

EUROPASS - for better transparency of qualifications and skills

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

Europass is designed to encourage mobility and lifelong learning in an enlarged Europe. It aims to help three million citizens make their qualifications and skills easily understood throughout Europe by 2010. It brings together into a single framework several existing tools for the transparency of diplomas, certificates and competences. Helping citizens to better communicate and present their qualifications and skills throughout Europe, Europass will promote both occupational mobility, between countries as well as across sectors, and mobility for learning purposes.

What is Europass

Whether somebody is planning to enrol in an education or training programme, looking for a job, or getting experience abroad, it is important to be able to make one's skills and competences clearly understood.

Europass is a new way of helping people to:

- make their skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe (European Union, EFTA/EEA and candidate countries);
- move anywhere in Europe.

Europass consists of five documents:

- **Europass CV** – the CV is the backbone of the Europass portfolio. It is an improved version of the common European CV that was defined in the Recommendation of the Commission in March 2002. It has to be filled in by the candidate.
- **Europass Mobility** – the purpose of Europass Mobility is to record in a common format experiences of trans-national mobility for learning purposes, so that the achievements of such experiences are easier to communicate. It is filled in by the home and host organisations involved. It will replace Europass-Training, which has been in operation for five years.
- **Europass Diploma Supplement** – the diploma supplement is a personal document developed jointly with the Council of Europe and UNESCO which records the holder's educational record. It is provided by the same establishment that issues the diploma and should in principle be provided to all new higher education graduates from 2005.
- **Europass Certificate Supplement** – this is a supplement to a vocational education and training certificate, clarifying the professional qualifications of all individuals holding such qualifications.
- **Europass Language Portfolio** – the language portfolio is a document in which citizens can record their linguistic skills and cultural expertise. It was developed by the Council of Europe and is based on the Common European Framework of

Reference for Languages that is becoming the European standard to identify the level of language skills. It has to be filled in by the candidate.

Examples of the above mentioned documents can be found, created or downloaded on <http://europass.cedefop.eu.int>.

Because of the huge differences among the national education and training systems, Europass is implemented and promoted largely at Member State level. In each country, a National Europass Centre will promote Europass and coordinate all related activities, in cooperation with the relevant organisations, networks and authorities, as well as with the social partners.

Europass has been established by the Decision No 2241/2004/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 December 2004 on a single transparency framework for qualifications and competences.