



ID: 112080799

11-07-2024

Rising inequality in labour market

EDUCATION || The labour market is exacerbating social inequalities among young people. A study released last week blows a hole in various governments' lauding of the importance of university/academic qualifications, stressing that the increase, in Portuguese society, of young people going through higher education is not having the expected social uplift effect.

"What is most disturbing about this study is that it shows a structural inequality among young people, suggesting that they differ in the labour market according to their class status," ISCTE researcher Renato Miguel do Carmo, who coordinated the work, tells *Lusa*.

It is based on social status that young people

"experience the world of work differently" and are exposed to "varying degrees" of unemployment, social unprotection and job insecurity.

"Parents' educational qualifications are attributes that not only generate social differentiation, but also strong levels of inequality among young people," says the document presenting the study "Young People and Labour in Portugal - Inequalities, (Un)Protection and the Future".

The majority of young people from families with fewer resources, especially in the interior of the country, are limited to "poorly paid jobs and more precarious employment", which makes them more dependent on family and friends.



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