

Last January 2nd, new legislation was published on the training of portuguese driving instructors, driving school directors and also examiners. Was it long-awaited legislation?

Yes. In 2014 there was a change in the operating legislation for driving schools, but we continued to train professionals in the sector under 1998 standards. ANIECA was actively involved on the update of this standards, so they can be adjusted and aligned with the current social reality and legislation. We are proud to say that we had an essential contribution to the development of this new legislation.

What are the main changes felt in the initial training of instructors?

The previous model was fully simulated. The new model provides training in a real driving school environment, including attending the administrative work of the secretariat, attending classes from experienced instructors and teaching theoretical and practical classes to real students, before taking the instructor exam.

What are the advantages of this new model for new instructors?

We believe that the new model helps the new instructor to be much better prepared to perform their profession, as they stop training only in simulated situations and start training in real situations, in a real environment.

What are the advantages for active instructors?

In Portugal, instructors must attend periodic training to update their skills, every 5 years. When the instructor turns 70 years old, he begins to attend training every 2 years, a situation that we have always considered unfair. We consider that continuous training is very important for the educational process, but the previous model was too long for the topics that needed to be covered. The duration of the course has been reduced from 60 hours to 25 hours, making it much better suited to the needs of instructors and driving schools. The issue of instructors aged 70 was also changed.

What impact do you expect this new law to have on the activity of driving schools?

We believe that this document promotes the quality of education provided at driving schools and highlights the importance of instructors and driving schools in promoting a safer road environment.