

Portugal: Certified Modular Training

Introduction

Title: Certified Modular Training

Country: Portugal

Type of tool: Certified Modular Training is embedded in the national lifelong learning actions, providing the opportunity for adults to acquire more school and professional skills aiming at their (re)insertion or progression in the labour market.

Whenever an adult successfully completes a modular training, a qualification certificate is issued indicating all units of competence or short-term training completed successfully. Those who wish to continue studying in higher education will be able to do so after making a final validation of their training course to a technical committee, which issues an opinion aiming to obtain the final certificate of qualifications and diploma. The technical committee is responsible for evaluating the course taken in the various entities in which the adult has undergone his modular training, namely checking the conformity of the respective process and issuing opinions for the issuance of the final certificate of qualifications and diploma.

Target group: Employees aged 18 years or more, with qualifications equal to or higher than the 4th year of schooling for modular training integrated in level 2 courses, and school qualification equal or higher than the 9th year of schooling for modular training integrated in level 4 courses.

Potential transferability: This type of courses can add training and RVCC, depending on the learners' background.

The Certified Modular Training courses allow updating and improving the theoretical and practical knowledge of the Portuguese adult population, as well as raising their levels of school and professional qualification.

Based on the National Qualifications Catalogue (which integrates the qualification referential for double certification courses – school and professional), this programme is characterised by its **adaptation** to different training modalities, target audiences, methodologies, training contexts and forms of validation.

Each Certified Modular Training course has a **curricular structure** based on training units (training subjects linked to a given profession – e.g. electricity referential has several training units, such as Electricity and Electronic Circuits, Electric Machines' Automation, Reading and interpretation of schematics, etc.). They may correspond to basic training component (personal, behavioural and organisational domains), technological training component (development of practical activities inherent to a given profession), or both.

Certified Modular Training composed by training units integrated on level 2 of NQF training referential are intended for adults that did not complete the primary education; training units integrated on level 4 are intended for adults with school qualifications equal to secondary school.

Organisation and description of the tool

Implementation

Adult education and training courses (EFA Courses) have become central for the qualification of adults, aimed at promoting the reduction of their qualification deficits and thus stimulating more active citizenship, and to improve their levels of employability and social and professional inclusion.

Initiated with an experimental network implemented only by selected training entities, and applied to basic education courses, according to a double certification logic, the EFA Courses offer was progressively extended to include a growing number of promoters and adults in training.

In this context, the launch of the New Opportunities Initiative was a fundamental milestone for the expansion of this offer, either by further increasing the number of basic level courses covered by them or by creating a new offer for the secondary level, and allowing to integrate courses of school habilitation in this offer.

Description of the target group

Employees aged 18 years or more, with qualifications equal to or higher than the 4th year of schooling for modular training integrated in level 2 courses, and school qualification equal or higher than the 9th year of schooling for modular training integrated in level 4 courses.

Young people under 18 years old can apply for this programme if they prove they are working or are in educational centres supervised by the Ministry of Justice.

Unemployed people can also be part of the training, but must hold a qualification equal to or higher than the 12th year of schooling.

Policy context

Certified Modular Trainings are an answer to the low qualification levels of the Portuguese population, and were influenced by the growing importance given to **lifelong learning** by the European Union. It values not only the acquired knowledge, but also the different existent learning settings (formal, non-formal and informal contexts).

The Adult Education and Training, better known as Certified Modular Training, are an education and training offer for adults who want to raise their qualifications. These Certified Modular Trainings are developed according to a dual certification courses catalogue.

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Impact for assesses

Link

<http://www.anqep.gov.pt/aaaDefault.aspx?f=1&back=1&codigono=56265808AAAAAAAAAA>