

# 21<sup>st</sup>

## European Week of Regions and Cities

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Breaking barriers to  
cross-border cooperation

### Overcoming cross-border obstacles: apprenticeship and recognition of qualifications



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# Cross border DUAL Vocational Training in the Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal

Nuno Almeida, Director Galicia Norte Portugal EGTC

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## GALICIA NORTE PORTUGAL EGTC (GNP, EGTC)

Member in Portugal: **Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Norte Portugal** (CCDR-Norte).  
Member in Spain: **Xunta de Galicia**.

Working Community Galicia Norte Portugal, constituted in 1991. **Long cooperation history**.  
Galicia Norte Portugal EGTC is **the task force** of the Working Community.

GNP EGTC Date of constitution: 23/10/2008.  
It was **the 3rd European EGTC and the 1st Iberian EGTC**.

Galicia Norte Portugal EGTC covering the whole territory NUTS 2: PT11 and ES11.

The GNP, AECT is the "home" and the meeting point between institutions, companies and citizens from both sides of the border. Its function is to be a promoting and interconnecting agent in the Euroregion to develop CBC.

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### GALICIA NORTE PORTUGAL TERRITORY

Area of **50,862.6 km<sup>2</sup>**

- Galicia 29,576.7 km<sup>2</sup>
- Norte de Portugal 21,285.9 km<sup>2</sup>

Comprises **399 municipalities:**

- Galicia 313
- Norte de Portugal 86

Its coastline adds up to 1,641 km

- Galicia 1,498 km;
- Northern Portugal 143 km.

It is home to **6,279,338 inhabitants**

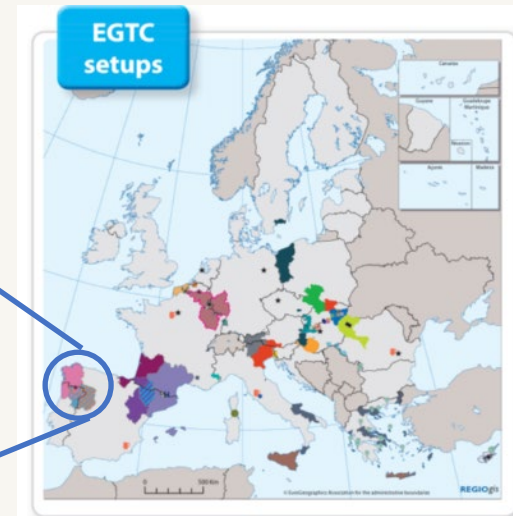
- Galicia 2,691,456 – 91,15 pp/Km<sup>2</sup>
- Norte de Portugal 3,572,882 – 168,58 pp/Km<sup>2</sup>

**GDP reached 127,938.92 million € in 2022**

- Galicia 63,985.46 M€
- Norte de Portugal 62,244.32 M€

Galicia Norte Portugal border:

- Is the **most populated ES-PT border** and registers **more than 50% of the cross-border flows**;
- It is also the most dynamic space in economic, social and cultural terms;
- **With the highest share of working mobility and cross-border workers**;



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### GALICIA NORTE PORTUGAL LABOUR MARKET

GALICIA				
Period 20233/II				
	Total	Men	Women	Youth (16-24)
Activity rate	53,2%	57,2%	49,6%	29,0%
Unemployment rate	9,6%	8,9%	10,3%	24,3%

NORTE PORTUGAL				
Period 20233/II				
	Total	Men	Women	Youth (15-24)
Activity rate	60,1%	65,3%	55,2%	38,7%
Unemployment rate	6,4%	6,3%	6,5%	17,2%

- **More than 14.000 cross border workers**, mainly in the area closer to the coast. In addition there are foreign (ES-PT) permanent residents.
- **Lack of mobility of workers.** More than 3M of total workers in the Euroregion GNP.

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## CROSS BORDER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING in the Euroregion GNP

### Galicia Norte Portugal EGTC – VET

- 2010: **Study** “Labour Mobility in GNP. Recognition of VET titles”.
- 2012: **Award Sail of Papenburg**: “LABOUR MARKET MOBILITY IN THE EUROREGION GALICIA-NORTE DE PORTUGAL. RECOGNITION AND EVALUATION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING CERTIFICATES.”

### VET working group with competent administrations:

- Xunta of Galicia.
- Instituto de Emprego e Formación Profissional do Norte de Portugal (IEFP Norte office)

### VET Curricula analyzed:

1. Automotive industry:
  - a. Electromechanical
  - b. Sheet metal and paint work
2. Tourism – Hospitality
  - a. Kitchen direction
  - b. Tourism management
  - c. Restaurant services
3. Wood / Forestry



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## CROSS BORDER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING in the Euroregion GNP

Main objective: To facilitate and make easier the recognition and equivalence procedures in those professions under Vocational Training Certificates / Diplomas.

Although the European EVCET system for VET allows recognition of the Diploma / Certificate in another country. Lack of a system of automatic recognition for VET studies.

The graduates have to face many bureaucratic procedures:

- Processes are solved independently, according to each country's procedures, on a case by case basis.
- Costly for applicants and time consuming.

**Working group:** Development of the equivalence Curricula of some professional VET studies and recognition procedures information.

The equivalence of training Curricula is a **great advantage for the recognition / validation** of VET diplomas or certificates, as it makes official and much easier for students to get the recognition or to complete the requirements of the other region / country.

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## CROSS BORDER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING in the Euroregion GNP

### New VET working group in 2020:

- Xunta of Galicia.
- Instituto de Emprego e Formación Profissional do Norte de Portugal (IEFP Norte office)
- Galicia Norte Portugal Cross –Border EURES Service

### Focus on Cross Border **DUAL VET**.

A combination of formal education and workplace learning.

Very trendy:

Lack of specialised workers

Provides training on the ground for students (plus working wage)

Encouraged by central governments

Main goal: **To develop a pilot project** for CB DUAL VET in Galicia Norte Portugal

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CROSS BORDER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TRAINING in the Euroregion GNP

Educational compatibility and  
coordination of VET studies and  
training programme

Pilot project of CROSS BORDER DUAL VET  
in the Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal:

- Educational center in one border
- Company for training in the other

Social Security for students  
under training period

Automatic recognition or  
homologation of VET  
diplomas

Taxes and wage  
payment scheme



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**b-solutions: Cross border DUAL VET Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal**

**Description of the obstacle with indication of the legal/administrative provisions causing the obstacle:**

- The absence of a procedure or mechanism to allow the application in the neighbouring country of the bonuses or reductions in the social security contributions recognised by the apprenticeship contracts under a CB DUAL VET between Galicia and Norte Portugal.



**DUAL VET in Galicia:**

- Managed by **Regional Government** under National law.
- **Joint programme** between Company, Educational VET Center and Regional Government.
- **Mandatory Social Security contribution**, with bonus (or reductions) for companies.

**DUAL VET in Portugal:**

- **Centrally managed** by IEFP, supervised by Comissão Nacional de Aprendizagem.
- Apprenticeship **programme designed by IEFP** / National Government.
- **Scholarships** for students.

**b-solutions: Cross border DUAL VET Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal**

**Legal Provisions:**

**DUAL VET in Galicia:**

- Organic Law 03/2022, 31<sup>st</sup> of March.
- Royal Decree 1085/2020, 9<sup>th</sup> of December.
- Royal Decree 1529/2012, 8<sup>th</sup> of November.
- Decree 114/2010, 1<sup>st</sup> of July.
- Royal Decree 1224/2009, 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

**DUAL VET in Portugal:**

- Decree 70/2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> of February.
- Decree-Law 14/2017, 26<sup>th</sup> of January.
- Decree-Law 13/2015, 26<sup>th</sup> of January.
- Decree-Law 396/2007, 31<sup>st</sup> of December.



**b-solutions: Cross border DUAL VET Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal**

**European Legal Provisions:**

- Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) (Articles 20, 26 and 45 to 48), Rome in 1957.
- Regulation (EC) No 883/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 29 April 2004 (Social Security).
- Decision No 2241/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, 15 December 2004 (Europass).
- Directive 2005/36/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, 7 September 2005.
- Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council, 18 June 2009 (ECVET).
- Directive 2014/54/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, 16 April 2014.
- Regulation (EU) 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 13 April 2016.
- Regulation (EU) 2019/128 of the European Parliament and of the Council, 16 January 2019 (Cedefop).



▶ **b-solutions: Cross border DUAL VET Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal**

▶ **Expert's report:**

Although both countries recognise bonuses, scholarships or economic incentives that determine the success of this type of training, the **benefits are neither comparable nor** is there any **mechanism currently that allows them to be transferred beyond national borders.**

▶ There **is neither uniformity in this respect nor legislation or mandate with regard to such a possibility**, so this is another **inevitable obstacle with the current state** of the regulations.



**Roadmap towards a possible solution:**

- Any solution in this regard would require to articulate a **system of direct aid to companies** undertaking employing apprenticeship or VET workers in the neighboring country.

**b-solutions: Cross border DUAL VET Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal**

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## b-solutions: Cross border DUAL VET Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal

### Expert's additional reference:

- Dual Vocational Transnational Training Project for the **Higher Degree of Industrial Chemistry**
- **Educational Center:** IES Comte de Rius (Tarragona) in Spain.
- **Company:** BASF in Germany.

Unique and pioneering project of higher-grade training cycle of Industrial Chemistry within a transnational Dual VET programme.





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**b-solutions: Cross border DUAL VET Euroregion Galicia Norte Portugal**

**What's next?:**

- Keep on together with the working group.  
Analyzing the solution with the competent administrations.
- Try to find alternative funding / cooperation agreements.

**Besides the obstacle of the Social Security:**

- **Educational compatibility and coordination of VET studies and training programme**
- **Automatic recognition or homologation of VET diplomas**
- **Taxes and wage payment scheme**

**Main goal: To develop a pilot project for CB DUAL VET in Galicia Norte Portugal**

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Thank you!!

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