

BRIEFING NOTE

Europass 2005-2020: Achievements and prospects



Seven years after its launch, millions of people use Europass. Changes to link it with other European tools will make people's skills and qualifications more visible

Use of Europass is impressive (Box 1). Since its launch in February 2005 and the end of March 2012, there have been more than 48.6 million visits to the Europass website and 38 million Europass curriculum vitae (CV) have either been completed online or downloaded – an average of nearly 15 000 per day.

Estimates are that more than 300 000 Europass mobility records documenting work and learning experience in other countries have been issued. More than 1.2 million language passports (a self-assessment of language skills using standardised levels) have either been completed online or downloaded. The figures illustrate Europass' value to learners and workers across Europe, but work goes on to improve it (Box 2) and widen its appeal still further.

Box 1: Use of Europass

Between February 2005 when Europass was launched and the end of March 2012:

- 48.6 million visits to the Europass website;
- 18 million Europass curriculum vitae (CV) created online;
- 20 million CV templates have been downloaded;
- 333 000 Language passports created online;
- 915 000 Language passport templates downloaded;
- over 300 000 Europass mobility documents are estimated to have been issued;
- 23 national inventories have been prepared to enable people to download certificate supplements corresponding to their vocational qualification;
- Diploma Supplements are issued by a growing number of higher education institutions.

In 2011, there were 12.9 million visits to the European website compared to 1.2 million in 2005, a tenfold increase. In 2005, 116 000 Europass CVs were completed online; in 2011 the figure was over 5.9 million, some 50 times more.

Box 2: What is Europass?

Europass is a portfolio of five documents, available in 26 languages. Europass helps:

- citizens communicate their skills and qualifications effectively when looking for a job or training;
- employers understand the skills and qualifications of the workforce;
- education and training authorities define and communicate the content of curricula.

Two Europass documents are completed by European citizens:

- **Curriculum vitae (CV)** which gives an overview of personal skills; and the
- **Language passport** which provides a self-assessment of language skills using standardised levels.

Three other documents are issued by national education and training authorities:

- **Europass mobility** which records work and education experience in other European countries;
- **Certificate supplement** which describes the content of vocational qualifications; and the
- **Diploma supplement** which lists the achievements of holders of diplomas or degrees, including the subjects studied and the grades achieved.

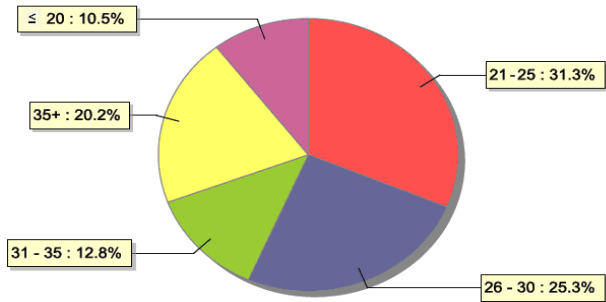
Working closely with the European Commission and a network of National Europass Centres (NECs), Cedefop:

- drafted and revises Europass documents;
- designed and maintains the multilingual web site, providing expertise on content, language processing and IT;
- supports the NECs that implement Europass at national level.

Visit the Europass website:
<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>

More than two-thirds of Europass CV online users are under 30 years of age (Figure 1). In 2011, the top 10 nationalities using the CV were the Portuguese, followed by the Italians, Romanians, Spaniards, Hungarians, Germans, French, Poles, Greeks and Bulgarians.

Figure 1: Age of Europass CV online users



A revamped Europass website

For more than seven years the key to Europass' success has been easy access. In December 2011, the website was given a new graphic identity providing quicker access to information (Figure 2). By the end of 2012, the Europass website will introduce a new CV. New web services will also improve interoperability between Europass and other websites, for example making it easier to save the Europass CV on a job portal.

Figure 2: Europass website new graphic identity



European skills passport and European experience

The European Union's (EU's) Europe 2020' strategy gives fresh impetus to Europass as one of several measures to make it easier for Europeans to study and work in other EU Member States.

By the end of 2012, Europass users will be able to create an electronic European skills passport to make their skills and qualifications visible. A new document, 'Europass experience', will be introduced in 2013 to enable citizens to record the skills and competences they have acquired in various settings

such as through work experience (including job placements, summer vacation jobs and voluntary work).

Linking Europass with other EU tools

Under the Copenhagen process, the EU has established several other common European tools and principles along with Europass. Collectively, they make it easier to understand qualifications. They encourage lifelong learning by making systems more flexible and thus support job and geographical mobility.

Over the period 2013-15, Europass will be linked more closely to these tools. In particular, the European qualifications framework (EQF), the European credit system for vocational education and training (ECVET) and the European skills, competences and occupations (ESCO) taxonomy.

The EQF has eight levels and enables national qualifications (general and higher education and vocational education and training) to be compared with each other and those of other countries. The EQF levels will be used in the Europass CV and in the Certificate and Diploma supplements to indicate the level of qualifications someone holds. Work-related skills and knowledge acquired during a stay in another country or in different situations, validated under the ECVET, will be recorded on the Europass Certificate supplement, Europass Mobility document and the new Europass experience.

When completed, ESCO will provide an extensive list of skills, competences and qualifications terms used in and across all occupational areas. ESCO terminology will be used to improve Europass and help people to describe and present their experiences in education, at work and from life in general more clearly in relation to various occupations. This will make it easier for people to validate their skills and have them count towards qualifications.