This talk explores the correlation between word order and polar interpretation displayed by DPs with algum/alguno (‘some’) in European Portuguese and Spanish. The PPI algum/alguno (‘some’) appears to turn into a NPI when it surfaces in post-nominal position. European Portuguese offers strong empirical evidence to support the analysis of the string [N+algum] as a NPI unit composed in the syntax (while algum by itself is but a PPI). The string [N+algum] behaves as a word-like unit in the context of answers to wh- and polar questions and may undergo degree modification by the superlative morpheme –íssima (‘-est’). Diachronically, the emergence of nominal negative inversion with algum/alguno results from the reanalysis of a regular DP under the scope of sentential negation as a DP containing a Neg-head (where the noun and algum/alguno incorporate). The reanalysis was motivated by the loss of scrambling at the DP level, which would allow ‘free inversion’ between the noun and the polarity item. Contemporary European Portuguese displays a higher level of grammaticalization of the NPI unit [N+algum] than Spanish and extended the availability of nominal negative inversion to the negative indefinite nenhum ‘none’, originating the NPI unit [N+nenhum]. Under a broader comparative perspective, the research to be presented suggests that the diachronic development of PPIs into NPIs (e.g. French aucun and Italian alcuno) may proceed through a stage of NPI syntactic composition before a lexical-NPI stage is reached.