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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

Professional Courses – *Cursos Profissionais*

PT-VdA-1

The **YOUNG_ADULLLT project (YA)** focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

On the basis of these conceptual considerations, the project partners selected two regions per country, which were identified as 'contrasting cases' with regard to socioeconomic indicators and/or labour markets and/or infrastructure. The adjacent map shows the selected 18 regions in the nine participating countries of the research project, in which the project partners mapped LLL policies in the education, labour and youth & social policy sectors.

Professional courses are high-school level courses aimed at young adults aged above 15 years who have completed the 9th grade. Unlike regular courses, professional courses are highly labour market-oriented, both in what concerns their offer and their curricular approach.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



'Professional Courses' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

Professional Courses are a dual upper secondary vocational education provision. They combine an academic education with a vocational one and deliver an education certification of upper secondary education and a professional certification (level 4). Until 2004, these courses have been based exclusively in private professional schools but with the Secondary Education Reform Act in 2004, they were introduced in public and private secondary schools.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

This is an educational sector LLL policy that aims at preventing early school leaving and youth unemployment. It targets young people who have finished the compulsory education of 9 years.

What is the policy aiming at?

- **This policy belongs to a set of measures directed at competitiveness, growth, and employment** by adjusting the training offered to the priorities and needs of the different socio-economic sectors and regional labour markets as well as accentuating the permanent interaction between schools and enterprises.
- **In 2005, under the New Opportunities Initiative** launched by the Socialist government, the following benchmark was established: 50% of the students attending upper secondary education have to be registered for VET courses. In the school year 2014/2015, 38,1% of the students attending upper secondary education have been enrolled in professional courses.
- **Despite the large proportion of students attending these courses**, they are still considered a second choice provision, informally targeted at low school achievers. In fact, in 2012/2013, 34% of them had been retained once and 23,2% of them at least twice. Unsurprisingly, 40,9% of these students are 17 years old or more.
- **This is an educational sector policy, aiming at preventing early school leaving and youth unemployment.** The targeted group of young people has to finish the basic education of 9 years.
- **The policy has a high level of materialization** in the form of modular vocational courses, and the curricula are composed of three training areas: sociocultural, scientific, and technical. The latter includes an in-job training (curricular internship).

How does it work?

- **The courses are proposed by the schools and approved by the Ministry of Education.** Subsequently, they are chosen from the *Catálogo Nacional de Qualificações* (National Qualifications Catalogue).
- **Professional Courses is a state-run long-term measure** executed by public or private professional schools and public or private secondary schools in association with companies, NGOs, and other private or public institutions where the internship is completed.
- **It is very difficult to assess the impact of professional courses on employability.** The most recent official evaluation report, presenting data about the graduates' employment rate one year after graduation shows that 71,3% of the participants found employment. If we consider the unemployment rate of the Portuguese population between 15 and 24 years old (27,8%), it is plain to see that the unemployment rate of these graduates is comparable to the national one.
- **The measure is funded by the Portuguese Government and the European Social Fund,** and by direct funding as well as by indirect funding of the companies or other types of institutions where the curricular internships take place.

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- For more information on the LLL policy Cursos Profissionais, please consult: <http://www.dge.mec.pt/cursos-profissionais>
- For further information and reading on the LLL policies mapped and analysed in the Young_AdultIt project, please consult the YA project website under www.young-adultit.eu
- This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 693167 (YOUNG_ADULLLT)
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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

Local Contracts for Social Development –

Contratos Locais de Desenvolvimento Social (CLDS)

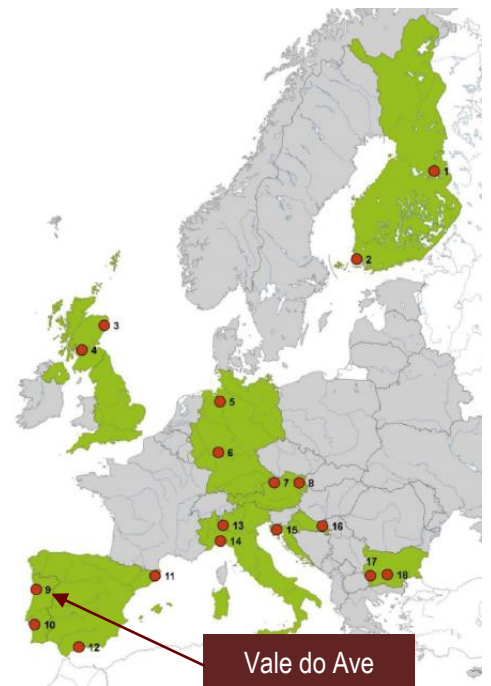
PT-VdA-2

The **YOUNG_ADULLLT project (YA)** focuses on lifelong learning (LLL) policies for young adults, in particular those in situations of near social exclusion. YA enquires into the specific embeddedness of these policies in different regions across the European Union. The point of departure is the assumption that it is by looking into the specific regional and local contexts that policies are best understood and assessed. The project aims both at providing a systematic overview over the highly heterogeneous policies across the participating countries *and* at yielding new knowledge about the specific local/regional forms of embedding LLL policies in the regional economy, the labour market, the education/training systems and the individual life projects of young adults.

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The LLL policy *Contratos Locais de Desenvolvimento Social - CLDS* is a programme privileging territories with the most vulnerable target-groups. It aims at reinforcing the complementarity between mandatory and non-mandatory actions through capitalising community resources.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



'Local Contracts for Social Development' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

The CLDS programme is a Labour Market and a Social and Youth sector policy. It seeks to promote the social inclusion of citizens living in persistent poverty and experiencing social exclusion in deprived areas. In 2015, the 3rd generation of Local Contracts for Social Development was launched to enhance the territories, empower citizens and families, promote territorial equity, and provide equal opportunities and social inclusion in its various dimensions.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

The targeted population are people from territories affected by unemployment, critical child poverty, natural catastrophes, or in areas characterized by rapidly ageing processes. In the Vale do Ave region, the policy runs from January 2016 to December 2018 and is coordinated by the professional school CIOR in the municipality of Vila Nova de Famalicão.

What is the policy aiming at?

- **The policy aims at strengthening the proactivity of all agents** in the search for solutions for the different issues affecting citizens and promoting sustainable and inclusive growth of the territories. Thus, special attention was given to employment.
- **One of the expectations of this policy is to contribute** to enhancing the local and regional economies through generating new, sustainable, and lasting jobs.
- **This is a medium-term measure** run by the State, implemented by local organizations and supervised by the municipalities. It has access to State funding as well as the Social European Fund.
- **In 2013, there were 59 Local Contracts for Social Development.** The analysis of the distribution of Local Contracts for Social Development by type of territory shows that the areas with the largest number of Contracts were the “aged territories” with 33 projects, followed by “critical territories” in metropolitan areas with 17 projects, and the “industrialised territories with strong disqualification” with 7 projects. Only 2 projects are located in “territories hit hardest by natural disasters” (POPH, 2014).
- **The number of contracts in “aged territories” illustrates** the relevance of the problem of the ageing (Portuguese) population in the Portuguese society.

How does it work?

- **The Local contracts for Social Development are structured** around a concentration of resources in crucial areas of intervention, such as employment, training and qualification, intervention measures in support of families and parents, community and institutions' empowerment, and information and accessibility.
- This policy follows actions in 3 main axes:
- **Axis 1) implementing active employment and qualification measures;** stimulating local companies to actively participate in those measures; guiding NEET people into the labour market; promoting entrepreneurship skills among secondary students and creating circuits to deliver local/regional products;
- **Axis 2) empowering families on citizenship rights, relevant skills and counselling in crises situations;** promoting healthy lifestyles and social integration among children and young people; establishing family conflict mediation in articulation with social intervention teams; stimulating, when relevant, active ageing and older people's autonomy through sociocultural actions; challenging older people's loneliness and isolation, and promoting proximity voluntary work projects;
- **Axis 3) supporting citizens' self-organization and local associations' creation/revival;** facilitating people's mobility to local public utility services to reduce isolation and social exclusion.

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- For more information on the LLL policy CLDS 3G Famalicão, please consult: <https://pt-pt.facebook.com/CLDSFAMALICAO3G/>
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POLICY MAPPING AND REVIEW

Choices Programme – *Programa Escolhas*

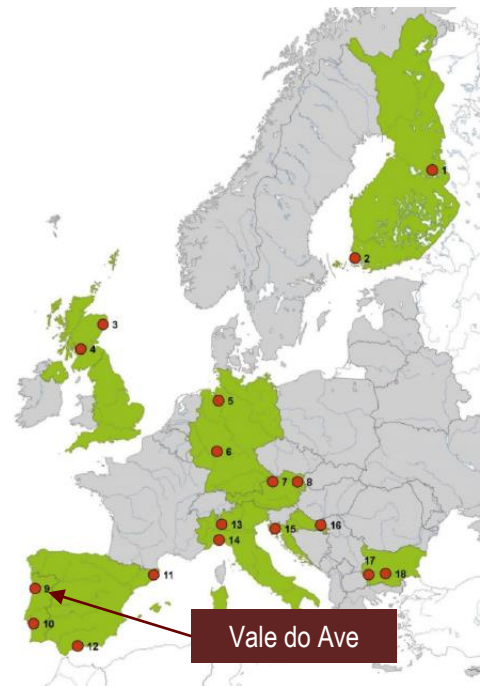
PT-VdA-3

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The LLL policy Programa Escolhas is a social and youth policy measure, which aims to promote the social inclusion of children and young people from vulnerable socio-economic contexts, particularly the descendants of migrants and ethnic groups.

While this **policy brief** provides descriptive key data on the policy, the research project YA critically examines the embeddedness and functioning of the policy in its local/regional context and analyses its impact and implications on the life courses of young adults.



'Choices Programme' – What is it about?

The challenge on site

Programa Escolhas, launched in 2001, is a national governmental programme promoted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and integrated in the High Commissioner for Migration (ACM, IP). It is the ACM's mission to promote the social inclusion of children and young people from vulnerable socio-economic contexts, aiming at equal opportunities and strengthening social cohesion.

Who is the addressee of this policy?

In its first phase of implementation, it was a programme for the Prevention of Crime and the Social Inclusion of young people from the most problematic districts of Lisbon, Porto, and Setúbal. During this period, spanning from January 2001 to December 2003, 50 projects were implemented, thereby serving 6,712 recipients. Between 2004 and 2015, the Choices Programme has implemented four more generations. Since 2016, it has already entered its 6th round, which will be completed at the end of 2018. Escolhas aims to promote the social inclusion of vulnerable children and young people.

What is the policy aiming at?

- **The Choices Programme is a Social and Youth Sector policy.** This is a national government programme created in 2001, promoted by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and integrated in the High Commission for Migration - ACM, IP. Its mission is to promote the social inclusion of children and youth from vulnerable socio-economic contexts, aiming at equal opportunities, and strengthening social cohesion.
- **The priority areas include** school inclusion and non-formal education, vocational training and employability, community and citizenship promotion, digital inclusion and entrepreneurship, and empowerment.
- **This is a state-run measure that enhances the development of activities** in the field of combating failure and dropouts, supporting job creation, referral to vocational training, combat info-exclusion, development of an entrepreneurial spirit, energizing exercise opportunities of full citizenship, supporting the training of dynamic and empowerment of young people, as well as greater co-responsibility of the family in the development process of children and youth.
- **The programme is based on a model of participant involvement of local consortia,** ensuring the coordination of responses, co-responsibility, and sustainability of the dynamics initiated.

How does it work?

- **Currently in its 6th generation,** which will run until December 31st, 2018, the Choices Programme will finance 90 projects, 88 in Portugal and 2 international experiences in Luxembourg and in the United Kingdom, which can be renewed annually until the end of 2018. Moreover, the Programme's regulation states that new projects can be financed for the years 2017 and 2018, and it is estimated that the number of projects financed can reach 130 by the end of 2018.
- **In total, the programme is present in 54 Portuguese municipalities,** mobilizing more than 840 partner entities among municipalities, parish councils, school groups, commissions for the protection of children and young people at risk, the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (IEFP) associations of immigrants, and private institutions of social solidarity, to name only a few.
- **The programme's projects only present proposals for intervention in three specific areas:** education and training, participation, civic and community rights and duties, and digital inclusion. The action plan implemented can be adjusted to the needs and specificities of local communities. Also worth mentioning is the extension of the age group up to 30 years, thus allowing a more consistent intervention in employment and employability.
- **This programme is funded by national funds and is co-financed by the European Social Fund/Portugal 2020 and Regional Operational Programs of Lisbon and Algarve.**

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