

## Various initiatives for CDC in VET schools

### Portugal

#### DESCRIPTION

Over the years, **various initiatives have been introduced in VET schools** in Portugal:

- The **Citizenship and Development project in Escola Técnica-Profissional da Moita (ETPM)** has been implemented during each training cycle of upper secondary education (Year 10 - Year 12) since 2017.

In line with the [National Citizenship Education Strategy](#) (ENEC), this project provides students and teachers with the opportunity to **design a profile that embodies the values of freedom, responsibility, citizenship and active participation, helping them address social and political challenges of the contemporary world.**

Its operationalisation links the development of competencies defined in the [Student Profile at the End of Compulsory Schooling](#) with the different areas of Citizenship Education outlined in the ENEC. The project integrates the expected learning outcomes into general assessment criteria, while reflecting the transversal competencies embedded in the ETPM student profile, particularly in the domain of active citizenship. These competencies are incorporated into the construction of assessment descriptors, ensuring alignment with the expected learning outcomes in this area.

The **project is structured around intradisciplinary learning projects or workshops.** They aim to establish **real-world connections, foster meaningful learning, and promote collaboration.** The approach encourages **student-driven learning in a controlled environment**, with assessment integrated throughout the entire process.

- In 2020 the **Integration Area** was introduced as a **subject within the sociocultural training component**, which is **transversal** to all qualifications (Professional Courses) to be developed during the training cycle. This subject integrates knowledge from different areas and **its main learning goal is to acquire and develop skills to understand the complexity of contemporary societies, enabling students to become informed, aware and active citizens.**

The Integration Area subject is led by the Director/Class Tutor and **plays a central role in operationalising the Citizenship and Development project.** Through **bi-weekly class tutorials**, students engage in a **participatory and collaborative learning process, focused on solving real-world problems and challenges**, all within the structured framework of Citizenship Education.

The **Transdisciplinary Curriculum Profile and Matrix** - exclusive to the Integration Area - outlines both transversal and specific competences, which correspond to the modules UFCD (Unidades de Formação de Curto Duração, or Short-Term Training Units) and UF (Unidades de Formação) .

Through the construction of the **Learning and (Self)Assessment Guides** for each module related to defined problem themes, the operational link between the teaching team and the students is established.

As part of **Class Tutoring**, the assessment of transversal competences occurs monthly, at both individual and class group level. This is done through self-assessment and positioning according to performance descriptors, with analysis and reflection supported by evidence with a view to constructing a proposal for an improvement plan.

- The **Short Training Unit (UFCD) titled Democratic Freedom and Responsibility** (50 hours – National Catalogue of Qualifications) was introduced in 2008 and is aimed at students and educators/professionals in all VET schools. The main **learning goals** of this unit are:
  - Recognising the responsibilities inherent to personal freedom in a democracy;
  - Assuming work rights and duties as an active citizen;

- Identifying the fundamental rights to citizenship in a contemporary democratic state;
- Participating consciously and sustainably in the global community.

**OTHER USEFUL LINKS**

<https://catalogo.anqep.gov.pt/ufcdDetalhe/53>

<https://www.anqep.gov.pt/np4/476.html>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YzLCqbJJZtaRIXq2O2A2Cvk\\_GPv9ire/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YzLCqbJJZtaRIXq2O2A2Cvk_GPv9ire/view)