

Intellectual Output 1 Survey

Each partner has to provide a short description of National profile of adult education (1 page) according to the results collected within the questionnaires in its country.

The Portuguese case.

62% of people between 25 and 64 have not completed high school. It is the third highest percentage in the OECD. Without investment in increasing the supply and quality of adult education the country will not be able to have a flexible and skilled workforce.

Portugal, having low professional qualification and educational degrees amongst their adult population along with high early dropout rates, needs to respond to the knowledge-society challenges in an urgent way. In this context is introduced in Portugal the New Opportunities Initiative with the Education and Training for Adults courses, which is extended to Public schools in order to increase the learning possibilities for these targeted adults.

In recent years, the education of adults presents an overview of irregularities with ups and downs. Neglected, despised and neglected by our politicians, which focused on the impending issues of compulsory education neglect the opportunities that are necessary for those who have left to pursue studies by life circumstances, or for not having seized the opportunity arose in his time. However, many adults with low education desire to return to the classroom to learn to read and write in order to acquire more knowledge and skills relevant to life.

The figures released PORDATA Portuguese private database show a dismaying picture, as if illiteracy decreases substantially between 1970 (25.7%) and 2011 (5.2%), currently Portugal remains in last place in the table at the European level. Given the above, it is for the protection, through hard and fruitful work, implement strategies in order to reduce this reality. It notes that these last six years have not worked literacy certificate courses for adults, so that this picture remains roughly the same.

The same source reports that 23.8% of the Portuguese population aged 15 years or more completed only the 1st cycle, 11.2% the 2nd cycle and 20.5% the 3rd cycle. The latter figure, along with the percentage of individuals with secondary education and post-secondary or higher education, shows an increase, which in itself is positive. However, this ascension process will only continue guarantees if it is supported by a platform of permanent and stable measures facilitate this goal.

Perhaps concerned about the figures above and under the motto "Learning Pays", the government created new opportunities centers (CNO), extinct in March 2013, having given way to the centers for qualification and vocational education (CQEP) "in building bridges between the worlds of education, training and employment, in a perspective of learning throughout life", under the Ministry of education, Ministry of Economy and employment and the Ministry of Solidarity and Social Security. The objectives of the two programs are identical, although CQEP admit people over 15 years of age, in addition obviously adults.

The CNO were open to numerous entities that applied the law differently, often with departments interpretations. This tripartite disarticulation has also led to a lack of harmony between the entities that were on the ground, resulting in relative discredit, especially when the program was charged, how often unfairly, of facilities given the "speed" with which it was completed.

The successor to the CNO, the CQEP began to function fully in the academic year 2013/14. However, adult education, drastically reduced, much to blame for the lack of funding (EU funds ...) prevented the allocation of physical and human resources to its normal operation, and was therefore relatively scarce the respective training. What is the advantage of (apparent) change? It was essential?

Public schools and institutions (educational) financed by the State have a responsibility to contribute to address these older people, teachers of life, but who cannot read or write, or have low education (their school careers were short or intermittent) and intend to raise it.