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## Together We Can

5th Virtual Mobility - Italy



# Portugal policy towards immigrants and refugees





First of all we should break some myths!

-Immigrants are not going to take our jobs or invade our territory. Actually, they contribute to our economic growth by having an impact on our public and national accounts;

- Immigrants are not responsible for criminality in our country, in fact, they help to create cultural diversity.

# I want to go to Portugal. What do I need to know?

When you come to Portugal you can find help in immigrant centres – located in Lisbon, Porto, Algarve and Braga.

They advise about employment, where to live, schools for children, where and how to learn the language and help with documents and ID Cards, etc.

- Portugal is a hospitable country;
- Portugal wants to integrate those who come from abroad;
- Comparative studies on the evaluation of integration policies of immigrants prove that Portugal has a friendly approach to migration issues.

*A new law, published on the 8th of August 2017, was implemented to make the process of legalization easier.*





I arrived in Portugal...  
What shall I do next?

# DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- Residence permit
- Tax number
- Social Security card





# Residence permit is given in these situations:

- To study - Higher education
- If you have a work contract or even an agreement of employment contract (according to the 2017 law)
- Family rejoining

*It also applies to people who enter the country illegally (according to the new law)*

## Tax number

- Issued by the Finance Services.
- Immigrants who don't have a residence permit should present the tax number of a Portuguese resident who assumes responsibility for them.

# Social Security Number

Immigrants must sign up for social security.

Social Security will give them a number (card).

# Immigrants' rights

Foreigners living in Portugal (with a residence permit) have the same rights and duties as the Portuguese:

- access to social security;
- access to the National Health System;
- access to education;
- the same labor rights;
- tax payments.

# Immigrants' rights

Immigrants that fail to have the required documents have less rights than the others and can even be expelled from Portugal.

# EXCEPTION

Brazilian citizens  
who have a  
residence permit  
have an equality  
status due to  
historic reasons.



Under the Portuguese citizenship law, children born abroad to Portuguese parents (one or both) are entitled to a Portuguese nationality. It also states that foreigners who have lived in Portugal for five years can also apply for Portuguese nationality. According to the new regime, all people born in Portuguese territory acquire Portuguese nationality provided that, at the time of birth, one of the parents had been a legal resident for at least two years.

In 2020, the number of immigrants in Portugal rose almost 23%. They already total 590 thousand.

Brazilians represent a quarter of this number, with 151,304 resident citizens. The second most represented community is Cape Verde, followed by the United Kingdom, as the result of the “Brexit effect”.





# Refugees

Asylum is granted to foreign citizens that are being persecuted due to:

- race;
- religion;
- political positions;
- wars in their countries.



Refugees only have to ask for asylum by going to the Foreigner Services or to the police authorities.

If they get a permit, they can stay for 5 years and this period is renewable.



## Refugees

# Asylum applications

Evolution of requests for international protection



In 2019 they increased by 45.3% when compared to the previous year, rising to 1849. They include those referring to the relocation mechanism within the scope of national commitments assumed with the European Union.

As for the origin of the applicants, the African continent was the most representative (76.7%). The most representative nationalities are as follows:

1º	Angola	308
2º	Gâmbia	173
3º	Guiné-Bissau	160
4º	Guiné	128
5º	Venezuela	96
6º	Congo RD	85
7º	Nigéria	82
8º	Ucrânia	80
9º	Senegal	73
10º	Camarões	51





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