



Better Regulation: Good Practice from Portugal

Regular updates to keep regulation adapted to sectoral realities: The Portuguese sectoral regulation for the private security services was updated twice recently, in 2019 and 2020, as the regulatory framework of 2013 was no longer in line with the new sectoral realities. Likewise, the existing training requirements for security officers, established in 2014, are being updated and approved by the Portuguese Ministry of Interior (status in November 2021).

Content of the law: all business activities of private security services are clearly defined and regulated. Training requirements are clearly defined for different levels in the security profession, namely Security Directors, Security Coordinators, and Security Personnel. Tasks of the personnel are also clearly defined, such as for cash security guards, sports venue security assistant, port and airport security assistants, alarm centre operator, and others - all with different kinds of training requirements.

Collaboration with Social Partners: the Social Partners work closely with each other also through an Observatory for the private security sector and with the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the adequate update of the regulatory framework - also to fight undeclared work, establish high training standards, promote long-term working contracts and foster best value procurement. The objectives of this collaboration for regulatory matters, which is built on a close contact between all actors, are trust-building, objectivity of legislation, and loyalty. It is a basis for public-private partnerships, in which private security isn't just any kind of service, but a complement to law enforcement.

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