

Procedure file

| Basic information | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Decision | 2003/0307(COD) Procedure completed |
| Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass) Repealed by 2016/0304(COD) | |
| Subject 4.15.06 Professional qualifications, recognition of qualifications 4.40.07 Recognition of diplomas, equivalence of studies and training 4.40.15 Vocational education and training | |

| Key players | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------------|
| European Parliament | Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
| | CULT Culture and Education | PPE-DE NOVAK Ljudmila | 13/09/2004 |
| | Former committee responsible | | |
| | CULT Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport | PPE-DE ZISSENER Sabine | 27/01/2004 |
| Council of the European Union | Former committee for opinion | | |
| | EMPL Employment and Social Affairs (Associated committee) | PSE WEILER Barbara | 14/01/2004 |
| | BUDG Budgets | The committee decided not to give an opinion. | |
| Council of the European Union | Council configuration | Meeting | Date |
| | Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN | 2612 | 21/10/2004 |
| | Education, Youth, Culture and Sport | 2589 | 10/06/2004 |
| | Education, Youth, Culture and Sport | 2585 | 27/05/2004 |
| European Commission | Education, Youth, Culture and Sport | 2565 | 26/02/2004 |
| | Commission DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture | Commissioner | |

| Key events | | | |
|------------|---|-------------------------------|---------|
| 17/12/2003 | Legislative proposal published | COM(2003)0796 | Summary |
| 28/01/2004 | Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading | | |
| 26/02/2004 | Debate in Council | 2565 | |

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|------------|--|---|---------|
| 06/04/2004 | Vote in committee, 1st reading | | |
| 06/04/2004 | Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading | A5-0247/2004 | |
| 21/04/2004 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 22/04/2004 | Decision by Parliament, 1st reading | T5-0362/2004 | Summary |
| 21/10/2004 | Council position published | 12242/1/2004 | Summary |
| 28/10/2004 | Committee referral announced in Parliament, 2nd reading | | |
| 30/11/2004 | Vote in committee, 2nd reading | | Summary |
| 02/12/2004 | Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading | A6-0056/2004 | |
| 13/12/2004 | Debate in Parliament |  | |
| 14/12/2004 | Results of vote in Parliament |  | |
| 14/12/2004 | Decision by Parliament, 2nd reading | T6-0095/2004 | Summary |
| 15/12/2004 | Final act signed | | |
| 15/12/2004 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |
| 31/12/2004 | Final act published in Official Journal | | |

Technical information

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|----------------------------|--|
| Procedure reference | 2003/0307(COD) |
| Procedure type | COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) |
| Procedure subtype | Legislation |
| Legislative instrument | Decision |
| | Repealed by 2016/0304(COD) |
| Legal basis | EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 149; Rules of Procedure EP 57; EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 150 |
| Stage reached in procedure | Procedure completed |
| Committee dossier | CULT/6/24548 |

Documentation gateway

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|---|---|------------|------|---------|
| Legislative proposal | COM(2003)0796 | 17/12/2003 | EC | Summary |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading | A5-0247/2004 | 06/04/2004 | EP | |
| Committee of the Regions: opinion | CDR0307/2003 OJ C 121 30.04.2004, p. 0010-0014 | 21/04/2004 | CofR | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading | T5-0362/2004 OJ C 104 30.04.2004, p. 0745-0960 E | 22/04/2004 | EP | Summary |
| Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report | CES0658/2004 OJ C 117 30.04.2004, p. | 28/04/2004 | ESC | |

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|--|--|---|------------|-----|---------|
| | | 0012-0014 | | | |
| Document attached to the procedure | | 13069/2004 | 13/10/2004 | CSL | |
| Council position | | 12242/1/2004 OJ C 321 28.12.2004, p. 0001-0018 E | 21/10/2004 | CSL | Summary |
| Commission communication on Council's position | | COM(2004)0705 | 22/10/2004 | EC | Summary |
| Committee recommendation tabled for plenary, 2nd reading | | A6-0056/2004 | 02/12/2004 | EP | |
| Text adopted by Parliament, 2nd reading | | T6-0095/2004 OJ C 226 15.09.2005, p. 0024-0068 E | 14/12/2004 | EP | Summary |
| Follow-up document | | COM(2008)0427 | 04/07/2008 | EC | Summary |
| Follow-up document | | COM(2013)0899 | 18/12/2013 | EC | Summary |

Additional information

European Commission

[EUR-Lex](#)

Final act

[Decision 2004/2241](#)
[OJ L 390 31.12.2004, p. 0006-0020](#) Summary

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

PURPOSE : to establish a single framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences known as "Europass". **PROPOSED ACT :** Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council. **CONTENT :** Good communication about qualifications and competences is crucial when a person applies for a job or for admission to a learning opportunity. A number of tools have been developed in the recent years at various levels to improve the transparency of qualifications and competences, so that citizens can better communicate them. They are particularly helpful when applicant and employer do not come from the same country. This proposal rationalises the existing tools and networks aimed at transparency in the field of education and training, in order to improve their effectiveness. It aims to link separate documents aimed at the transparency of qualifications and competences into a single framework, in the form of a structured portfolio of documents, known as "Europass". The core of the Europass portfolio is the European CV, to which the other "Europass documents" will be linked. The proposal directly brings together into the Europass portfolio some existing documents, but makes clear that this is not the exhaustive list of Europass documents: in future, further documents could be considered parts of the Europass, provided that they share the purpose to improve the transparency of qualifications and competences and that they satisfy the operational conditions required to be integrated. It will be a responsibility for the Commission and the relevant national authorities to verify that these conditions are met. For citizens, using any single Europass document or the whole Europass portfolio is a voluntary act: they are an opportunity offered to citizens and not an obligation. This proposal defines the first five documents included in the Europass portfolio. These are: - The European CV: this is a personal document completed by the person concerned. - The MobiliPass: after five years of operation, the Europass-Training will be replaced by the MobiliPass, meant to record European learning pathways, that is, periods of learning in another country that satisfy certain quality criteria. These criteria do not include the requirement - characteristic of the existing Europass-Training - that the learning should be "work-linked training". - The Diploma Supplement: this document was developed with the Council of Europe and UNESCO, to make higher education degrees more transparent. It is a personal document, containing, among others, information related to the specific educational pathway of each individual holder. It is completed by the institution which delivers it to its holder along with the degree which it supplements. Bringing it into the Europass framework does not need any real change, besides adding the Europass logo. - The Certificate Supplement, concerning vocational education and training. This proposal does not make any change to common format recently agreed informally by Member States and now used by national authorities to prepare the actual supplements for each certificate. This document has a different nature from the others, as it does not refer to its specific holder: a certificate supplements clarifies the vocational qualification to which it refers, and is the same for all those who hold that qualification. - The European Language Portfolio, which adapts the model agreed within the Council of Europe and based on the Common Framework for Languages. It is a document in which citizens can record the linguistic and cultural skills they have acquired. It contains in particular a Language Passport, where holders can give details on their proficiency in languages. Countries can adapt the common model, for instance to better gear it to the needs of specific target groups. The documents must carry the Europass logo and be available in electronic form. **Implementation measures:** In each country a single body, known as the Europass National Agency (ENA), should be appointed to coordinate all the related activities. Each Member State will decide whether its ENA should be established by expanding one of relevant existing bodies, by merging several such bodies or by replacing them. All activities related to the implementation at national level of this proposal will receive Community financial support exclusively through one yearly grant awarded to the ENA. The activities for which the ENA will be responsible include: -managing the transparency documents; -setting up and managing the information system; -promoting the portfolio and its documents; -providing information and guidance -networking at European level. The information system: all Europass documents, either completed by citizens like the European CV or released by authorities, should be available in the relevant part of the information system. However, citizens should be entitled to retrieve from the information system only their personal Europass documents

Financial implications: Given that Europass is intended to be a permanent instrument for citizens, this decision will have an unlimited duration. Therefore no reference amount is indicated and the annual appropriations will be authorised by the budget authority within the limits of the financial perspective. The financial statement indicates the costs envisaged for the first two years of operation (2005 and 2006 - please see below). In 2007 a new generation of programmes in the field of education and training should enter into force under the new financial perspectives. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS : - Budget lines and headings: 15030101 and 15010405 - Europass. - Total allocation for action (Part B): EUR 2 million for commitment per year. - Overall financial impact of human resources and other administrative expenditure: 2005 and 2006 - EUR 0.459 million each year. Total: EUR 0.918 million. Overall total commitments and payments: EUR 4.918 million. Total staff: 4 (2 A Grade, 1 B grade and 1 C grade). ?

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

By adopting the report by Sabine ZISSENER (EPP-ED, D) which aims to create a single framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass). The European Parliament accepted the recommendations from the committee responsible and included some additional amendments aiming to clarify the content of a single framework. The other main amendment to the proposal relates to the future extension of the Europass portfolio to include other documents that might become more relevant in the future. The single framework should be widened as soon as possible to include an instrument to record proficiency in information technology. The report also strengthens the importance of the involvement of the EU's social partners in evaluating and periodically reviewing the Europass initiative. Moreover, the Parliament states that third country nationals resident in the European Union should also be able to benefit. Parliament is of the opinion that the social partners at EU level will play a particular role in sectoral transparency initiatives that could be incorporated into the Europass framework in due course. Each Member State shall designate a Europass National Agency (ENA), which shall be responsible at national level for the coordination of all activities referred to in this Decision and which shall replace or develop, where appropriate, existing bodies currently carrying out similar activities. Moreover, Parliament requests that adequate promotion and information activities are carried out at European and national level, covering citizens, education and training providers and social partners including SMEs. Parliament stipulates that 3 years after the entry into force of this Decision and every 4 years thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the European Parliament and the Council an evaluation report on its implementation based on an evaluation carried out by an independent body and consultation with the social partners. Where appropriate the sending organisation and the host organisation cooperate in providing the person concerned with appropriate information about workplace health and safety, labour law, equality measures and other work-related provisions applying in the host country. Lastly, the Parliament amends the common format of the Mobilipass, it states in particular that the holder's social skills and competences including in particular those relating to inter-cultural experiences.?

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

In its common position, the Council approved the Commission's proposal in principle, while making certain amendments which it thought desirable. It equally considers that its common position constitutes a balanced text, providing a good basis for launching this instrument , thereby facilitating mobility throughout Europe for lifelong learning purposes.

It notes that the 14 amendments by the European Parliament incorporated in full or in substance in the common position do not alter the content of the Commission's initial proposal. The Council introduced other changes, in particular amending the procedure and defining the criteria for introducing new documents in the Europass structure. The names of the documents included in the framework and of the implementation bodies are also slightly amended. These changes do not alter the content of the Commission's initial proposal.

More specifically, as regards the amendments made by the Council to the Commission's proposal, these concern the following :

- Future inclusion of other documents : the Council considers that provision should be made for the inclusion of other documents in the future (e.g. in the field of IT) in accordance with the criteria laid down in the new Annex I and the procedure;
- Committee Procedure : in view of the future introduction of other documents, the Council is of the view that the Commission should be assisted in this task by the relevant existing Committees (Socrates and Leonardo) in accordance with a management procedure;
- Social Partners : provision has been made for the consultation by the Commission of the social partners and other relevant stakeholders at European level;
- Designation of the documents : with a view to enhancing the Europass logo, the Council proposes that "Europass" be part of the designation of all the documents in the portfolio (i.e. Europass-Curriculum Vitae; Europass-Mobility; Europass-Diploma Supplement; Europass-Language Portfolio; Europass-Certificate Supplement);
- National Europass Centres : the Council is of the view that the bodies responsible for the implementation of the decision should be called "National Europass Centres" (NEC) rather than "Europass National Agencies", since the term agency could be taken to imply a specifically created body, whereas the NECs are intended to replace or develop, where appropriate, existing bodies carrying out similar activities;
- Information Systems : the Council has clarified the scope of citizens' access to information systems as far as Europass documents are concerned.

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

The 14 amendments by the European Parliament incorporated in full or in substance in the common position do not alter the content of the Commission's initial proposal. The Commission therefore considers the text of the common position to be acceptable.

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

The committee adopted the report by Ljudmila NOVAK (EPP-ED, SI) approving the Council's common position unamended under the 2nd reading of the codecision procedure.

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Ljudmila NOVAK (EPP-ED, SI) and approved the common position.

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

PURPOSE : to establish a single framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences known as "Europass".

LEGISLATIVE ACT : Decision 2241/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.

CONTENT : this Decision establishes a single Community framework for achieving the transparency of qualifications and competences by means of the creation of a personal, coordinated portfolio of documents, to be known as 'Europass', which citizens can use on a voluntary basis better to communicate and present their qualifications and competences throughout Europe. The use of Europass or of any of the Europass documents does not impose any obligations or confer any rights other than those defined in the Decision. This framework created by this Decision consists in a portfolio of documents with a common brand name and a common logo, supported by information systems and promoted through sustained promotional action at European and national level.

The Europass documents will be:

- the Europass-curriculum vitae ('the Europass-CV');
- Europass-Mobility, which will record periods of learning attended by its holders in countries other than their own;
- Europass-Diploma Supplement, which will provide information on its holder's educational achievements at higher education level;
- Europass-Language Portfolio, which provides citizens with the opportunity to present their language skills;
- Europass-Certificate Supplement, which will describe the competences and qualifications corresponding to a vocational training certificate.

The templates for these documents are set out in the Annexes.

- any other documents approved as Europass documents by the Commission, in accordance with the prescribed criteria and procedure;

Each Member State must designate a National Europass Centre (NEC), which will be responsible for the coordination at national level of all activities referred to in the Decision and which will replace or develop existing bodies currently carrying out similar activities.

The tasks and responsibilities of the NECs are set out in the Decision.

The Commission shall secure the expertise of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) in implementing the Decision, in accordance with Regulation 337/75/EEC. Subject to the same conditions and in the relevant areas, coordination will be established under the auspices of the Commission with the European Training Foundation as set out by Regulation 1360/90/EEC.

By 1 January 2008 and then every four years, the Commission will submit to the European Parliament and the Council an evaluation report on the implementation of the Decision.

ENTRY INTO FORCE : 1 January 2005.

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

This report on the first evaluation of the Europass initiative is based on an external evaluation. It presents the evaluator's main findings and recommendations as well as the Commission's conclusions and intended follow-up. This evaluation covers the period from January 2005 to August/September 2007: two and a half years of operation of the Europass portal and two full years of implementation at national level.

The report makes clear that the evaluation finds that the Europass initiative is relevant and provides an effective service to citizens moving for lifelong learning or in the labour market. Its implementation tools are cost-efficient and highly appreciated by users. The potential of the initiative could however be more fully exploited, for which purpose the evaluation presents a number of recommendations which are as follows:

- Europass is already particularly relevant for learners' mobility and development action is now needed on occupational mobility, namely international job mobility;
- the Europass CV is highly valued and should be developed further, by improving its template and offering a shorter version, in consultation with employers, recruitment agencies and guidance centres;
- promotion at national level should be intensified through cooperation with guidance centres and businesses;
- more examples and guidelines on the use of all Europass documents should be provided on the portal;
- Europass Diploma Supplement should be developed further to take learning outcomes better into account;
- complementarity of Europass with the education and training programmes should be intensified;
- cooperation with other transparency developments should be ensured.

The Commission, in consultation with the Lifelong Learning Programme Committee, the European network of National Europass Centres (NECs), the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training and the High Level Forum on Mobility, and in accordance with available resources, plans to:

- cooperate further with guidance, employment and youth services to make Europass more useful for and better known to the

- low-qualified and the unemployed, now inadequately represented among the users of the Europass portal and the Europass CV;
- develop, with the support of Cedefop, a fully fledged Europass CV and self assessment service, including:
 - a more flexible Europass CV, with options targeting different user groups, such as inexperienced young people, the low-qualified, mid-career professionals or professional researchers, also drawing on existing resources addressing such. A shorter and lighter version of the CV will also be developed. Compatibility with the CV databases of national employment services and recruitment agencies will be further pursued, following the forthcoming compatibility with the CV service of EURES (European Employment Services), the European Job Mobility portal;
 - self assessment tools to allow people go deeper in identifying and describing their learning outcomes in terms of knowledge, skills and competences. These will include developing further the existing Europass Language Passport, in cooperation the Council of Europe, and developing new self-assessment tools focusing on personal skills, namely those acquired through non formal and informal learning, and also on ICT skills;
 - appropriate tutorials, guidelines and examples, to be developed in cooperation with the NECs, the Euroguidance network, the youth and employment services, and the social partners;
- generalise by 2010 the use of Europass Mobility under the Lifelong Learning Programme so that it is systematically issued to all citizens who have completed mobility actions under any of the individual Erasmus, Comenius, Grundtvig and Leonardo da Vinci programmes, and promote its use within the Marie Curie programme. This will be undertaken in consultation with and require the support of the programme national agencies and the NECs;
- through the NECs, and in cooperation with the guidance, youth and employment services, promote further the use of Europass Mobility in mobility actions established at the national or regional level, including as a standard part of higher education exchanges and in relation to the mobility of apprentices, as well as within youth and volunteer activities;
- encourage the coordinated management, promotion and integration within the Europass framework of the Europass Diploma Supplement in cooperation with the relevant actors at the European level (Council of Europe, Unesco-Cepes, Bologna process secretariat, ENIC-NARIC networks, university and students' associations) and at the national level (the NECs, programme national agencies, higher education institutions, Bologna experts, ENIC-NARIC centres, stakeholders associations). The further development of the Europass Diploma Supplement will be examined, in cooperation with the relevant actors, in order to record better its holder's learning outcomes;
- encourage the coordinated management, promotion and development of the Europass Certificate Supplement at the European and national levels, in cooperation with Cedefop, the Social Partners and other relevant stakeholders. This will take into account the relevant developments within the Copenhagen process, for instance in relation to occupational profiles, the European credit transfer system for vocational education and training (ECVET), as well as the shift towards learning outcomes;
- ensure that, by 2012, the templates of all relevant Europass documents include a reference to the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning.

Single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass)

The Commission presents the second evaluation of the Decision of the European Parliament and the Council on a single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass) (for the results of the first evaluation, please refer to the summary dated 04/07/2008 on the current procedure reference.)

Objectives of Europass and main conclusions of the evaluation: established in 2005, Europass helps learners and workers make their competencies and knowledge better understood across Europe through tools to register and make their skills and qualifications transparent. However, some of its present tools need adapting to address the challenges posed by the expectations and needs of today's learners and evolving labour markets.

The report analyses the achievements of the Europass framework on the basis of the external evaluation of Europass carried out in 2012. It stresses that the original objectives remain relevant, in particular to the Education and Training 2020 Strategic Framework for European cooperation (Education and Training 2020). Europass supports the movement of learners and workers for lifelong learning or work by allowing skills, qualifications and learning outcomes to be compared. Europass, and in particular the Europass CV, has established itself as a well-recognised, well-trusted brand for transparency and recognition, in Europe and beyond. Figures from March 2013 indicate that more than 27 million Europass CVs were completed on-line since its launch in 2005. Evaluation data also show that most Europass tools still do not fully reach large groups of potential users. At present Europass users tend to be young, female and highly educated. Better coordination with services providing career guidance and their integration within the Europass framework, would enable large groups to be targeted such as low-skilled unemployed people, who often lack the necessary skills to complete the Europass documents or who may find them too complex or confusing.

Other improvements necessary include enhanced convergence with other European reference tools and better interoperability of Europass IT tools with EU tools used for job matching.

In order to address such shortcomings, the current Europass structure should be changed into a simpler, more target-oriented and up-to-date service, whilst maintaining its original aim of comparability and transparency of skills and qualifications to improve the geographical and occupational mobility of learners and workers. Revisiting Europass is becoming even more urgent as several private, local and/or national initiatives with similar objectives are in the process of being developed, in particular in electronic form such as e-portfolios.

Development and operational proposals: the report states that there is a clear need to adapt the current Europass tools to more flexible and learner-oriented learning pathways, which should exploit the potential of modern technologies. It should retain existing users and attract new ones, in particular low skilled individuals.

To achieve this, a new Europass legal basis, permitting regular updates and adjustments of these tools, may be needed.

The report discusses the following possible developments:

- improved synergies between Europass and other European initiatives: Europass could focus on providing interactive tools for the transparency of skills and qualifications, bringing the different European networks, information services and other tools currently

concerned with skills and qualifications together under a single entry point;

- Europass as an instrument to facilitate flexible learning pathways, meeting the needs of individuals: this could be done through facilitating the interoperability of European credit transfer systems, such as ECTS and ECVET, between education and training levels and across countries or taking into account validating non-formal and informal learning with Youthpass;
- improving the interoperability of Europass with EU tools used for job matching, for example through link the Europass CV tool with the EURES CV database.

The Commission will discuss the conclusions presented in this report with relevant stakeholders during the public debate on the European Area of Skills and Qualifications in winter 2013/2014. Based on the conclusions of this debate, the Commission may consider proposing a revision of the current legal basis of Europass.