

Portugal

Introduction

According to the analysis in St. Aubyn (2009), the tertiary education system in Portugal is below efficiency, with no changes between the periods considered. However, it should be noted that Portugal has implemented major reforms in 2006 and 2008 in particular which are not captured in the indicators used in the analysis.

Indicators

Table - Summary of indicators in St. Aubyn (2009)

Scores of efficiency indicators						
	Average ISI citation		Recruiter review		Peer review	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
PT	3,07	16	1,07	13	1,16	11
best performer	NL - 5,51	1	IE - 2	1	FI - 2	1
worst performer	RO - 1,63	26	CZ -1,06	16	GR - 1,02	16

Indicators of main determinants of efficiency						
	Funding rules		Staff policy		Evaluation	
	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank
PT	7,80	1	7,4	13	4,6	16
best performer	PT - 7,8	1	CZ, DK, NL, AT, SK, SE, UK - 10	1	HU - 8,3	1
worst performer	SK - 2,9	18	FR - 1,8	18	GR - 2,3	19

Descriptive indicators						
	Academic staff	Students	Graduates <i>per capita</i>	Publications	Students <i>per academic staff</i>	Graduates <i>per student</i>
	PT	2,0	26,8	5,2	0,4	13,3
EU27	1,9	33,7	7,1	0,6	17,8	3,7

PISA		
	Score 2000*	Rank
PT	456	17
best performer	FI - 540	1
worst performer	RO - 410	18

There is a low ratio of students per academic staff. This could be considered as a positive feature for producing graduates. However, Portugal has below average graduates per 1000 inhabitants and also below average graduates per academic staff. Hence, a high number of academics per student produce a small number of graduates.

Quality indicators of teaching suggest below average quality of graduates from Portuguese institutions as both the recruiter review indicator, which reflects graduate employability, and the peer review indicator, which reflects the ranking of Portuguese Universities are below average.

The quality of secondary education in Portugal as measured by PISA average scores is low, albeit the scores are improving over time. The level of attainment in secondary education is relatively low, albeit improving, and the low share of skilled labour force is still one of the main weaknesses of Portugal's labour market.

As regards research, Portugal has an above average academic staff, but below average publications per capita, although these figures have improved over time.

Regarding the explanatory factors found relevant for efficiency, Portugal has the highest scores for the funding rules indicator, suggesting that funds are allocated effectively. The staff policy indicator is above average while the evaluation indicator is rather weak (again, it

should be noted that the recent reforms implemented are not captured by the available indicator).

Portugal recently implemented a new system of loans to higher education students.

Foundations have a more autonomous staff policy regime than public institutions under the general regime.

Public Universities have good diversity of programmes

The number of mature students is increasing.

Policy developments

A thorough legal reform of the Portuguese tertiary education system was adopted in 2006 and 2008, putting in place a diversified system with increased autonomy. Currently, policy steering has a focus on opening higher education to new publics, and improving the capacity of the top of the system through an increasing qualified academic and research staff.