



European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

# The Europass Portfolio

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# **The Europass Portfolio**

## A short presentation

## Europass: What is it?

- An initiative of the European Union to help people make their skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood
- A “portfolio” which integrates five elements (CV, Language Passport, Europass Mobility, Certificate supplement and Diploma supplement)
- It is supported by a network of National Europass Centres (NECs)

## A brief history

- Mid 1980': attempt to set up an European system of mutual recognition of qualifications to promote mobility of citizens
- Creation of common levels of qualifications
- Mutual recognition achieved only for a small number of (mainly) regulated profession
- Mid 1990': shift towards the transparency approach

## The European Forum on transparency of vocational qualifications (1998/2002): mandate

- A WG created by the European Commission and Cedefop in 1998
- Representatives of EC, Cedefop and 15 Member States
- Mandate: find tools to increase transparency of qualifications and competences
- ca. 10 meetings from 1998 to 2002

## The European Forum on transparency of vocational qualifications (1998/2002): achievements

- The European CV, a common model on which agreed the national delegations
- The Certificate supplement, a description of skills acquired by holders of VET certificates
- A Network of National reference points (NRP) to support the implementation of above tools

## Europass: a step ahead

2003: decision to create a “one-stop shop” for five European transparency instruments:

- The CV
- The Certificate supplement
- The Language Passport (Council of Europe)
- The Europass Mobility (ex Europass-training)
- The Diploma Supplement (higher education)

The Europass decision adopted in Dec. 2004

# 1. The Europass CV

- Improved version of the European CV
- Available in 25 languages (EU/EEA/CC)
- Can be filled in online with instructions or downloaded from the Europass website
- Leaves room for skills acquired outside formal settings (work-related and experiential)



## 2. The Europass Language Passport

- An instrument for self-assessment of language skills acquired during education, work or travels
- Created by the Council of Europe
- Uses a 6 level grid (from basic to proficient user)
- Can be filled in online with instructions or downloaded from the Europass website
- Available in 25 languages (EU/EEA/CC)

### 3. The Europass Mobility

- **What is it?** A record of skills acquired during any organised period of time spend in another European country
- **Who is it for?** Any person undergoing a mobility experience in another European country (including Erasmus exchanges)
- **Who is responsible for completing it?** The sending and host organisations under the responsibility of National Europass Centres

## 4. The Certificate supplement

- **What is it?** A supplement delivered to holders of VET certificates; it provides information on skills, duration, certification acquired during training
- **What it is not?** It is neither a substitute to the original qualification nor a system of mutual recognition
- **Where can it be obtained?** Issued by awarding authorities - National online inventories being created

## 5. The diploma supplement

- **What is it?** A personal document delivered to holders of HE degrees; it provides info on topics, duration, certification and marks obtained
- **What it is not?** It is neither a substitute to the original qualification nor a system of mutual recognition
- **Where can it be obtained?** Issued by higher education institutions

# The National Europass Centres

- First point of contacts for citizens or institutions who want to use or get information on Europass
- **Main functions**
- Coordination of the initiative at national level
- Promotion, information (schools, guidance centres and employment services, etc.)
- National partner in the networks of NECs

## The Europass website in brief

- Access to reference documents (templates, instructions, glossary) and resources
- Links to NECs and NRPs
- Links to related initiatives and institutions
- Available in 23 languages
- **Statistics** (since launch in February 2005):
- Over 5 million visitors (ca 8000 visitors daily)
- 5 million documents downloaded
- One million CVs filled in online

## The future of Europass

- Increase visibility of other (sectoral) European initiatives
- Create a common tool for formal recognition of non formal learning based on best practices at national level
- Create a synergy with other institutions (Eures, national employment services, education) and businesses in cooperation with the NECs to promote the use of the Europass instruments.

## More information on Europass

Website:

<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>

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