



PISA POWER:

THE IMPACT ON PORTUGUESE EDUCATION POLICIES & RESULTS

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Introduction

Portugal in PISA
from 2000-2022

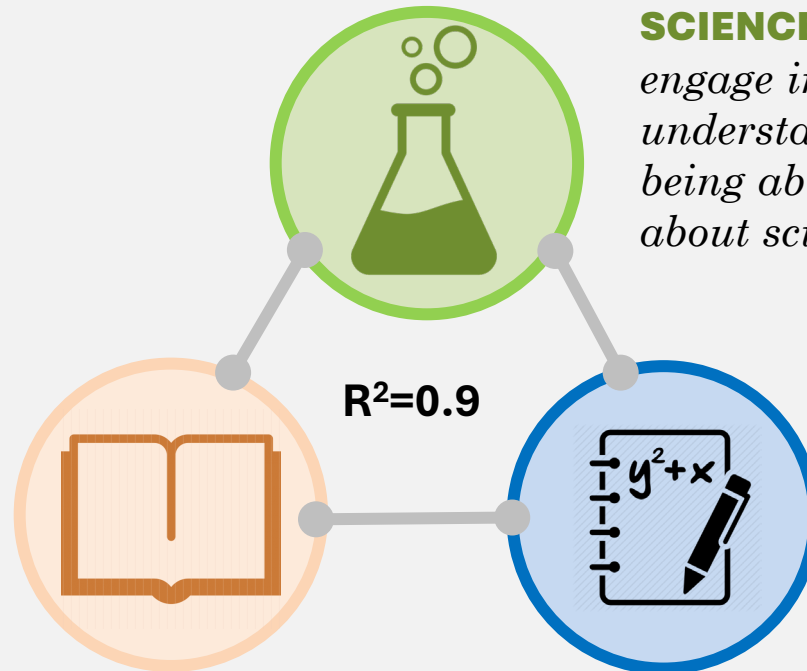


What is PISA?

Programme for International Student Assessment

“Measures 15-year-olds’ ability to use their reading, mathematics and science knowledge and skills to meet real-life challenges”. (OECD, 2022).

READING LITERACY *An individual's ability to understand, use, reflect and engage in the reading of written texts to achieve their goals, to develop their knowledge and potential, and to participate in society.*



SCIENCE LITERACY *An individual's ability to engage in questions about science and understand scientific ideas, as a reflective citizen, being able to participate in a rational discourse about science and technology.*

MATH LITERACY *An individual's ability to formulate, apply and interpret mathematics in diverse contexts and to formulate judgments and decisions in a reasoned manner, as a participatory, committed and reflective citizen.*

● 2000 First Participation of Portugal on PISA (15-year-olds)

OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment

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2015 Sixth Participation of Portugal on PISA (15-year-olds)

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*Only seven of the 79 education systems analyzed [in PISA 2018] saw significant improvements in the reading, mathematics and science performance of their students throughout their participation in PISA, and **only one of these, Portugal, is a member of the OECD.***



(OECD, 2019. PISA 2018 Results (Vol. I). p. 3)

OECD Secretary-General **Angel Gurría**

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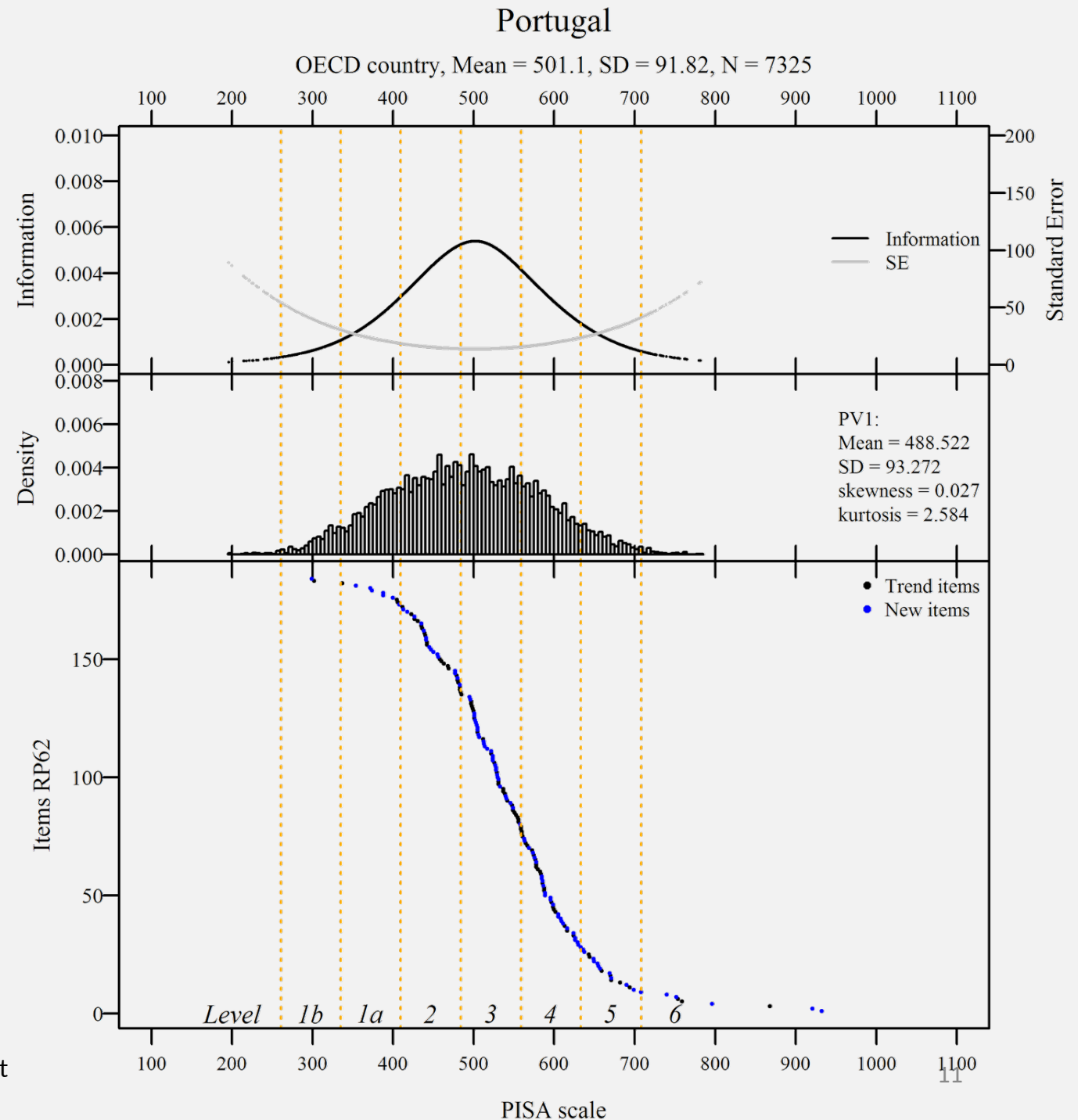
Results shown in the simulation are based on a simplified mathematical model of how the virus spreads for a particular individual after one hour in different conditions.





Item-person maps PISA 2015

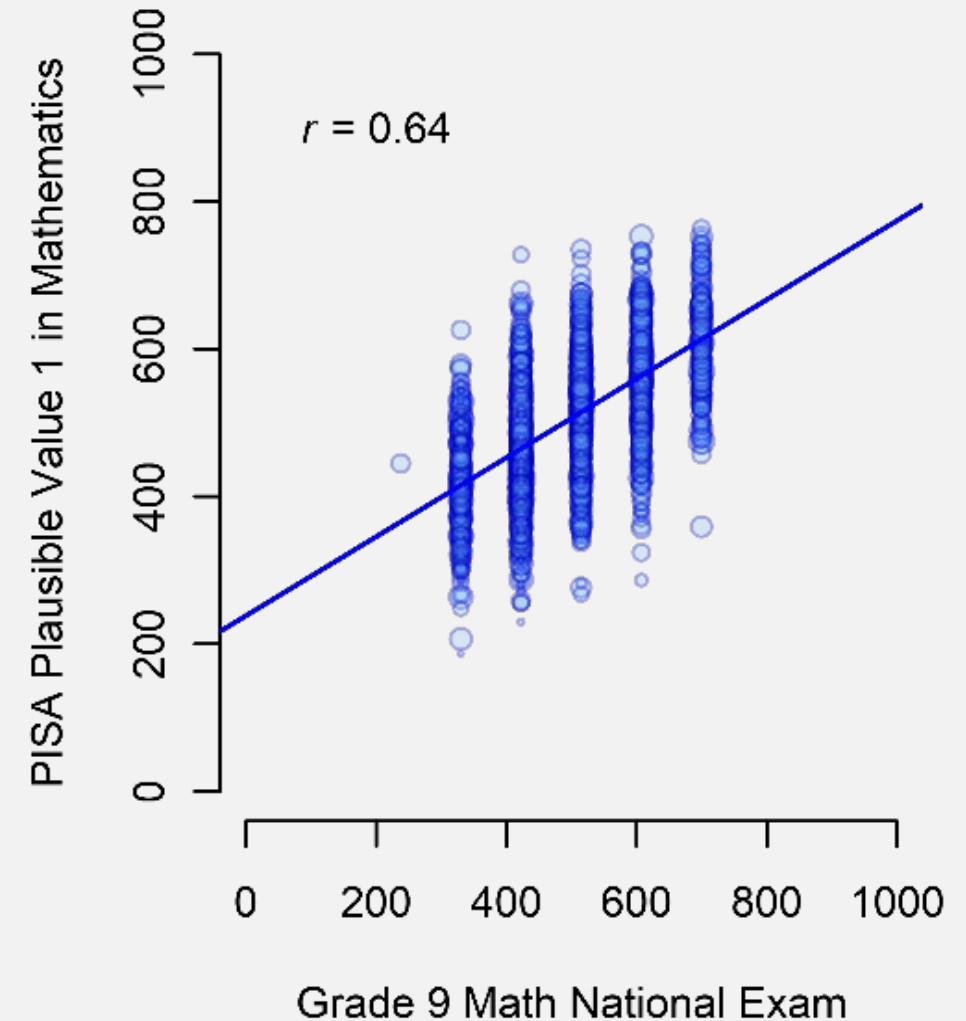
PISA is well aligned
with the Portuguese
Students skills!



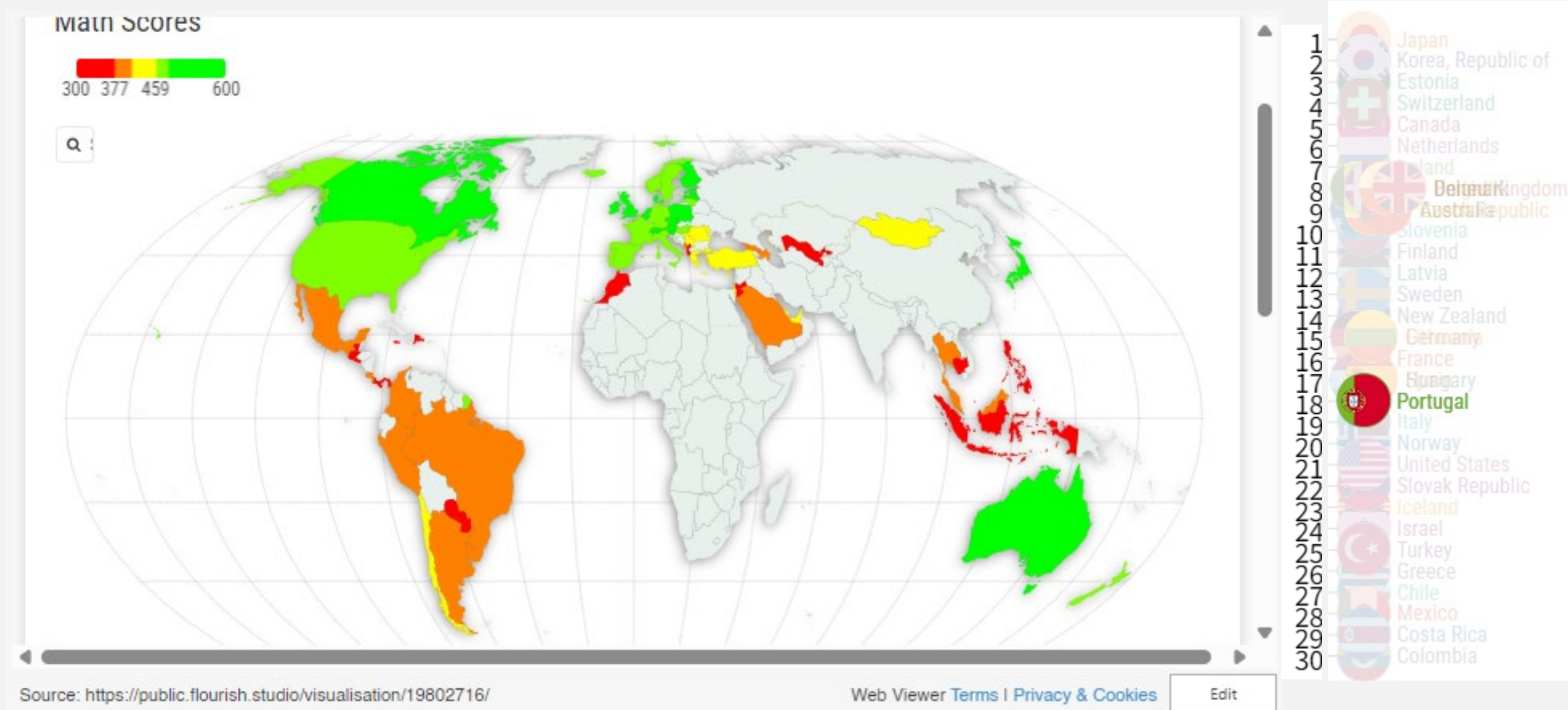


PISA 2015 Math

	PISA 2015	National Exam
Content Domains	% items	% items
Quantity	25.0	12.0
Space and Shape	25.0	40.0
Change and relationships	25.0	35.0
Uncertainty and data	25.0	13.0
Cognitive Domains	% items	% items
Knowing	-	37.0
Formulating	25.0	-
Applying	50.0	38.0
Interpreting/Reasoning	25.0	25.0



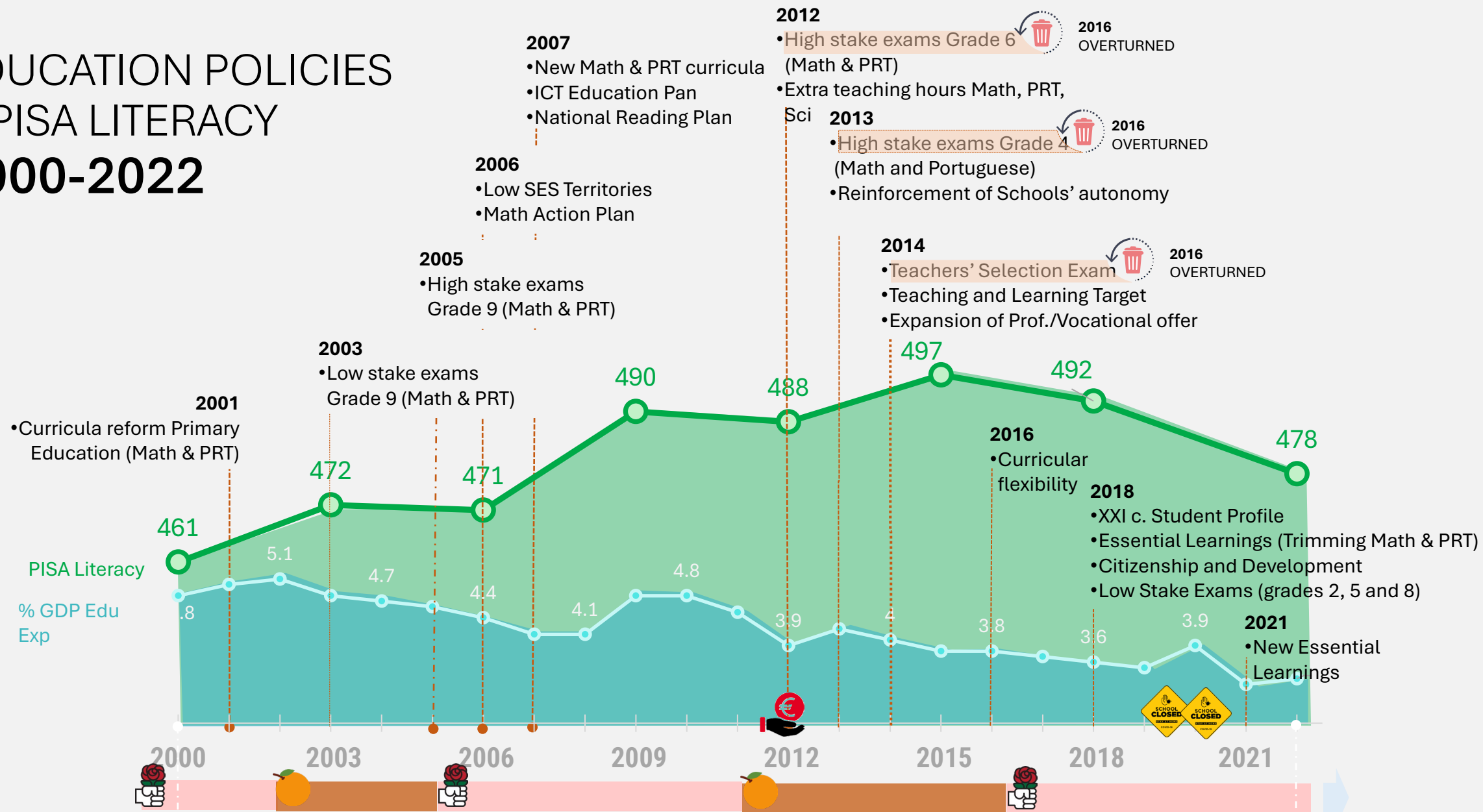
• 2022 Eight Participation of Portugal on PISA (15-year-olds)





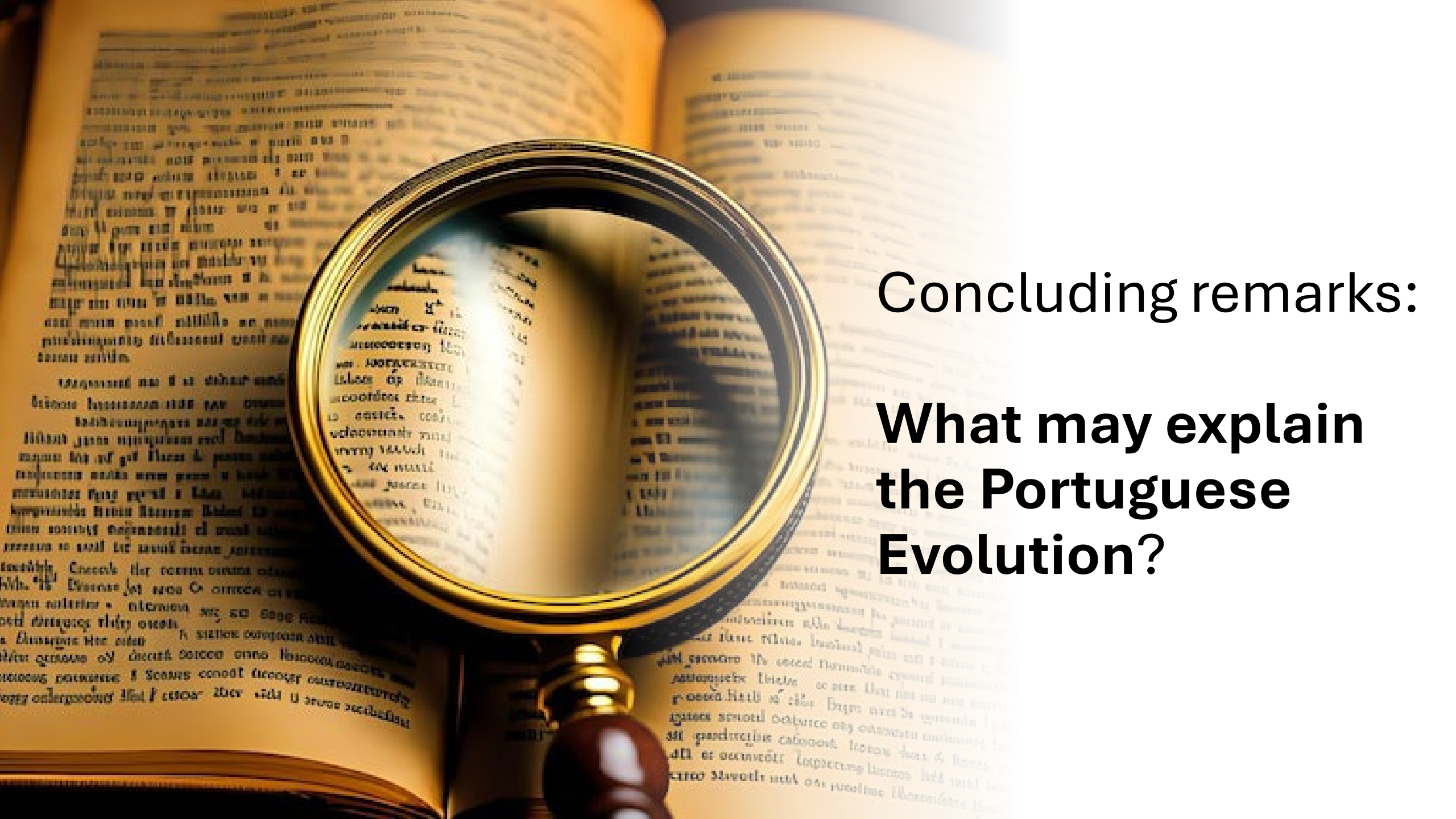
PISA's driven Education Policies...

EDUCATION POLICIES & PISA LITERACY 2000-2022



Mean Income of households: **25.4** k€
 Tertiary Education: **13%**
 Upper Secondary Schooling: **58.8%**
 Pre-school Coverage: **73.3%**

Mean Income of households: **39.2** k€
 Tertiary Education: **47%**
 Upper Secondary Schooling: **85.7%**
 Pre-school Coverage: **96.2%**



Concluding remarks:

**What may explain
the Portuguese
Evolution?**



10 Possible explanations...

FAMILIES & STUDENTS

1. Improvement in **parents' education** (mothers)
2. Improvement in families' **financial health**
3. Motivation and drive to **finish secondary studies** and tertiary education

POLICIES

2000-2015

1

4. 9 and then **12 years mandatory schooling**
5. **Curricula reforms** to align national curricula to best international practices: **Knowledge based**
6. Alternative **non-regular tracks** (vocational, professional,...)
7. Improvement in **teachers' training** and pedagogy (B.Sc. to M.Sc.)
8. High Stake exams (**Students and Schools accountability**)
9. **ECEC coverage** to almost 100%
10. Better school **autonomy and organization**

POLICIES

2015-2022

2

4. **Anti student retention policies.**
5. **Curricula reforms:** Essential Learning, Curricular Flexibility: **Competences based.**
6. **Lack of teachers' and teachers' retention**
7. **Teachers strikes** (recovery of salary)
8. **No Students and Schools accountability** (4^o, 6^o High Stake Exams -> Low Stakes Tests)
9. **COVID-19 Lockdown (2018-2022)**
10. **Learning Losses Recovery Programs**



5 main lessons from PISA...

1. Strategic Use of Assessment Data
2. Balancing Accountability and Holistic Development
3. Continuity and Stability in Policy Implementation
4. Adaptability and Flexibility in Response to Challenges
5. Investment in Quality Education and Equity

Thank you!



Questions, comments?

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Further information:

- Marôco J. (2021). *The PISA Effects on Portugal's Education*. In: Crato, N. (ed.). *Improving a Country's Education*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-59031-4_8
- Marôco, J. (2024). *Portugal: COVID-19 Learning Losses Through the Lenses of ILSA and Local Low Stake Assessments*. In: Crato, N., Patrinos, H.A. (eds) *Improving National Education Systems After COVID-19. Evaluating Education: Normative Systems and Institutional Practices*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-69284-0_10