

10 YEARS OF ACADEMIC RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN DEGREES

Since the entry into force of Decree-Law n.º 341/2007, 12th October that there has been an increasing use of this legislation for the recognition of foreign academic degrees. Until the end of 2017, 5484 foreign diplomas were registered by this Directorate General.

Through the analysis of the data presented we can witness a significant increase due to the introduction of the extension of this recognition system to degrees from the Ukraine and Moldavia. After this increase in 2010 the number of requests stagnated until 2013 where there has been a constant growth. In 2017 we have registered the largest number of requests ever (Fig. 1).

The foreign diplomas that arrive at this Directorate General for registration are mostly from Spain, followed by the United Kingdom and the Ukraine (Fig. 2). This is mainly due to proximity in the case of Spain and due to the number of immigrants from the Ukraine in Portugal. We can also highlight the significant number of diplomas from Moldavia and Italy in recent years.

The significant use of this legislation for the recognition of foreign diplomas is largely used by Portuguese nationals (about 50%). After this, but with a considerable distance are Ukrainian citizens and in third place Spanish with around 392 requests (Fig. 3).

Approximately 60% of those who request the registration of their diplomas are female (Fig. 4). The most registered degrees are “Master” and “PhD”, from Spain and the United Kingdom (Fig. 5). Medicine is the area of training with the largest number of requests, gathering 40% of the total. Economy, Management and Law are the other areas that come in second with large numbers of request (Fig. 6).

Decree-Law n.º 341/2007 foresees the registration of diplomas as well as the conversion of final grades to the Portuguese grading system. Figure 7 shows that 55% of requests are just for the registration of diplomas, 42% are for both registration and conversion and 3% are only for the conversion of the final grade.

Our Unit, DRMCI, according to its competencies, and acting as a NARIC Centre (National Academic Recognition Information Centre) also provides information about the recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas, about the level of academic training acquired in other countries. We also issue declarations about the level of academic training in other countries and declarations regarding the grading system in Portuguese higher education.

The NARIC Centre, between 2007 and 2017, received a total of 12.880 requests, with an average of more than a 1000 requests per year. The significant increase in 2010 and 2011, with more than 1500 requests, is due to the already mentioned Decisions regarding the Ukraine and Moldavia. In 2017 there was also a high number of requests with 1300 (Fig. 8).

The big increase in the requests for declarations regarding the level of degrees in most recent years, as opposed to simple requests for information, that have decreased significantly, is explained by the arrival of a considerable number of Brazilian citizens to Portugal, with training at higher education level that isn't regulated by Decree-Law 341/2007. We believe that the requests for information have decreased because of the increase of the quality of the information and new means of communication, as well as by the changes made to the methodology for the registration of requests (Fig.s 9 and 10).

The majority of training from other countries brought to the NARIC Centre is from Brazil, about 65%, followed by training from France, Spain and Venezuela (Fig. 11). The nationalities of the people who make these requests is also about 55% Brazilian, 17% Portuguese, and the remaining numbers are very diverse (Fig.12).

Of the requests made, 76% have already completed their studies, asking for declarations of the level of training for equivalence procedures (regulated by Decree-Law 283/83, 21st of June). The remaining requests are for completing studies.

Fig. 1 – Evolution of the number of requests since the entry into force of Decree-Law 314/2007

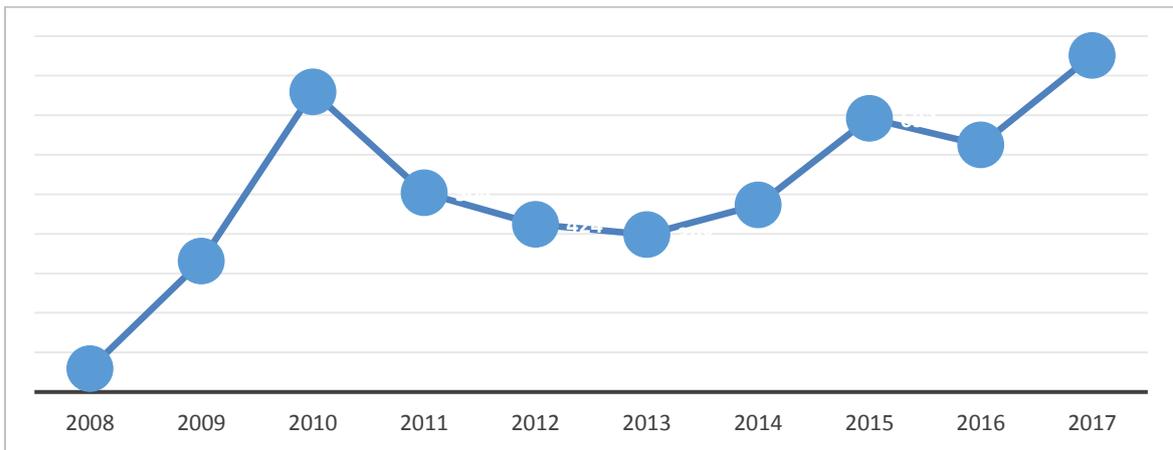


Fig. 2 – Countries of origin of the academic diplomas (10+)

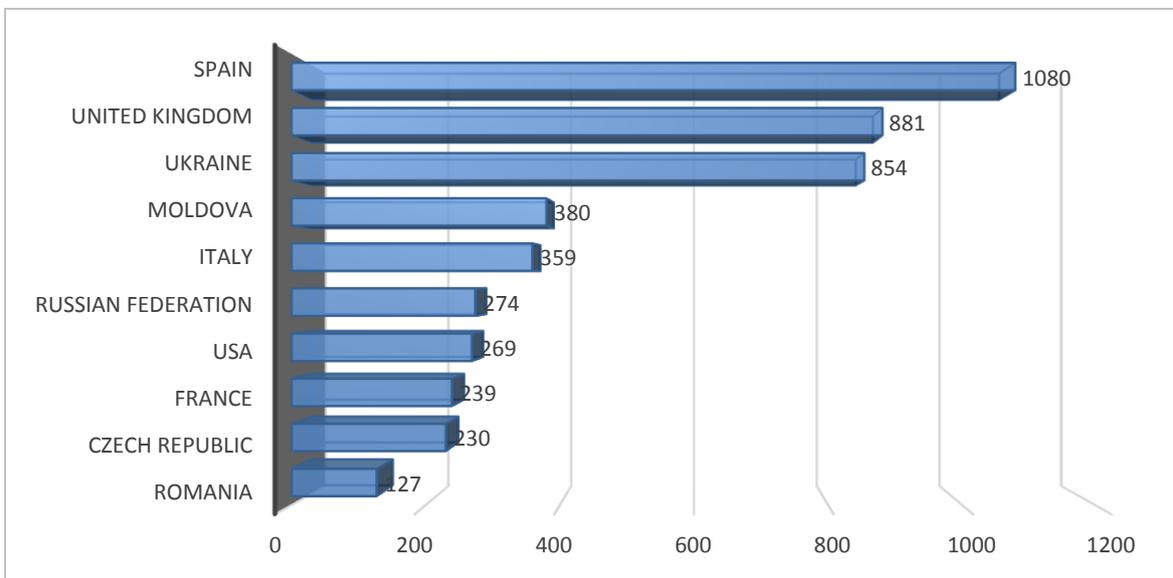


Fig. 3 – Nationality of the holders of the foreign diplomas (10+)

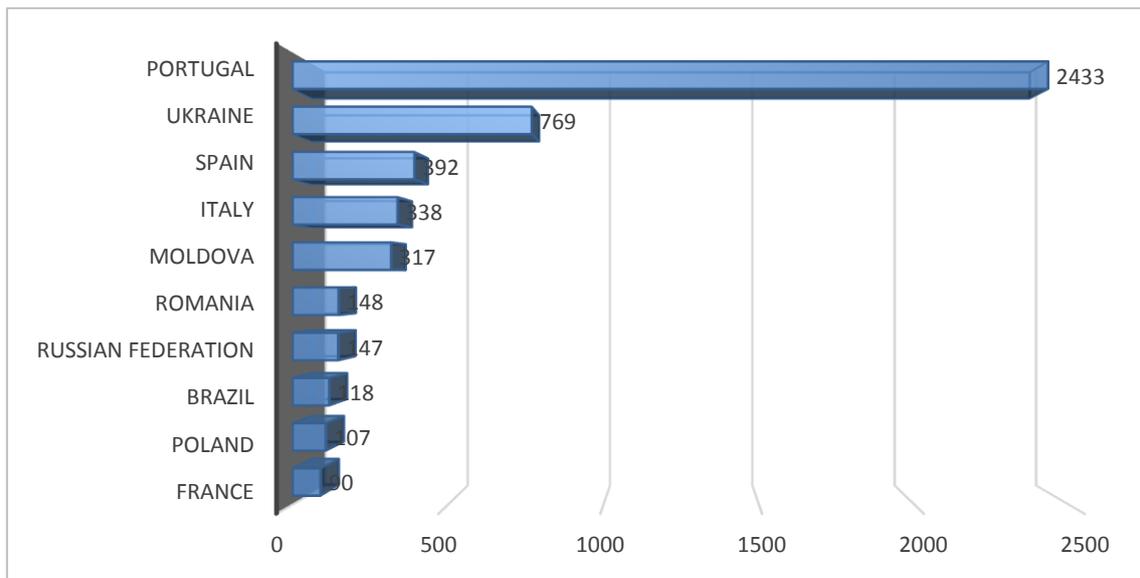


Fig. 4 – Sex of the holders of the foreign diplomas

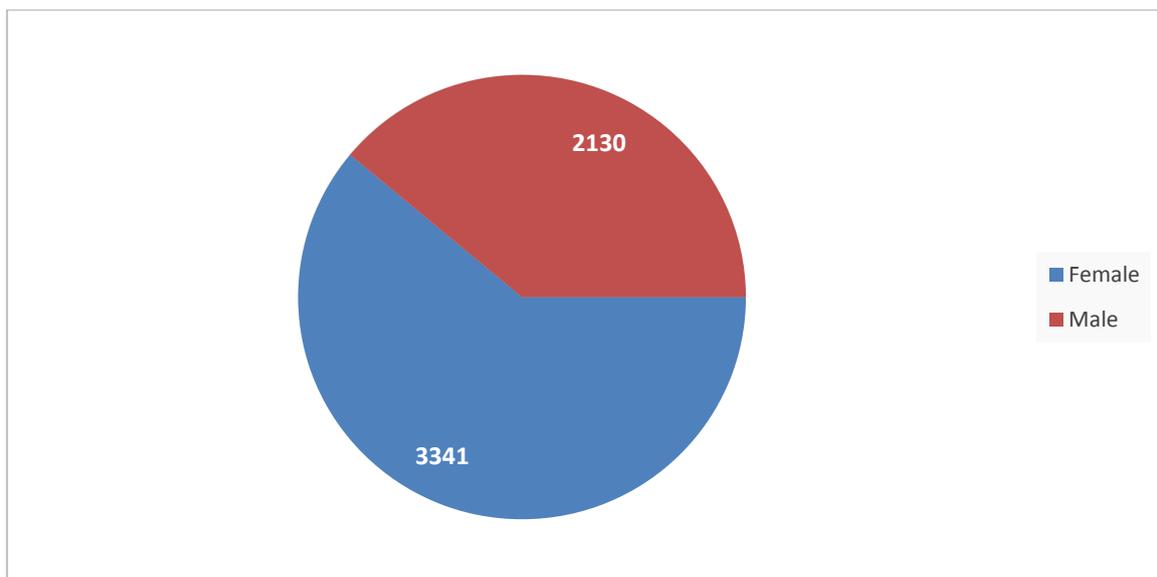


Fig. 5 – Foreign degrees most registered through Decree-Law n.º 341/2007 in DGES DGES (10+)

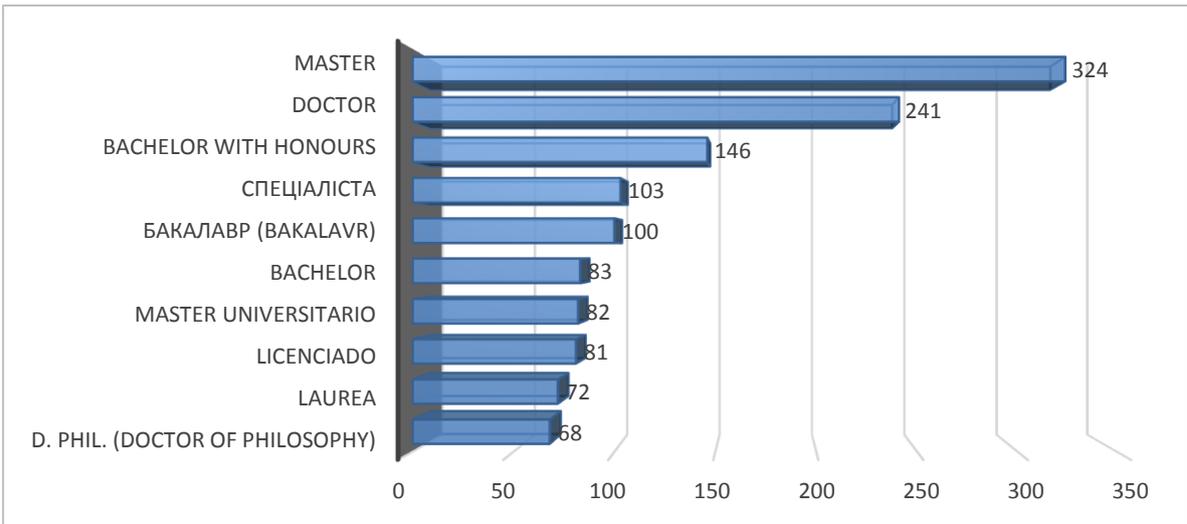


Fig. 6 – Area of study of the foreign diplomas (10+)

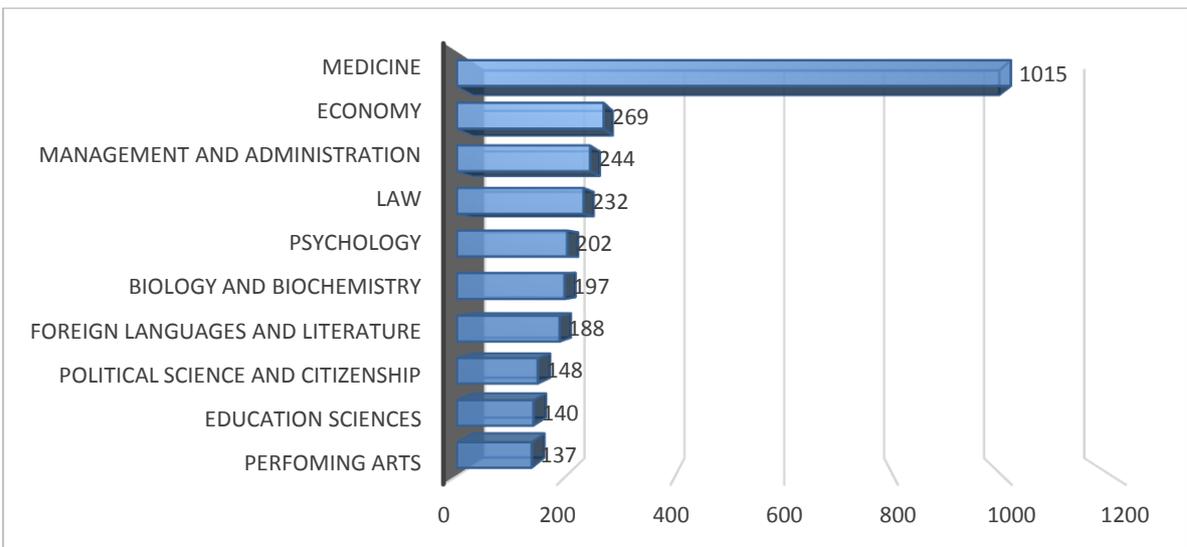


Fig. 7 – Type of registration requests in DGES

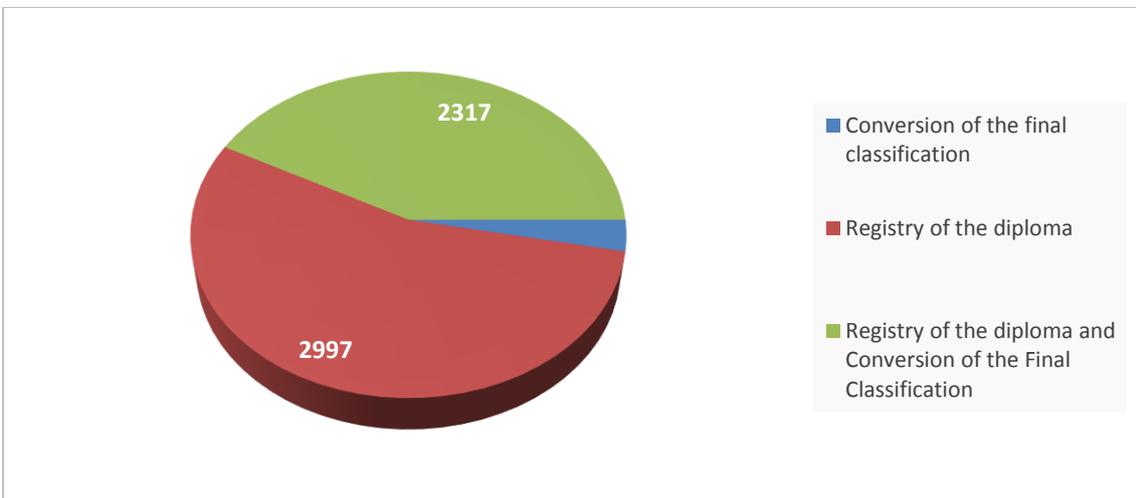


Fig. 8 – Total of requests to the PT NARIC Centre



Fig. 9 – Total of requests to the PT NARIC Centre by type, since 2007

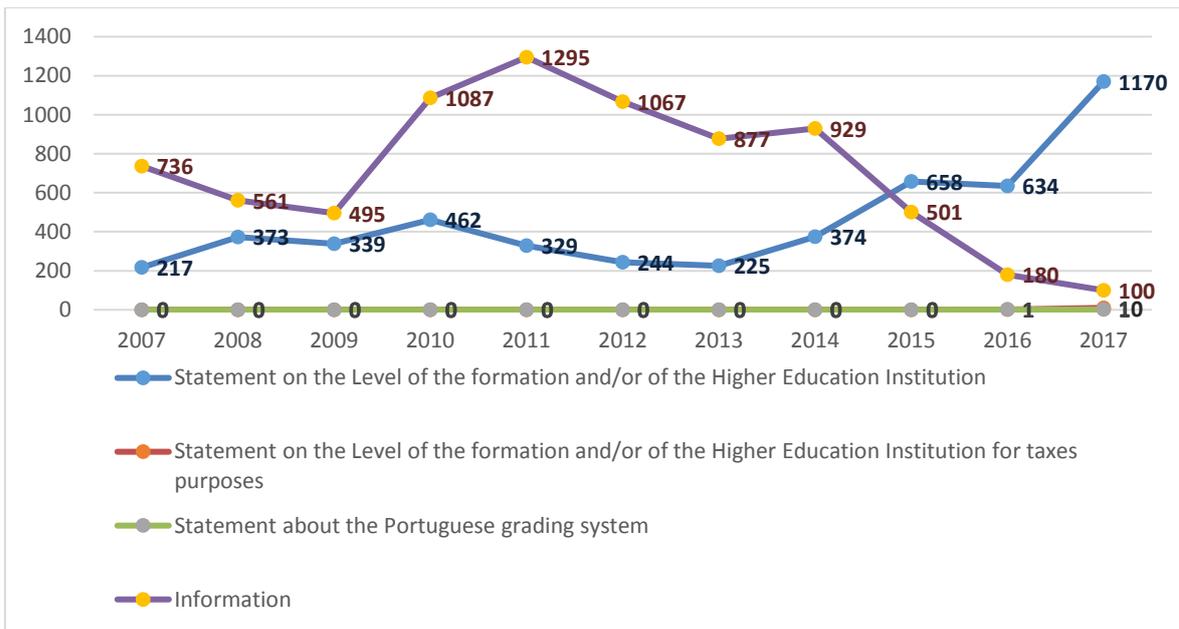


Fig. 10 – Total of requests for declarations on the level of training since 2007

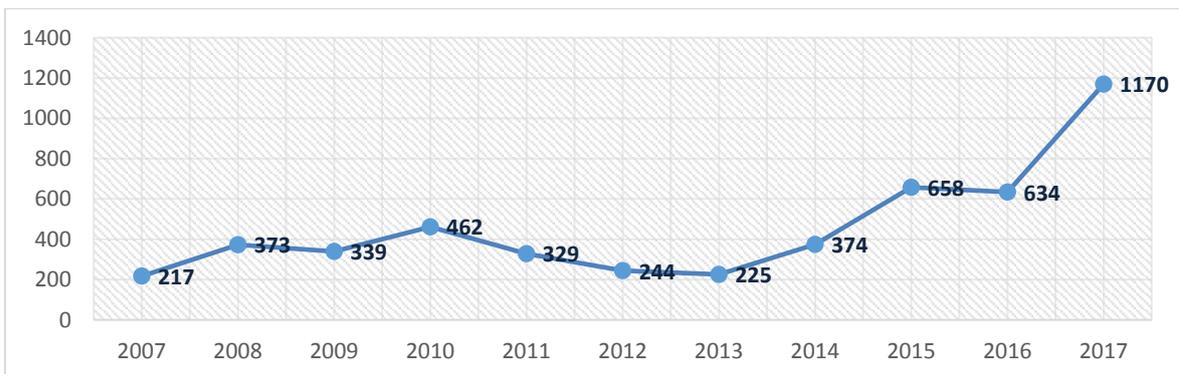


Fig. 11 – Countries of origin of the higher education training (10+)

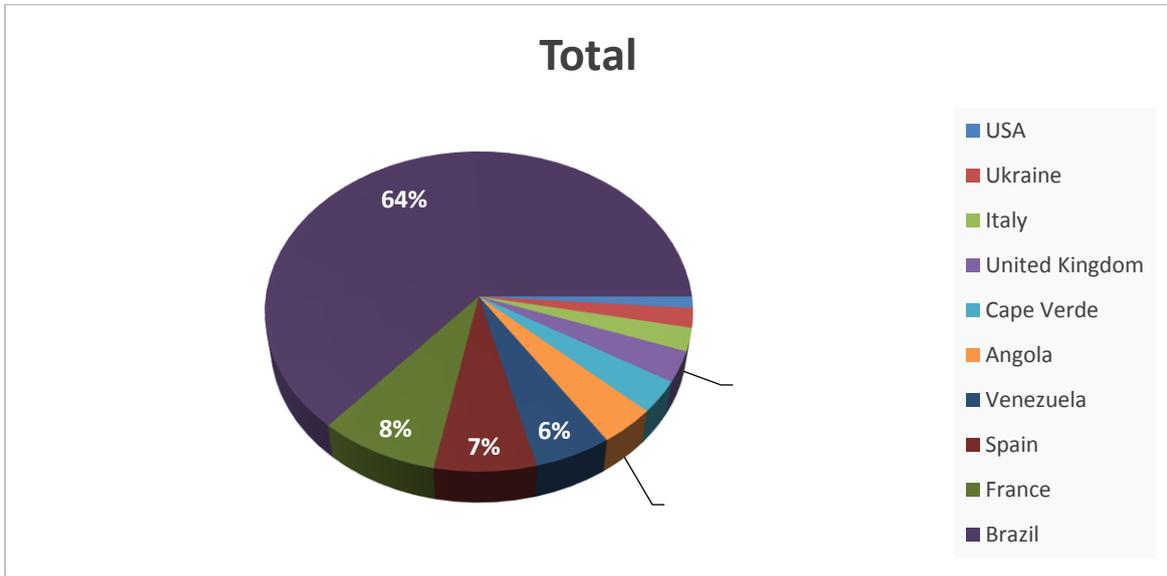
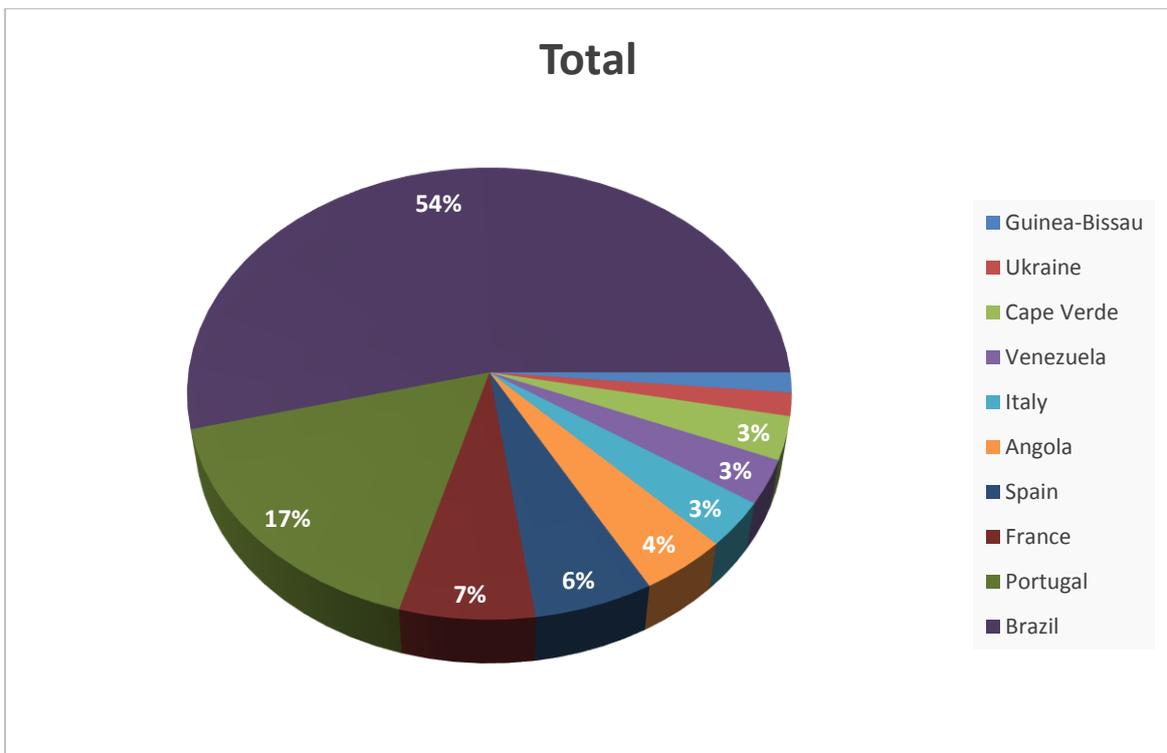


Fig. 12 – Nationality of the holders of foreign training (10+)



[INDEX OF FIGURES:](#)

FIG. 1 - EVOLUTION OF THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS SINCE THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF DECREE-LAW 314/2007	2
FIG. 2 – COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF THE ACADEMIC DIPLOMAS (10+).....	2
FIG. 3 - NATIONALITY OF THE HOLDERS OF THE FOREIGN DIPLOMAS (10+).....	3
FIG. 4 - SEX OF THE HOLDERS OF THE FOREIGN DIPLOMAS.....	3
FIG. 5 - FOREIGN DEGREES MOST REGISTERED THROUGH DECREE-LAW N.º 341/2007 IN DGES DGES (10+)	3
FIG. 6 - AREA OF STUDY OF THE FOREIGN DIPLOMAS (10+).....	4
FIG. 7 - TYPE OF REGISTRATION REQUESTS IN DGES.....	4
FIG. 8 – TOTAL OF REQUESTS TO THE PT NARIC CENTRE.....	4
FIG. 9 – TOTAL OF REQUESTS TO THE PT NARIC CENTRE BY TYPE, SINCE 2007	4
FIG. 10 – COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION TRAINING (10+)	5
FIG. 11 – COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION TRAINING (10+)	5
FIG. 12 – NATIONALITY OF THE HOLDERS OF FOREIGN TRAINING (10+).....	5