



Europass in 2012 - 2014

Economic growth in Europe is sluggish and unemployment is rising fast, particularly among young people. In this context, investment in education and training, be it formal or non-formal, is essential to boost growth and competitiveness. Our formal education and training institutions need to increase their efficiency and inclusiveness and deliver the right skills for employment.

Meanwhile, today's learning opportunities are limitless, borderless and instantaneous. People increasingly learn and acquire new skills and competences outside the traditional setting of the classroom. Everyone should be given the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learnt outside school, valorise their learning experiences and thus enhance their employability.

In 2013, two new extensions of Europass will support these objectives: the European Skills Passport and the Europass Experience. The European Skills Passport will be a user-friendly electronic folder assembling standardised documents and certificates that attest to qualifications and skills. It will allow the job seekers to present the full range of their qualifications and skills, acquired in formal and/or non-formal settings. The Skills Passport can be attached to the

individual's CV and complement it by providing 'proof' of the qualifications and skills listed in the CV.

The Europass Experience will be a new document enabling individuals to describe and record skills acquired in the workplace or through other non-formal or informal learning experiences such as traineeships or volunteering. This new tool will support the guidelines and actions of the recent European Recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning, which aims to validate all kinds of learning experiences.

A revamping of the Europass CV template is also being finalised. By the end of next year, the new CV will include an evaluation grid for ICT skills.

In this issue we look further at these developments for 2013, which should boost the usefulness and efficiency of the Europass framework in these economically uncertain times. Supporting mobility and helping job seekers are the *raisons d'être* of Europass.

The Europass coordination team wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Zusammenfassung

In dieser dritten Ausgabe des Europass Newsletters werden die geplanten Veränderungen und Entwicklungen des Europass-Konzepts für 2013 und 2014 vorgestellt. Auf Seite 2 und 3 wird die revidierte Struktur des Europass Portfolios mit dem vielversprechenden European Skills Passport als maßgebliche Neuentwicklung beschrieben. Das Cedefop-Team präsentiert auf Seite 4 und 5 das neue Europass CV Template und den Editor, mit denen dieses erfolgreiche Instrument weiter verbessert wird. Schließlich wird auf Seite 6 das Europass Experience vorgestellt. Dieses brandneue Tool zur Beschreibung von Wissen und Fähigkeiten, die non-formal und informell erworben wurden, wird in der zweiten Jahreshälfte 2013 das Europass Portfolio bereichern. Auf den Seiten 7 bis 10 finden Sie Informationen über Entwicklungen auf der politischen Ebene und interessante Berichte von Mitgliedern des Europass-Netzwerks aus ganz Europa. Europass wünscht Ihnen frohe Weihnachten und viel Glück im neuen Jahr!

En bref

Ce troisième numéro du bulletin d'information Europass présente les changements et les nouveautés du cadre Europass pour la période 2013-2014. Vous découvrirez en pages 2 et 3 la nouvelle structure du portfolio, principalement le Passeport européen de compétences, un outil promis au succès. En pages 4 et 5, l'équipe Europass du Cedefop a le plaisir de vous présenter le nouveau modèle du CV et son éditeur en ligne, qui vont renforcer la popularité de cet instrument. L'Europass expérience, décrit en page 6, est le tout nouveau document qui viendra compléter le cadre Europass en 2013. Il permettra de consigner les savoirs et compétences acquis de manière non formelle et informelle. En pages 7 à 10, découvrez l'actualité politique; ne manquez pas les rapports des membres du réseau Europass. L'équipe Europass vous souhaite un joyeux Noël et une excellente année 2013.

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Europass 2012-2014: What is going to change?

Ten years ago, the first CV template (then called European CV) was launched on Cedefop's web portal. Who could say that this was the first element of a big puzzle, now called European tools, whose parts are designed to fit together, such as Europass, EQF, ECTS, ECVET, ESCO, etc.? Will the whole jigsaw be completed by 2015 to be hung on the wall?

In 2002, the European Commission and Cedefop launched the European CV and the Certificate Supplement, two documents to help citizens express their qualifications and move all over Europe. Ten years later, the CV is established as the backbone of a consistent set of five instruments which help millions of citizens every year to find a job or training, improve their skills, make a career move or try their luck in another European country.

However, the objective behind Europass – making skills and qualifications more visible to encourage citizens' mobility – cannot be fully achieved without a better coordinated implementation of European tools and principles. A series of changes are going to affect Europass in the next two years:

Europass: don't fix what is not broken ... just improve it

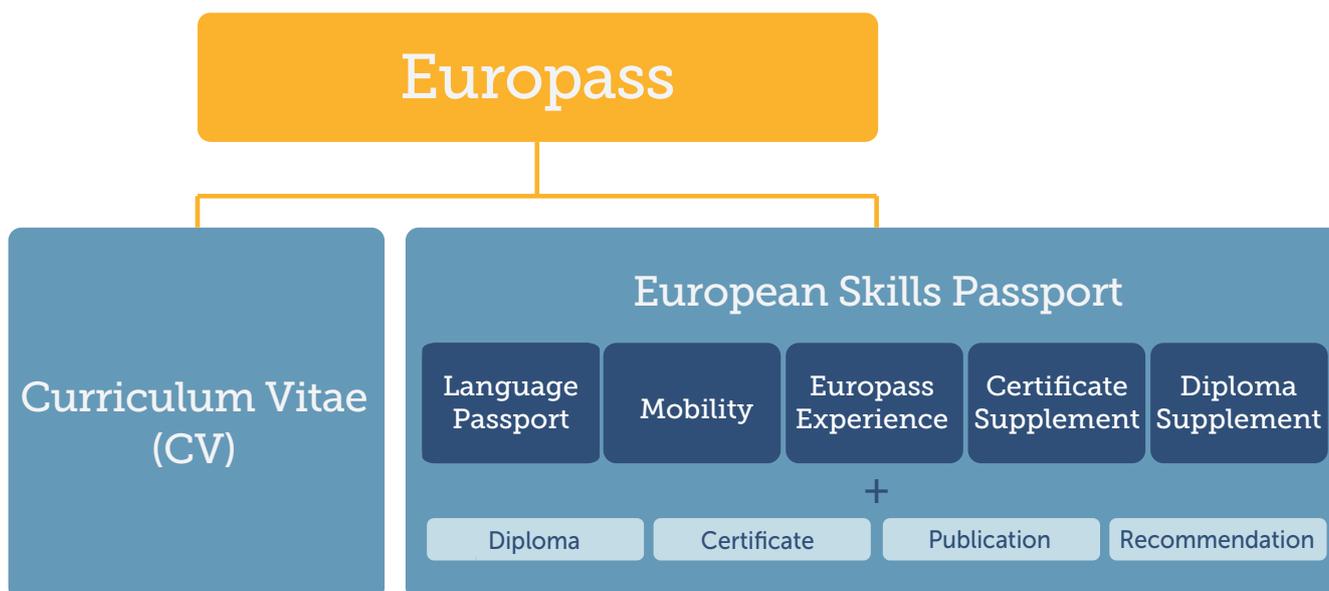
Since its launch in 2005, thousands of users (job-seekers, but also employers, head-hunters, guidance advisors, etc.) took the time to give their opinion on Europass and suggest improvements. Also, two evaluation reports (2007 and 2012) made a comprehensive analysis of Europass (impact, added value and shortcomings). To implement these suggestions, a number of developments have been planned for the period 2012-2014:

A new **Europass CV editor** was launched in December 2012. Improvements include:

- more user-friendly online interface with direct preview of the final document (see page 4);
- new headings: Personal website, Instant messaging, Language certificate(s);
- improved tutorials for better structured information: description of projects, conferences, publications, etc.;
- new graphical identity for better legibility of Europass CV generated: new font, use of colours, simplified headings, etc. (see page 5).

A detailed description of the new CV is provided on pages 4 & 5.

The **European Skills Passport** was launched together with the new CV. The ESP is a user-friendly electronic folder to help students, workers or job-seekers build up personal, modular inventory of personal skills and qualifications acquired throughout life. It can contain a range of documents (Language Passport, copies of degrees, attestations of employment, etc.). When attached to a Europass CV, the European Skills Passport will reinforce the CV by bringing evidence of skills and qualifications listed in the CV.



A new **ICT self-assessment module** will be integrated to the Europass CV in 2013. Developed on the model of the language self-assessment grid designed by the Council of Europe, this tool will provide reference levels and descriptors as a common currency for the assessment of knowledge and skills on information and communication technologies (ICT).

A new document, called *Europass Experience*, is planned to be launched by the end of 2013. Europass Experience provides a standard template to record knowledge and skills gained in formal, non-formal and informal settings. It will particularly help young people bring evidence of knowledge and skills acquired outside formal education (placement, leisure or voluntary activity, summer job, etc.) in one's own country or abroad.

Issuing Europass Experience is demand-driven: the holder creates the document, can pre-fill it as a draft for the organisation, and sends it to the mentor in the organisation where the experience takes place. Once reviewed and signed by the mentor, the document is issued to the holder in electronic form. The mentor can also create the document and issue it directly.

A detailed description of the new Europass Experience is provided on page 6.

Europass Language Passport will be redesigned in 2013 to adopt the new Europass graphic identity.

In 2013, Europass team will enhance the *interoperability* of Europass CV. The objective is for holders of the Europass CV to be able to upload their CV on other platforms, mainly Eures, the European employment services, but also on other public or private employment services. Europass will encourage integration with systems and environments that maintain a repository of personal data and offer: job matching services (job portals, employment agencies), promotion services (career offices, human resources management offices), or profile maintaining services (blog publishing tools, social networking sites).

European tools and principles: a coordinated implementation

Europass could not achieve its objective – fostering transparency of qualifications and mobility of citizens - without a coordinated implementation of the related European tools.

European Qualifications Framework. EQF levels will be introduced in the Europass documents, starting from the new CV in December 2012. This way, Europass will contribute to familiarising European citizens with the new eight reference levels of the framework, and makes comparability of qualifications easier.

European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training. Certificate Supplement and Europass Experience will be tested for recording ECVET units.

European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy. Once available, ESCO will be used to describe learning outcomes in the Certificate Supplement, and in the CV, to help job-seekers express their knowledge and skills in their mother tongue or in other languages. ESCO will also be useful for job-matching.

Towards a one-stop shop of services covering education and training, employment, guidance, recognition?

Users of the Europass CV often ask: "I have completed my CV. What do I do now?" European citizens are not sufficiently informed on services offered by the EU on employment, education and training, mobility, guidance or recognition of qualifications. Europass visibility could be used to inform learners and workers on initiatives of direct interest for Europass users, mainly:

- **Eures, the European employment services.** Holders of Europass CVs will be allowed to upload their CV directly on the Eures database in 2013. They will also have the possibility of checking job offers corresponding to their qualifications (job-matching); also, Eures advisers are key stakeholders to bring assistance to job-seekers in the use of Europass.
- **Euroguidance.** Europass visitors looking for training shall benefit from the support of Euroguidance counsellors on guidance in Europe and mobility for learning purposes.
- **Ploteus.** When it comes to mobility of learners, the Ploteus database offers a great deal of information on learning opportunities, mobility and grants all over Europe.
- **Erasmus.** Besides student exchanges Erasmus also offers student placements in enterprises, university staff teaching and training, etc.
- **Euraxess.** The Euraxess portal provides support on mobile researchers (jobs, assistance, rights).
- **ENIC-NARIC.** When looking for a job or training abroad, recognition of qualifications obtained in another country is crucial.

When shaping the future of Europass, it will be crucial to ensure that European citizens have a full picture of all these services, which requires a coordinated and consistent implementation by EU institutions.

Athanassios Siaperas | Cedefop
Philippe Tissot | Cedefop
Ernesto Villalba-García | Cedefop

The new Europass CV

The theory of evolution

After almost eight years of good and faithful service, the Europass CV hands over to a new, more user-friendly template and its dedicated online editor. While redesigning the CV, the Europass team has taken into consideration the suggestions sent by users (students and job-seekers, but also employers, head-hunters, guidance advisors, etc.) over the years, to better meet their needs. A graphic designer was called on to create an appealing graphic identity to the template and its online editor, whose interface uses top-notch Internet technology. Last but not least, the CV can now be combined with the new European Skills Passport (see pages 2 and 3), an electronic portfolio to help European citizens give a comprehensive picture of their skills and qualifications when looking for a job or a training.

Changes to the new Europass CV template include:

- new graphical identity: clearer differentiation of sections, use of Arial font, simplified headings, better utilisation of existing space real-estate, reduction of extra whitespace, use of colours resulting in better legibility of generated CVs (see fig. on page 5);
- new headings: personal website or blog, instant messaging accounts are frequently used, mostly by youngsters to give a full picture of their skills in communication; also, self-assessment of languages skills can now be completed with a list of language certificates;
- more flexibility and further structuring of headings: users can now list additional information such as projects, publications, etc.

The new Europass CV editor has been redesigned from scratch following a usability study carried out with a sample of real users and the advice of usability experts. The new interface makes the most of new internet technology:

- user-friendly interface following the WYSIWYG principle: the editor enables a real-time preview of the final document's layout (see fig. on this page);
- improved tutorials for better structured information: description of projects, conferences, publications, etc.;
- combining CV with Europass Skills Passport: to illustrate and document knowledge and skills gained during a work experience, voluntary work, education or training, it is now possible to attach one or more documents (language passport, copy of degree, employment certificate) to the CV and link them to relevant sections.

Date of launch: 12 December 2012. [Have a look!](#)

Athanassios Siaperas, Cedefop

Philippe Tissot, Cedefop

Ernesto Villalba-García, Cedefop

Curriculum Vitae – European Skills Passport | **Compose**

New CV online editor interface
Source: Cedefop

Compose

- Curriculum Vitae
- European Skills Passport

Download

My CV

Customise display

- Personal information
- Address
- Telephone(s)
- E-mail
- Website(s) / Blog

europass Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First name(s) Surname(s)

Address

Telephone(s)

E-mail

Fill in

JOBAPPLIEDFOR

Fill in

WORK EXPERIENCE

Fill in

New Europass CV template

New CV layout - sample
Source: Cedefop



Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL INFORMATION **Edmond WALSHE**



12 Strawberry Hill, Porlobell, Dublin 8 (Ireland)

+44 2010 2378562 | +44 2010 237856 | +44 2010 23 3369 | +44 2010 23 33 69

edmond.walsh@yaho.com

www.iamwalsh.com

Skype ed.walsh | msn edmondwalsh

Gender Female | Date of Birth 10/07/1974 | Nationality British, Greek

OCCUPATIONAL FIELD **Architect & Electric Engineer**

WORK EXPERIENCE

June 2010–Present **Electrician & Electronics expert**

Smith & Cool General electrics, Dublin

- Carrying out electrical installation and maintenance work.
- Carrying out new project work, design and installation.
 - Interpreting work instructions, drawings and schematic diagrams
 - Designing schematic models and installations

Business or sector Agriculture, forestry and fishing

[Related document\(s\)](#) ExperienceCertificate1.pdf, ExperienceCertificate2.pdf

June 2010–Present **Electrician**

Self employed, Dublin

- Responsible for Installing, maintaining, d repairing electrical wiring, equipment & fixtures.
- Making sure that all work done is in accordance with Health & Safety regulations.

Business or sector Agriculture, forestry and fishing

[Related document\(s\)](#) ExperienceCertificate3.pdf

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

October 2010–September 2011 **City and Guilds 2330 Certificate in Electrotechnology and microacoustics technology science** EQF-Level 3

Dublin North College, Dublin

- Carrying out electrical installation and maintenance work. Carrying out electrical installation and maintenance work. Carrying out electrical installation and maintenance work.
- Maintaining and repairing all electrical equipment.

[Related document\(s\)](#) TrainingCertificate1.pdf

October 2009–December 2009 **City and Guilds 2391 Part 3 Inspection and Testing** EQF-Level 3

Domelec College, Dublin
465 Boulevard Dnferf Rochereau, 13300, Ireland
www.domelec.com

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[Related document\(s\)](#) CMSCertification.pdf

[Related document\(s\)](#) OfficeCertification.pdf

[Related document\(s\)](#) TrekkingTeam.pdf

[Related document\(s\)](#) DrivingLicense.pdf

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Curriculum Vitae

Introduction to Periodic Insp
Continuity of protective con
Guidance Note 3, Exam Pr
Testing Equipment.

Introduction to Periodic Insp
Continuity of protective con
Guidance Note 3, Exam Pr
Testing Equipment.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) English, Greek

Other language(s)

	UNDERSTANDI
English	Listening B2
German	B1

Levels: A = Basic user B = Int
Common European Framew

Communication Skills

- Good aptitude in com
- very good drafting skil
- good experience in pr

Organisational Skills

- 10 years experience
- experience in team /

Job-related skills

- Use of Content man
- elaboration of thematic glossaries on VET policy

Computer Skills

- Use of Office TM tool
- use of CMS

Other Skills

- Participation in voluntary organisations
- trekking

Driving licence Category B

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Europass Experience

Been there, done that, got the record

The Europass Experience (EX) is a new Europass document planned to be integrated in the Europass framework by the end of 2013. The EX "closes the circle" of the Europass portfolio, providing a template to record in a structured/standardised way the knowledge and skills obtained during a learning or working experience (work placement, summer job, volunteering, etc.) in one's country or abroad.

At European level, currently there is no systematic way of documenting learning outcomes acquired outside formal qualifications. However, learning often does occur outside formal education institutions, e.g. through participation in conferences, through courses of further education, in voluntary activities, while working, etc. Most of such learning ends up leaving no trace in the record of a person. There is, thus, a clear need and demand for a document that will record knowledge and skills acquired in non-formal and informal settings, easing the recognition of learning outcomes to enhance employability, mobility and validation of prior learning.

Cedefop, in accordance with the mandate given by DG EAC, has developed the template of the Europass Experience document in cooperation with the National Europass Centres; a dedicated online editor will be tested in 2013.

Citizens will be able to use the Europass experience to:

- find a job or training in their home country or abroad; and
- obtain formal validation and recognition of learning outcomes acquired in non-formal settings.

The Europass Experience is neither a self-assessment tool nor an instrument for official certification of learning outcomes (although it can assist it!). It is a record of knowledge and skills ("s/he came here, s/he learnt this") issued by the "experience provider" (host institution). The content of the Europass Experience document is approved and signed through the online tool by the responsible person in the organisation where the experience took place: a supervisor, company owner, training facilitator, etc. The final document, then, is issued electronically to the holder.

The document is conceived as a flexible tool that will permit the holder to have a record for each one of his/her diverse types of experience: conferences, workshops, voluntary work, job placements, in-company training, mobility experiences, etc. These can later on be integrated in the European Skills Passport (see pages 2 and 3) that can be attached to the CV (pages 4 and 5) providing a complete picture of one's abilities.

Ernesto Villalba-García | Cedefop



Europass Experience
A record of knowledge and skills



Bergen Institute of Technology

Alexis Papadopoulos

born on 12 June 1986, held the position of

Clinical Research Assistant

from 20/01/2012 to 30/06/2012 (total: 6 months), at

The Bergen Institute of Technology Study Centre for the Visually Impaired Students (SZS), Bergen, Germany

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS GAINED

- Positive Developments in Psychosocial Intervention Research
- New Developments in Non-Pharmacological Interventions
- Using Technology to Support Social Engagement in People with Dementia
- Interventions to Promote Well-being for People with Dementia and their Caregivers
- Behavioral Alternatives to Anti-Psychotic Prescribing for People with Dementia

ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Positive Developments in Psychosocial Intervention Research
- New Developments in Non-Pharmacological Interventions
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- Interventions to Promote Well-being for People with Dementia and their Caregivers
- Behavioral Alternatives to Anti-Psychotic Prescribing for People with Dementia

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Policy developments

Diploma Supplement in France

The French National Europass Center launched a survey in September 2012 on the implementation of the Diploma Supplement in France. 135 higher education institutions were contacted and 126 answered: 59 universities, 25 grandes écoles, 6 colleges of higher education, 3 institutes of technology and 33 high schools offering advanced vocational training at the short-cycle tertiary level (BTS). The response rate was 72% (excluding high schools).

Of the establishments that have not yet implemented the Diploma Supplement, 61.5% intend to do so in near future. This heralds prospects of improvement in the years to come, as the responding institutions indicated that they were aware of the importance of the Diploma Supplement as well as the challenges surrounding its implementation. Major roadblocks seem to arise from a lack of personnel and from systemic complexities. Furthermore, with numerous services involved, it is often difficult to identify a single interlocutor capable of overseeing the Diploma Supplement. This might also explain, in part, the largely negative responses to the survey question "Are you familiar with the other Europass documents?" Similarly rare were institutions that wished to express a more detailed opinion on the Diploma Supplement.

The survey has shed light on yet another point: high schools with tertiary vocational training centers (BTS) rarely use the Diploma Supplement. All of the establishments contacted felt very distant from the Bologna Process and, more often than not, were unfamiliar with the Diploma Supplement concept. Consequently, they did not use or intend to use it. Nevertheless, 59.5% expressed interest in such an initiative, which shows that these institutions are attuned to the "competence-based approach" and "enhancement of learning outcomes." Increased support and guidance seem more important now than ever before.

The study in its entirety is available at the [NEC France's website](#):

Laurent Lascrou | National Europass Centre France



Modernising VET in Poland and the new Certificate Supplements for craftsmen

On 14 September 2012 Krystyna Szumilas, the Polish Minister for National Education, signed an ordinance on apprenticeship examinations, master craftsman examinations and vocational qualifications examinations staged by the examination boards at chambers of crafts. The changes aim at adapting the system of examinations to the process of modernising Polish vocational education and training, which commenced on 1 September 2012. These changes pertain to examinations in the sectors included in the classification of VET qualifications for the needs of the labour market and the classification of occupations.

Major system developments:

- Examinations will be staged in accordance with the new assessment standards developed by the Polish Crafts Association with regard to VET programmes' core curricula.
- Chambers of crafts have been authorised to issue Europass Apprentice and Master Craftsman Certificate Supplements, which will facilitate the use of the document in Poland as well as increase the transparency of vocational qualifications and enhance mobility of qualified workers across the EU, as recommended by the European Commission.

The system of apprenticeship and master craftsman examinations allows for a flexible and swift reaction to the changing conditions in the labour market, which in turn reflect the economic and technological progress. These types of qualifications are broadly demanded in Poland, the European Union and beyond. With the implementation of the Europass Certificate Supplement, comprehensive information on the qualifications is provided including: qualification profile in a given sector; particulars of the institution (a chamber of crafts) which issued the certificate; basic criteria for the assessment of the learning outcomes involved. It is noteworthy that the Certificate Supplements are issued in Polish and English.

As a result, it is envisaged that the number of ECS issued in Poland will grow by 30,000 in 2013.

Lechosław Szafranek | National Europass Centre Poland

Estonian qualifications and Europass documents: international understanding and employer appreciation

The legal foundation for the Estonian Qualifications Framework (EstQF) was approved in 2008 along with the amended Professions Act. Four independent frameworks had existed in Estonia before that have been re-formulated according to the learning outcome principles and integrated under the single 8-level EstQF. This umbrella framework encompasses general education, VET, higher education and occupational qualifications but contains separate level descriptors for the four areas. While the first three were fully integrated in EstQF by 2011, the occupational qualifications (acquired either through initial education or by recognition and validation of prior learning and work experience) are linked on a case-by-case basis by comparison of the qualification standards and EstQF level descriptors. So far, some 430 occupational qualifications have been mapped on the framework.

What direct benefit does the qualifications framework bring to citizens and employers? "Qualifications frameworks are important when comparing and recognising diplomas, certificates and degrees at an international level. As such, the framework is a means for obtaining additional information. It should be kept in mind that corresponding qualification levels do not mean automatic recognition of a qualification but provide important information for better understanding of qualifications" says Gunnar Vaht of the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Centre.

Olav Aarna, of the Estonian Qualifications Authority, adds that if a qualification is integrated in a national qualifications framework, a certain degree of quality is ensured as well as the official recognition. Qualifications frameworks also help employers better to understand what the holder of a qualification is competent for and how broad and deep his or her skills and knowledge are. This aspect needs to be promoted in particular among citizens and businesses.

In Estonia, Certificate Supplements are issued for occupational qualifications, with the certificates proving that the work related competence of the holder has been assessed and validated by specialists in the field. Thus, in Estonia Certificate Supplements are available for all occupational qualification certificates issued, e.g. in professions such as cook, secretary, cabinet maker as well as engineer, HR specialist, speech therapist, etc. A Diploma Supplement, then, is a document describing the knowledge and skills acquired by holders of higher education qualifications.

Since September 2012 there are EstQF and EQF qualification levels indicated on both of the above Europass documents – for citizens to ask for them together with their diploma or certificate.

Mari-Ann Rebane | National Europass Centre Estonia

Issued by a Profession Awarding Body	Overseas
Level of the certificate (national or international)	Gradin
Estonian Occupational Qualifications System, level V Estonian Qualifications Framework, level 7 European Qualifications Framework, level 7	The co of docu in-serv obtains
Access to next level of education/training	Intern
Chartered civil engineer V	

Recognition of volunteers' skills and experience through Europass

5 December has been declared International Volunteer Day by the United Nations, an occasion to bring visibility to volunteering around the world and to give recognition to the important work that volunteers and volunteer organisations carry out.

Whereas public awareness and recognition of volunteering is essential for refuelling the motivation of volunteers, their coordinators and organisations, recognition also needs to be addressed on an individual level where it is an important element of quality management. A key dimension of this is the recognition of individual skills and competences acquired through volunteering. This process needs to be supported by tools and mechanisms that can facilitate reflection on the learning achieved in order to make those skills and competences visible outside of the organisation: in education systems or on the labour market.

Volunteer organisations in Europe have been calling on European Institutions for a systemised approach to skills recognition (see recommendations in the [Policy Agenda for Volunteering in Europe, P.A.V.E.](#)). An opportunity has arisen with the upcoming European Skills Passport framework and the integrated Europass Experience, a tool to be used for documenting skills acquired through work experience including volunteering and other non-formal and informal settings. Moreover, the September 2012 [European Commission Proposal for a Council Recommendation on the validation of non-formal and informal learning](#) sets the scene for enhanced recognition of the significance of skills acquired through volunteering and opens path for the validation of such learning outcomes.

The recognition of learning acquired through volunteering is one of the main policy-advocacy areas for the European Volunteer Centre (CEV). To keep updated with developments at the European level relevant to this policy field, sign up for our monthly online newsletter and visit regularly the [CEV website](#).

Daniela Bosioc | European Volunteer Centre (CEV)

PASSgeschichten: collecting and sharing best practice in Europass usage

On February 1st 2012 the German NEC started an initiative called: "PASSgeschichten – leben und arbeiten mit dem Europass", translated this would be: "PASSstories – live and work with Europass". PASSgeschichten are a series of best practice stories out of the world of Europass and international mobility.

The idea behind the initiative is to present stories that could happen to everybody. The aim is to stimulate young or even older people to be mobile, to go abroad for learning or work experience and obtain a Europass Mobility as attestation. PASSgeschichten show all the various benefits that 'being mobile' with the Europass Mobility has for the future working life of citizens.

Diverse reports and mobility stories will be published regularly on the [website of the German NEC](#). The stories might be, for example, presented as descriptions of how companies, schools, vocational colleges and other organizations work with Europass, and how this adds to the benefit of the individual. The opening of new chances and possibilities for young people as well as adults is highlighted through a collection of reports on the experience made within numerous fields and areas of mobility in Europe. The initiative deals with the Europass Mobility primarily, but relates to other Europass documents as well.

Examples of best practice stories so far in the PASSgeschichten:

- A bridge to the labour market. With the project JobGate the Federal Employment Agency follows new tracks in the field of mobility – certification of the learning outcomes gained abroad via Europass.
- Mobility has a formula. At Berufskolleg Hilden, the biology-technical assistants of tomorrow can gather experience abroad and have it documented by Europass.
- To broaden one's own horizons with Europass. When mobility is understood as part of initial vocational training.

[Explore the PASSgeschichten under this link.](#)

Uta-M. Behnisch, Isabel Götte | NEC Germany

Focused exchange of views on international learning mobility in Latvia

On the 2nd of November an international conference „Europass as an Innovative Tool” was held in Riga, Latvia, that gathered more than a hundred representatives from vocational and higher education institutions, the Ministry of Education and Science, state agencies, mobility providers and other organizations related to education and mobility in education.



Baiba Ramina, Director of Academic Information Centre (National Europass Centre Latvia), and moderator of the conference – journalist Ansis Bogustovs

The purpose of the conference was to inform Latvian audience about the role of Europass in learning mobility and to introduce the experiences of other countries in the promotion of mobility and in the use of Europass. The event combined presentations with panel discussions. The moderator of the conference - journalist Ansis Bogustovs – managed to steer the discussions around the highlights of the contemporary EU-related affairs while actively involving the audience to express their views. The participants particularly appreciated the in-depth focus with, at the same time, the international context maintained.

Among the conference key speakers were representatives of the Finnish and Dutch National Europass Centres, the National Agency for the Lifelong Learning Programme, the Ministry of Education and Science and the Student Union of Latvia.

Marta Valdmane | National Europass Centre Latvia

Europass macht transparent (Europass makes transparent)

In September the Austrian National Europass Centre invited stakeholders to an event designed to further their understanding of the various European transparency instruments and how they complement each other. The main focus was on facilitating the recognition of skills and competences acquired abroad.

The event started with an introduction to the diverse transparency instruments and Europass by Jürgen Gmelch (European Commission's representation in Austria), followed by inputs on ECTS (Bologna Expert Gudrun Salmhofer, Karl-Franzens University of Graz), ECVET (ECVET expert Franz Heffeter, Tourism Schools Salzburg Klessheim), EQF and NQF (Udo Bachmayer, Coordination Point for the NQF in Austria), and EQAVET (Michaela Jonach, ARQA-VET).

The subsequent panel discussion featured Alexander Hölbl (Austrian Federal Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth), Heinz Kasparovsky (Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research), and Monika Petermandl (Danube University Krems). It was moderated by Ernst Gesslbauer (OeAD-GmbH/National Agency for Lifelong Learning) and highlighted the potential of the transparency instruments and Europass in their practical applications concentrating on recognition, educational and career guidance, continuing education and lifelong learning. The event concluded with an outlook on Europass 2020. [The programme and selected presentations \(in German\) can be found on the website of the National Europass Centre in Austria.](#)

Alexandra Enzi | National Europass Centre Austria

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Synergies between Euroguidance, Europass and Eurodesk in Croatia

A promotional event which brought together three European initiatives and networks – Euroguidance, Europass and Eurodesk – was successfully held in Zagreb on Friday, 30 November 2012. The info day welcomed a variety of stakeholders including young workers, youth information centres, youth associations and clubs, universities, primary and secondary schools, professional associations, the Croatian Employment Service and other national stakeholders. The event was coordinated by the National Euroguidance Centre, the National Europass Centre Croatia and the Eurodesk Croatia with the aim of giving an insight into a number of possibilities available to the young through a synergy of the three programmes.



The implementation and promotion of Euroguidance as support to the lifelong career guidance at national level was presented by Marija Galović. Jef Vanraepenbusch spoke about the underlying concepts and cultural aspects of mobility experiences in terms of guidance. He analysed the reflexion of mobility through guidance before, during and after a person's stay abroad.

Second part of the event was dedicated to the Europass initiative which was presented by Vlasta Jelašić Kerec of the NEC Croatia in terms of its national context of implementation and promotion. A presentation by the colleagues Monique Leegte and Dik van der Wal of the NEC Netherlands followed, dealing primarily with the Europass Mobility for volunteers which aroused great interest among the participants.

The Eurodesk network was introduced by Matea Majdenić of Eurodesk Croatia and Anja Ruhland of the Eurodesk Brussels Link, whereas Mr Vanraepenbusch addressed the Flemish example of good practice – a project titled 'Colourful Flanders'.

Sharing a variety of valuable experience and promoting a comprehensive presentation of the three programmes proved to be the approach to follow in the future for the benefit of Croatian citizens becoming citizens of the EU.

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Education and Culture

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