

Europass: the European CV

In December 2004, the European Parliament and Council voted to create **Europass**, a single transparent framework for qualifications and competencies. The initiative aims to improve the recognition of skills gained in EU, EFTA/EEA and EU candidate countries and ultimately supports mobility within Europe.



Europass consists of 5 documents which individuals can use to outline their skills and qualifications and declare their competence in different areas. Two of the documents, the Europass CV and Europass Language Passport are completed by individuals. They outline an individual's personal information, work experience, education and training, language skills and competencies in a standardised format. Both documents can be completed online at the Europass website.

The other Europass documents, the Europass Certificate Supplement, Europass Diploma and Europass Mobility Record are completed by a relevant organisation such as a Higher Education Institute or National Europass center.

The Europass Certificate Supplement is designed to be used by people who hold a vocational education and training certificate. It is not a substitute for the original certificate and recognition of the original certificate is not guaranteed; the Europass Certificate Supplement simply eases understanding of the information held in the original certificate. Information on where to obtain the Certificate Supplement is available from your National Europass Centre (contact details on the Europass Website).

The Europass Diploma Supplement is similar to the Certificate Supplement and is designed to be issued to graduates of higher education institutions (HEI) along with their degree or diploma. The Europass Diploma Supplement was developed jointly with UNESCO and the Council of Europe and aims to ensure that higher education qualifications are more easily understood, especially outside the country where they were awarded. The supplement is issued by the HEI that awarded the original diploma or degree.

The Europass Mobility Record is a record of any organised period of time that a person spends in another European country for the purpose of learning or training such as a work placement, an academic term as part of an exchange programme or a voluntary placement with an NGO. The mobility experience is monitored by two partner organisations, the first in the country of origin and the second in the host country. Both partners agree on the purpose, content and duration of the experience and jointly complete the individual's record in a language agreed by both organisations and the individual concerned. The partners may be universities, schools, training centres, companies, NGOs, etc.

Details of how to obtain the record is available from National Europass Centres (contact details on the Europass website).

More Information

Detailed information on Europass can be found on the Europass website: <http://europass.cedefop.eu.int/>