

ADULT EDUCATION AND TRAINING POLICY

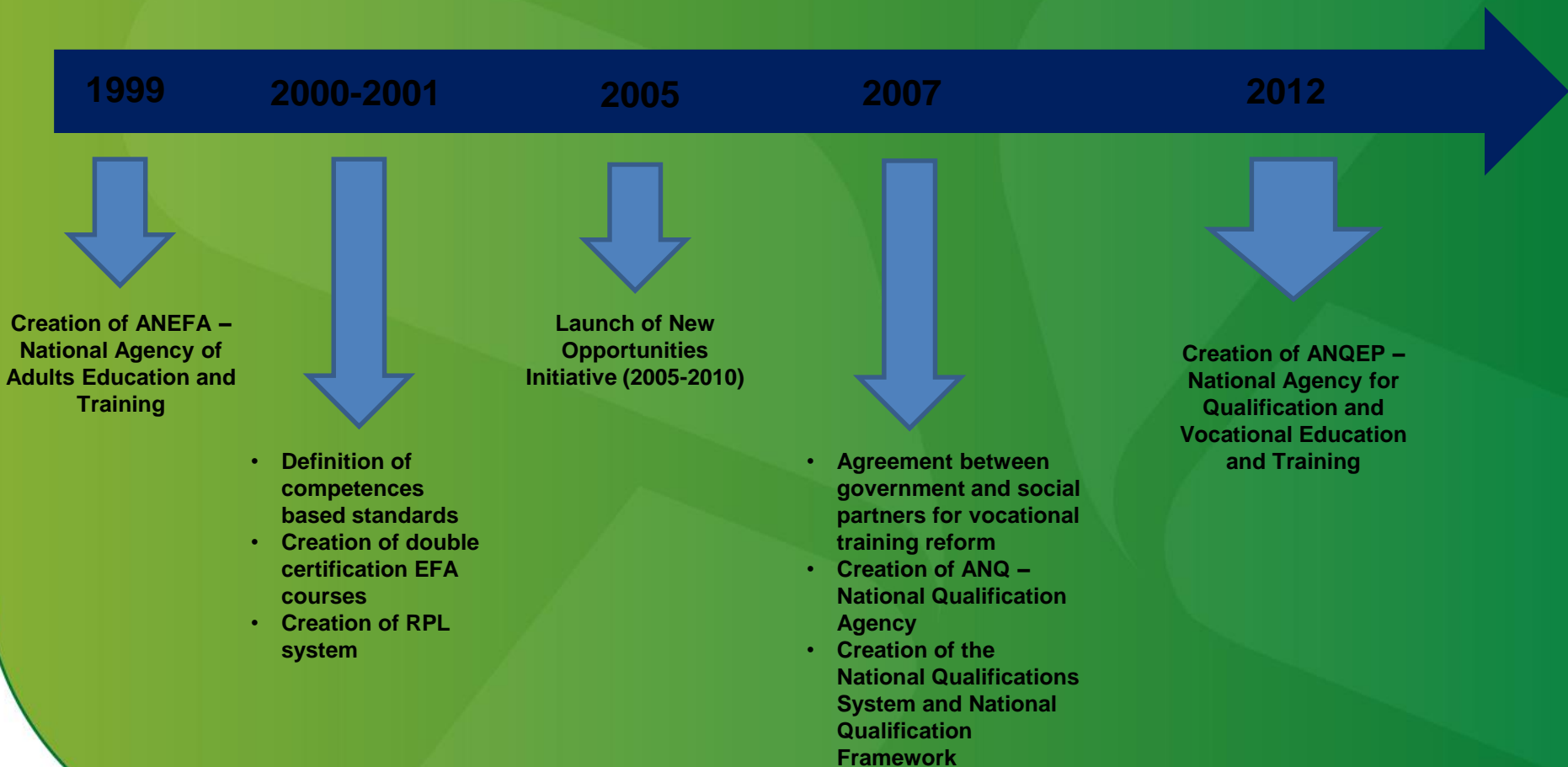
The case of Portugal

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Adult education and training policy in the last 15 years



New Opportunities Initiative in a nutshell (period between 2005-2011)

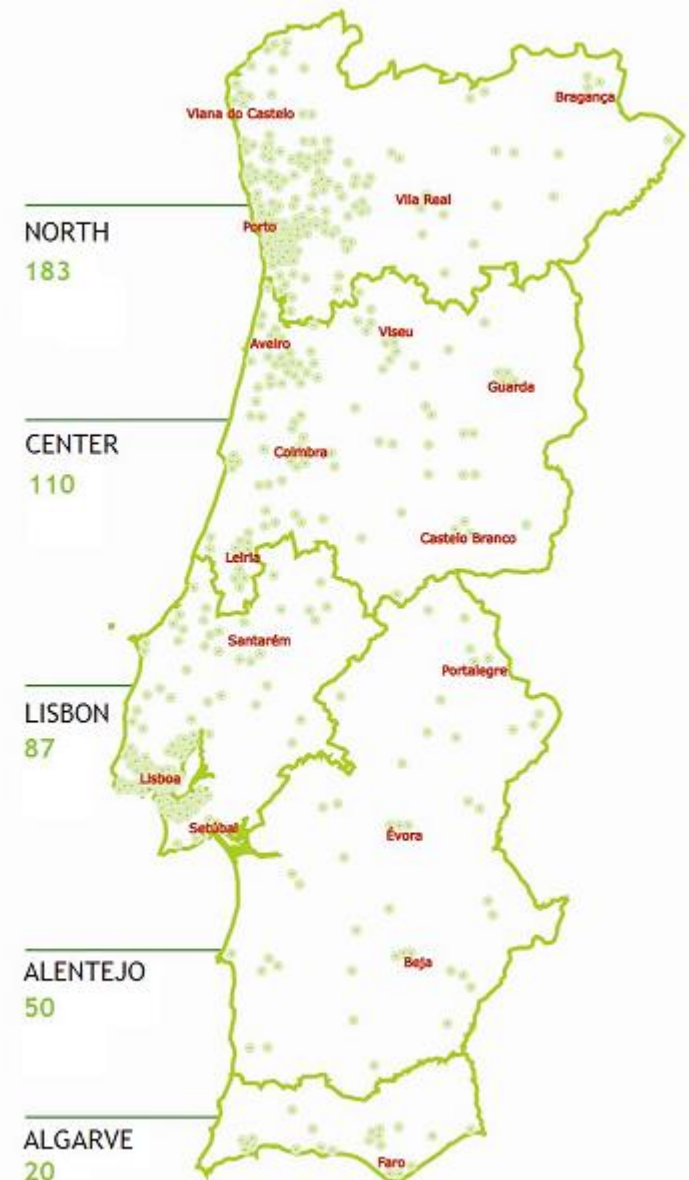
AIM: to face a structural problem of low qualifications: 72% of the labor force below secondary level (3.5 million adults)

SMART objectives:

- to establish the upper secondary education (12 years of schooling) as the minimum qualification level
- to qualify 1 million of adults (60% through RPL processes)

MAIN OUTPUTS:

- 451 New Opportunities Centres all over the country by the year 2011
- Adults involved in learning: 1.419.506 (771.479 involved in basic level pathways; 648.027 involved in secondary level pathways)
- Adults certified through RPL processes (more than 80% of total certifications): 456.270 (332.831 awarded a basic level certification; 123.439 awarded a secondary certification)



WHY?
WHO?
HOW?
EVIDENCES?

Agreement between government and social partners (reform of vocational training system)

Policy defined in the basis of previous adult learning measures

Smart objectives to face a structural problem of low qualifications

Legislation framework: creation of the National Qualification System

Creation of an entity to coordinate adult learning policy and measures (under the umbrella of both the Min. Education and the Min. of Labor)

Establishment of the National Qualifications Framework

Possibility to combine RPL and other education-training solutions

External evaluation

Promotion of a system based on accountability, supported by an on-line database

Promotion of self-regulation tools

Territorial coverage / proximity services

Negotiation of annual goals

Range and flexibility of training courses

Set of a monitoring system based on quantity and quality indicators

Flexibility of methodologies

Flexibility in time schedules

Media campaigns

Creation of local qualification networks

Mobilisation of critical funding from the European Social Fund

Establishment of company protocols to actively engage employers in the qualification of employees



Questions to reflect on

- **Definition of goals versus quality issues**
- **Accountability / Evidences**
- **RPL processes versus “traditional” education and training pathways**
- **Capability to supply tailored made education and training pathways**
- **Double certification, both scholar and professional**
- **Competences needs assessments and forecasts**
- **Segmentation of beneficiaries**
- **Relevance of civil society**
- **Funding**



Thank you!

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