

# B-Solutions

Handling the barriers faced by spanish nurses that graduated in a portuguese school

Luis Janeiro

Portuguese Red Cross Health School – Alto Tâmega

Chaves - Portugal

## Chaves – Verín: 25 km

Total inhabitants:  $\approx$  56 000

A few distances from  
the school (km)

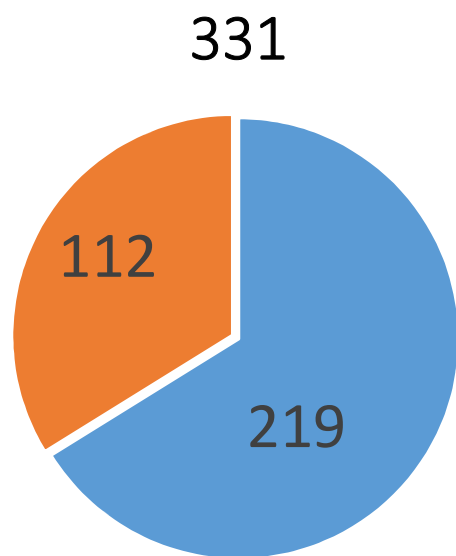
- Porto (PT): 155
- Braga (PT): 130
- Ourense (ES): 90
- Santiago de Compostela (ES): 190



Portuguese Red Cross Health School – Alto Tâmega (Chaves – Portugal)

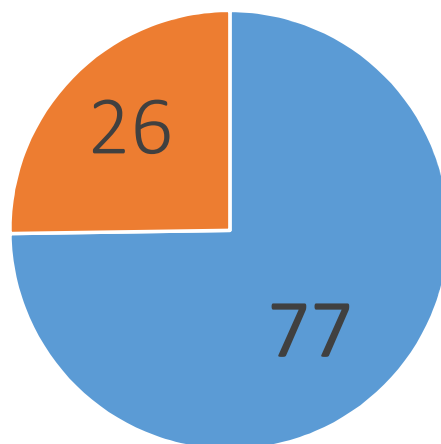
## Portuguese Red Cross Health School – Alto Tâmega: some figures

Total number of students enrolled (Nursing Bachelor):

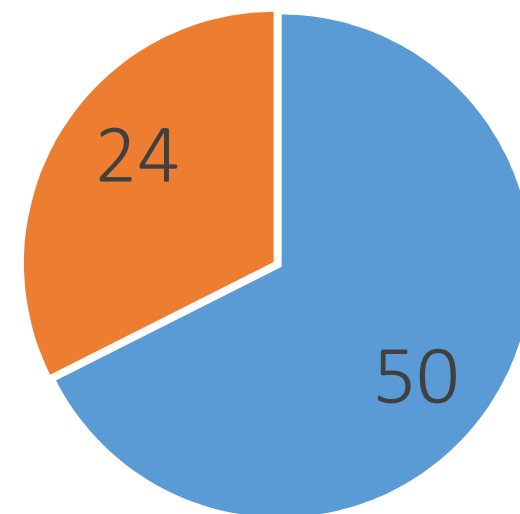


■ Spanish ■ Portuguese

2022/2023  
enrolments: 103



Graduations  
(2021/22): 74



# B-solutions

Advice case title: Cross-Border Nursing

Advised entity: European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Eurocity Chaves-Verín  
([www.eurocidadechavesverin.eu](http://www.eurocidadechavesverin.eu))

Expert: Teresa González Ventín



Main problem

Difficulties encountered by Spaniards (NURSES) who have graduated in Portugal (Portuguese Red Cross Health School – Alto Tâmega, Chaves) and wish to work in Spain.

... and the core is a... **LANGUAGE BARRIER!**

If I were a spanish nurse that had just graduated in Portugal...

➔ I would, likely, consider to work in Spain.

*Ordem dos Enfermeiros*

Nursing Professional College of Portugal



*Cédula Profissional*

Personal Certificate



The Spanish Ministry of Health requests a declaration from the competent authority of the Member State in which they obtained the qualification, following Directive 2005/36/EC: "... certifying that the applicant's qualification permits professional practice in the country where he/she obtained the qualification (...)".

But, despite having studied in Portugal...



It is required to include in their application a C1 certificate in Portuguese.

(Based on Regulation 139/2019 of the Portuguese Nursing College)

WHY??!!

There is serious and concrete doubt as to the suitability of the applicant's language skills for the professional activities he or she intends to pursue.



(The procedure of linguistic control may be imposed in accordance to Article 48 of Law No. 9/2009 of 4 March 2009)

...serious and concrete doubt as to the suitability of the applicant's language skills for the professional activities he or she intends to pursue.

Two questions:

- ➔ What is the **exact meaning of “serious and concrete doubt”** regarding the applicant’s language skills?
- ➔ When applying for the personal certificate, **who is in charge of assessing** this “serious and concrete doubt”?

In 2018, **ALL** the 28 students that graduated had to do the C1 exam...

If there are justified doubts to the ability to understand and communicate orally, applicants must attach a document accrediting their knowledge of the Portuguese language.



At least level C1 of the Europe's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

## Since 2018

- The Portuguese Red Cross Health School – Alto Tâmega has a partnership with CAPLE (Centre for the Evaluation of Portuguese as a Foreign Language).
- Students can obtain the C1 level in our school.



## 2 measures adopted at the Portuguese Red Cross Health School – Alto Tâmega

1) Invitation to meet the students at the school, during the academic year:

➡ Spanish Trade Union of Nursing Professionals (*Sindicato de Enfermeria*)

➡ Potencial employers (private sector)

## 2 measures adopted at the Portuguese Red Cross Health School – Alto Tâmega

2) At least, one of the clinical trainings within the curricular plan of the course must be developed in Portugal.



Students interact with patients and staff... in Portuguese!

## Personal reflection about the 2 proposals in the report (page 13)

*“Ask the Professional College of Nurses-Ordem dos Enfermeiros to eliminate this assessment or, where appropriate, to specify what would be the justified doubts that would lead the processing authority to require a document proving proficiency in the Portuguese language;”*

I couldn't agree more!

## Personal reflection about the 2 proposals in the report (page 13)

*“Each School of Nursing, upon presentation of the content of the course it offers, may individually request the Professional College of Nurses-Ordem dos Enfermeiros to certify that graduates from this centre are exempt from submitting proof of language proficiency.”*

In the creation or regular (every 6 years) evaluation of existing courses (by the Ministry of Higher Education), the approval of the curricular plan by the College of Nurses is mandatory.

They already deeply know all the courses that exist in Portugal.

Thank you for your attention