How to change the language in TIA Portal (interface language and mnemonics)

This guide shows you how to change the language in TIA Portal from the **Options** menu. It also explains what changes and what stays the same in your project after you switch. You then learn how to change the mnemonics, the symbols used for PLC inputs and outputs, such as "Q 0.5" or "A 0.5".

Prerequisites

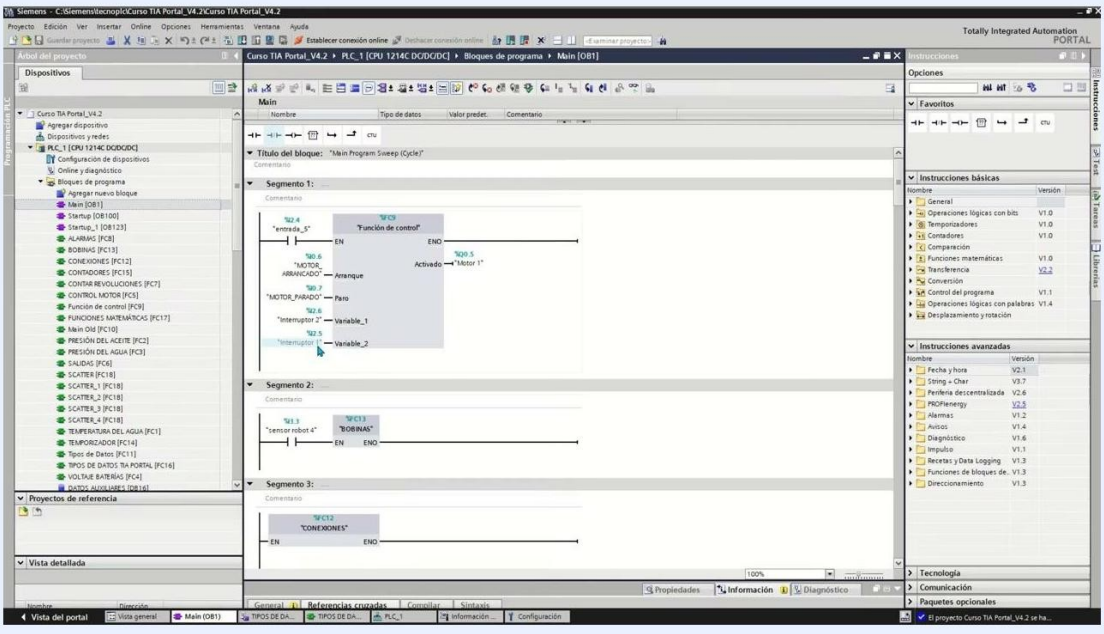
- TIA Portal is installed with a project open.
- The language you want is installed. The available languages depend on those selected during installation. To add more, modify your TIA Portal installation and select the additional languages.

Step 1: Review the current interface language

Before you change the language in TIA Portal, note how the workspace looks now. In this example, all menus, toolbars, and function blocks are in Spanish.

- The main workspace shows a PLC program with segments labeled "Segmento 1", "Segmento 2", and "Segmento 3".
- The project tree on the left lists devices and program blocks.

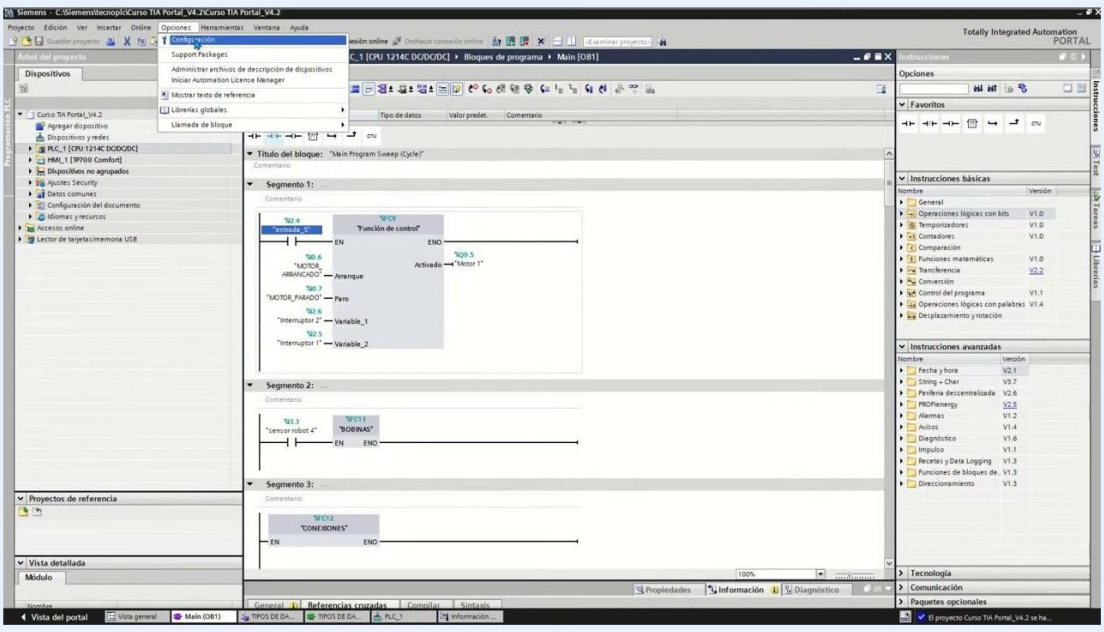
- The right panel displays the basic and advanced instruction sets.



TIA Portal main workspace with menus and program blocks in Spanish

Step 2: Open the Options menu

Click the **Opciones** (Options) menu in the top menu bar. In the dropdown, select **Configuración** (Configuration).

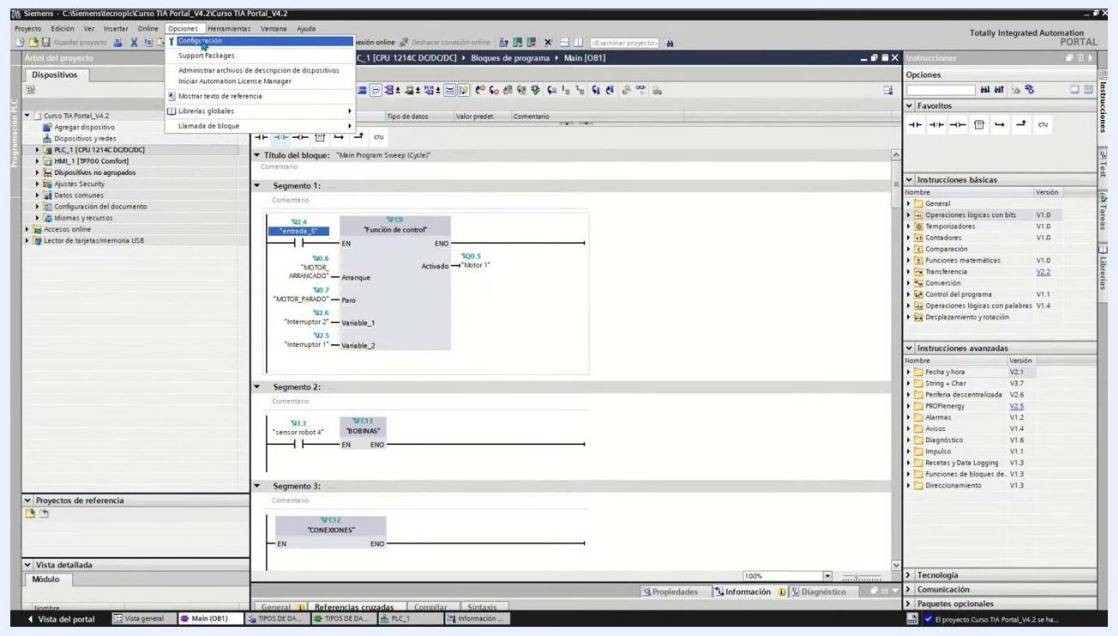


Options menu ("Opciones") open with "Configuración" highlighted

Step 3: Go to the General tab

A configuration window opens. Tabs on the left include General, Hardware configuration, PLC programming, and Simulation. The main panel shows parameters for hardware configuration, PLC programming, and simulation.

Select the **General** tab, because this is where you set the interface language.



Configuration window open, showing General tab and various configuration options

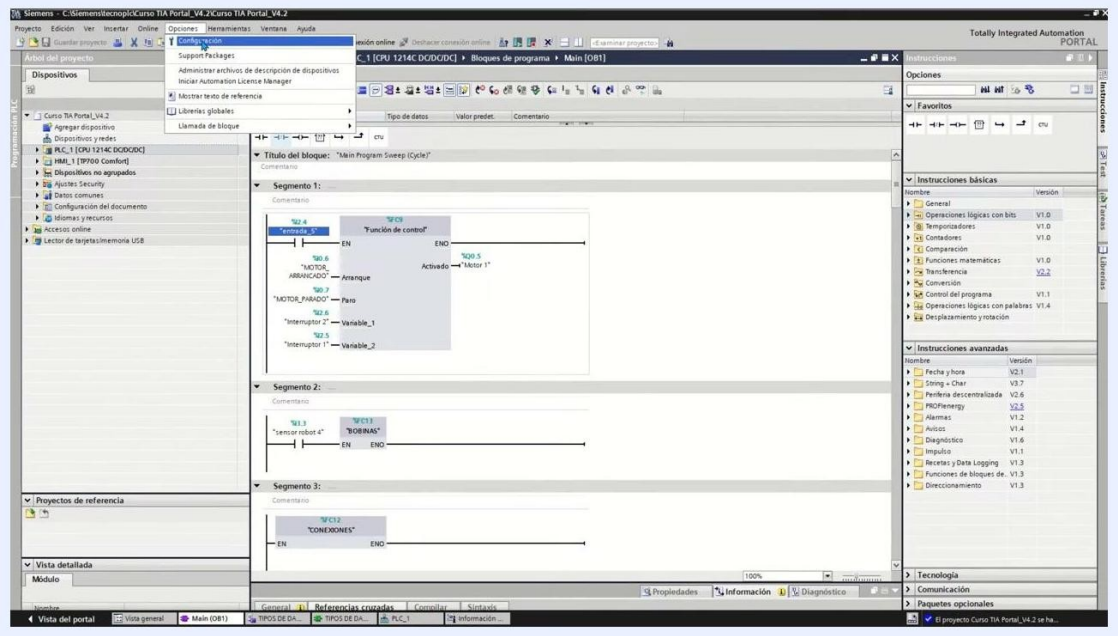
Step 4: Locate the interface language setting

You can switch the interface language from Spanish to English, from English to Spanish, or to another supported language. The change affects all menu texts and functions.

In the **General** tab, find these two settings:

- **Idioma de la interfaz** (User interface language), currently set to **Español (España)**.
- **Mnemonics**, currently set to **Internacional** (International).

This section also includes settings for user name, tooltips, and initial view.

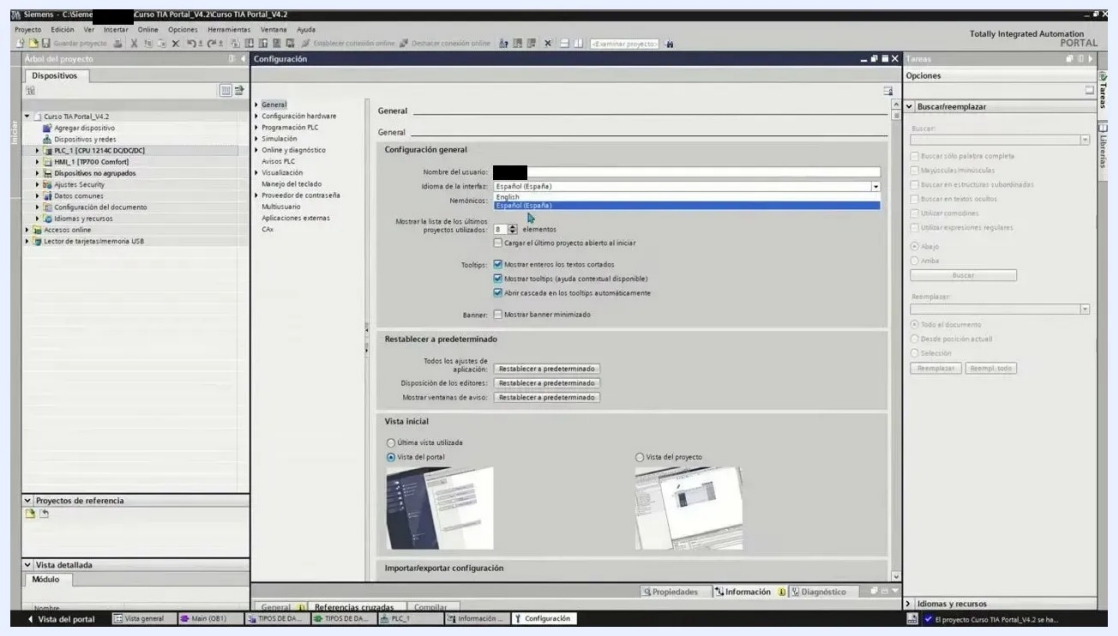


General tab with interface language and mnemonic settings visible

Step 5: Open the language dropdown

Click the **Idioma de la interfaz** dropdown menu to display the available languages. The list shows at least **English** and **Español (España)**.

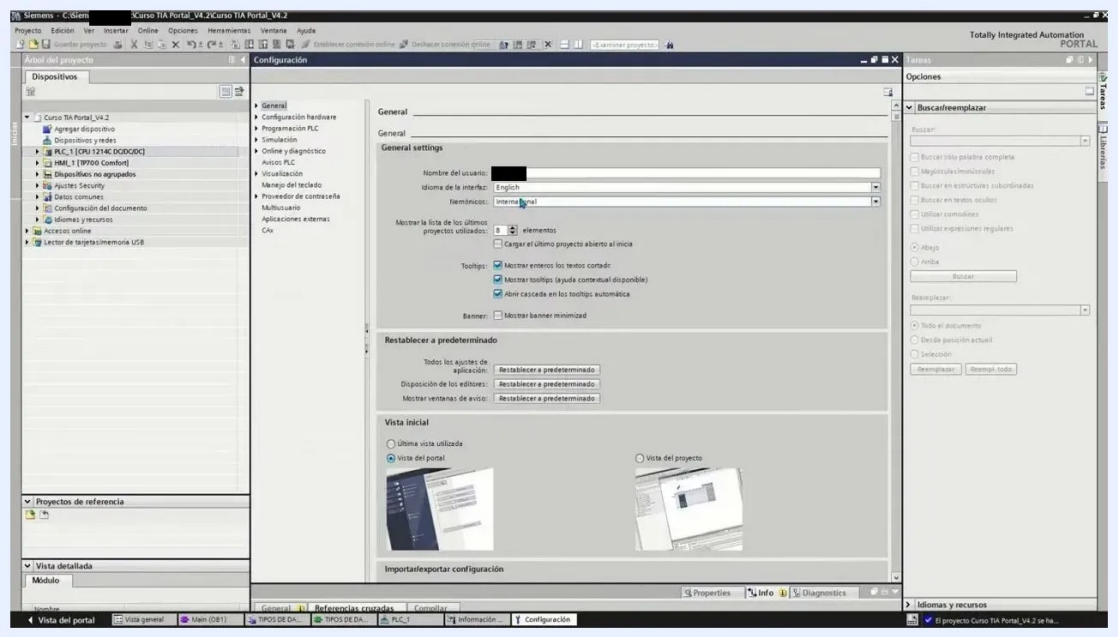
If the language you need is missing, modify your TIA Portal installation and select additional languages.



Language dropdown open, showing English and Spanish options

Step 6: Select the language

Select **English** from the dropdown menu. The interface language changes immediately throughout the TIA Portal environment. All menu items, tabs, and tool parameters now appear in English.



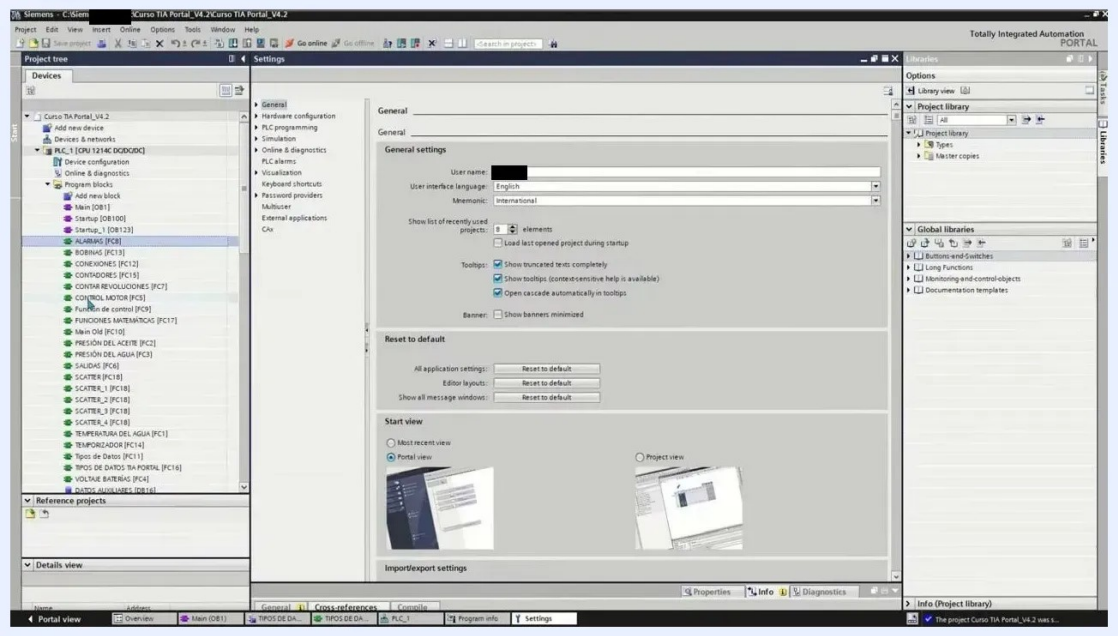
Interface language set to English, all menu items and tabs updated

Step 7: Verify the language change in the project tree

Check the right panel, tabs, and libraries to confirm that they are in English. Then expand the PLC device in the **Project tree**, for example "PLC_1 [CPU 1214C DC/DC/DC]".

- System-generated folders and texts are now in English, such as "Program blocks", "Technology objects", and "Online & diagnostics".

- User-created program blocks keep their original names, because the language change doesn't affect custom names.



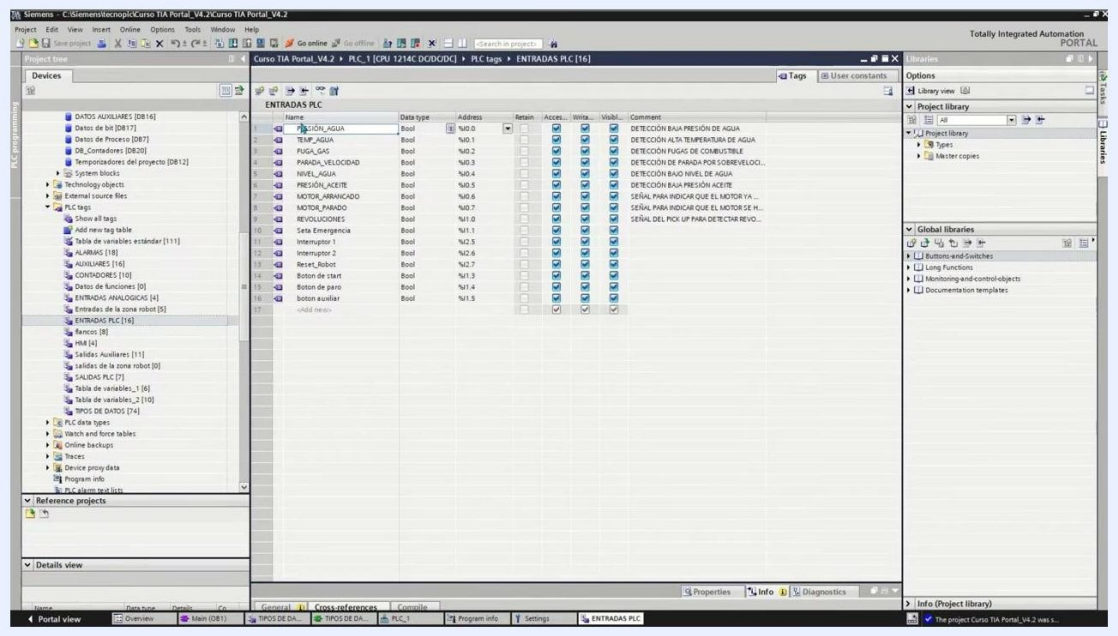
Project tree and workspace showing all system folders in English, user blocks unchanged

Expand the **Program blocks** folder to confirm this. Blocks such as "ALARMAS", "BOBINAS", "CONEXIONES", and "CONTROL MOTOR" remain in Spanish because you named them. The interface language setting translates only system-generated texts and folders.

Step 8: Check symbolic names and comments in tag tables

Open a PLC tag table, for example **ENTRADAS PLC**. Review the symbolic names (such as **PRESION_AGUA** and **FUGA_AGUA**) and the comments (such as **DETECCIÓN BAJA PRESIÓN DE AGUA**).

Both stay in the language in which you originally wrote them, because users create them manually.

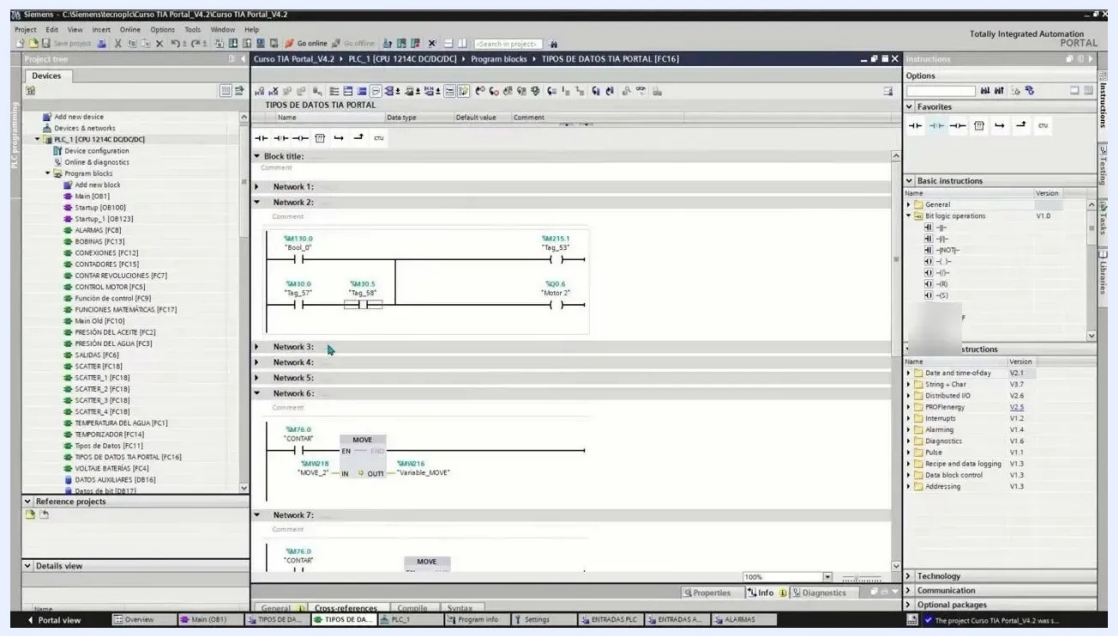


PLC tag table open, showing symbolic names and comments in Spanish

Step 9: Check instruction sets and function symbology

Open a program block, for example **TIPOS DE DATOS TIA PORTAL [FC16]**. The networks (ladder logic sections) and the instruction folders in the right panel are now in English.

The symbology of functions such as **MOVE** and **CTU** stays the same. These are standardized and typically generated in English, regardless of the interface language.

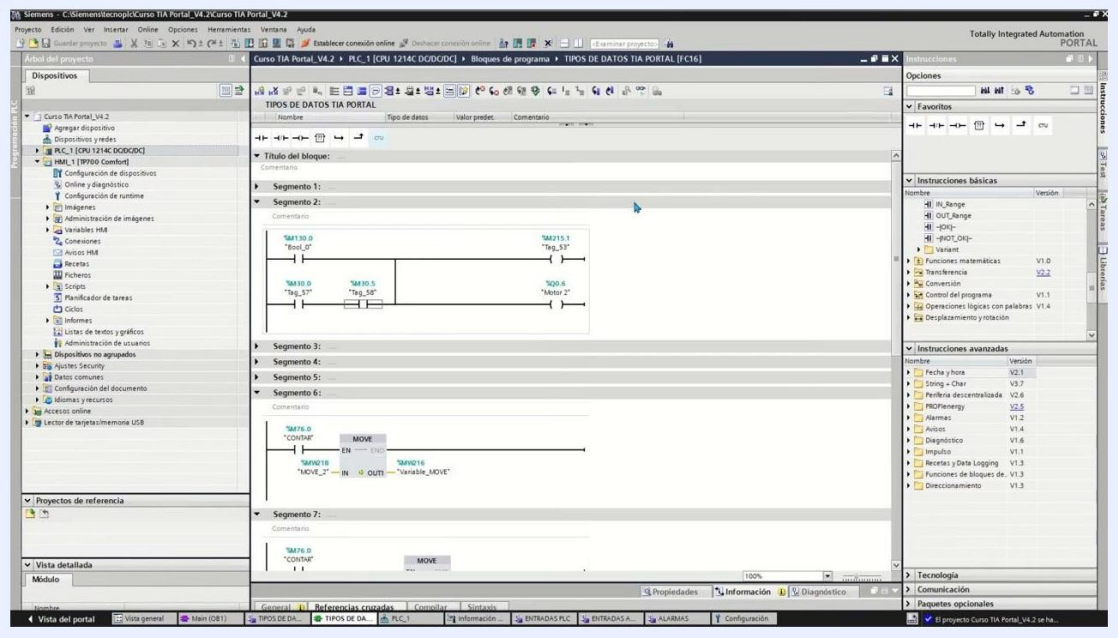


Program block open, showing ladder logic networks and instruction set in English, with user symbology unchanged

Step 10: Review the current mnemonic setting

Mnemonics are the symbols used for PLC inputs and outputs. You can set them to German, International, or other symbology standards.

In the **Settings** window, under the **General** section, locate the **Mnemonics** drop-down menu. It shows the current setting, for example "Internacional". A tooltip may appear that explains the selected standard; in this example it appears in Spanish.



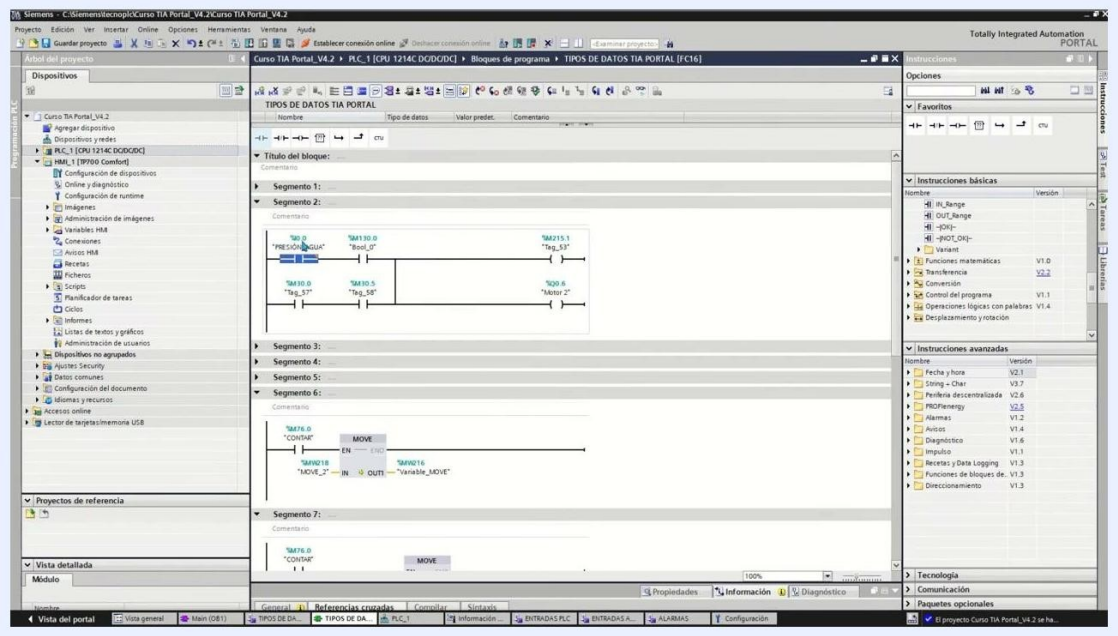
Settings window showing Mnemonics set to Internacional, with tooltip explaining the option in Spanish

Step 11: Select a different mnemonic standard

Return to the **Settings** window under the **General** section and click the **Mnemonics** drop-down menu. Select the standard you want:

- **Internacional**: uses international mnemonics, such as I 0.0 for inputs and Q 0.0 for outputs.
- **Alemán**: uses German mnemonics, such as E 1.0 for inputs and A 1.0 for outputs.

The change takes effect immediately, and all ladder logic diagrams update to the new symbology.



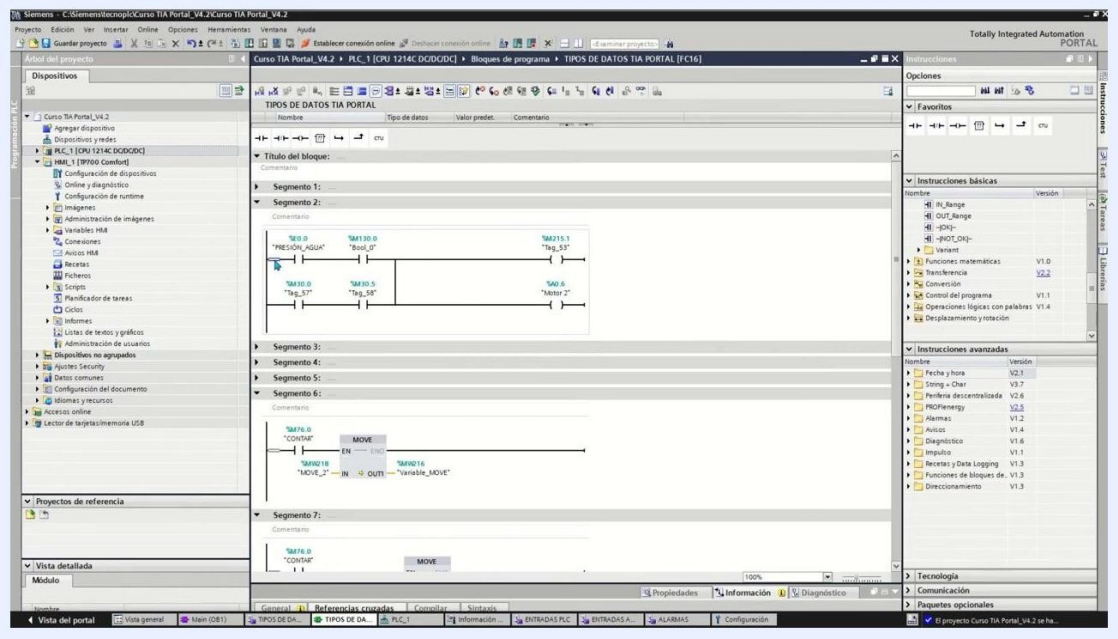
Settings window with Mnemonics drop-down expanded, showing options Internacional and Alemán

Step 12: Check the ladder logic with German mnemonics

Open a program block or ladder diagram to see the effect. With German mnemonics selected:

- Inputs use "E", for example %E0.0 for "PRESIÓN_AGUA".
- Outputs use "A", for example %A0.6 for "Motor 2".
- Memory bits and other variables use "M", for example %M130.0 and %M215.1.

The ladder diagram shows segments with contacts and coils using these German mnemonics. The project tree, instruction list, and editor layout remain unchanged.



Ladder logic diagram showing inputs labeled as E (e.g., %E0.0) and outputs as A (e.g., %A0.6), reflecting German mnemonic usage

Summary

To change the language in TIA Portal, follow these steps:

- Open the configuration window from the **Options** menu.
- In the **General** tab, open the interface language dropdown.
- Select the language you want, such as English.
- Verify that system menus, folders, and tabs updated, and that your own block names, symbolic names, and comments did not change.
- Optionally, change the **Mnemonics** setting to switch between International and German symbology.