



The Qualifica Programme

Portugal

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Main Milestones

2000

- Centres for the Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences (RVCC Centres)
 - 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

- Creation of the National Qualifications System
- New Opportunities Centres network
 - Certification of secondary level of education
 - Certification of professional competences (2008)

2013

- Redesign the New Opportunities Centres and resize the national network
 - Creation of the Centres for Qualification and Vocational Education – CQEP

2017

- **Launch of the *Qualifica* programme**
 - Creation of the Qualifica Centres

The diagnosis in Portugal

- In Portugal there are still 895.140 adults (in a total of about 10 million inhabitants) with no education level and almost 500.000 people are illiterate (2011 Census);
- These adults have significant problems in basic skills (literacy, numeracy and digital skills) and face obstacles to get in the labour market and to achieve full social integration (in today's society of information and knowledge);
- 55% of the people aged 25 to 64 have not completed upper-secondary education (2015 Eurostat);
- According to several studies, the less qualified tend not to participate in LLL activities (the qualifications trap);
- Targeting adult education and LLL towards the low skilled was identified as one of the challenges for Portugal (Diagnostic Report - 2015, OECD Skills Strategy).

The *Qualifica* programme (a political priority of the Government)

In order to tackle the deficit of qualifications, in March 2016 the Government launched the *Qualifica* programme (an integrated strategy to foster the training and qualification of adults).

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;
- NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).



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;
- Contribute to 40% of 30-34 year-olds with higher education.

Key Tools

- *Qualifica* Centres and ET providers;
- *Qualifica* Passport;
- National Credit System for VET.



The *Qualifica* programme

Qualifica Centres

- They are structures that contribute to increase the qualification levels in Portugal through the process of RVCC, combined with training activities;
- They provide information, guidance and referral of adults (18 or over) and NEET to:
 - RVCC processes (academic and/or professional, levels 1 to 4 of the NQF)
 - and
 - education and training pathways
- These centres allow adults to certify prior learning that was acquired in formal, non-formal and informal contexts (Portugal has a VNFIL system since 2000);
- They play a key role in motivating adults for LLL and in the local networks for qualification (employers, ET providers, municipalities).



PROGRAMA
QUALIFICA

303 *Qualifica* Centres in 2017



NORTH

114

CENTER

85

LISBON

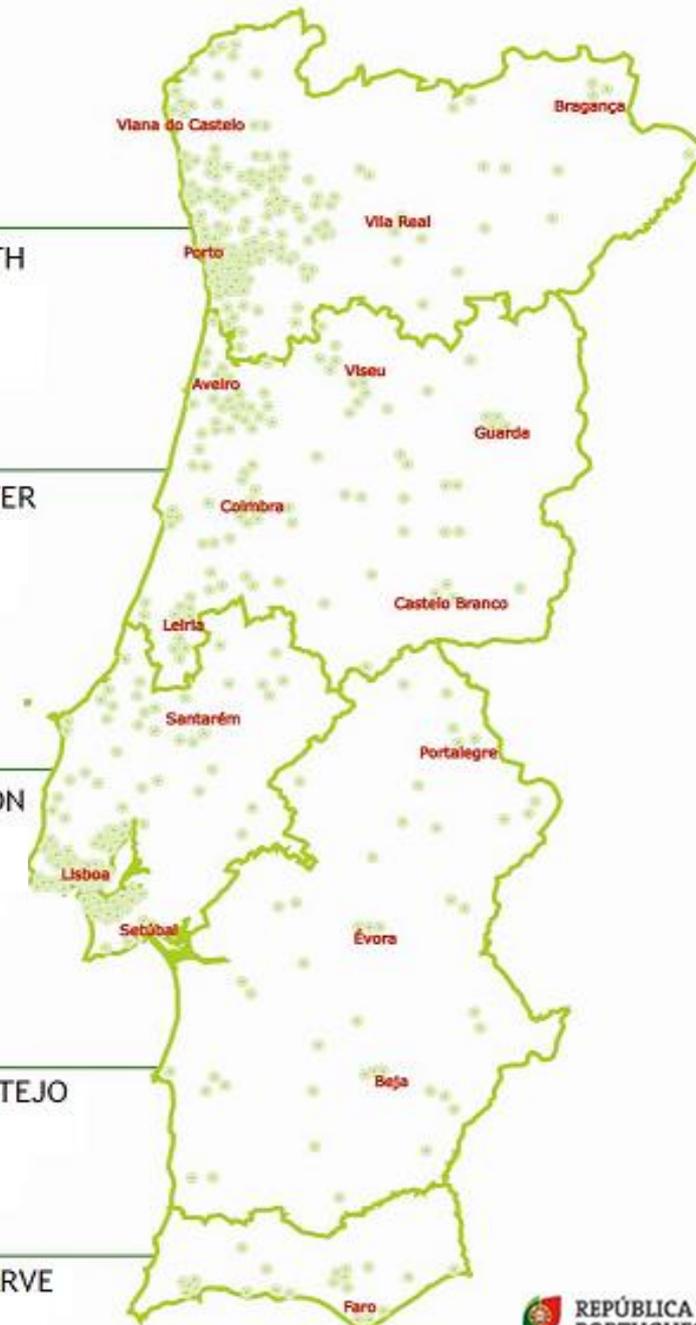
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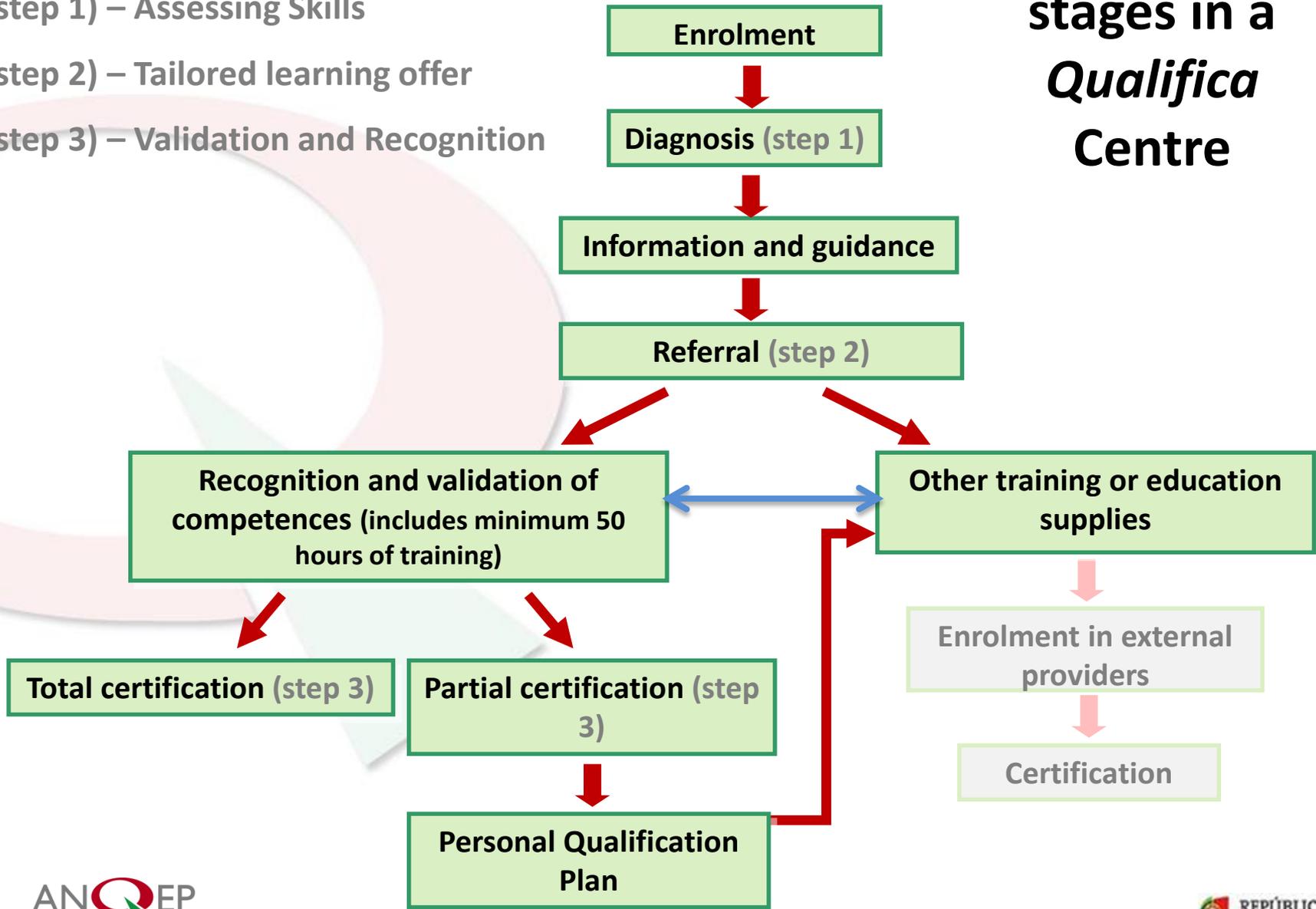


Upskilling Pathways

(step 1) – Assessing Skills

(step 2) – Tailored learning offer

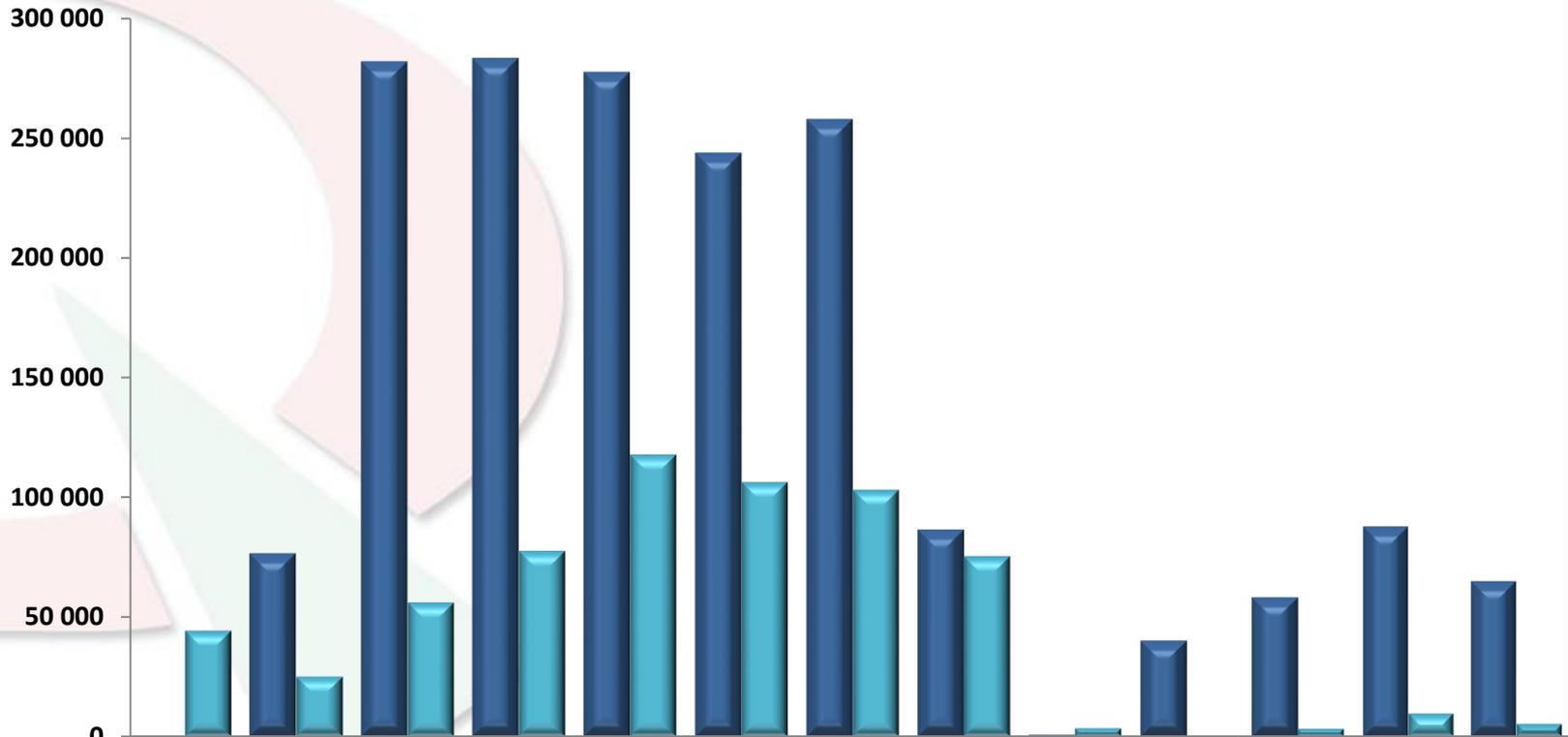
(step 3) – Validation and Recognition



Intervention stages in a *Qualifica* Centre

Results

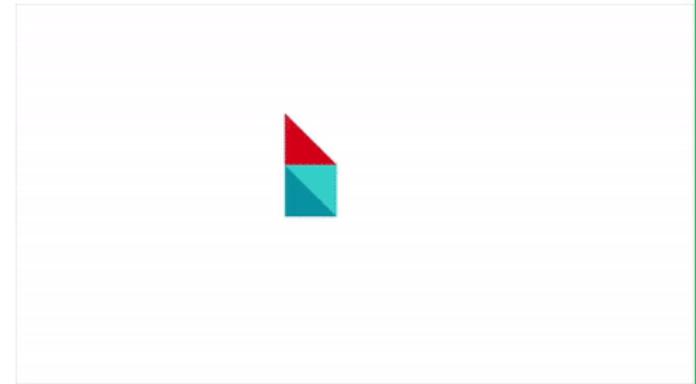
Enrolment in Centres and Certification in RVCC



	2001/05	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
■ Enrolment in Centres		77 246	281 981	283 399	277 619	243 971	257 951	87 147	776	40 492	58 742	88 366	65 450
■ Certification in RVCC	44 192	25 079	56 025	77 483	117 528	106 053	102 932	75 250	3 400	38	3 162	9 570	5 233

RVCC Centres	New Opportunities				Centres for Qualification and Vocational Education				Q. C.
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The *Qualifica* programme



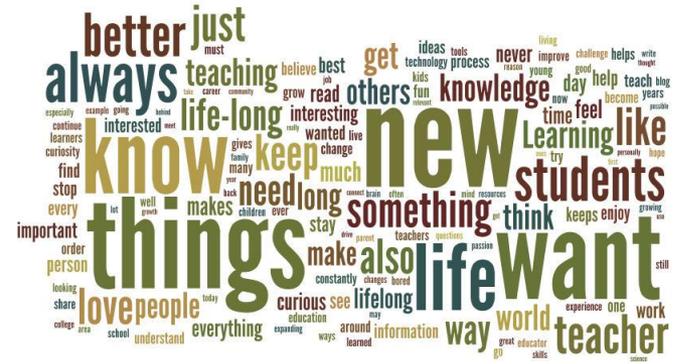
Qualifica Passport (2017) – a tool for step 2

- It is an online tool where qualifications and skills acquired are recorded;
- It provides guidance to pathways that lead to complete or to obtain a new qualification, taking into account the training already attained and the skills acquired;
- It is an important lifelong guidance tool;
- The Passport can be modified, updated and printed at any time, thus being a tool that accompanies the adult throughout his active life.

The *Qualifica* programme

National Credit System for VET (2017)

- It is in line with the ECVET system;
- The system is based on units of learning outcomes which are part of qualifications and can be assessed and validated;
- It enables learners to transfer and accumulate assessed learning outcomes;
- This enables learners to attain a qualification at their own pace by accumulating the required units, achieved in different countries and different contexts (formal, non-formal and informal);
- It facilitates the legibility and the flexibility of qualification pathways;



The *Qualifica* programme

The National Credit System for VET

- It will foster permeability among VET pathways and also with higher education;
- It enables the allocation of credit points to:
 - level 2, 4 and 5 qualifications of the NQF included in the NCQ;
 - certified training recorded in the online information system for the management of training provision (SIGO) complying with quality assurance criteria in place.

Final note:



- The *Qualifica* webportal (www.qualifica.gov.pt) aims at easing access to information, services and tools included in the Programme;
- A media campaign is ongoing to raise awareness to the benefits of LLL;
- Funding: ESF and state budget;
- The *Qualifica* programme is in line with the Recommendation Upskilling Pathways:

“Whether in employment, unemployed or economically inactive, the new “Upskilling Pathways” initiative will provide a fresh start to people in need of basic skills development by mapping and recognizing the knowledge and skills they already possess; enabling further education and training and ultimately lead to a new qualification.”
- In Portugal, the adult learning system is the focus of the Action Phase of the OECD Skills Strategy.

Projecting the future

Thank you!

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