LABOUR MARKET INTELLIGENCE SOURCES
Country fiche - PORTUGAL

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Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence
within European Universities - LMI-EUniv

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EU	European Union
HEI	Higher Education Institution
LMI	Labour Market Intelligence
LMI-EUniv	Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities
OVATE	Skills Online Vacancy Analysis Tool for Europe (Skills OVATE)
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
INE	Instituto Nacional de Estatística
GEP	Gabinete de Estratégia e Planeamento
CRL	Centro de Relações Laborais

BACKGROUND

LMI-EUniv project

"Innovating the use of Labour Market Intelligence within European Universities - LMI-EUniv", the project was the subject of a successful application to Key Action 2 – Cooperation among organisations and institutions – of the Erasmus+ programme.

Consortium

The consortium is composed of West University of Timisoara (project leader), University of Milano-Bicocca (Italy), University of Tallinn (Estonia), Prospektiker (Spain) and Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (Luxembourg).

Aims

The primary focus of the project is to understand how are European Universities using labour market information and labour market intelligence in the planning and delivery of their provision and how can this be improved. Therefore, the project aims to help HEI to develop appropriate skills and competencies through better matching of education supply to demand through innovative learning and teaching practices.

Objectives

The LMI-EUniv project has three main objectives: (1) to map essential LMI sources at national level, (2) to explore how HEI in Europe are using LMI, and (3) to produce a training course, guide and a Labour Market Intelligence Hub. This will be an online platform, aggregating LMI sources and information, and aims to become a reference point for all HEI.

INTRODUCTION

This country fiche provides information concerning the essential LMI sources at national level with a particular focus on LMI sources used by HEI. It was developed within the Intellectual Output 1 of the LMI-EUniv project – Mapping essential LMI sources at national level. The role of the country fiches is to systemize information related to LMI sources and gather them into a LMI Hub. The country fiches will form the basis for the Data (Evidence) Report and in turn, will inform the production of the Final Report.

During the inception phase of the project, we have noticed the existence of a large number of LMI sources but also a lack of information about them. We consider that having access to a single point of information with LMI sources will enable HEI to better use this for their activities. Thus, this research represents the first step in this direction through mapping the LMI sources at the European level.

We believe that this study is the first of its kind focused on LMI sources across Europe and is in itself a considerable innovation. Through this activity, we are seeking to influence how universities in Europe view, analyse, utilise and produce their own LMI to aid with their decision-making. Further, we aim to make this available to help stakeholders such as policymakers in national and regional governments, employers, and regional development agencies to be better able to bring their demand-side knowledge to support universities and ensure higher education supply fits to current and future labour market need.

The Final Report Recommendations given the project's geographical coverage and the pressing need for action on using labour market intelligence should have considerable transferability potential.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Demography

On the 1st of January 2022, Portugal had a population of 10,344,802 inhabitants. This represented about 2.3 per cent of European Union population. The median age was 46.2 years. The Portuguese population is in a phase of stagnation being strongly affected by the demographic ageing and emigration. Crude rate of total population change, per 1 000 persons was -1.9 in 2021 (provisional data), with a crude birth rate of 7.7 and a crude death rate of 10.9. Life expectancy in 2021 stands at 81.5 years, with 78.5 years for males and 84.4 years for females. The age structure reflects the existence of demographic ageing phenomenon, which has determined the fall in the share of young population (0-14 years) and the absolute and relative increase in the share of older people (60 years and over). Proportion of population aged 0-14 years was 12.8 per cent in 2022, while the proportion of population aged 65 years and more was 23.7 per cent, resulting an age dependency ratio (population aged 0-14 and 65 and more to pop. aged 15-64) of 57.4 per cent.

Emigration is another factor affecting Portuguese demographic crisis. There has been an outflow at an annual average of about 80,000 between 2015 and 2020. Qualified graduates are emigrating because of the precarious wages and work conditions.

Labour market

The Portuguese Labour Market is characterised by a very high dynamic. The lifting of Covid 19 restrictions at the beginning of 2022, the trend of Portuguese employees to look for new job opportunities, digitalization and remote or hybrid work options have generated an increase in employment opportunities and intensification in the activity of job seekers.

According to National Institute of Statistics, in the fourth quarter of 2022, the activity rate (25-64 years) in Portugal was 85.3 per cent, higher than the EU-27 average, which was 81.4 per cent. For the same period and same age range, the employment rate was 80.5 per cent.

The unemployment rate in the fourth quarter was 5.7 per cent in Portugal and 5.4 per cent in EU-27.

The most advertised occupation (using OVATE as a source) in the period of Q1 2022 – Q4 2022 were ICT professionals, Office associate professionals, Office professionals, Researchers and engineers and Sales workers. The most requested skills (at level 1 ESCO skill) were Attitudes; Communication, collaboration and creativity; Business, administration and law; Assisting and caring; and, Working with computers.

Higher education market

Educational institutions in Portugal are divided into traditional universities and polytechnical schools that provide more practical and profession-oriented training. Both types of institutions have public and private counterparts spread across Portugal. There are currently 14 public universities and 36 private universities in Portugal, with 20 public polytechnics in Portugal and 64 private polytechnics.

Polytechnic universities provide vocational, career-based training in fields such as nursing, education, accounting and healthcare, while degrees in medicine, law, natural sciences, economics or psychology are offered by universities. There is also some crossover, with fields of study including engineering, technology, management, education, sports and humanities being taught in both university and polytechnic systems.

Based on data collected by Times Higher Education, in 2023, the three best universities in Portugal are Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Universidade do Porto and Universidade de Lisbon.

The percentage of people aged 20-24 in tertiary education out of the total population in the age range is 33,2%.

LMI SOURCES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

LMI providers

LMI comprises any information and knowledge about labour market dynamics. It covers topics such as labour demand and supply, unemployment, employment and earnings, emergence of new occupations, new skills required on labour market, post-graduate path, career expectations, etc.

The Portuguese labour market is dominated by a large number of actors organised on multiple levels. Most of them provides LMI in different forms.

The Government, through its department and specialised agencies represents the main provider of LMI.

National Institute of Statistics (Instituto Nacional de Estatísticas – INE)

National Institute of Statistics (INE) organizes and coordinates official statistics in Portugal. INE is a specialized body of the central public administration, with legal personality, subordinate to the Government, financed from the state budget. INE provides data series about employment structure, unemployment, educational structure, career information, post graduate path, etc. Data are provided by sector, occupation, level of education etc., being available at local, regional and national level.

Public Employment Service

The Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional - IEFP), the Portuguese Public Employment Service, provides information on the labour market through thematic monthly publications. The Institute provides data series at local, regional and national level.

Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

The Ministry of Labour through the Strategy and Approach Cabinet (Gabinete de Estratégia e Planeamento - GEP) provides information on the labour market through monthly thematic publications on employment/unemployment, companies, occupational safety and health, strikes...

Also within this ministry, in the General Directorate of Employment and Labour Relations, in the section Labour Data and Statistics and Collective Bargaining, information on working conditions is published. This information covers aspects such as salary, conciliation, dismissals, collective bargaining, strikes...

The Centre for Labour Relations (Centro de Relações Laborais - CRL) is a tripartite body (representatives from the Ministry, employers' associations and representatives of the trade union associations) with technical functions which operates also under the Ministry of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security. The CRL was established to support collective bargaining and monitor employment and professional training developments, in order to achieve a comprehensive perspective of the labour market. The purpose is to improve the quality of the data and information available, making it more transparent, and to deepen the study on issues that are of interest to all stakeholders involved in labour market and social dialogue affairs: social partners, companies, workers, scientific community and public administration. Among its tasks is the publication of relevant information on working conditions and training needs.

Bank Of Portugal

The Bank of Portugal has a tool called BPStat where interactive display screens provide information, among other things, about employment and unemployment and information on economic activity. It is allowed to consult the information by sectors.

Non-governmental organisations

The Foundation Manuel Dos Santos, created to study the great national problems and stimulate the knowledge of civil society, has a tool called Pordata where statistical information on Portugal and Europe is published. This tool collects information from different

areas, and among other aspects, information about the labour market (employment/unemployment, labour conflict, working conditions…) education, social protection, innovation.

Assessing the sources of LMI at national level

Once the sources of LMI have been identified, their quality is needed to be assessed. There are many organisations that produce LMI but only through a standardized evaluation process they can be considered as being qualitative. The quality of LMI sources is sustained by their representativeness, validity and reliability.

Table 1 below contains a list of LMI sources identified at national level and their rating in accordance with LMI-EUniv methodology).

Table 1: LMI Sources at national level

REFERENCES

LMI EUniv, URL: https://lmi-euniv.eu/

Skills OVATE, URL: https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/skills-online-vacancies

MastersPortal, URL: https://www.mastersportal.com/ranking-country/21/portugal.html

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