

Portuguese as a Second Language (PL2) - Português Língua Não Materna (PLNM)

General Information

Context

In order to improve the educational success of the migrant students recently arrived in the Portuguese education system, the Ministry of Education has been implementing educational policies of support regarding the acquisition of the Portuguese language, as an object of study and as a language of schooling, through the offer of the school subject of Portuguese as a second language (PL2) - Português Língua Não Materna (PLNM), in primary and lower secondary education as well as in scientific-humanistic courses, specialised artistic courses and VET courses of secondary education.

Goal

The intention is therefore to ensure to all students whose mother tongue / language of schooling is not Portuguese equitable conditions for access to the curriculum and educational success, regardless of their language, culture, social status, origin and age.

Curriculum

The migrant students placed in the A1, A2 and B1 language levels, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, can benefit from PLNM courses for the development of the Portuguese language and follow a specific PL2 curriculum.

The migrant students placed in the B2 and C1 language levels follow the national curriculum of the subject of Portuguese and can benefit from language support courses. Furthermore, these students can also use dictionaries to support them during examinations of other school subjects.

Range

All public primary and secondary schools in the Portuguese education system offer these measures. Students who have recently arrived in Portugal have to undergo an initial process of sociolinguistic assessment and placement testing. This way, it will be possible to ascertain if these students need to benefit from these measures.

Organisation

Schools provide PLNM courses to all recently arrived students placed in the A1, A2 and B1 language levels. Indeed, when it is possible to group at least 10 students, they attend Portuguese as a second language subject courses (PLNM subject), instead of attending the Portuguese subject courses. In case the application of this provision is not possible students also attend the PLNM subject courses, in their classes, during academic time of the Portuguese subject courses, and they may additionally benefit from additional language support courses.

Along with parents/legal guardians, schools may also provide educational responses that facilitate access to curriculum through:

- a) Mobilisation of measures to support learning and inclusion;
- b) Adaptations both to the internal and the external assessment process:

Assessment

The students placed in the A1, A2 and B1 language levels can also benefit from specific assessment criteria in the subject of PLNM, as well as final exams of PLNM, appropriate to their language level, instead of the final exams of the Portuguese subject.

Effects

The implementation of this educational measure can, directly or indirectly, promote the social integration of the migrant students and their family in the community.

Other initiatives

1. In the scope of Citizenship Education, the Portuguese primary and secondary schools develop several projects regarding Intercultural Education. These projects promote recognition and appreciation of diversity as an opportunity and source of learning for all, in respect for the multicultural nature of society today. The aim is to develop the ability to communicate and encourage social interaction, which creates identities and a sense of belonging to the community. Regarding the promotion of this area, the Intercultural School Seal was created in 2012. This initiative aims to distinguish the schools that stand out in the development of projects aiming at the acknowledgement and the valuing of diversity as an opportunity and learning source for everyone.

This is a joint initiative of the Directorate-General for Education of the Ministry of Education and of the High Commission for Migration.

2. The Directorate-General for Education has also been developing a project of educational innovation that consists in the offer of online PLNM language courses to students, from ISCED 1, 2 and 3, along with the Ciberescola da Língua Portuguesa and several school clusters.

Resources

<http://www.cibercursoslp.com/fichas.html>

Additional information

- Portuguese as a Second Language (PL2) web page:

<https://www.dge.mec.pt/portugues-lingua-nao-materna-plnm>

- Legislation

Decree-Law No. 54/2018, of the 6th July

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Ministerial Implementing Order No. 223-A/2018, of the 3rd August

Ministerial Implementing Order No. 226-A/2018, of the 7th August

Ministerial Implementing Order No. 229-A/2018, of the 14th August

Ministerial Implementing Order No. 232-A/2018, of the 20th August

Ministerial Implementing Order No. 235-A/2018, of the 23rd August