

# Best Practices Identification - Grid

**PARTNER SUGGESTING THIS PRACTICE:** PT

**TITLE DOCUMENT:** U CAN - University scholarships

**PROMOTER:** Programa Escolhas

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**WEBSITE:** <http://www.programaescolhas.pt/>

**LANGUAGES:** EN | DE | FR | FI | GR | Other: PT

<b>The output of this document includes:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rational
<input type="checkbox"/> Theoretical background
<input type="checkbox"/> Characterisation of the context
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reference to existing "needs"/"problems"
<input type="checkbox"/> Reference to possible "benefits"/"resources"
<input type="checkbox"/> Definition of goals
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Identification of target groups
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of main intervention strategies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership with other organisations
<input type="checkbox"/> Process evaluation
<input type="checkbox"/> Outcome evaluation
<b>Target group(s):</b>
Low income youngsters up to 24 years old, who have passed most of the previous year's subjects. Priority is given to youngsters attaining PE's projects
<b>Topic or discipline:</b>
Integration, social inclusion, economic inequalities

<b>Short Description</b>
Education and training is one of the strategic areas of the "Programa Escolhas" (PE). Based on PE's intervention, the need to create a support program for University students was identified, since several young people from the territories where PE operated were at risk of dropping out of HE due to financial difficulties. In 2013/2014, the PE launched the project U CAN, in partnership with Barclays Bank. In the first edition, U CAN provided financial support to 48 youngsters: 31 from Portugal, 6 from Angola, 3 from Guinea-Bissau, 3 from São Tomé and Príncipe, 2 from Ukraine, 1 from Cape Verde, 1 from Brazil, and 1 from Russia. Besides that, and through a mentoring process, each youngster was accompanied by a volunteer mentor from the Barclays Bank, who provided academic and personal support. The second edition, in 2014/2015, didn't have the support from the Barclays Bank, but the financial support and the network of mentors were kept. This time, the mentors were recruited from the PE's projects implemented across the country. This second edition supported also 48 youngsters: 16 from Cape Verde, 16 from Portugal, 7 from Angola, 5 from São Tomé and Príncipe, 2 from Guinea Bissau, 1 from Ukraine and 1 from Nigeria. The scholarships were used for expenses with tuition fees, school supplies and travel on public transport.
<b>Why is this an interesting case? Is there any formal recognition of this case as a good practice? Why do you think this sample should be taken into consideration?</b>
In the first edition, all the young people supported by the U CAN project had success in HE. These very positive results justified the second edition. A new round of applications is scheduled for 2016/2017.