

ETF meeting | Harnessing youth employability in the Western Balkans
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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 Life Long Learning (LLL) activities (the low-skills trap).

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 Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences – 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;
 - 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.

Key stakeholders of the Qualifica

- A diversified network of Qualifica Centres: Public Employment Services and VET Centres, Public Schools and Professional Schools, other organizations
- Increasing local engagement with community associations, municipalities, ET providers and employers.

Key tools of the Qualifica

- Qualifica webportal www.qualifica.gov.pt
- Qualifica Passport
www.passaporteququalifica.gov.pt

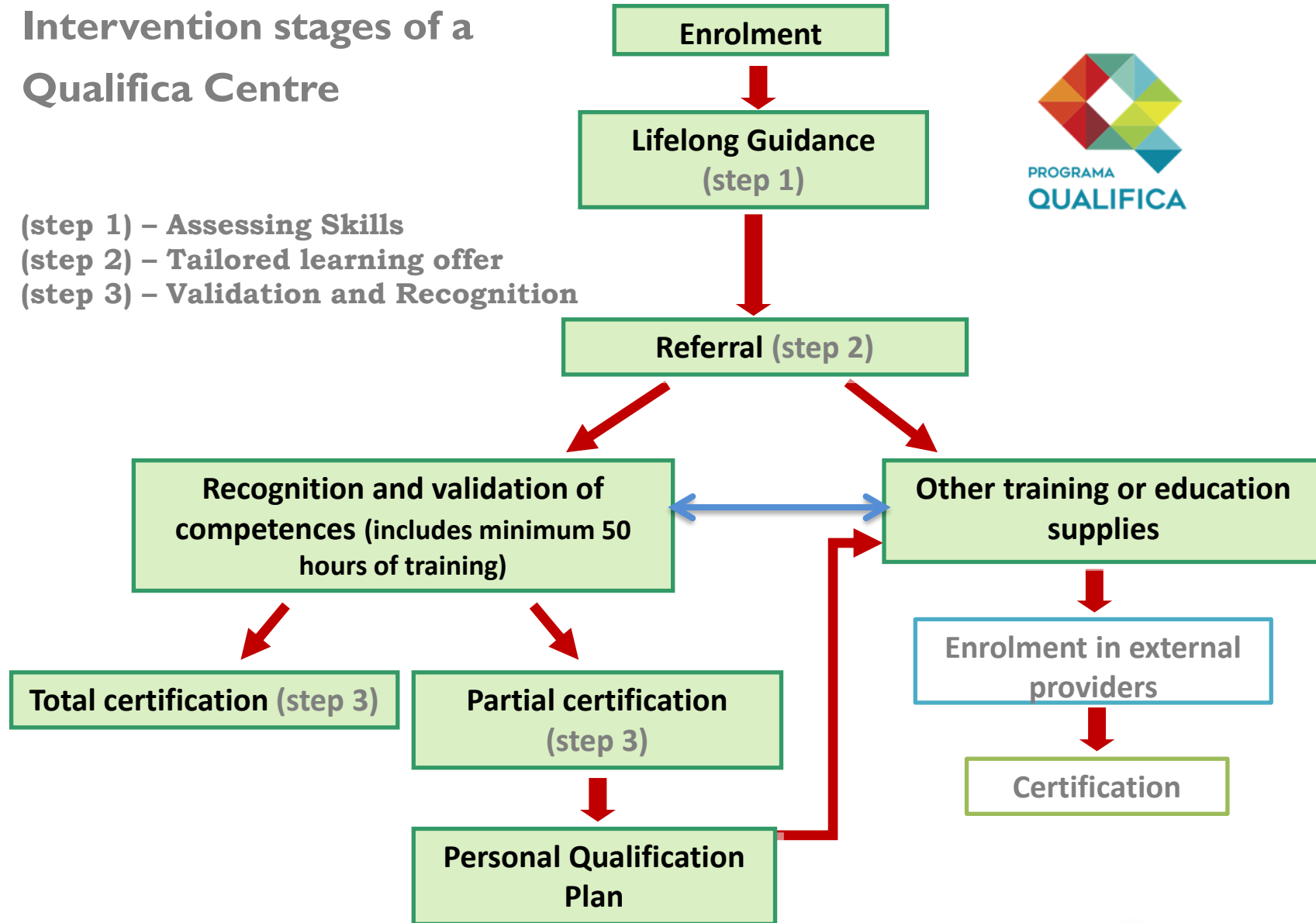
An online tool for LLL guidance using credit accumulation and transfer - ongoing developments based on the National Credit System for VET

Qualifica main results – 2017 – 2022 (January)

- 723.919 enrolments in Qualifica centres
- 87% (632.102) of them (enrolments) have already had their skills assessed (Lifelong Guidance and referral)
- Adults were predominantly (477.521) oriented to ET pathways (tailored learning offer)
- More than 150.000 adults are in RVCC processes and around 47% (72.146) attained a certification

Intervention stages of a Qualifica Centre

- (step 1) – Assessing Skills
- (step 2) – Tailored learning offer
- (step 3) – Validation and Recognition



Coherence within the National Qualifications System (NQS)

The NQF, in force since 2010 and referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), is a unique reference tool to classify all qualifications produced in the national education and training system, regardless of the access pathways (general education, VET, RVCC, higher education). Regarding RVCC, NQF levels 1 to 4 are only granted in the case of a full certification.

NQF Level	Qualifications	EQF Level
Level 1	2 nd cycle of basic education obtained via general education, VET pathways or RVCC	Level 1
Level 2	3 rd cycle of basic education (lower-secondary education) obtained via general education, VET pathways or RVCC	Level 2
Level 3	Upper-secondary education obtained via general education, VET pathways or RVCC	Level 3
Level 4	Upper-secondary education obtained via general education, VET pathways or RVCC	Level 4
Level 5	Post-secondary non-higher education qualification with credits to pursue higher education studies	Level 5
Level 6	Bachelor degree	Level 6
Level 7	Master degree	Level 7
Level 8	Doctorate degree	Level 8

Strengths and challenges in Adult Education, 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);
 - return on skills and employability (especially when associated with training).
- **Challenges:**
 - achieving wide consensus regarding AE as a 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;
 - raising awareness on the benefits of learning so as to go beyond motivational barriers.

Thank you!

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