



Portugal – National Report on Quality of LLL

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January 2012

N.B.: The report provides a picture of the current state of play in relation to university lifelong learning quality policy and legislation in each country. Any views expressed are those of the author

- National policy/legislation

Title – Agência para a Aprendizagem ao Longo da Vida; Description – Agency created to coordinate the European LLL programs; Summary – N/A; Impact – Coordinates the information about the LLL programs and proposals; Dissemination/Success – N/A; Dates - 2008;

<http://www.proalv.pt/>

Title – Espaço Europeu de Aprendizagem ao Longo da Vida; Description – Synthesis of the European Legislation about LLL; Summary – N/A; Impact – Provides a concise description of the LLL in Portuguese; Dissemination/Success – N/A; Dates - 2009;

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/education_training_youth/lifelong_learning/c11054_pt.htm

Title – Associação das Universidades Portuguesas para a Educação Contínua; Description – Legal organization with 14 public universities and the Catholic University presided by Technical University of Lisboa; Summary – N/A; Dissemination/Success – N/A; Dates- 2001;

www.up.pt/aupec

Title – Conferência Internacional sobre a Aprendizagem ao Longo da Vida; Description – LLL in HE, LLL and distance learning, LLL and competence recognition and LLL projects; Summary – Two days of presentations from Portuguese and foreign experts in LLL; Impact – N/A; Dissemination/Success – N/A; Dates – 12 and 13 October 2010;

<http://www.uab.pt/web/guest/estudar-na-uab/oferta-pedagogica/alv>

Title – Working Reports “Education and Training 2010” Portugal; Description – Overview in Portuguese (2009) and in English (2007) of the changes occurred in the education system including HE; Summary – N/A; Impact - Public; Dissemination/Success – N/A; Dates – 2007 (EN) and 2009 (PT);

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/nationalreport08/pt07_en.pdf



http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/natreport09/portugal_pt.pdf

Title – Framework of Higher Education Qualifications; Description – Overview of the HE system in Portugal; Summary – N/A; Impact – N/A; Dissemination/Success – N/A; Dates - 2009;

http://www.mctes.pt/archive/doc/FHEQ_in_Portugal.pdf

Title – Agência Nacional para a Qualificação; Description – ANQ coordinates the implementation of education and vocational training of adults and ensures development of the national system of validation and recognition of competences; Summary – N/A; Impact – <http://www.anq.gov.pt/default.aspx?access=1&e=1>; Dates – 2008..

<http://www.anq.gov.pt/>

- Outline of QA practices in the sector as known by participants

In its transversal dimension, the National Lifelong Learning Strategy seeks to reach every age group and to include every form of education, training and learning in formal, informal and non-formal environments, thereby justifying the definition of Lifelong Learning (LLL) as a culture in which every citizen learns “from the cradle to the grave”. Portugal has thus decided to bet on and invest in the qualification of the Portuguese population, by promoting a lifelong learning culture that reduces the existing deficit of qualifications, increases equity, stimulates and responds to the need to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship, and reduces the disparities in competencies in the labour market.

A number of initiatives have been launched in response to all these challenges, which involve the low level of qualification of the active members of the Portuguese population, like the New Opportunities Initiative, which has established the following goals:

- a) Make the 12th year of school attendance the minimum threshold reference of training.
- b) Negotiate with social partners to create the conditions needed to make it viable for active employed people to participate in training.
- c) Promote the use of ICT within the context of LLL methods.

The National Lifelong Learning Strategy is also present in the priorities and policies for Higher Education in Portugal. These aim, for instance, at diversifying learning opportunities, as well as attracting new publics and ensuring integration and qualification of Portuguese HE institutions within the European area. There are incentives created to recruit new students through coordination with banks to provide at low rates loans to students that are willing to attend HE. Some courses were created in the technological area aiming at qualifications of level 5 of the EQF. It was also created the possibility of access to HE to adults over 23 years with no formal qualifications and with recognition of informal and prior learning through exam, portfolio and interview.

- Where present, list and function of national QA agencies

Currently the agency A3ES, Agencia de Avaliação e Acreditação do Ensino Superior (<http://www.a3es.pt/en>) is in charge of the QA in HE. A good description is made at the

website. There is not an agency for the QA of LLL in HE. There is also the Agencia Nacional de Qualificação (ANQ) referred above that accredits VET for adults. There is also an agency for LLL (<http://www.proalv.pt/>) in 2008 that is managed jointly by the Ministries of Education and Economy. This agency was created as the result of the European policy on LLL. However, most of the European and national funding for LLL was managed by the Ministry of Labour, now Ministry of Economy. It has a large institute IEFP (www.iefp.pt) that has practically the monopoly of the public funding for LLL. This institute, that is self-regulated, addresses training for levels 1 to 5 of the EQF. One of the major actions of IEFP is to promote training and salaries to unemployed so they may acquire new competences. The HE sector does not receive funding from its ministry for LLL programs. This is a major obstacle to promote LLL within HE sector since there is no financial support. There was, in the past, several initiatives from universities that created their own programs and courses for LLL around the beginning of the century. An association was formally created in 2001 comprehending the public universities: AUPEC – Associação das Universidades Portuguesas para a Educação Contínua (www.up.pt/aupec). Due to the increasing financial constraints, as a consequence of the constant public financing, universities have practically abandoned the involvement in the LLL area. Most of the existing activities derive from private funding or from European projects. There are statements and declarations from university administrations but they these are mostly rhetorical and politically correct. In the near future it is not expected a major change in the LLL policies of the universities.

- System of professional accreditation for educators in the lifelong learning sector

There is no system to accredit professionally educators in LLL at HE level. That is done at levels 1 to 5 of the European Qualification Framework by ANQ referred above. With the new government elected in June 2011 the institutions and its functions are being reformatted and it is not clear for me what is the current panorama outside the HE sector.