### 3RD PLA MEETING PROMOTING ADULT LEARNING IN NETWORKS (PRALINE)

LISBOA - 14TH AND 15TH MARCH 2022

# ADULT QUALIFICATION IN PORTUGAL: CHALLENGES AND ONGOING POLICY MEASURES

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### **VET IN PORTUGAL: THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SYSTEM (NQS)**

- In PT the VET system is centrally governed by the ministries responsible for Education and Labour
- NQS was created in 2007 (and updated in 2017) to reform VET within the education system and within the labour market by establishing common objectives, tools and structures
- NQS sets up the legal framework for adult VET as well as young people VET
- Recently (February 2022) there was a regulatory legislative update concerning adult qualification





#### THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SYSTEM: GUIDING PRINCIPLES



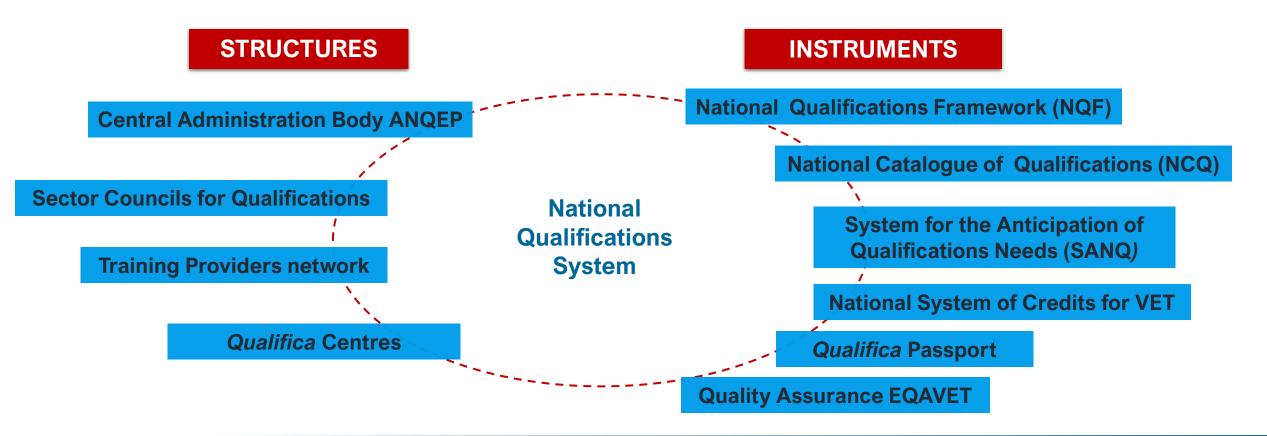




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#### THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS SYSTEM: STRUCTURES AND INSTRUMENTS







#### **ADULT VET: THE QUALIFICA PROGRAMME**



The Qualifica programme is an integrated strategy to foster the training and qualification of adults, launched in 2016 as a political priority of the Government to tackle the deficit of qualifications of the population.

### Main principles

- Raise the qualification level of adults and their employability
- Increase digital and functional literacy
- ✓ Better align the training provision with labour market needs





#### THE QUALIFICA PROGRAMME: MAIN OBJECTIVES



- Promote training pathways that lead to an increase in the qualification level of adults
- Encouraging the completion of qualifications for adults with incomplete education and training paths, using different qualification offers
- Improve the complementarity between the recognition, validation and certification of competences (RVCC) and adult education and training offers (i.e. adult education and training courses – EFA)
- Develop local networks for qualification, reinforcing the coordination and signing of protocols between municipalities, companies, local agents and Qualifica Centres
- Making the Qualifica Centres the main gateway to adult education and training





### THE QUALIFICA PROGRAMME: MAIN RESULTS (2017-2021)



- Qualifica Centres Network: 310 centres
   (+ 9 Qualifica Centres AP specially oriented for public administration workers)
- 713.374 enrolments in Qualifica centres
- 87% (621.672) of the enrolments have already had their skills assessed (Lifelong Guidance and referral)
- Adults were predominantly (almost 470.000) oriented to ET pathways (tailored learning offer) and more than 152.000 are in RVCC processes
- Almost 730.000 attained a certification, 98.655 of which correspond to total certification (i.e. that awarded a higher school level and/or a qualification level of the NQF)





#### THE QUALIFICA PROGRAMME: ADULTS' PROFILE



- ❖ 58% are women and 42% are men
- The majority (63%) are under 45 years old (38% are aged between 30-44years old and 25% are aged between 18-29 years old)
- ❖ 57% don't have the upper secondary level and 34% don't have the lower secondary level
- ❖ 43% are unemployed and 51% are employed





#### **ADULT QUALIFICATION: CHALLENGES AND ONGOING POLICY MEASURES**

- ✓ Mobilising adults to LLL, specially the low skilled
- ✓ Improving guidance and monitoring of VET pathways
- ✓ Increasing/investing in the completion of incomplete pathways
- ✓ Creating a new approach to RVCC, making it more flexible
- ✓ Strategic updating of NCQ by increasing agility, flexibility, and the ability to respond to labour market needs (digital and green transition)





#### **ADULT QUALIFICATION: CHALLENGES AND ONGOING POLICY MEASURES**

- Recognising qualifications within and across borders
- International qualifications within NQF
- ✓ Investing in micro-credentials
- ✓ Increasing the engagement of stakeholders, specially employers, in the NQS
- Raising the awareness to the benefits of learning



