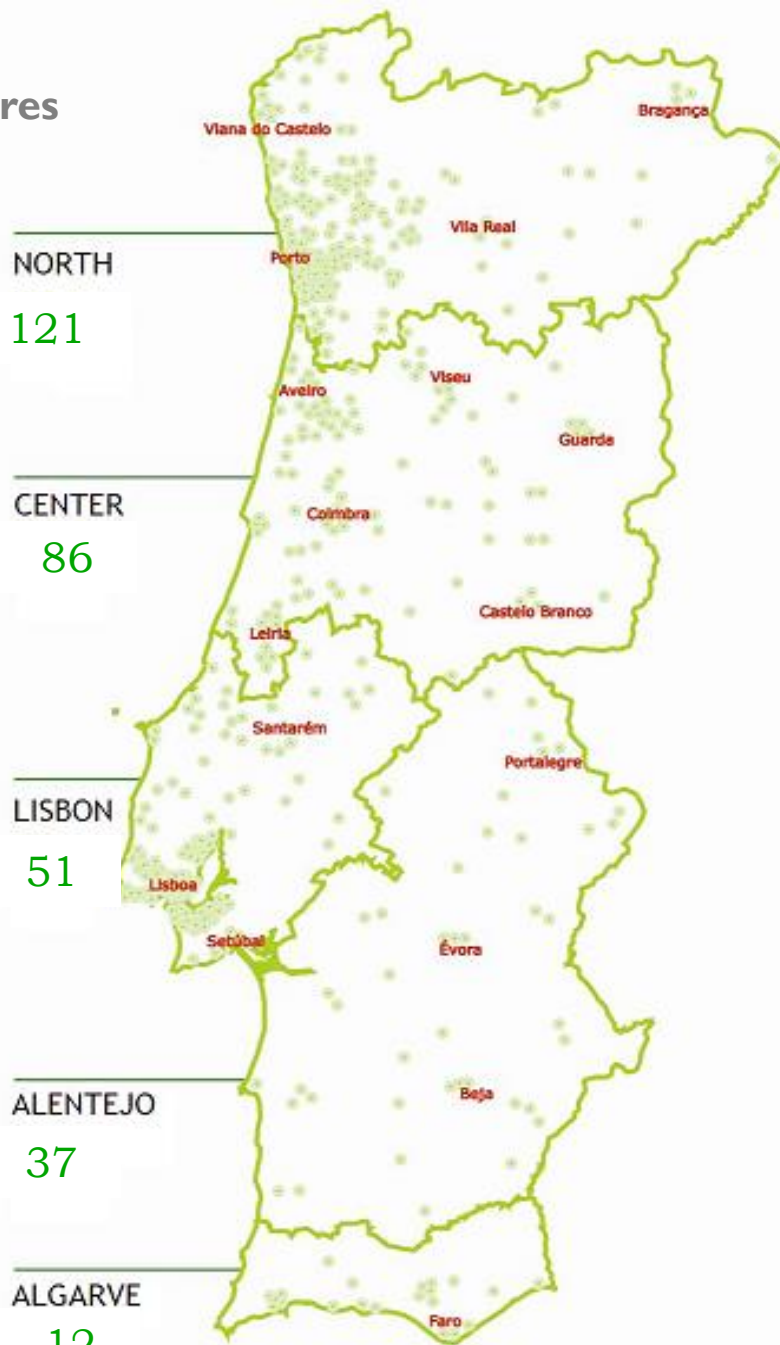
ALGARVE
12

MADEIRA

3

S. Vicente

Funchal



PROGRAMA
QUALIFICA

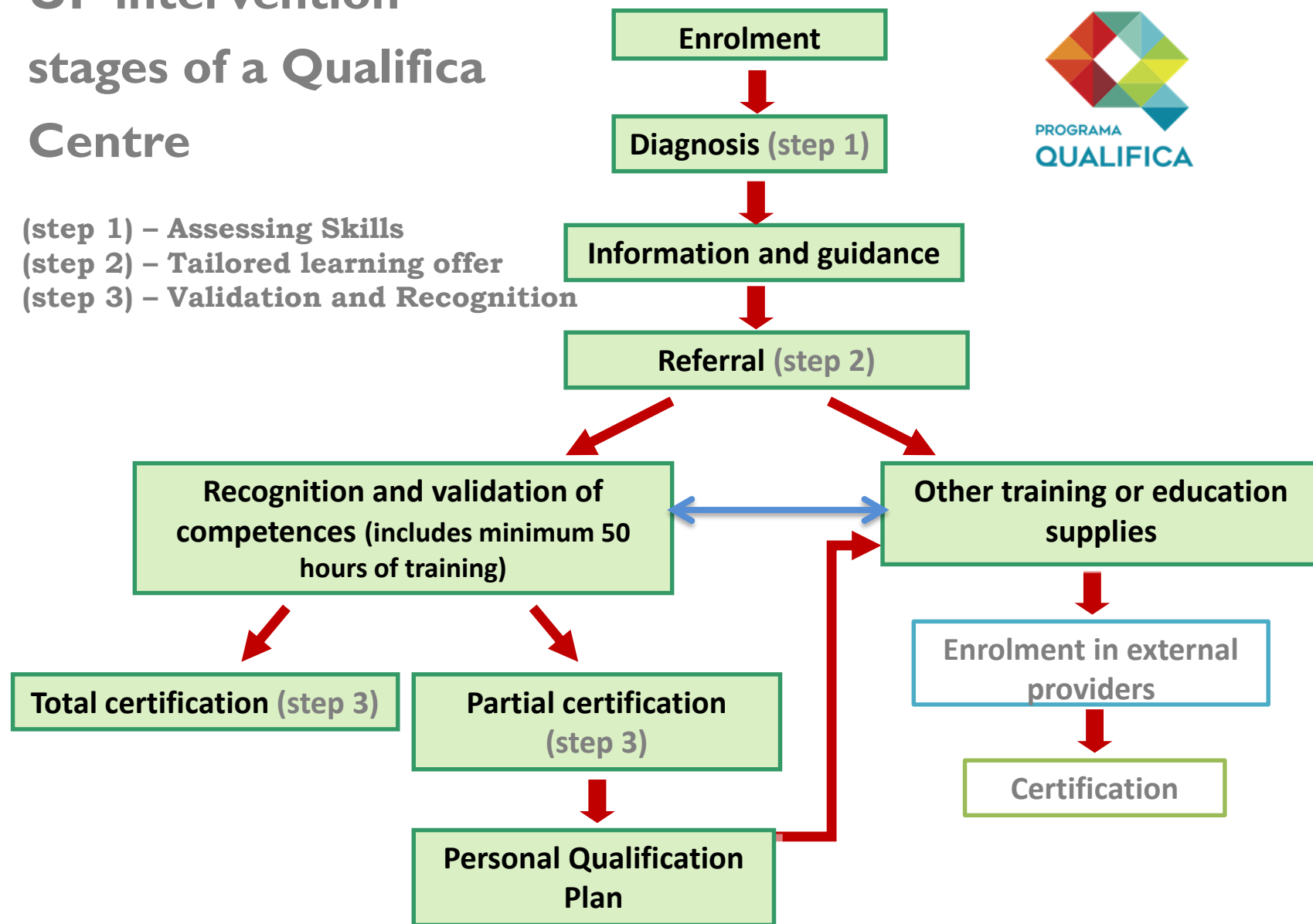
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EMPREGO PROFSSIONAL



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 (october)

- 537.018 enrolments in Qualifica centres
- 84% (453.116) of them (enrolments) have already had their skills assessed (Lifelong Guidance and referral)
- Adults were predominantly (almost 335.300) oriented to ET pathways (tailored learning offer) and more than 117.800 adults are in RPL processes
- Around 96% (515.596) 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 national 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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