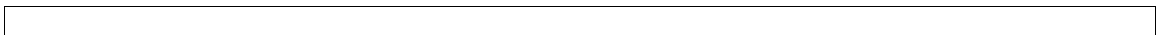


Survey of Knowledge and Use of EUROPASS

M. Eleftheriou (AMC Ltd)

Copyright

AQUA-TNET has been given permission to use this document by the author. The user of this document is allowed to reproduce, retransmit, or reprint this document for personal use as long as this is accredited and the author is acknowledged. If you would like to use this document in a professional capacity, please contact the AQUA-TNET secretariat (aquatnet@aquatt.ie).



Introduction

On 1 January 2005, the **Europass** was introduced into European law and was officially launched on 31 January by Commissioner Jan Figel in Luxembourg. It had been established by the [Decision No 2241/2004/EC](#) of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 December 2004 as an innovative single transparency framework for qualifications and competences.

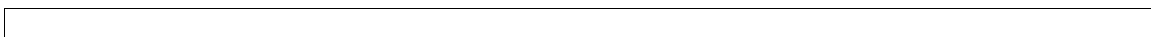
Europass came into being as a new way of helping people to as a dynamic and interactive tool, so as to allow European citizens to make their skills and qualifications clearly and easily understood in Europe (European Union, EFTA/EEA and candidate countries) and as a result, to be able to move freely anywhere in Europe. **Europass** is supported by a network of National Europass Centres as well as by a user-friendly and very useful website.

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

The revamped **Europass** consists of five documents:

- i. Europass curriculum vitae (CV)
- ii. Europass Language Passport
- iii. Europass Certificate Supplement
- iv. Europass Diploma Supplement
- v. Europass Mobility

A detailed description of all five documents is given in Annex 1.



AQUA-TNET survey – Knowledge and use of Europass

The AQUA-TNET network carried out a survey among its members to determine how well-known the present Europass is, in academic and scientific institutions. The results are given below.

Because of the rather negative results, it was felt necessary to include a full description of this major support for European student mobility (Annex)

The survey questionnaire overall had 43 respondents from different countries representing a range of educational institutes . The countries which responded were Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Spain, France, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Turkey.

Questionnaire sample size

Possible participants: 83

Respondents: 43

52% sample size

Survey Results

A questionnaire concerning Europass knowledge and usage in European academic courses covering the marines sciences, directed towards both undergraduate and postgraduate courses, was first drafted, by the WP leader before being modified after consultation with AQUATNET partners at the Core group meeting in Gent June 2006., and put online by AQUATT on the network's secure website.

Raw data from the online questionnaire were collected and initially analysed by AQUATT before being considered in detail by WP partners at the Barcelona Workshop in March 2007. These first raw results of the questionnaires had been circulated to participants prior to the workshop. The online questionnaire had 27 responses. At the Barcelona meeting 20 participants from different educational organisations which had not responded to the online questionnaire, were asked to complete the questionnaire.

Results shown have been extrapolated from the main questionnaire (which is given in the AQUATNET Report of Language Provision across Europe. The five relevant questions directly concern knowledge and use of Europass. They are shown with the original survey numbering.

1. Do you have international exchanges?

100% of respondents (i.e., more than 50% of the network) stated that their institution did have international exchanges. This is particularly interesting in the light of the

--

responses concerning the institutions' language provision for those very international exchanges.

12. Do you have international work placements?

56% of respondents responded positively, as against 37% of respondent institutions which did not organise international work placements.

16. Is your institution aware of the new EUROPASS?

60% of respondents stated that their institutions had no knowledge of the new 5 part EUROPASS, while a minority (40%) claimed knowledge of this major new European initiative.

17. If your institution is aware of the new EUROPASS, which part does it use?

EUROPASS Diploma Supplement	57% of YES respondents
EUROPASS Certificate Supplement	43% of YES respondents
EUROPASS CV	28.5% of YES respondents
EUROPASS Language Passport	14% of YES respondents
EUROPASS mobility	42% of YES respondents

18. Do you have an international office?

88% of respondents do have such an office, with only 12% claiming not to have one.

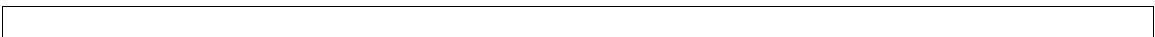
Conclusions

The low level of awareness (40%) is further reinforced by the low level of usage. This is both remarkable and worrying, as one of the areas targeted for the Europass Mobility is precisely the academic exchange or work placements for students. All respondents carried out international exchanges and 56% carried out international work placements. They are therefore not aware of a development that is of genuine worth to their students.

The Diploma Supplement, which was not formerly part of EUROPASS, but which has been extensively promoted in higher education as an integral part of the Bologna Process, has the highest usage rate, but still only by 57% of YES respondents. However, the relatively high rate of awareness of the Europass Certificate supplement, which is targeted purely at vocational education, makes it very likely that some respondents have no idea what the Certificate supplement really is and have confused it with the Diploma Supplement. In that case, we have 100% of our YES respondents who do use something that they know is called a Supplement of some sort. The very low level of

--

awareness of the European Language Passport is further indication, if anything further is needed, that languages for mobility are very low down in the pecking order.



Annex 1

The revamped **Europass** consists of five documents:

1. Europass curriculum vitae (CV)
2. Europass Language Passport
3. Europass Certificate Supplement
4. Europass Diploma Supplement
5. Europass Mobility

All five are available online. The first two documents can be completed by the interested parties themselves, while the remaining three have to be filled in and issued by competent organisations.

1) **The Europass CV** enables users to make skills and qualifications visible; and other Europass documents can be attached to the CV. The Europass CV replaced the European CV, launched in 2002. Example in **Annex 2**

2) The Europass Language Passport allows users to describe their language skills. It consists of three documents: the Language Passport, the Language Biography and the Dossier. It was developed by the Council of Europe as part of the European Language Portfolio. (See Annex of the AQUATNET Report on the CEFR). Example in **Annex 3**.

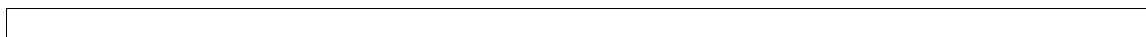
3) The Europass Certificate Supplement is for people who hold a vocational education and training certificate; it adds information to that which is already included in the official certificate, making it more easily understood, especially by employers or institutions outside the issuing country. The information in the Europass Certificate Supplement is provided by the relevant certifying authorities.

The Europass Certificate Supplement is not:

- a substitute for the original certificate;
- an automatic system that guarantees recognition.

The Europass Certificate Supplement is issued by the authorities that awards the original vocational certificate. Some countries have set up National inventories of Europass Certificate Supplements. A template is attached at **Annex 4**

4) The Europass Diploma Supplement is issued to graduates of higher education institutions along with their degree or diploma. It helps to ensure that higher education qualifications are more easily understood, especially outside the country where they were awarded. The Europass Diploma Supplement was developed jointly with Unesco and the Council of Europe.



The Europass Diploma Supplement is not:

- a substitute for the original certificate;
- an automatic system that guarantees recognition.

The Europass Diploma Supplement is issued by the higher education institution awarding the original diploma or degree. . A template may be downloaded from <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/hornav/Downloads.csp>

5) **The Europass Mobility** is a record of any organised period of time (called Europass Mobility experience) that a person spends in another European country for the purpose of learning or training.

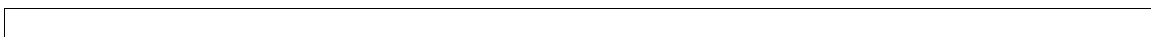
This includes for example:

- * a work placement in a company;
- * an academic term as part of an exchange programme;
- * a voluntary placement in 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; a mentor is identified in the host country. The partners may be universities, schools, training centres, companies, NGOs, etc.

The Europass Mobility is intended for any person undergoing a mobility experience in a European country, whatever their age or level of education.

The Europass Mobility is completed by the home and host organisations involved in the mobility project in a language agreed between both organisations and the person concerned. An example is given in **Annex 5**.



Annex 2: Model European CV

MODEL CURRICULUM VITAE

The curriculum vitae submitted must comply with the format below :

PERSONAL DETAILS

Family name:
First names:
Date of Birth:
Nationality:
Civil status:
Address :
Telephone, fax, e-mail

EDUCATION

<i>Institution</i>	
<i>Date</i>	
<i>Degree obtained</i>	

Repeat this table if necessary

LANGUAGE SKILLS

* marked 1 to 4; 4 = excellent ; add rows if necessary.

<i>Language</i>	<i>Reading*</i>	<i>Speaking*</i>	<i>Writing*</i>

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current professional position :

<i>Date</i>	
<i>Location</i>	
<i>Company</i>	
<i>Position</i>	
<i>Description</i>	

--

Previous professional position (repeat the table if necessary) :

<i>Date</i>	
<i>Location</i>	
<i>Company</i>	
<i>Position</i>	
<i>Description</i>	

Other relevant key qualifications / skills:

COMPUTER KNOWLEDGE:

* marked 1-4; 4 = excellent.

Type of programme, application, etc...	Level*

--

Annex 3: European Language Passport

SURNAME(s) FIRST NAME(s)	
Date of birth (*)	
Mother tongue(s)	
Other language(s)	

Self-assessment of language skills ()**

Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	

Diploma(s) or certificate(s) (*)

Title of diploma(s) or certificate(s)	Awarding body	Date	European level (***)

Linguistic experience(s) (*)

Description	From	To

Self-assessment of language skills ()**

Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	

Diploma(s) or certificate(s) (*)

Title of diploma(s) or certificate(s)	Awarding body	Date	European level (***)

Linguistic experience(s) (*)

Description	From	To

(*) Headings marked with an asterisk are optional. (**) See Self-assessment grid on reverse. (***) Common European Framework of Reference (CEF) level if specified on the original certificate or diploma.

Annex 4: European Certificate Supplement model



EUROPASS CERTIFICATE SUPPLEMENT (*)



1. TITLE OF THE CERTIFICATE ⁽¹⁾

VYSVEDČENIE O MATURITNEJ SKÚŠKE – OBCHODNÁ AKADÉMIA (SK)

⁽¹⁾ *In the original language*

2. TRANSLATED TITLE OF THE CERTIFICATE ⁽¹⁾

CERTIFICATE OF SCHOOL - LEAVING EXAMINATION – BUSINESS ACADEMY

⁽¹⁾ *If applicable. This translation has no legal status.*

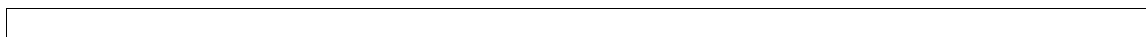
3. PROFILE OF SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

Typical holders of this certificate can:

- perform economic activities in production enterprises, inland and foreign trade, finance, assurance companies, tourism and other services in state and public administration;
- assess and use acquired information for economic management of work place;
- perform independently activities of professional economic worker;
- perform marketing activities in inland and abroad;
- ensure financial management in enterprise;
- keep single-entry/double-entry bookkeeping, statistics, pricing policy, personnel, wage and tax administration;
- perform competent office and post activities;
- use office technique, information and communication technologies;
- use programs of office and economic software;
- use basic laws at business activity;
- respect technique of word processing and standardized processing of documents;
- communicate with clients according to rules of social protocol.

4. RANGE OF OCCUPATIONS ACCESSIBLE TO THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE ⁽¹⁾

professional economic worker in different forms of business subjects, budget and allowance organizations in spheres: production, supplying, sales, marketing, human resources management, administration, bookkeeping and financial management



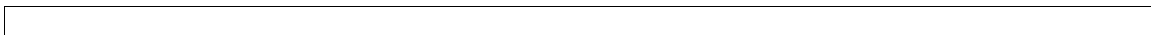
⁽¹⁾ If applicable

^(*) Explanatory note

This document is designed to provide additional information about the specified certificate and does not have any legal status in itself. The format of the description is based on the following texts: Council Resolution 93/C 49/01 of 3 December 1992 on the transparency of qualifications, Council Resolution 96/C 224/04 of 15 July 1996 on the transparency of vocational training certificates, and Recommendation 2001/613/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 July 2001 on mobility within the Community for students, persons undergoing training, volunteers, teachers and trainers.

More information available at: <http://europass.cedefop.eu.int>

© European Communities 2002



5. OFFICIAL BASIS OF THE CERTIFICATE	
Name and status of the body awarding the certificate Spojená stredná škola (Associated secondary school) Štúrova 848 SK – 962 12 Detva Slovenská republika	Name and status of the national/regional authority providing accreditation/recognition of the certificate Ministerstvo školstva Slovenskej republiky (Ministry of education of Slovak republic) Stromová 1 SK - 813 30, Bratislava Slovenská republika
Level of the certificate (national or international) complete middle scholarship ISCED – 3A	Grading scale / Pass requirements Successful ending of education: 1. practical section of the professional part: 50 % 2. theoretical section of the professional part: 4 - sufficiently 3. Slovak and literature a. written form of the internal part: 25 % b. oral form of the internal part: 4 – sufficiently (if the condition 3a. is not satisfied, evaluation 3 – good is necessary) 4. foreign language a. external part: 33 % b. written form of the internal part: 25 % c. oral form of the internal part: 4 – sufficiently (if the conditions 4a. and 4b. are not satisfied, evaluation 3 – good is necessary)
Access to next level of education/training additional study at the secondary school, study at the university ISCED 4, 5	International agreements
Legal basis Public notice of Ministry of education on Slovak republic „Vyhláška Ministerstva školstva Slovenskej republiky č. 510/2004 Z. z. z 23. augusta 2004 o ukončovaní štúdiá na stredných školách a o ukončovaní prípravy v odborných učilištiach, učilištiach a praktických školách v znení vyhlášky č. 379/2005 Z. z.“ Published in „Zbierka zákonov“ and at http://www.zbierka.sk	

6. OFFICIALLY RECOGNISED WAYS OF ACQUIRING THE CERTIFICATE		
Description of vocational education and training received	Percentage of total programme (%)	Duration (hours/weeks/months/years)
• School-/training centre-based	97 %	4 years (120 weeks)
• Workplace-based	3 %	4 weeks
• Accredited prior learning	-	-
Total duration of the education/ training leading to the certificate		4 years (124 weeks)

--

Entry requirements

successful ending of the 9th. class primary school (ISCED 2)

proving demanded entry knowledge in form of an entrance examination from section subjects which the Ministry of education intends health competence which is confirmed by the doctor

Additional information

More information (including a description of the national qualifications system) available at: <http://www.minedu.sk>.

National reference point

State institute of the professional education (*Štátny inštitút odborného vzdelávania*), <http://www.siov.sk>.

Annex 5: Europass Mobility Template



EUROPASS MOBILITY COOPERATION AGREEMENT

We, the undersigned organisations (see below) hereby stipulate to cooperate on the use of the Europass Mobility document for the Europass Mobility Project outlined below.

THE PARTNER ORGANISATIONS OF THE EUROPASS MOBILITY PROJECT	
SENDING PARTNER (organisation initiating the mobility experience in the country of origin)	
Name, type (if relevant faculty/department) and address	Stamp and/or signature
(11) (*)	(12) (*)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Surname(s) and first name(s) of contact person	Title/position
(13)	(14)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	E-mail
(15)	(16)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
HOST PARTNER (organisation receiving the holder of the Europass Mobility document in the host country)	
Name, type (if relevant faculty/department) and address	Stamp and/or signature
(17) (*)	(18) (*)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Surname(s) and first name(s) of mentor	Title/position
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

(19)
(*)

Telephone

(21)

(20)

E-mail

(22)

DESCRIPTION OF THE EUROPASS MOBILITY PROJECT

Content of the Europass Mobility Experience. Please state the programme, Initiative or scheme under which it takes place, if any. Specify any linguistic preparations.

Objective of the Europass Mobility Experience

Duration of the Europass Mobility Experience