

Quality Assurance (QA) in Initial VET and Adult Education and Training in Portugal

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Quality Assurance – VET

1. Framework

Within the scope of the **National Qualifications System**, ANQEP has the following attributions:

- Design and permanently **update the National Catalogue of Qualifications**, an instrument which regulates non-higher level double certification qualifications;
- **Regulate and foster the offer of double certification** vocational education and training aimed at young people and adults, (...) and the system for the recognition, validation and certification of Competences (RVCC), in the school and professional scope, aimed at adults;

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2. Coherence within the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and the National Catalogue of Qualifications (NCQ)

NCQ standards for:

- **VET qualifications** → double certification and non-HE → levels 2, 4 and 5 of NQF/EQF
- **School qualifications** → second-chance general education for adults, non-HE → levels 2 and 3 of NQF/EQF

Include

- ✓ Recognition, Validation and Certification of Competences (RVCC)
- ✓ Adult Education and Training Courses (AET)
- ✓ Certified Modular Training (CMT)

NCQ thus regulates educational programs and VNFIL in all VET and AL pathways offering those qualifications in formal E&T system

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1. Legal framework

- **External evaluation of VET provision for young people** is regulated by Decree-Law No 92/2014, 20 June.
 - Establishes that private VET providers promoting professional courses should have a Quality Assurance System (60th art.);
 - Bounds the Quality Assurance Systems to EQAVET;
 - Charges ANQEP to “Promote, follow up and support the implementation of quality assurance systems (...) and certify them as EQAVET systems” (61st art., paragraph b).
- Despite the focus of the Decree-Law 92/2014 being on private schools, **ANQEP decided to create a model that includes all VET providers that implement professional courses. Nevertheless, its implementation is mandatory only for the private VET schools.**

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2. EQAVET model

- Quality assurance in VET provision in Portugal is aligned with EQAVET - the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for Vocational Education and Training, emerged from the 2009 recommendation of the European Parliament and Council
- **ANQEP, I.P. is EQAVET National Reference Point (NRP)** and has a driving role in **EQAVET implementation process**. It is responsible for the certification of schools (awarding them the EQAVET Seal).

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3. QA aims

- VET providers are expected to **foster a culture of continuous improvement** to strengthen the confidence in professional courses, contributing to:
 - Increase the attractiveness of VET, particularly professional courses, among young people and parents/guardians;
 - Increase the credibility of the VET system, specially of the professional courses;
 - Reinforce employers and other stakeholders' involvement in the quality assurance processes of professional courses;
 - Improve professional courses notoriety among the general population.

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4. QA at VET provider level

- The EQAVET Framework includes **10 reference indicators** which can support the evaluation and quality improvement of the VET system and **help VET providers** to analyse their approach to quality assurance.
- **3 indicators are prioritized by ANQEP** (to promote educational success, youth employability and improve school-employment transition pathways):
 - **Indicator 4: Completion rate in VET programmes** - number of people having successfully completed VET programs.

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4. QA at VET provider level

- 3 indicators are prioritized by ANQEP (cont.):
 - **Indicator 5: Placement rate of graduates from VET programmes**
 - a) VET learners' destination at a designated point in time after completion of training;
 - b) Number of employed learners at a designated point in time after completion of training (12-36 months after completion).
 - **Indicator 6: Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace**
 - a) Information on occupation obtained by individuals after completion of training;
 - b) Satisfaction rate of individuals and employers with acquired skills/competences.

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5. Verification and Compliance

- The existence of a set of criteria **that frame the different degrees of alignment** with the EQAVET reference framework;
- The existence of **external experts who constitute the assessment/verification teams** (186 experts, from 36 public and private HEI with previous experience in implementing quality assurance systems and in carrying out the corresponding assessment processes);
- **The awarding of an EQAVET Compliance Seal for 3 years** (it may be a conditioned seal for 1 year in the first alignment process);
- **The whole process of alignment is registered in an ICT platform** that also ensures the communication in predefined steps between VET providers, external experts and ANQEP as the manager of the model.

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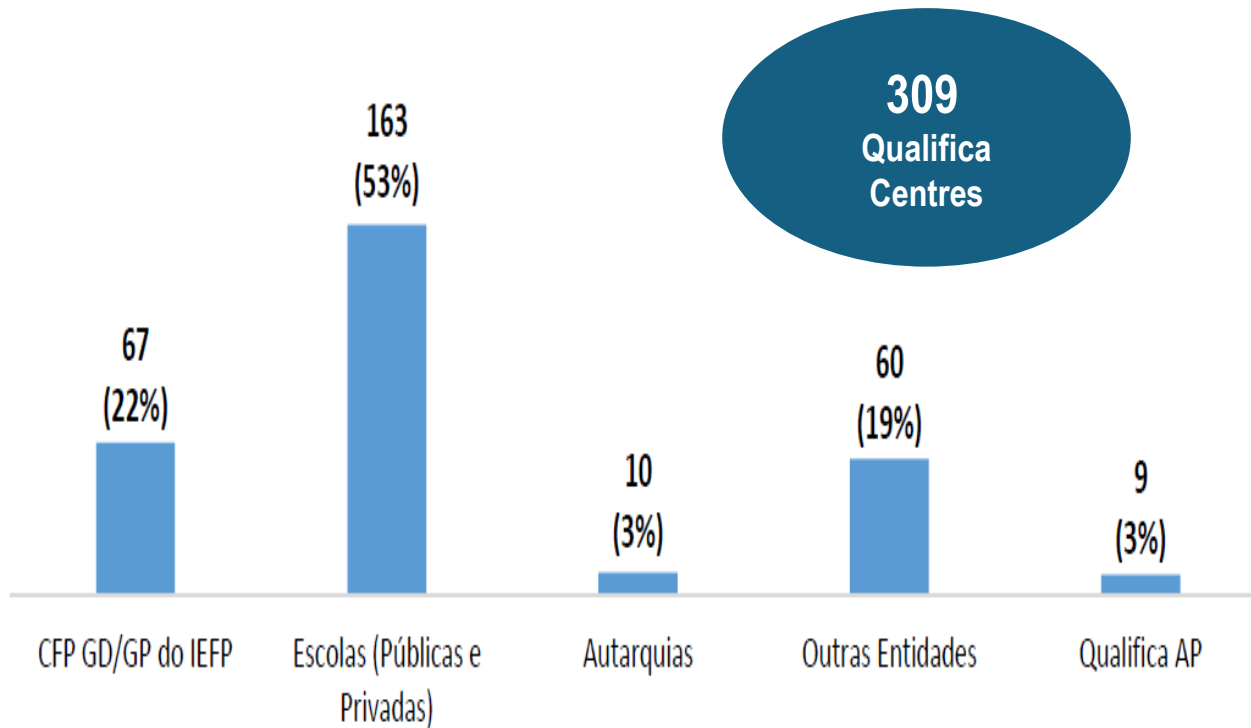
6. QA results

- Since 2020 up to September 2024: **486 EQAVET seals are awarded** (305 PUB; 181 PRIV).
- 74% of the universe of schools with professional courses is covered.

	VET providers promoting professional courses	VET providers with EQAVET Seal
Public schools (PUB)	455	305
Professional schools and other private schools (PRIV)	203	181
Total	658	486

Quality Assurance – Adult Education and Training

1. Qualifica Centres as the gateway to adult education and training pathways



Fonte: ANQEP, 31 de agosto de 2024

From 2017 to aug/2024

± 1.118.000 enrolments (average 146.000 enrolments/year)

± 90% enrolments referred by Qualifica Centres for training or RVCC

+ 1.500.000 certifications awarded, of which 173.000 total certifications (awarding an academic level and/or qualification within the NQF)

± 553.000 people obtained some kind of certification

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2. Quality Charter for Qualifica Centres

Establishes the guiding principles for the Centres' intervention and defines the quality, efficiency and effectiveness criteria and the respective indicators and reference standards which should guide their activity.

Objectives:

- to guarantee a high performance of Qualifica Centres in the qualification of adults
- to improve the quality of guidance and referrals carried out by Qualifica Centres and the completion of adult qualification pathways, through the monitoring carried out by each Centre
- to encourage the autonomy and responsibility of Qualifica Centres
- to promote the self-assessment and continuous improvement of its activity

Quality Assurance – Adult Education and Training

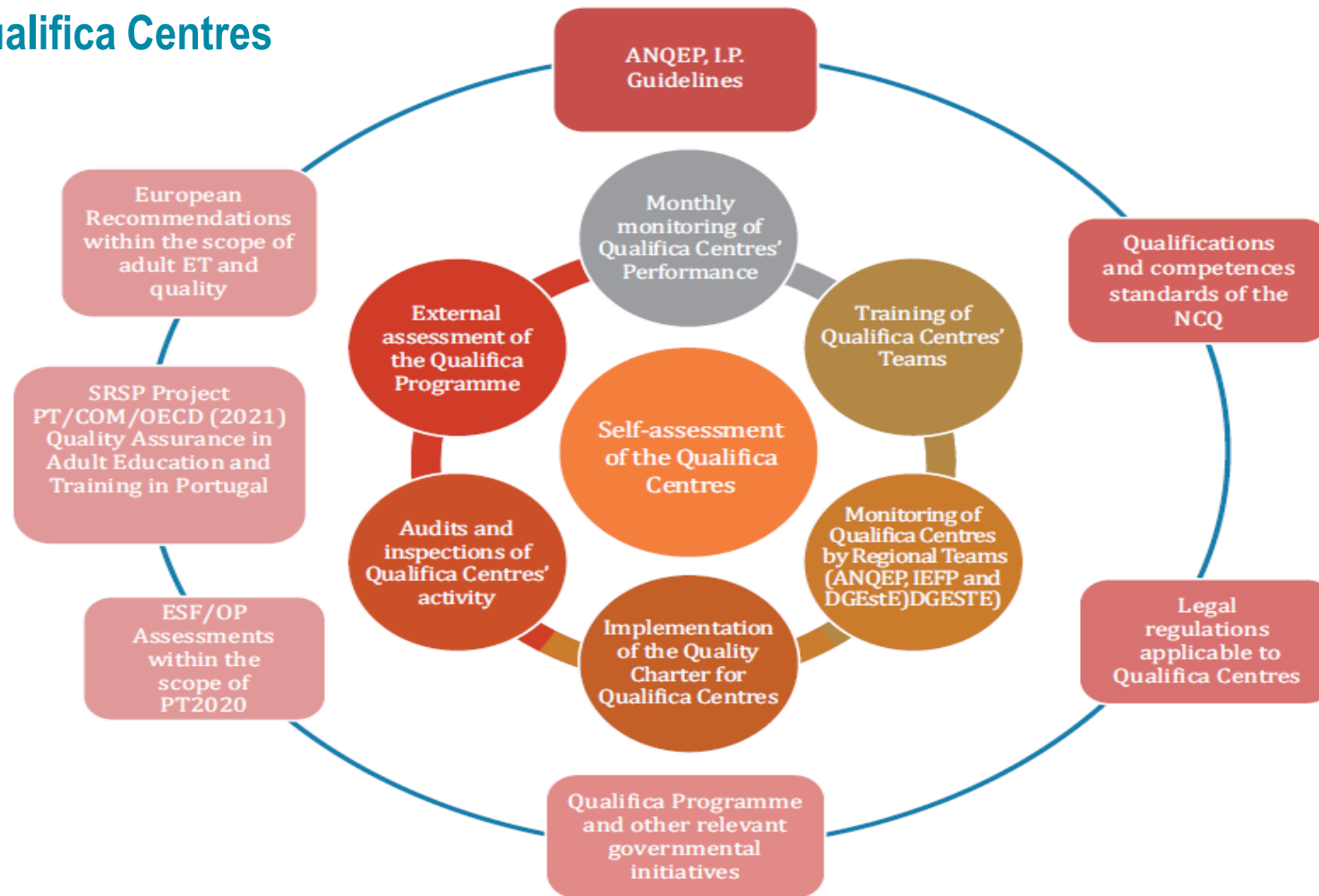
3. Reference framework of the Quality Charter for Qualifica Centres

Dimensions and criteria of the Reference Framework for the Quality of Qualifica Centres

Areas	Criteria	No. of Indicators
A. Qualifica Centre operating conditions (input factors)	A.1. Human resources	4
	A.2. Facilities and Equipment available/ allocated	3
	A.3. Organisation and operation	5
	A.4. Strategic management	4
B. Development of the Qualifica Centre's activity (process factors)	B.1. Quality of the activities and the service provided	11
	B.2. Efficiency of the service provided	2
C. Qualifica Centre Results (process factors)	C.1. Effectiveness of the intervention	2

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4. QA model for Qualifica Centres



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5. Continuous support to Qualifica Centres and monitoring

- **Regional Monitoring Teams**, comprised of representatives of the regional services of IEFP, I.P. (Institute for Employment and Vocational Training) and DGEstE (General-Directorate for Educational Establishments) and coordinated by ANQEP
- **Monthly monitoring of the Centres' performance indicators**, through SIGO (Online Information and Management System for Education and Training Provision) records, increasingly focused on the efficiency of the response to the Qualifica Program and on the effectiveness of the Centres' intervention
- **Regular site visits, online meetings, peer-learning activities, and information and training sessions** with Qualifica Centres by regional monitoring teams and ANQEP core team
- **Preparation of guidelines and regulations** for Qualifica Centres and other training providers
- **E-mail and phone contacts**

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6. Other mechanisms for QA to Qualifica Centres

- **Self-assessment** of Qualifica Centres - a balance report sent to ANQEP, in the light of the Quality Charter for Qualifica Centres
- **Inspections** of Qualifica Centres' activity, with the aid of the General Inspection for Education and Science or the General Inspection of the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security
- **Audits** of the Qualifica Centre network over the coming years, using the competent public services or contracting external audit and assessment services
- **External assessment of the Qualifica Programme** to assess the results and impacts of the Programme

Thank you!



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