

## Portugal: “Portuguese for All” Programme

### Introduction

**Title:** “Portuguese for All” Programme

**Country:** Portugal

**Type of tool:** It is an initiative that provides immigrants with a set of Portuguese language courses, free of charge. These courses eventually provide better access to the labour market and a more effective integration once Portuguese nationality or a permanent residence permit can be obtained.

**Target group:** It is intended for any immigrant citizen, employed or unemployed, provided that his or her situation is regularised in Portugal. Therefore, foreign citizens, including refugees.

**Potential transferability:** The referentials/short-training units can be adapted to other languages.

### Organisation and description of the tool

This programme consists of certified training courses covering **level A2 - Basic user** (intended for non-native adults), as well as **level B2 - Independent user** (intended for non-native adults with acquired A2-level proficiency level skills, who wish to continue to improve their skills in Portuguese language and culture), according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

These courses are organised by short-term training units, specific for each level of conversation. These units are based on referentials.

For **level A2**, the referential is called “Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages - The basic user in the host country”. The short-term training units are named: Me and the world of work (25 hours), My past and my present (25 hours) and Communication and life in society (25 hours).

For **level B2**, the referentials are “Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages - The Independent User in the Host Country “ and “Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages - Suggestions for Activities and Exercises”. The short-training units are named: Me, Society and Culture (50 hours), Me and Others (25 hours), Cultural News (25 hours), Society and Life Projects (50 hours) and Topicality (25 hours).

Throughout the courses, students develop several exercises to assess written and oral comprehension (text analysis, presentations, group discussions, etc.).

For each level (A2 and B2) there is a **final test** where students are assessed in terms of knowledge of the Portuguese language. For level B2, there are two tests: one written (90 minutes) and one oral test (10 minutes). The total score is 100 points (for written comprehension, written expression, grammar and vocabulary, oral comprehension and oral expression).

### Implementation

The organisation, the references of competences, the access requirements and the timetable of the courses follow the reference Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages, homologated by the members of the Government responsible for the area of education. The references of competences that integrate the reference referred to in the previous number are included in the National Qualifications Catalogue.

## Implementation

The courses are promoted by the public schools and by the training centres of the Institute of Employment and Vocational Training, I. P.

The courses are taught by **professional teachers** in the area of Portuguese teaching, preferably with specific training in teaching Portuguese as a foreign language or second language, or by trainers duly certified in the same area, selected for this purpose by educational establishments and training centres.

**Certification** of courses is carried out by educational establishments or by the Institute of Employment and Professional Training, I. P., in the case of courses promoted in the training centres of this Institute.

The achievement of the A2 level of linguistic proficiency of the elementary or higher user proves knowledge of the Portuguese language, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph b) of paragraph 2 of article 25 of Decree-Law no. 237-A / 2006, of December 14, which approves the Portuguese Nationality Regulation, and in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs e) of paragraph 1 of article 64 and g) of paragraph 1 of article 74 of Regulatory Decree n 84/2007 of 5 November, which regulates the legal regime of entry, stay, departure and removal of foreigners from the national territory.

## Description of the target group

It is intended for any immigrant citizen, employed or unemployed, provided that his or her situation is regularised in Portugal. Therefore, **foreign citizens, including refugees**.

For those who are 15+ years of age, the programme is available in public schools; for those older than 18 years, they are available in training centres of Employment and at the Professional Training Institute.

## Policy context

The migration of people, in the overwhelming majority of cases for reasons related to the search for work and better living conditions, is a constituent element of contemporary societies, the result of a phenomenon that is no longer intense and diversified, as well as the ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds of migrant citizens, as well as the way in which they are perceived by themselves and, above all, by the societies that welcome them. With a double direction, it involves those who arrive and those who welcome and integrate, demanding the effort of both parties to share and understand habits, customs, values, religions and languages.

As of recent, the issue of integration has made systematically more frequent appearances in the European political and public debate on immigration. The right to learn the language of the host country represents not only a means of access to citizenship but also a vehicle for the enjoyment of other rights, as well as a necessary tool for the understanding and fulfilment of the duties connected to citizenship.

Knowing the language of the host country is not only a necessary and indispensable condition to be autonomous, it is also, and above all, a condition of personal, family, cultural and professional development. Their ignorance constitutes an inequality that weakens people, making them dependent and therefore more vulnerable. Being able to learn the language of the host country is to be able to acquire the means of communicating, interacting, understanding, defending oneself, confronting another culture and other codes, and being able to choose to open oneself to others. It is necessary to speak, understand, read, write in Portuguese to access the labour market, find accommodation, ask for permission to stay in the country, be able to follow the schooling of children, access health care, understand and participate in social life, politics and cultural. One must be proficient in Portuguese to act in Portugal, exercising a full and conscious citizenship.

In Portugal these concerns are not recent, and for some years there have been offers of

## Policy context

Portuguese courses for foreigners. However, given the developments which have taken place in recent years, not only at Community level, in particular with the publication of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, but also at national level, more specifically with the approval of the legal system of the National System Decree-Law no. 396/2007, of 31 December, it is now necessary to create the courses of Portuguese for Speakers (adults) of Other Languages.

Still in the national plan, and in a framework of change of the legal framework of immigration, the **Plan for the Integration of Immigrants** is published in 2007, through the Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 63-A / 2007, of May 3. In the set of measures included in the Plan are measures to enhance the teaching of Portuguese as a non-maternal language, as a factor that generates greater equality of opportunity for all. In addition, the **Nationality Law** and the legal regime for entry, stay, departure and removal of foreigners from the national territory require, as one of the requirements for the acquisition of Portuguese nationality and for the granting of permanent residence permit and the acquisition of resident status, the knowledge of the Portuguese language, as provided for in article 25 of Decree-Law no. 237-A / 2006, of December 14, and 80 and 126 of Law no. 23/2007 of 4 July.

It is in this context that the present ordinance arises with the aim of creating the courses of Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages, based on the reference Portuguese for Speakers of Other Languages - The Elementary User in the Host Country, framing them in the National System of Qualifications, namely by insertion in the National Qualifications Catalog and by the adoption of the model of certificate of qualifications. This ordinance also intends to respond to the requirements of legal regimes for the acquisition of Portuguese nationality and for the granting of permanent residence authorization and long-term resident status, as regards the requirement of knowledge of the Portuguese language.

There is no impact assessment of this programme; its purpose is to have more social and inclusive foundations.

## Impact for assesses

The programme is managed by the Office of the High Commissioner for Migration (ACM), as the Intermediate Human Operational Potential Program (POPH) / QREN), with co-financing of the responsibility of the European Social Fund.

Learning the language of the host country favours the social and professional inclusion of immigrants. Their knowledge generates greater equality of opportunity for all, facilitates the exercise of citizenship and enhances enriching qualifications for those who arrive and those who welcome.

## Link

<https://www.acm.gov.pt/pt/-/programa-ppt-portugues-para-todos>

## Personal comments

“We live in a time of great circulation of migrants. The High Commissioner for Migration, I.P. has, in this sense, been investing in an ever wider range of support and reception services for the migrant citizen” (citation of the High Commissioner’s website for migrations).