

Portugal - Green Skills in the National Catalogue of Qualifications

Title of inspiring practice	Green Skills in the National Catalogue of Qualifications (" <i>Competências Verdes no Catálogo Nacional de Qualificações</i> ")
Geographical area	Implemented at a national level
Period of implementation	<p>The National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training launched in 2021 an international call for tenders to execute the updating of the National Catalogue of Qualifications (NCQ), for all the sectors of economic activities and education and training areas considered vital to the social and economic development.</p> <p>The NCQ update should be completed in 2024.</p>
Rationale	<p>NCQ is a dynamic tool for the strategic management of national double certification qualifications (non-higher education) which promotes the effective link between the competences necessary to the social and economic development of the country and the qualifications developed within the NQS. Catalogue standards are used in IVET, CVET and RVCC (VNFIL).</p> <p>The NCQ also integrates short duration training modules (25h/50H) that can be assessed, certified and capitalised autonomously and that can be transferable between qualifications paths (common modules).</p> <p>In order to consolidate the quality, effectiveness and agility of vocational training and qualification, the CNQ integrates short and medium duration training paths (300h/350h) designed in units of competence or short duration training units. This strategy of adaptation and flexibility of the NCQ will be continued, through the design of new paths in emerging areas with greater added value, of which, for example, the energy transition and the green and circular economy stand out.</p>
Scope of the practice	Continued Vocational Education and Training.
Educational level	<p>The short and medium duration paths do not have a qualification level assigned.</p> <p>Participation in the short and medium-term paths provided in the CNQ is not subject to the qualification level of the adults, without prejudice to the fact that specific access conditions may be determined in programmes that integrate these paths.</p>
Introduction and context	<p>The main stakeholders involved in the initiative are: the Secretary of State for Employment ("<i>Secretaria de Estado do Emprego</i>"), the Secretary of State of Environment and Energy ("<i>Secretaria de Estado do Ambiente e da Transição Energética</i>"), the Portuguese Environmental Agency ("<i>Agência Portuguesa para o Ambiente</i>"), the Directorate-General for Energy and Geology ("<i>Direção-Geral de Energia e Geologia</i>") and the National Agency for VET ("<i>Agência para a Qualificação e Ensino Profissional, I.P.</i>"). Other sectoral entities are also involved, such as the Sectoral Councils for Qualification.</p> <p>The National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training is a public body under the joint supervision of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour Solidarity and Social Security, in coordination with the Ministry of Economy and Maritime Affairs.</p> <p>The National Agency for Qualification and Vocational Education and Training (ANQEP) mission is to coordinate the implementation of policies on Vocational Education and Training (both of young people and adults), as well as to ensure the development and management of the National System for the Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences</p> <p>In the scope of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and following the guidelines of the Osnabrück Declaration on VET, the Portuguese government signed an Agreement on Vocational Training and Qualification with the social partners focusing on the skilling and reskilling of young people and adults, especially in the green and digital transition sectors.</p>

	<p>The aforementioned Agreement also states the importance of creating training paths in response to sectoral needs of the labour market, of short or medium duration, autonomously certifiable, but also capitalisable for the completion of qualifications integrated in CNQ. In this sense, and in order to allow greater flexibility in the operationalisation of qualifications and to respond in a timely manner to more specific and immediate skills' needs, the CNQ started to provide short and medium-term training paths.</p> <p>The objective of integrating/updating qualifications or short and medium-term paths is to train young people and adults with green competences so that they can respond to new demands from the labour market, such as jobs related to global warming, renewable energies and sustainability.</p> <p>ANQEP is also responsible for managing and updating the NCQ which means that the main budget for the NCQ comes from the Agency's annual budget. On the other hand, the aforementioned international public tender to update the NCQ has EU funding through the National Human Capital Operational Programme (POCH).</p> <p>Portugal's Recovery and Resilience Plan will help Portugal become more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions.</p> <p>To this end, impactful reforms and investments that foster lasting and sustainable growth are underway, including digital skills development and the green transition. One important project to implement is the modernisation of educational and vocational training establishments and services. The main goal is the installation and modernisation of 365 Specialised Technological Centres (industrial centres/ Information Technology centres/, Digital Multimedia centres and Renewable Energy centres) in public and private educational establishments offering Vocational Education and Training programmes. This investment involves mainly technological and educational equipment and resources. The creation of STC will have repercussions on increasing the skills and qualifications of young people while promoting the competitiveness of companies, thus boosting the creation of qualified jobs and imprinting more quality to VET qualifications. It will also increase the attractiveness of the Vocational Education and Training system and strengthen the quality of learning and skills.</p>
<p>Key activities and outcomes</p>	<p>The initiative consists in the creation of short and medium duration training courses (300h/350h), designed in units of competence or short duration training units in the area of "green" skills (energy and environment).</p> <p>The standards for these short and medium duration training courses are to be integrated in the NCQ and will be available on the NCQ website. With these standards, training providers can develop their own tools to support education and training practice such as toolkits, software, digital learning tools, etc.</p> <p>Having identified the short duration training units related to the area of energy and environment, ANQEP has put forward a preliminary proposal for the following routes: Solar energy; Wind energy; Photovoltaics; Sustainable Agriculture and Hydrogen.</p> <p>Together with other public and private entities, ANQEP also designed a transversal unit for climate transition literacy and resource sustainability to be included in several qualifications of the NCQ. The participation of stakeholders as well as the Sector Councils for Qualifications in the design of the training paths and other training units is one of the success factors of this initiative.</p> <p>Another success factor is the design of these training paths and units in terms of learning outcomes, making this training more perceptible / legible to the labour market</p> <p>The design of the training paths and units in learning outcomes also allows to respond in a timely manner to more specific and immediate skills' needs.</p> <p>The ultimate goal is to increase awareness of students and teachers to promote the preservation and conservation of environment and ecosystems and disseminate the learnings and practices to the general public and have secondary and professional schools to collaborate with institutions such as environmental education and science centres, museums, aquaria, as well as private enterprises.</p>

Other information	<p>The greatest challenge to come is having the education and training system to focus on green and digital transition within the scope of the general curriculum and to raise awareness on the benefits of learning different subjects, while still understanding the importance of integrating all the knowledge to achieve a more sustainable planet and increase the well-being of populations. The Student's Profile by the End of Compulsory Schooling indicates the need to mobilise the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to meet complex demands related to environmental challenges.</p> <p>For this matter, the curricula of secondary and professional schools address complex problems and require transdisciplinary approaches, such as project-based learning and innovative methodologies and practices that promote better learning and environmental protection awareness.</p> <p>Thus, the curricula adopted by secondary and professional schools follow the objectives established by the National Strategy for Citizenship and the National Strategy for Environmental Education.</p> <p>The National Strategy for Citizenship includes the Environmental Education Framework for Sustainability that was published in 2018 and adopted by schools.</p>
Contacts and sources	<p>Agência Nacional para a Qualificação e Ensino Profissional, I.P</p> <p>www.anqep.gov.pt</p> <p>Department of the National Catalogue of Qualifications</p> <p>https://catalogo.anqep.gov.pt/</p>
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