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PORTUGAL: Integration of migrants in education

Education approach to travelling students

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Integration of migrants in education

Evidence

- In Portugal immigrants are 9% of the active population and 4,5% of the national population.
- In 2003/04 there were more than 80.000 immigrant students at the Portuguese Education System, mainly first generation students (7% of total students in the system).
- Nowadays linguistic diversity is frequent in many Portuguese schools and teachers need professional development to deal with linguistic and cultural diversity. There are 120 different foreign idioms in Portuguese schools and 47,8% of migrant students are from Africa.

Education policy

- Portuguese Basic and Secondary Curriculum organization provides a flexible environment to learn Portuguese as second language – children are integrated in regular classes but their schedule is adjusted in order to provide special training in Portuguese as second language.
- Social and cultural mediator - as a measure to facilitate the involvement of students and their families in school life.
- Special measures on evaluation of Portuguese linguistic proficiency (diagnostic tests and language portfolio) and definition of specific evaluation criteria in order to adjust the curriculum project in the best interests of the students involved.

On-going projects

- Definition of the basic competences in Portuguese as second language at primary, lower secondary education and upper secondary education.
- *Portuguese to other languages speakers* - special measure to teach Portuguese as a second language to adult immigrants in order to obtain qualification and reduce labour market discrimination.

Education approach to travelling students

Escola Móvel Project – a pilot pedagogical experience to provide an attractive alternative to prevent dropout

- Using ICT to complete basic education and improve the qualification of travelling students.
- a b-learning experience.
- a virtual learning environment for travelling children of lower secondary education (7th – 9th grades, 12-15 years of age).
- Direct support - to provide personal computers to each travelling student.
- e-learning platform <http://escolamovel.dgicd.min-edu.pt/>
- Free resources: internet access, e-books, multimedia resources, etc is supported through partnership with different entities.
- A specific curriculum design – classes planned in weekly bases, discussion forums, chats, digital portfolios, multimedia resources, internet research projects with teachers guidance.
- Encourage parental involvement.