

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 educational system, the Ministry of Education and Science 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 secondary education (ISCED 1, 2 and 3).

Goal

The intention is therefore to ensure that all students with another native language than Portuguese have equal access to the school curriculum and achieve educational success, regardless of their mother language, culture, social background, 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 classes 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 classes. 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

When schools can group at least 10 recently arrived students, placed in the A1, A2 and B1 language levels, they attend Portuguese as a second language subject (PLNM Subject), instead of attending the subject of Portuguese. This requires additional teaching staff. Teacher deployment is done according to the needs of the schools and the criteria defined. There is no budgetary limit.

When the students are not gathered in these groups, they benefit from additional support language classes, according to the schools human resources, but follow the PL2 curriculum.

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.

National Study

Regarding the improvement of these educational policy measures, a national study focused on the assessment of its impact and on the prospective measures for the PLNM was conducted, between 2012 and 2014. These results are being taken into consideration in the preparation of new legislation.

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 takes place every year and 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 Science 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, together with the Ciberescola da Língua Portuguesa and several school clusters.

Resources

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

Additional information

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