

‘ANTICIPATING THE NEEDS FOR INTERMEDIATE QUALIFICATIONS’

STUDIES CARRIED OUT

- **IN THE NATIONAL QUALIFICATION SYSTEM FRAMEWORK**
- **BY THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION AND TEACHING (ANQEP);**
- **WITH 3 IMPLEMENTATION AND ANALYSIS LEVELS: NATIONAL, NUT II AND NUT III**

NUT (Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics)

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

•**AIM OF THE STUDIES:** to promote and support a more strategic approach to investing in vocational training by means of relevant information and working with the relevant stakeholders (employers, schools, and public policymakers)

•**THE STUDIES FOLLOW A COMMON METHODOLOGY AND ANALYTICAL MODEL** – they were created by the ANQEP and are still being developed with the contribution of the technical staff, carrying out studies in various territories

•**WHAT ARE INTERMEDIATE QUALIFICATIONS:** the qualifications correspond to levels 4 and 5 of the European Qualification Framework. They can be obtained after having completed an initial training programme for a double, secondary education certification (professional and scholastic)

•Level 4 (9 years of school + 3 years, secondary education, as a double certification);

•Level 5 (double certification: post-secondary education, not higher education) can be obtained by going to:

- professional courses at school (state and private) protected by the Ministry of Education;
- professional courses in Vocational Schools (founded in 1983), also protected by the Ministry of Education;
- apprenticeship courses in the IEFP training centres or in private organisations supported by the IEFP;
- professional courses in sectorial schools, for example focusing on tourism, agriculture, etc.

FIELDS OF APPLICATION OF THE STUDIES

Decentralisation opportunity of the definition process of the intermediate qualification offer

Possibility of assessing the studies with regional development strategies

Based on a methodologically approved base diagnostic

Space to promote a planning and social dialogue culture

Promote a more strategic approach to investment in vocational training, **namely by producing intermediate qualifications**

Main objectives of the regional studies

1 Produce, share, and give access to relevant information and knowledge on the demand, need, and research of intermediate qualifications in the respective regions;

2 Promote a more integrated and coherent planning of the double certification course network, namely the vocational course network, and support social dialogue;

3 Identify variables that frame, strengthen or influence the relevance and quality of the intermediate qualification offers;

4 Favour the participation of the different stakeholders in planning the training offer, strengthening the coherence among the offers and improving the decentralised planning process quality

5 Promote the empowerment of the regional system of stakeholders in planning and managing training and educational offers

WHAT RESULTS CAN WE EXPECT FROM A REGIONAL STUDY ON ANTICIPATING THE NEED FOR INTERMEDIATE QUALIFICATIONS?

EXPECTED RESULTS

•The study guarantees the *production and sharing of relevant information on the needs and search, as well as the dynamics of intermediate qualifications (and skills) in the regional labour market and offer indications that guide the production of qualifications* (priorities and key areas)

•A proposal of a regional professional course network created together with the schools and training bodies that offer level 4 and 5 courses. The proposal follows some criteria (intervals in the number of classes) defined at a central level and based on the national study.

Results which favour:

- *A more strategic positioning by the different stakeholders in the system*
- *The decentralisation in planning the syllabus*

WORK MODULES INTEGRATING THESE STUDIES

1 Base diagnostic module

2 Planning module

3 Regional in-depth module

Information supporting the management of the National Qualification System (profile and range of qualifications)

Module 1: base diagnostic

Statistical information on the recent labour market dynamics

Quantitative information on the evolution perspectives of the qualification search

Qualitative information on the evolution perspective of the qualification search

Module 1: base diagnostic (cont.) – 3 DIAGNOSTIC PILLARS

Pillar 1

Calculating a panel of indicators on the labour market

Source: Staff Plan/Unemployment registry

Type of indicators: relevance of the job based on the profession;

Dynamism of the job based on the profession;

Relevance and dynamism of the job based on the profession and age;

Relevance and evolution of unemployment by profession...

Pillar 2

Prevision and identification of the search qualification dynamics

Source: employer survey; online job offers

Type of indicators: recruitment intentions based on the qualification;

Frequency of the qualification offers based on the profession

PILLAR 3

Identifying search qualification dynamics and need for skills

Source: interviews, analysis of strategic documents on the regional economic development and employment

Workshops with employers

Workshops with stakeholders in the education and training system

Type of indicators:

Most wanted intermediate qualifications

Professions with more recruiting difficulty

Skill profile wanted by employers

Offer mismatch

MODULE 1: BASE DIAGNOSTIC BASE (cont.) – RESULTS OR PRODUCTS

Diagnostic (3/4 months in the regional studies – NUT III)

Retrospective and perspective diagnostic of the employment dynamic and the search tendencies for qualifications offer for young intermediate skilled people

Assessment of the current training offers in the network of schools and the relevance in light of the expected short-term and medium-term needs

An investment and priorities offer in producing intermediate qualifications

A reflection on the conditions, context and politics associated to the relevance and coherence of the network of double certification offers

Recommendations aiming to strengthen the importance of professional training;

A map of relevance of qualifications, the synopsis of interviews, working meetings and workshops and, the results of the summary of the employer surveys - documents to be sent to ANQEP

Module 2: Planning

Planning module

Order of the summarising information on the diagnostic of relevant stakeholders (demand and supply of qualifications)

Identifying priorities and defining goals

3 main dimensions

Attractiveness of the qualification offer

Dynamism of the qualification offers

Transition to the labour market:

Saturation level of the labour market

Employability of graduates

MODULE 2: PLANNING (cont) – RESULT OR PRODUCTS (applicable to regional studies)

Planning and supporting social dialogue (duration: equal or lower than 5 months)

(work with schools and training bodies to gather and organise the professional course offer to be protected by legislation)

A proposal of professional course networks in the respective region, for the following academic year;

Support to the consultation of the network with the participation of schools, training bodies and responsible people at the Ministry;

MODULE 3: REGIONAL MODULE

- Consists in the previous models developed in a region (NUT III). A deeper look in a region of the diagnosis

- The clients who commissioned the studies are the intermunicipal communities (Groups of local parishes/municipalities) –

Observation: the municipalities in the recent past had decentralised powers in matters of education

SOME MATTERS WHICH ARE DEBATED AND ANALISED ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO THE CORE THEMES OF THE STUDIES

- Social search (families and students) and the enhanced social nature of the double certification offer;
- The social enhancement of (some) professions;
- Educational and career consultancy;
- Communication between employers and schools; the labour market jargon (skills) and training jargon (qualifications)
- Producing qualifications on the agenda of municipalities and the intermunicipal groups.

SOME TRENDS

1. Slump in number of students registered for SECONDARY EDUCATION (Pordata, 2009-2015):

➤ **Mainland Portugal: -22%**

➤ **IN 2015, 372,410 STUDENTS SIGNED UP FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION**

2. % of young people signed up in professional programmes (secondary education) out of the total of students (young people and adults)

➤ **Mainland Portugal: 39,4%**