



PORTUGAL

WISEs FRAMEWORKS

NATIONAL CONTEXT

WISEs are one of the most important adult education providers in Portugal, where social and employment policies are only at a national level. But there is no official recognition of WISEs.

TYPOLOGY OF WISEs: LEGAL STATUSES, LEGAL FORMS AT NATIONAL LEVEL

There are two types of *de facto* WISEs, which are social economy organisations working into two different areas: counselling services (that support people into the regular labour market) and the production of goods and services.

There is a lack of legal recognition of WISEs as well as no official data.

There was a specific law for WISEs between 1998 and 2015 that addressed employment for vulnerable groups.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF WISEs (Public recognition of the WISEs sector)

Social economy includes *de facto* WISEs having at least one of two special statutes – IPSS Statute (Private Institutions of Social Solidarity), and ONGPD Statute (non-governmental organisations for the disabled) that is an add to the legal form of social economy (which is a recognition from the State and provides subsidies). Portugal also has a special legal form – Social solidarity cooperatives – which have the status equivalent to IPSS.

EXISTING NETWORKS OF WISEs (Networks and mutual support of WISEs)

There is no WISEs network at the moment in Portugal, but RESIT - Rede de Empresas Sociais de Inserção pelo Trabalho was a WISE network that existed from 2011 to 2020.

FUNDING SOURCES

- Subsidy for the recruitment of disadvantaged workers, at national level, for all WISEs as Typology 3 (Incentive ATIVAR.PT; Internship ATIVA.PT; Employment-Integration Contract + & Integration internships).
- Social insurance costs for the disadvantaged workers employed, reduced or covered by subsidies, at national level, for de facto WISEs (to support the employment on the open market).
- Financial support for the creation of the own employment and technical support in the area of entrepreneurship, at national level, for de facto WISEs (Investe Jovem programme).

Furthermore, in Portugal there are some private funding available for WISEs, mainly from the banking sector such as the Incorpora programme or the Financing and Support for Combating Social Exclusion (FACES) prize. There is also the possibility of donations under the responsibility of the Montepio Foundation.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF ADULT LEARNING

NATIONAL STRATEGIES OR LEGISLATION

Launch of the Qualifica Programme in 2016.

OBJECTIVES / TARGET GROUPS

National qualification system aims to promote the generalisation of secondary education as the minimum education of the people as well as the instruments necessary for its implementation. The goal is to make it mandatory for school-age youth to finish 12th grade or attend school until they are 18 years old and for adults it is necessary to increase basic training, generating the personal and professional skills needed for the labour market.

SUPPORT MEASURES

Creation of a Qualifica Centres network composed on 310 centres and of three instruments:

- “Qualifica Centres”, specialised in adult qualification, geared towards information, counselling and referrals for education and vocational training.
- The “Qualifica Passport”, a (digital) instrument for guidance and individual registration of qualifications and competences.
- The “Credit System” that allows the attribution of credit points to qualifications included in the National Qualifications Catalogue and also to other certified training.

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- WISEs need more support and specific law and policies to do their job on integrating vulnerable people through work.
- A paradox between the social and economic dimensions of WISEs. It is indeed more difficult for WISEs that do not support people with disabilities as they don't benefit from the same support. There is a need of a new legal framework.