



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Date: 19 November 2015

Venue: Clock Tower, Department of Education and Skills,
Marlborough St., Dublin 1

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and Introduction (including Terms of Reference)

10:15 Presentations

- EQAVET, Riga conclusions – Dr Arancha Orviedo, EQAVET
- Qualifications Frameworks – John O'Connor, QQI
- Erasmus+ in the Adult Education, School Education, VET and Youth fields – Fionnuala Broughan, Léargas
- Erasmus+ and Higher Education – Neil Tynan, HEA
- European Lifelong Learning Guidance Policy Network, Euroguidance & Ploteus – Jennifer McKenzie, NCGE
- Recognition & Europass – Angela Lambkin/ Ann Graves, QQI

11:45 Other information updates

12:00 Questions and answers

12:15 Evaluation and feedback

12:55 Next Steps – plan for the Reference Group 2016

13:00 Lunch and close



Erasmus+

www.QQI.ie



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Welcome

Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education
and Skills

19th November 2015

10.00 – 1.00pm



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Role of Group (TOR)

- Common sharing of education and training actions and plans across education and training
- Collaborative and promote
- Establish linkages and synergies
- Disseminate
- Coordinate national response to EU developments

EQAVET, Riga conclusions

Dr Arancha Oviedo

Policy Officer

EQAVET Secretariat



Erasmus+

The EQAVET Framework

Supporting European quality assurance in Vocational Education and Training

Arancha Oviedo,
EQAVET Secretariat

Animation video – EQAVET website

What is EQAVET?



The Copenhagen process and the transparency tools

Europass

EQF

EQAVET

ECVET

Recent policy developments in VET at EU level

- 2015 transfer of the EU tools from DG EAC to DG EMPL in the Commission
- Current work is focused on 3 priorities:
 1. understanding better the demand for skills
 2. investing in E&T for skills where employability can be increased
 3. supporting the validation and recognition of skills and qualifications to boost mobility
- Working on Employment Guidelines and Skills development agenda

QA is the underpinning principle contributing and driving change and reform in VET

The EQAVET Framework – QA management tool

- Designed to promote better VET
- A reference instrument to help authorities of MS and providers to promote and monitor the improvement of their VET systems
- Uses QA as a systematic approach to modernising education systems, especially by improving the effectiveness of training
- MS and providers are invited to develop/use this instrument on a voluntary basis.
- Main users are national/regional authorities, VET providers, public /private bodies responsible for ensuring and improving the quality of VET
- Complements the work of EQF and ECVET



EQAVET

European Quality Assurance
in Vocational Education and Training

Supporting the implementation of the
European Quality Assurance Reference Framework
for Vocational Education and Training

EQAVET model, deepening a culture of QA

THE QUALITY CYCLE

of the European Quality Assurance Reference
Framework for Vocational Education and Training

1. Purpose and Plan

Set up clear, appropriate and measurable goals and objectives in terms of policies, procedures, tasks and human resources.

2. Implementation

Establish procedures to ensure the achievement of goals and objectives (e.g. development of partnerships, involvement of stakeholders, allocation of resources, and organisational or operational procedures).



4. Review

Develop procedures in order to achieve the targeted outcomes and/or new objectives; after processing feedback, key stakeholders conduct discussion and analysis in order to devise procedures for change.

3. Assessment and Evaluation

Design mechanisms for the evaluation of achievements and outcomes by collecting and processing data in order to make informed assessment.

EQAVET model, deepening a culture of QA

Key elements

PLANNING: set up clear, appropriate and measurable goals and objectives

IMPLEMENTATION: establish procedures to ensure the achievement of goals and objectives

ASSESSMENT and EVALUATION: design mechanisms for the evaluation of achievements by collecting and processing data to assess

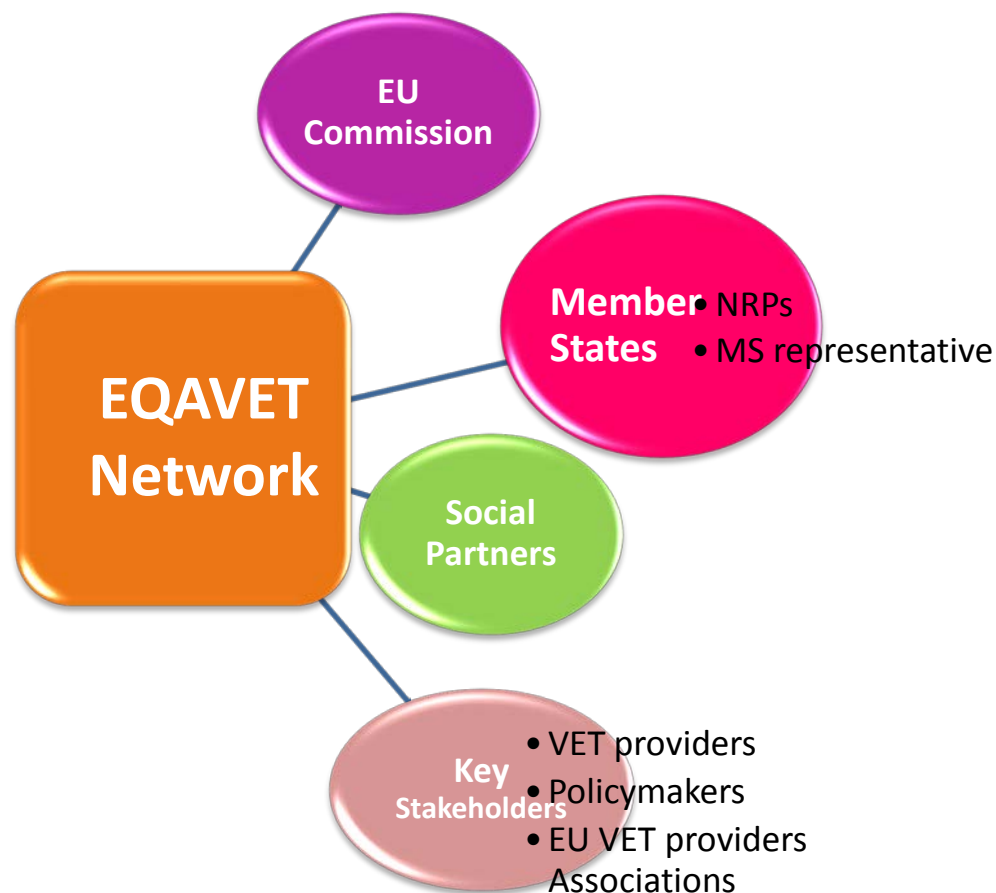
FEEDBACK and PROCEDURES for CHANGE: develop operations in order to achieve the targeted after discussion with key stakeholders

Quality indicators

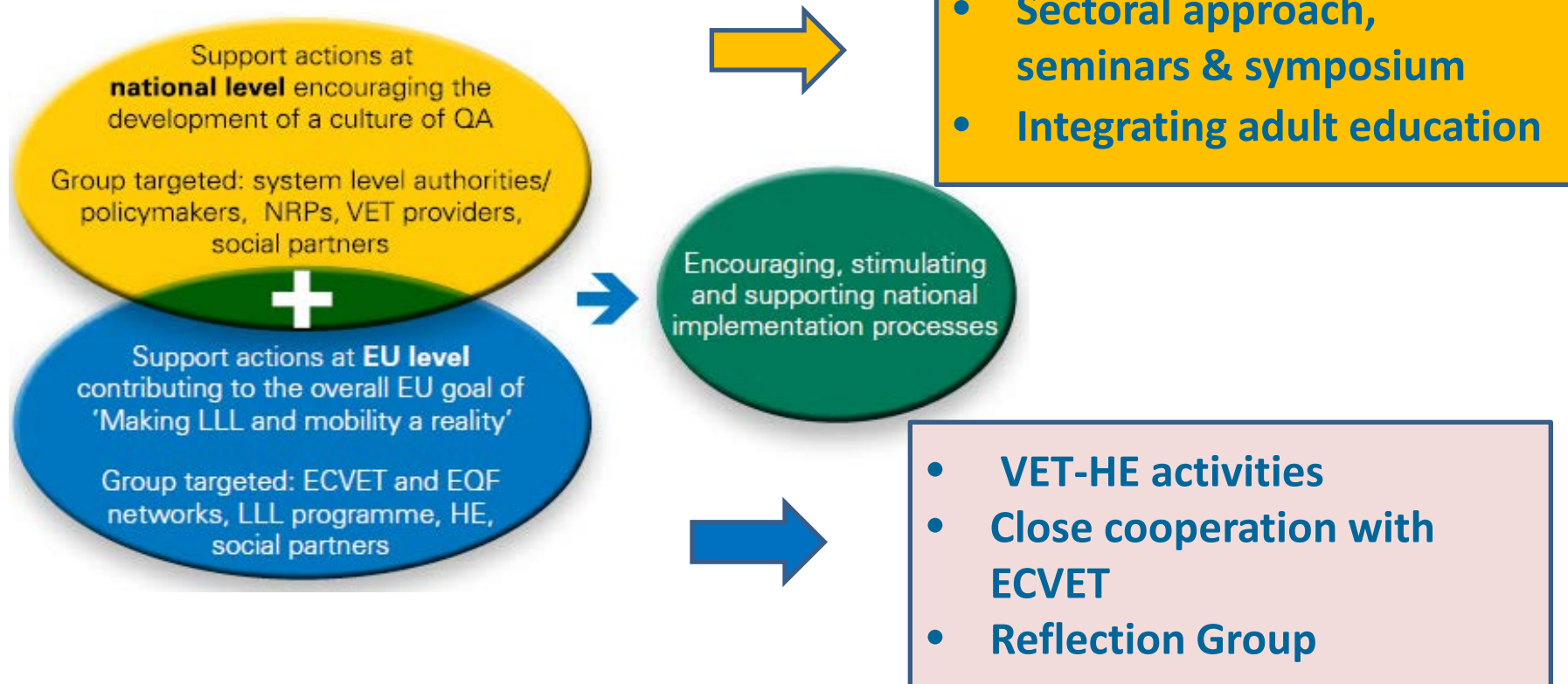
1. Relevance of quality assurance systems for VET providers
2. Investment in training of teachers and trainers
3. Participation rate in VET programmes
4. Completion rate in VET programmes
5. Placement rate in VET programmes
6. Utilisation of acquired skills at the workplace
7. Unemployment rate
8. Prevalence of vulnerable groups
9. Mechanisms to identify training needs in the labour market
10. Schemes used to promote better access to VET

EQAVET, Supporting the process of QA and the development of a culture of QA

- **EQAVET Secretariat** (QQI, FETAC since 2007)
- **Builds on a history of EU cooperation in QA quality assurance in VET for almost 10 years**
- **A partnership process – a community of practice**
- Recommendation of the EU Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a **European Quality Assurance Reference Framework for VET-June 2009**



EQAVET work programme 2013-2015

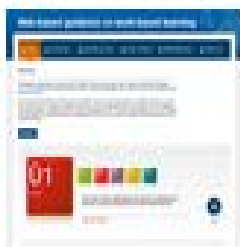


Interactive guidelines to support VET systems and providers

Online guidance on



**Aligning a QA approach
with EQAVET**



**QA for work-based learning
in line with EQAVET**

EU Quality Assurance in Vocational
Education & Training. **Click below to enter**



Follow-up Copenhagen process and short terms deliverables for VET

- Bruges Communiqué 2010 and its short term deliverables 2010-20
- Riga Conclusions 2015 reduce set of short term deliverables for 2015-20
- Monitor by the COM, undertaken by CEDEFOP (the importance of the EQAVET Secretariat survey)

Results of the EQAVET Secretariat survey

Dedicated page on the website

- Agreed by EQAVET Network
- Used by the COM and Cedefop report of 2014 on EQAVET implementation
- Inform the identification of priorities by the Network
- Supports needs of countries and evidence based actions at EU level



Report and analysis of results and findings



Bruges Communiqué and short term deliverables 2010-2015 related to EQAVET

*Participating countries were invited to
establish at national level a:*

- QA frameworks in accordance with the EQAVET Recommendation by 2013;
- Common QA framework for VET providers compatible with the EQAVET framework which also applies to WBL by 2015

Riga Conclusions and short term deliverables 2015-2020 related to EQAVET

1. Promote WBL in all its forms, with special attention to apprenticeships, by involving social partners, companies, chambers and VET providers, as well as by stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship;
2. Further develop quality assurance mechanisms in VET in line with the EQAVET Recommendation and, as part of QA systems, establish continuous information and feedback loops in initial VET and continuing VET systems based on LO;

Riga Conclusions and short term deliverables 2015-2020

3. Enhance access to VET and qualifications for all through more flexible and permeable systems, notably by offering efficient and integrated guidance services and making available validation of non-formal and informal learning;
4. Further strengthen key competences in VET curricula and provide more effective opportunities to acquire or develop those skills through initial VET and continuing VET;
5. Introduce systematic approaches to, and opportunities for, initial and continuous professional development of VET teachers, trainers and mentors in both school and work-based settings.

Thank you for your attention!

Qualifications Frameworks

John O'Connor

Head of Qualifications and Skills Policy

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Erasmus+



EU Skills and Education Network Meeting

19 November 2015

Paper: EUSEN Nov

Title: Qualifications Frameworks Update

Summary

European Qualifications Framework

<https://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en>

The milestones for the implementation the 2008 EQF recommendation are:

- Relating national qualification levels to the EQF by referencing to the levels set out in the Recommendation and, where appropriate, by developing NQFs; writing a draft report on referencing national qualifications levels to the EQF ready for discussion within the EQF Advisory Group and the publication of the referencing report and the results of the referencing on the Learning Opportunities and Qualifications Portal
- Making reference to the relevant EQF level in new qualifications certificates, diplomas and Europass supplements.
- Ireland referenced Irish NFQ to EQF in 2009.
- As of June 2012, EQF level in Diploma Supplement
- As of December 2013, EQF level in Certificate Supplement
- As of June 2015 EQF level included on all certificates issued by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)
- EQF level included in data model for QQI database of NFQ Awards and Programmes. (under development)

EQF Agenda for 2016

- Consultation on revision of EQF Recommendation

- Relationship with countries outside of Europe Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand
- Inclusion of International Sectoral Qualifications in EQF
- Impact Assessment of EQF implementation at national level

QQI – Designated EQF-NCP.

European Skills Competencies and Occupations (ESCO)

Joint Initiative by DG Employment and Social Affairs and DG Education and Culture.

<https://ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/home>

A multilingual taxonomy of skills, competencies, occupations and qualifications. Part of Europe 2020 Strategy

ESCO Version 0 released in 2013. All occupational sectors under review and ESCO version 1 released in 2017. Relationship between occupations, skills/competences and qualifications.

On line consultation on ESCO profile for 16 Economic sectors launched on 14 October for eight weeks. <https://ec.europa.eu/esco/portal/news/489492fd-5bc5-40dd-9188-4d6d179ac1f2>

Potential Applications of ESCO

- Better connections between education and work
- On-line job matching
- Skills and Qualifications mobility
- Labour Market Intelligence and statistics

Links to EQF Portal of Qualifications.

SOLAS and QQI participate on Member States Working Group

Irish National Framework of Qualifications

www.nfq.ie

The Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) was established in 2003. The NFQ reflects a national consensus about what learners are expected to know, understand and do following the attainment of national qualifications. Based on a ten level system

of knowledge skill and competence, the NFQ sets out the relationship between qualifications and the potential progression pathways for learners.

2015 - The implementation stage of the NFQ is largely complete

A recent survey commissioned by QQI found that 33% of people, aged fifteen and over, reported that they had heard of the NFQ or recognised the NFQ 'fan diagram' (Millward Brown Survey October 2015) By international standards, the Irish NFQ is well known and familiar.

Approximately 61% of all graduate employers had heard of the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ). This proportion was highest for foreign organisations (70%), large organisations (75%) and the Manufacturing sector (68%). Of those organisations who had heard of the NFQ, just over one third (36%) had referred to it during their recruitment process (p25 National Employers Survey 2015- HEA, SOLAS QQI)

QQI Statutory function to 'promote, maintain, further develop and implement the Framework' and to 'review the policies and criteria on which the Framework is based' Section 43 Qualifications and Quality Assurance Act 2012.

2016 high level review of NFQ (Emerging questions)

- What impacts can be attributed to the NFQ?
- What conditions act as enablers and barriers to NFQ impact?
- What NFQ governance and review mechanisms are appropriate within the national and European policy context?

Recommendation

Attendees are asked to: Promote and disseminate this information and links as appropriate to your respective constituencies.

Erasmus+ Adult Education School Education VET and Youth

Fionnuala Broughan
Communications Manager
LÉARGAS



Erasmus+



- Léargas is an agency of the DES
- We manage national, European and international programmes in several fields*
- Together with the HEA, we manage Erasmus+ in Ireland, 2014-2020

*in School Education, Adult Education, VET, Youth



What I'll talk about

- Erasmus+ Summary
 - Review of 2015 Funding
- Other programmes & initiatives
- Review of Léargas approach to Erasmus+ management in 2015
 - Plans and Synergies

Erasmus+ Summary



KA 1: Learning mobility of individuals

- Staff mobility, in particular for teachers, trainers, school leaders and youth workers
- Mobility for students in higher education and in vocational education and training
- Youth volunteering and youth exchanges
- Master degree scheme
- Mobility for higher education for EU and non-EU beneficiaries

KA2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices

- Strategic Partnerships between education, training and/or youth organisations and other relevant actors
- IT-Platforms including EYP, eTwinning and EPALE
- Large-scale partnerships between education and training establishments and business: Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills alliances
- Cooperation with Partner Countries

KA 3: Support for policy reform

- Open method of Coordination
- EU tools: dissemination and exploitation
- Policy dialogue with stakeholders, non-EU countries and international organisations
- Large scale prospective initiatives

Erasmus+ Summary - Deadlines



Key Action 1	
Adult Education Mobility School Education Mobility VET Mobility	02 February
Youth Mobility	02 February, 26 April, 04 October
Key Action 2	
Adult Education Strategic Partnerships School Education Strategic Partnerships VET Strategic Partnerships	31 March
Youth Strategic Partnerships*	02 February, 26 April, 04 October
Key Action 3	
Youth Meetings between young people and decision-makers	02 February, 26 April, 04 October

Erasmus+ KA 1 Funding in 2015



Key Action	Total Number of Projects Funded	Total amount of funding allocated	Total commitments	Funding transferred	Funding remaining
Mobility					
KA1 VET	17	3,510,114	1,724,797	1,785,317	0
KA1 YE including training & evaluation	53 (R1&2)	2,332,677	1,238,349.75 (1,190,685.83 projects+47,663.92 training)	0	1,094,327.25
KA1 Training & Evaluation			47,663.92	0	
KA1 AE	2	83,742	22,430	61,312	0
KA1 SE	18	529,681	440,122	89,559	0
Total KA1	90	6,456,214	3,425,698.75	1,936,188	1,094,327.25

Erasmus+ KA 2 Funding in 2015



Strategic Partnerships	Total Number of Projects Funded	Total amount of funding allocated	Total commitments	Funding transferred	Funding remaining
KA2 VET	7	1,124,344	2,145,193	+1,020,849 (KA102 VET Mobility)	0
KA2 YE	3 (R1&2)	397,129	245,417		151,712
KA2 AE	4	528,696	884,390	355,694	0
KA2 SE	27 KA201: 8 KA219: 19	1,733,601.10	2,442,638 KA201 1,917,991 KA219 524,647	709,036	0
Total KA2	41	3,783,770.10	5,717,638	2,085,579.90	151,712

Erasmus+ KA 3 Funding in 2015



Structured Dialogue	Total Number of Projects Funded	Total amount of funding allocated	Total commitments	Funding transferred	Funding remaining
Total KA3	1	125,143	27,932	-	97,211.00

Erasmus+ Total 2015 Funding to date



All Key Actions to date (Youth R3 in progress)	Total Number of Projects Funded	Total amount of funding allocated	Total commitments	Funding transferred	Funding remaining
Total	132	10,365,127.10	9,171,268.75	149,391.90	1,343,250.25

Youth Round 3 (October) applications:

Key Action	Number of applications received
KA 1	25
KA 2	20
KA 3	4
Total	49

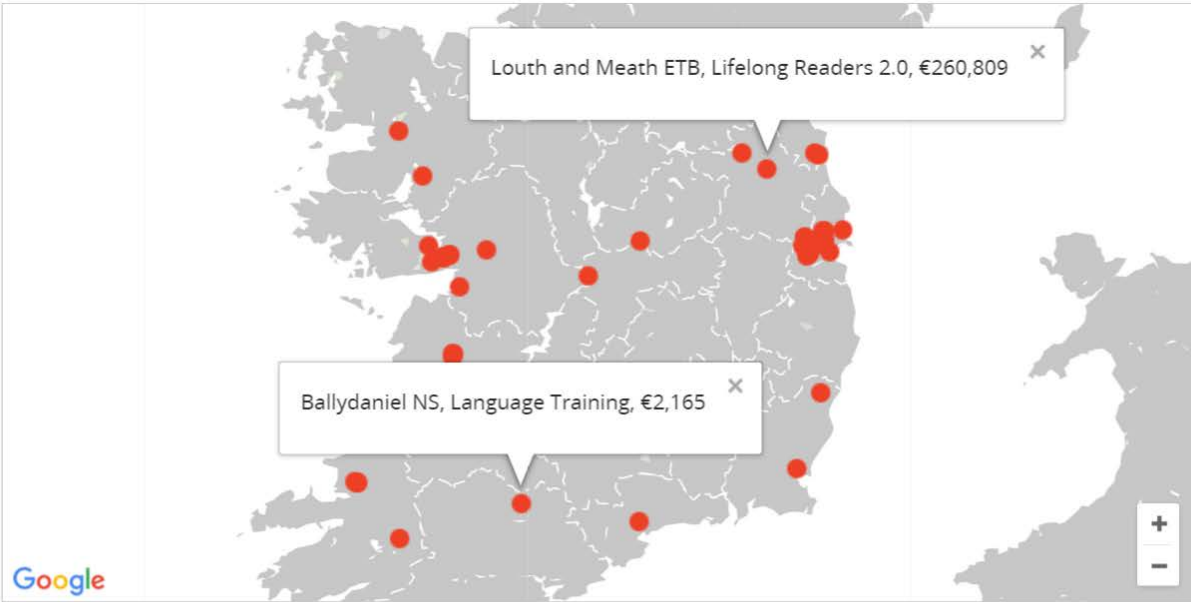
Erasmus+ Funding – website summaries



[← View all programmes](#)

Erasmus+

- Adult Education
- School Education
- About
- How to ...
- Resources
- Contact & Support
- Funded Projects**
- VET
- Youth
- TCAs
- News



Google

Archive

School Education, Key Action 2, School-to-School Partnerships, 2015 deadline, allocated funds



Other Programmes & Initiatives

- EPALE
- eTwinning
- ECVET
- Language Initiatives
- European Language Label
- European Day of Languages
- European Centre for Modern Languages

What is EPAL...

The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe is a multilingual site for **Adult Learning Practitioners** (tutors, trainers, researchers, policy makers, and anyone else with a role in adult learning).



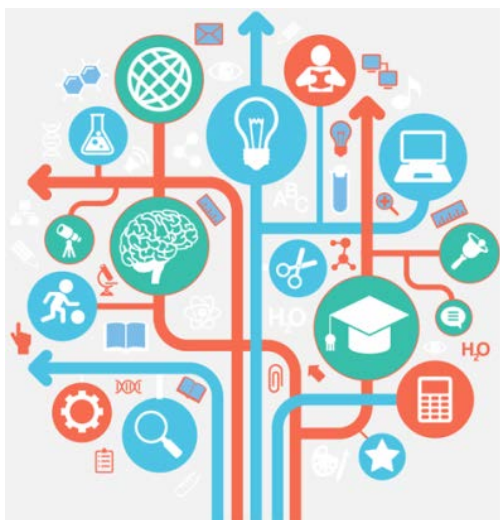
Why EPALE...

Born out of the need expressed by Grundtvig stakeholders



It aims to improve the quality of adult learning provision across Europe by **providing a space for discussions, resource sharing and networking.**

What will you find there...



- Resources (4470)
- Events and courses (1526)
- News (1636 items)
- Blog (1125)
- Partner search function (25)

Why resister & engage...

1. Posting on EPALE about work you are doing can gain interest from other adult educators around Europe and can **raise awareness** of a campaign you are working
2. It can be a place to move outside your usual circle of **advice and support**
3. Using pieces of research from other countries can help you build a case **to support arguments**
4. Find organisations with whom to run projects or carry out **research**
5. Take part in **events and webinars**
6. Resources to **inspire** and prevent you re inventing the wheel.



Other Programmes & Initiatives

eTwinning

- Supports primary and secondary schools across Europe to work together on projects in any curricular area using ICT
- Fully funded professional development opportunities for
- Projects require at least two schools from two participating countries (one-country projects currently being piloted)
- Flexible and easy to run – can start straight after registration





Other Programmes & Initiatives

- www.etwinning.net
- Public Portal – get information and register
- Desktop – search tools and profiles, register a project, download tool kits
- Twinspace – secure space to share and collaborate online with schools across Europe





Other Programmes & Initiatives

Language Initiatives

- European Language Label
- European Day of Languages
- European Centre for Modern Languages

ECVET

The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training is a technical framework for the transfer, recognition and (where appropriate) accumulation of individuals' learning outcomes with a view to achieving a qualification.

<http://www.ecvet-toolkit.eu/>



Léargas Strategy Statement 2015-17

In effectively managing international programmes on behalf of the European Commission and the Irish Government, Léargas:

- **communicates** the value of international cooperation and exchange in education, training and youth work
- makes international cooperation and exchange **accessible** to a wide range of people
- **contributes** to the development of policy and practice in the education, training and youth fields.

<http://www.leargas.ie/about-us/mission-values/>



Léargas Strategy Statement 2015-17

Goal 1: Programme Management

Goal 2: Supporting Beneficiaries

Goal 3: Profile and Communication

Goal 4: Value of International Collaboration

Goal 5: Supporting Policy and Practice
Development

Goal 6: Organisational Effectiveness and
Governance



Léargas Strategy Statement 2015-17

Some highlights:

- Erasmus+ accessible (inclusive, understandable, supported)
- Consultation outcomes - provide assistance with quality and impact assessment, dissemination
- Performance Framework – model to measure impact



Some challenges...

- Continuing shortage in staff numbers
- Erasmus+ changes to rules and procedures
- Erasmus+ tools
- Perceptions of the programme amongst applicants
- National context in the fields we work in
- Reaching policy makers





For example,

- **Communications** strategy (consultative, supportive, increasingly digital)
- Performance Framework for **impact assessment**
- **Supportive model** – project management days, Léargas Forum, phone, email, online

Erasmus+ Management - Communication




Responsive
website;
editable in-
house via
Wordpress




Programmes

Home > Programmes



EU programme
for projects in
Adult Education,



International
Association for
the Exchange of



Blog

Home > Blog

Categories

- Diary
- Event report
- IAESTE
- Adult Education
- School Education
- Third Level Education



'Drama for Change': Creative approaches to promoting social inclusion

Thu, Oct 22nd, 2015

Freda Manweiler is the Company Manager of Smashing Times Theatre Company in Dublin 7. The company have used their previous experience in cross-border projects to develop an Erasmus+ Adult Education KA2 project. "Smashing Times Theatre Company is a professional theatre company involved in presenting professional plays and engaging in community education with adults and youth



'From the Wild Atlantic Way to North East Sicily'

www.leargas.ie/calendar/2015-11/

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3 EPALE National Launch	4 IAESTE Ireland Trainee of the Year Awards 2015	5 Erasmus+ Information Session for Adult Education & Youth, Galway	6	7	8
9	10	11 Erasmus+ School Education Information Session, Dublin	12	13	14	15
16	17 Erasmus+ School Education Information Session, Clare	18 Erasmus+ TCA 'Enhancing the quality of projects through transnational cooperation'	19 Erasmus+ TCA 'Enhancing the quality of projects through transnational cooperation'	20	21	22

Erasmus+ Management - Communication



Facebook
>1400 likes

ERASMUS+ CALL 2016
Check our website for regional workshops

Erasmus+

Léargas Education

THIS WEEK

- 717 Post Reach
- 64 Post Engagement
- 0 Book Now
- 0 Website Clicks

Timeline About Photos Reviews More

1,433 likes +7 this week
Eva Creely and Brian Desmond

20 were here 0 this week

View Pages Feed
See posts from other Pages

Léargas
Published by Fionnuala AtLéargas [?] · October 28 at 11:53am ·

The first deadline for the new Erasmus+ call is 02 February next year.

Erasmus+ Management - Communication



Twitter
>1000
followers



Erasmus+ Management - Impact



Programme
Goal

Communities in Ireland benefit from the increased knowledge, skills, understanding and employability of their citizens that comes from participation in international EU learning and cooperation and structured policy dialogue

Outcomes

Learners have increased knowledge, skills and understanding as a result of learning in another EU country, collaborating with other EU learners or engaging in policy dialogue

Educators have stronger professional practice as a result of working and cooperation across EU countries

Learning organisations are more effective, flexible, open and innovative as a result of joint working across EU countries

Outputs

Erasmus+ funded programmes reach out to a large number of direct participants

Erasmus+ funded programmes engage a diverse range of participants including those traditionally hard to reach

Erasmus+ funded programmes are delivered well and are considered to be good quality by those who participate

Erasmus+ Management - Impact



	Beginning	Developing	Embedding	Leading
Learners	<p>Participants are exposed to a different learning environment, say they have developed a new skill or competency and are aware of different opportunities in at least one other country.</p> <p>Participants/ organisations report being more aware of the benefits of different systems.</p>	<p>Participants are aware of the benefits and disadvantages of a different learning environment, have developed several new skills or competencies and are aware of different opportunities several EU countries.</p> <p>Participants/ organisations have used what they've learnt from an Erasmus+ project in their organisation and are open to trying different approaches.</p>	<p>Participants can use their knowledge of different learning environments combined with their new skills and competencies to change their behaviour/ practice when they return home. They say they might think about working/ studying/ learning from other countries in the EU in the future.</p>	<p>Participants can use their knowledge of different learning environments combined with their new skills and competencies to change their behaviour/ practice when they return and share that knowledge with others to benefit the overall system. They plan to work/ study/ learn from other countries in the EU in the future.</p>



Léargas Annual Forum: CONNECT +

Dublin Castle Conference Centre,
10 December 2015

- **Impact:** How to measure and improve the impact of projects
- **Dissemination:** How to share project results with the wider community
- **Recognition:** How to use European recognition tools in mobility projects
- **Participation:** Young people shaping our society – are we there yet?



Plans and synergies

- **Accessible:**
 - Supportive model continues
 - Focus on inclusion and capacity-building for youth
 - Work with ETBs
- **Policy:**
 - **DES Languages strategy** – Léargas input re. European Languages initiatives
 - **FET Strategy 2014-19** – Léargas input re. potential within Erasmus+ programme



Thank you!



[Leargas.Ireland](https://www.facebook.com/Leargas.Ireland)



[@Leargas](https://twitter.com/Leargas)

www.leargas.ie

Erasmus+ and Higher Education

Neil Tynan

International Education Section

Higher Education Authority



Erasmus+

Update on those aspects of Erasmus+ related to Higher Education

Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility

Region	Amount (€)	Budget Left After Round 1	Provisional Budget Left After Round 2
ENI South	348,526	307,096	93,455
ENI East	263,249	218,629	154,329
Russia	163,231	154,081	25
Latin America	73,954	7,134	1,994
Asia	226,915	-1,883	- -1,883
Central Asia	63,831	63,831	63,831
South Africa	20,662	172	172
IPA (Western Balkans)	294,683	294,683	230,577
USA/Canada	70,104	-416	- -416
Asia Industrialised	74,381	2,359	- -51
Total	1,697,636	1,045,686	542,033

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships

2 Approved strategic partnerships

- UCC – Medivent
 - Abstract: Increasing European best practises in the area of the design of medical device
 - Tangible: Development of an online personalised learning environment which will incorporate the BioApp skills "toolbox" of structured innovation tools and case studies
- IT Tralee – Crafting Employability Strategies For HE Students of Languages in Europe
 - Abstract: To support European best practises in language training and to provide support to language graduates
 - Tangible: Development of an employability module for language students which will be hosted online

ELGPN Euroguidance and PLOTEUS Updates

Jennifer McKenzie

Director

National Centre for Guidance in
Education (NCGE)



Erasmus+



2008 Council Resolution on better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies : Strengthen European cooperation on lifelong guidance provision, in particular through the ELGPN, with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme, and in liaison with CEDEFOP

- ***ELGPN Work Programme 2015 - completed***
- ***Expect EU Commission to establish a Working Group on Guidance from 2016***



2008 Council Resolution on better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies : Strengthen European cooperation on lifelong guidance provision, in particular through the ELGPN, with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme, and in liaison with CEDEFOP

Guidelines for Policies and Systems Development for Lifelong Guidance: A Reference Framework for the EU and for the Commission

Strengthening the Quality Assurance and Evidence-base of Lifelong Guidance

Designing and Implementing Policies Related to Career Management Skills (CMS)





2008 Council Resolution on better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies : Strengthen European cooperation on lifelong guidance provision, in particular through the ELGPN, with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme, and in liaison with CEDEFOP

- *Implications for Ireland*
- *Develop quality assurance guidelines for guidance in education and FET sector*
- *CMS informing development of guidance learning outcomes in post-primary/junior cycle*



- **NCGE hosts the Euroguidance Centre for Ireland**
 - www.euroguidance.ie
 - *promote EU dimension of Guidance*
 - *Mobility CPD Modules for Guidance Counsellors*
- **Network of 64 Centres across EU**
 - *Euroguidance highlights booklet 2015*
- **DES FET strategy**
 - *focus on mobility for FET students – role for EG in 2016+*
- **Work with EU networks**
 - *create awareness of EU initiatives for general public*





- PLOTEUS II – collaboration with other EG centres on Interconnection of National Databases to PLOTEUS II
- EU Funded project - NCGE / EG Contract with DIT to develop Cloud-based solution for uploading the Irish learning opportunities data to PLOTEUS – to provide information from several national data sources: Qualifax, SOLAS, QQI, etc.
- Collaboration with Austria EG Centre



Go raibh maith agaibh!
Thank You!

Jennifer McKenzie

www.ncge.ie

www.euroguidance.ie



Recognition & Europass

Angela Lambkin, Ann Graves

Information Services

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Erasmus+



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

The Irish ENIC-NARIC Centre: Who are we?

- Facilitates the recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland
- Facilitates the recognition of Irish qualifications – at home and abroad / Verification service for QQI awards
- Acts as a referral service for professional recognition
- Involved in approval of initial ELT qualifications for employment in the QQI recognised ELT sector in Ireland
- Approximately 2,000 formal applications / similar number of informal queries
5,000 website country hits



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland
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Important Points

- Authoritative advice provided – not legally binding
- No authentication of documents
- Irish ENIC-NARIC Centre as part of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI): Policy Development Programme
- Policy approved 2014 for Facilitating the Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
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The Irish ENIC-NARIC Centre: What do we do?

- Facilitates the recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland by offering advice on how foreign qualifications compare to Irish qualifications placed on the NQF
- Variety of stakeholders:
 - ✓ Award-holders
 - ✓ Recruiters
 - ✓ Employers
 - ✓ Education institutions
 - ✓ Guidance professionals
 - ✓ Government departments.
- Applicants are issued with a statement of comparability which compares their qualification to an Irish award, e.g. "... is comparable to an Honours Bachelor Degree which is placed at Level 8 on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications"
- Currently an application process for individuals – moved from paper-based to receiving applications in soft copy



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Foreign Qualifications

The Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is used to facilitate recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland. QQI aims to provide advice on the general academic recognition of a foreign qualification by comparing it, where possible, to a major award at a certain level on the NFQ. Please see comparability advice organised by country below. A comparability statement for each award is available for download by clicking on the qualification of interest.

Search

Country

Poland

Type of Education

--All--

Search Clear

12 Qualifications from Poland

Doktor

Irish Award Type: Doctoral Degree

NFQ Level: 10

Country: Poland



Lekarz

Irish Award Type: Masters Degree

NFQ Level: 9

Country: Poland



Licencjat/Inżynier

Irish Award Type: Honours Bachelor Degree

NFQ Level: 8

Country: Poland



Magister / Magister Inżynier

Irish Award Type: Masters Degree

NFQ Level: 9

Country: Poland



Świadectwo Dojrzałości/Maturalne

Irish Award Type: Leaving Certificate

NFQ Level: 4 / 5

Country: Poland



Świadectwo Ukończenia - Liceum

Ogólnokształcącego/Technicznego/Profilowanego

Irish Award Type: Leaving Certificate

NFQ Level: 4 / 5

Country: Poland



Świadectwo Ukończenia - Technikum/Technikum Zawodowego



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The Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is used to facilitate recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland. QQI aims to provide advice on the general academic recognition of a foreign qualification by comparing it, where possible, to a major award at a certain level on the NFQ. Please see comparability advice organised by country below. A comparability statement for each award is available for download by clicking on the qualification of interest.

Qualification Details

Comparability Statement [Click Here](#)

Title of Foreign Award Licencjat/Inżynier

Title of Award in English Honours Bachelor Degree

Additional Information

Country Poland

Type of Education Higher

Credit Type ECTS

Credit Value 180

National Framework Level in 6

country of origin

EQF Level 6

Bologna Cycle N/A

Irish NFQ Award Type Honours Bachelor Degree

Irish NFQ Level 8

Last Updated 10-10-2014

Country Education Profile [Click Here](#)

Sample Document

Award Profile Licencjat/Inżynier title are awarded to those who have completed higher education courses lasting from three to four years depending on the field of study. In order to graduate and be awarded Licencjat or Inżynier students must complete a thesis or diplom

Relevant Links [ENIC-NARIC info](#)
[EHEA](#)
[Eurydice](#)
[PQF](#)

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Advice on Academic Recognition of a Foreign Qualification

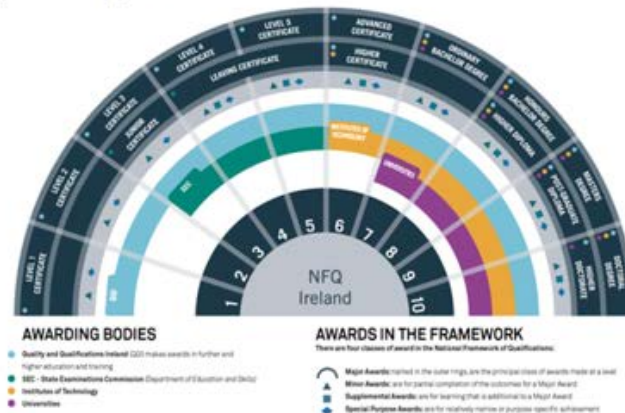
Comparability Statement

Foreign Qualification:	Licencjat/Inżynier
Country:	Poland
NFQ Award-Type / Level:	Honours Bachelor Degree at NFQ Level 8

NFQ LEVEL SUMMARY
Learning outcomes at Level 8 relate to an understanding of the theory, concepts and methods pertaining to a field (or fields) of learning, with innovation as a key feature. The outcomes include an awareness of the boundaries of the learning in the field and the preparation required to push back those boundaries through further learning. The outcomes relate to adaptability, flexibility, ability to cope with change and ability to exercise initiative and solve problems within their field of study. In a number of applied fields the outcomes are those linked with the independent, knowledge-based professional. In other fields the outcomes are linked with those of a generalist and would normally be appropriate to management positions.

The comparability information provided above is advisory in nature based on the understanding that the qualification is awarded by a nationally recognised awarding body in the country of origin. The advice presented does not represent right of access to employment, a regulated profession or education and training. The information provided may assist an employer, professional recognition body or education and training provider determine if an applicant holds the qualifications deemed necessary for employment/programme entry. However, final recognition decisions for the purposes of accessing further education and/or employment are made by education institutions, professional recognition bodies and employers.

The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) for Ireland is used to place foreign qualifications in the context of the Irish education and training system. The 'fan diagram' of the NFQ can be seen below.

For further information consult: www.nfq.ie www.QQI.ie

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The major awards in the NFQ have been referenced to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and aligned to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area or 'Bologna' Framework. Further details can be accessed through: <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>

The Irish ENIC-NARIC centre, Qualifications Recognition is based at QQI. The centre provides advice on the general academic recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland and promotes the recognition of Irish qualifications abroad. Details on the ENIC-NARIC Network can be accessed on www.enic-naric.net

Last Updated

10/10/2014

Please see the 'NARIC' tab on QSearch at www.QQI.ie for further information



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2016 priorities

- Advice / information online – increasing capacity of stakeholders
- Active internationally: engaging with NARIC developmental projects
- Further policy development – national and international
- Further collaboration in terms of policies and initiatives in education such as
 - ✓ Bologna
 - ✓ EQF
 - ✓ Europass
 - ✓ Immigration
 - ✓ Integration



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Qualifications Recognition Advice Service:

<http://www.qqi.ie/Pages/Qualifications-Recognition-Service.aspx>

NARIC database on Qsearch:

<http://qsearch.qqi.ie/WebPart/Search?searchtype=recognitions>



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Update on Recognition & Refugees

Commission & Council of Europe peer-learning seminar

Good practice

Results of a Survey

Key challenges identified

Lisbon Declaration



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Challenges for ENIC NARIC Centres

- missing documentation of refugees
- resourcing to meet demand
- need for speedy evaluation
- flexibility in evaluation of applications
- legislation an issue for countries where centres constrained in the issuing of legally binding advices



What is planned

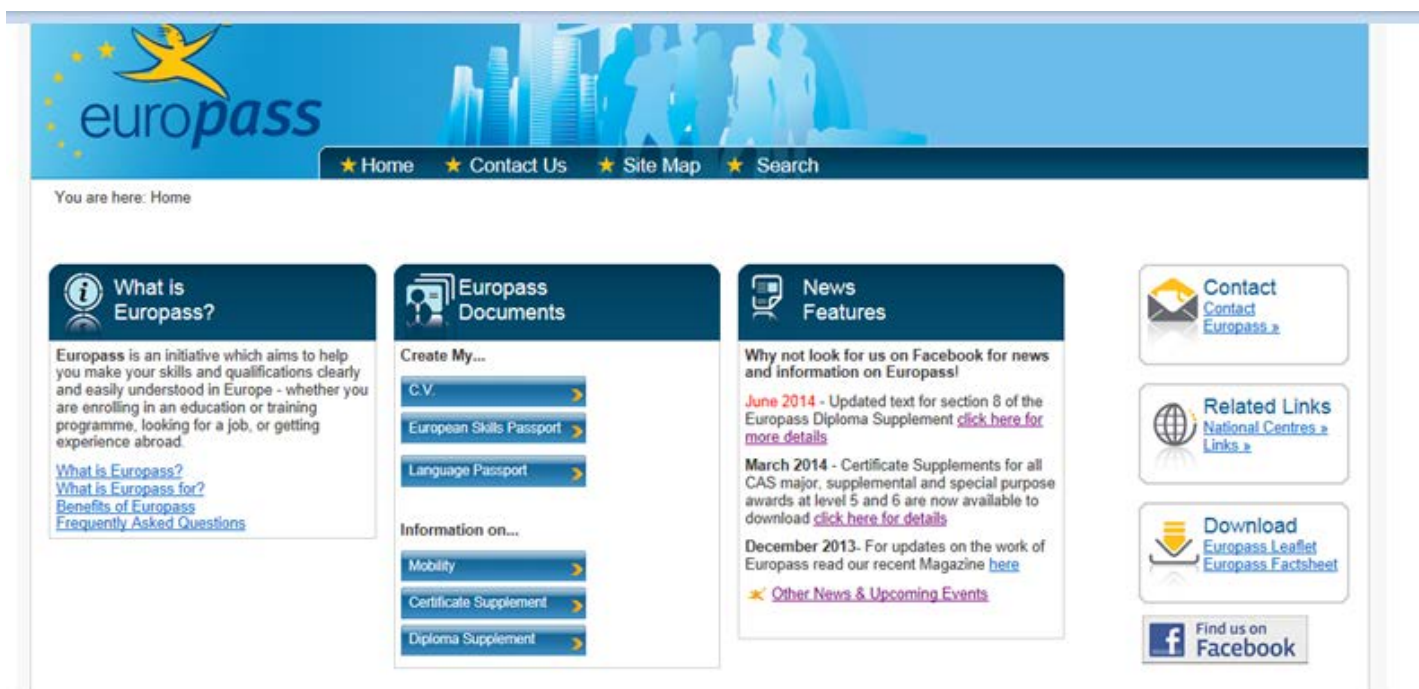
- ENIC NARIC centres to share information
- Establish guidelines to prepare for the expected demand.
- Develop a platform specific for Syrian nationals
- Consider a standard 'passport' template for recognition of qualifications
- Structural supports using Erasmus +
- An amended Council declaration to facilitate the recognition of refugees anticipated for Feb 2016



Some practices

- Compulsory civic programme with language
- Loan of 10K from the Government, if the programme is completed there is no requirement to repay
- Personal declarations acceptable and statements of 'indication of education level' used as broad indicators of education attainment.
- Welcome centres with dedicated services to assist refugees.
- Language competence, the undertaking of a university access test, confirmation of refugee status are the **three conditions** universities require for undergraduate programmes.
- Access to VET: no requirements other than language.
- NARIC department solely to deal with some professions
- Integration programmes essential besides qualifications recognition if actual integration is not addressed....

www.Europass.ie



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Europass website. At the top, there is a blue header with the Europass logo on the left and a navigation bar with links: Home, Contact Us, Site Map, and Search. Below the header, a banner image shows silhouettes of people in a city setting. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- What is Europass?**: A section with an information icon and text explaining the initiative's purpose. It includes links for "What is Europass?", "What is Europass for?", "Benefits of Europass", and "Frequently Asked Questions".
- Europass Documents**: A section with a document icon and a "Create My..." button. Below it are buttons for "C.V.", "European Skills Passport", and "Language Passport". There is also an "Information on..." section with buttons for "Mobility", "Certificate Supplement", and "Diploma Supplement".
- News Features**: A section with a news icon and text encouraging users to follow Europass on Facebook. It includes updates from June 2014, March 2014, and December 2013, each with a link for more details. It also features a link for "Other News & Upcoming Events".
- Contact**: A section with an envelope icon and a link to "Contact Europass".
- Related Links**: A section with a globe icon and links to "National Centres" and "Links".
- Download**: A section with a download icon and links to "Europass Leaflet" and "Europass Factsheet".
- Find us on Facebook**: A section with the Facebook logo and text.

Putting the U into Europe

- 10 years of Europass-mobility, transparency
- Portfolio of 5 documents, using common template in your unique
- European Skills Passport

The Europass Tools

1. Europass CV
2. Europass Language Passport
3. Europass Mobility Document
4. Europass Certificate Supplement
5. Europass Diploma Supplement

Cover letter

Europass Skills Passport

Europass for Ireland

- *Free on-line service*
- Assists with recruitment
- Supports access
- Useful Career Management tools
- Provides practical promotional materials

2015 highlights

- Schools using the Europass Curriculum Vitae, Skills Passport – attended Higher Options, Guidance and Education events
- HEI promoting and using the Diploma Supplement – connecting with HEI's
- FET graduates receiving and using Certificate Supplements – updating of these

Europass 2016



- Focus on employers using Europass tools
- Review and evaluation – 10 years old
- Digital technologies to promote and update Irish webpages
- Road Map initiative

Where is Europass going?

- European Area of Skills and Qualifications
- Global context needs to be more widely used
- Interoperability, Compatibility

Conclusion

- Other information updates
- Questions and answers
- Evaluation and feedback
- Nest Steps – plan for the Reference Group 2016

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Quality, Transparency and Mobility: European Instruments for Making Lifelong Learning a Reality

At both the national and European levels, education and training reform agendas are being framed and implemented against a backdrop of growing internationalisation, advances in ICT and demands for greater accountability in relation to the efficiency and effectiveness of exchequer spending. At the same time, Governments and public authorities have a duty to ensure that education and training systems meet the social and economic needs of its citizens, at national and European level.

Education and Training 2020 (ET2020) and its forerunner ET2010, provide the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training. Developed in the context of the Lisbon Strategy, the current framework for European cooperation establishes common objectives and also provides EU-level supports, tools and peer-learning opportunities aimed at improving national-level reforms. The intention of ET2020 is to promote quality, transparency and mobility in the field of education and training.

ET2020 recognises that education and training plays an important role in meeting many of the socio-economic, demographic, environmental and technological challenges facing Europe and its citizens today and in the years ahead. The overarching aims for ET2020 reflect both the social and economic aspirations shared by all of those with an interest in the field:

1. The personal, social and professional fulfilment of all citizens;
2. Sustainable economic prosperity and employability, whilst promoting democratic values, social cohesion, active citizenship and intercultural dialogue.

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These overarching aims have been further distilled into four key strategic objectives:

1. Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality;
2. Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training;
3. Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship;
4. Enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

To support the realisation of these objectives and aims, the EU has sought to develop a coherent programme of supports across education, training, youth and sports. This programme is called **Erasmus+** and it aims to promote synergies and cross-fertilisation of ideas and initiatives across and within the fields of education, training, youth and sport.

In the field of education and training, Erasmus+ provides support for EU transparency and recognition tools, in particular Europass, Youthpass, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQAVET), European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), as well as EU-wide networks supporting these tools, in particular the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) and Euroguidance networks, and the National Europass Centres.

Notwithstanding national and European initiatives to improve quality, transparency and mobility, many European citizens and people who have travelled to the EU in search of education and employment opportunities continue to face difficulties in the recognition of their skills and qualifications. In response to these difficulties, the EU is working with member states to create a 'European area of skills and qualifications' (EASQ) where individuals could move easily between different parts of education and training systems, and move within and beyond the EU, all the time having their skills and qualifications fairly and efficiently recognised.

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The renewed urgency in relation to the realisation of a fully functioning European area of skills and qualifications stems in part from the fact that labour markets do not seem to be operating efficiently. It is estimated that, despite unacceptably high levels of unemployment, there are still an estimated two million unfilled job vacancies across the EU. There are also concerns about the quality and social inclusion outcomes of our education and training systems. The most recent OECD-PIACC study reported that one in five adults in the EU have low literacy and numeracy skills, while one in four adults have a low level of digital literacy skills. The study also concluded that not only do higher and more relevant skills increase employability, but that they also have an impact on wider life prospects, such as better health, longer life expectancy and more active participation in societal life.

It has become evident that the various tools and policy instruments at European level need to be simplified and implemented in more coordinated ways, so that they deliver benefits for the citizens that they are intended to serve - teachers, employees, learners and employers. In the first instance, we need to improve awareness and understanding of the various initiatives aimed at promoting quality, transparency and mobility in the field of education and training.

This publication has been produced by the Irish EU Reference Group for Education and Skills. It is intended to provide a digest of the various transparency and recognition tools available and to provide details of the national and EU contact points for anyone interested in further information. Importantly, this publication is also intended to stimulate further and deeper reflection on how various initiatives, programmes, policies and tools can be made more simple and implemented in more coordinated and powerful ways, so as to deliver on the common objectives for quality, transparency and mobility in education and training.

This publication provides an overview of related European initiatives that have been developed to make qualifications, experiences and skills better appreciated and easier to recognise throughout the EU. The various initiatives are outlined below under separate primary objectives. It will only be through the collective and coordinated implementation of all of these initiatives at national level that we will give greater access to learning and employment opportunities in different countries and encourage greater mobility for individuals and organisations.

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Transparency and Recognition of skills and qualifications

There are two European qualifications frameworks

- The **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)** and
- The **Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QFEHEA)**.

Both of these frameworks provide a reference point for the comparison of individual qualifications and qualifications systems across countries.

Common European quality assurance arrangements

The **European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)**, the **European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)** and the **European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET)** are intended to promote mutual trust and confidence in the education and qualifications systems of the different participating countries.

Credit for Learning

There are two European credit systems in education and training. The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) facilitate and support learners in shaping their own learning pathway through accumulation of credits – whether within a certain institution, from institution to institution, from country to country, and between different educational sub-systems and contexts of learning.

Documenting qualifications skills and learning experiences

The **Europass** suite of documents and the **European Skills Passport** are tools for the documentation of qualifications, skills and learning experiences, and are provided to individuals to describe their acquired knowledge, skills, competences and qualifications in a more transparent and structured way.

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European cooperation on the recognition of qualifications

The **European Network of Information Centres (ENIC)** the **National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC)**, the **Lisbon Recognition Convention** and the **Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications** collectively provide common rules and networks of information points that should make recognition procedures quicker and mobility smoother.

Validation of non-formal and informal learning

In line with the **European Council Recommendation (2012) on the validation of non-formal and informal learning**, Member States agreed to put in place arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning experiences by 2018.

Common Language across Qualifications, Skills and Occupations

The **European Skills Panorama** launched in December 2012 gathers comprehensive intelligence at European level on skills supply and needs in various sectors in the labour market. **The European Skills, Competence, Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO)** is a multi-lingual classification of European skills, qualifications, competences and occupations relevant to the European labour market.

Building on these initiatives, the Commission established the European Employment Services (EURES). Eures operates an online jobs portal for both jobseekers and employers. This facilitates labour mobility throughout the European Union and EEA Countries (including Switzerland). Eures has a support network of over 900 advisers who assist employers and jobseekers with their employment and recruitment needs.

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Provision of high quality information

European mobility is further supported by dedicated information websites and services of the various European tools listed above, as well as portals providing information on learning opportunities. Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe is a web-based portal that provides information on courses, work experience and qualifications in Europe. Besides online support, information and guidance services **Euroguidance** centres and Eurodesks work in each country to provide advice to individuals. **ReferNet** is a network of national institutions that provide information on national vocational education and training systems and policies.

Conclusion – Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality

Significant progress has been made under the aforementioned ET2010 and ET2010 work programmes, including the Copenhagen process (Vocational Education and Training), the Bruges Communiqué of 2010 that sets out a 10-year agenda for vocational education and training, and initiatives in the context of the Bologna process (Higher Education and Training), notably in support of national reforms in lifelong learning, the modernisation of higher education and the development of common European instruments promoting quality, transparency and mobility.

Keeping these common objectives, quality, transparency and mobility at the forefront of our thinking and our actions, we need to work together to better connect individual European instruments in the interests of the citizens of Europe. It is hoped that this publication will improve the visibility, dissemination and ultimately the use of these instruments at national level, so that we come closer to making lifelong learning and mobility a reality for all.

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Changing lives. Opening minds.



Changing lives, opening minds

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the successor programme to the European Commission's Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action programmes. It supports educational exchange and cooperation across 33 'Programme Countries' in the European Economic Area, along with several 'Partner Countries' neighbouring the EEA. The aim of Erasmus+ is to modernise and improve the quality of teaching, training and youth work across Europe, and to support the development, transfer and implementation of innovative practices. These aims are closely tied with the 'Europe 2020' strategy of achieving a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy by 2020 for all of Europe's citizens.

Why take part?

Whether you're a teacher, trainer, student, youth worker, or a learner of any age... if you wish to broaden your experience, then Erasmus+ is for you.

As a student, you may wish to explore the possibility of studying or working in another European country. As a teacher or trainer, you may want to explore new teaching methods or share knowledge and experience across geographic boundaries. Perhaps you want to find ways to innovate in your chosen field of work or study or bring a European perspective to your school, college or higher education institution. Any and all of these are possible through Erasmus+.

How does it work?

Structurally, Erasmus+ is divided into three 'key actions' that describe the kind of project activities possible:

- **Key Action 1:** Mobility of Individuals
- **Key Action 2:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice
- **Key Action 3:** Support for Policy Reforms

In addition, Jean Monnet Activities and Sport are initiatives managed centrally by the European Commission in Brussels.

The three key actions are open to organisations in the following fields: School Education; Vocational Education and Training; Third Level Education; Adult and Further Education; and Youth and Community Work. For information on deadlines, please contact the relevant agency (see below).

ERASMUS+

If you're interested in taking part, who do you contact?

Erasmus+ is managed in Ireland by Léargas and the Higher Education Authority. If your organisation is interested in participating in Erasmus+, visit our websites or contact us to learn more about the programme and how to apply. No matter what the field, information and support is available to encourage organisations to benefit from the new opportunities on offer.

For more information on:	Contact:	
Erasmus+ in: school education vocational education and training adult education youth and community work	Léargas King's Inns House Parnell St Dublin 1 D01 A3Y8 www.leargas.ie epale@leargas.ie	www.leargas.ie info@leargas.ie
Erasmus+ in higher education	Higher Education Authority Brooklawn House Shelbourne Road Dublin 4	www.eurireland.ie erasmus@hea.ie

www.erasmusplus.ie | www.leargas.ie | www.eurireland.ie



Erasmus+



HEA

An tÚdarás um Ard-Oideachas
Higher Education Authority



European
Qualifications
Framework

EQF



Erasmus+



EQF

Working for you, making sense of qualifications for the citizens of Europe, wherever you go!

What is the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

The EQF is an overarching framework that links the qualifications frameworks of different countries together. In this way, the EQF supports individual mobility and lifelong learning.

The EQF acts as a translation device to make qualifications easier to understand across different countries and qualifications systems in Europe. Its main aim is to help those moving from one country to another to work, or to continue their education or training.

What are the benefits of the EQF?

- **Qualifications are easier to understand:** For employers, as well as education and training providers, EQF makes qualifications from different countries easier to understand.
- **Access to employment or further education and training:** Individuals coming to Ireland from other countries benefit from increased understanding of their qualifications.
- **Travelling to other countries:** Individuals from Ireland benefit from the same increased understanding when they travel to other countries.

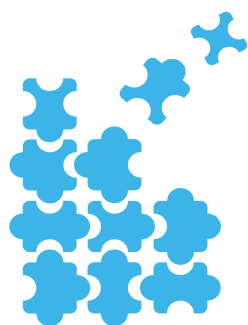
How does the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and the EQF Compare?

Irish NFQ Levels	EQF Levels
10	8
9	7
8	6
7	6
6	5
5	4
4	3
3	2
2	1
1	1

Where can I find out more?

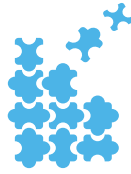
Information on EQF can be found on the European Commission website Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en>

Quality and Qualifications Ireland is the designated National Coordination Point for EQF implementation. Please visit www.QQI.ie



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area





EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

BOLOGNA PROCESS

Towards a European Higher Education Area

Towards a European Higher Education Area to ensure more comparable, compatible and coherent systems of higher education in Europe.

The Bologna Process and the establishment of the European Higher Education Area.

At its inception, the The Bologna Process is a collaborative agreement to modernise and promote trust between all higher education institutions across Europe. It was meant to strengthen the competitiveness and attractiveness of the European higher education. It aims to support and foster student mobility and employability through the introduction of a system based on undergraduate and postgraduate studies with easily readable programmes and degrees.

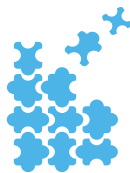
The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) aims to facilitate cooperation between systems, institutions, and individual staff and students throughout the EHEA and to work to make European higher education known and appreciated throughout the world. It gives a common identity to higher education across the EU, and makes it possible for European Higher Education to collaborate and compete with other large regional systems around the world- for example America and Asia New Zealand, China, Asia.

The EHEA now includes the concept of a qualifications framework with an emphasis on learning outcomes. The undergraduate/postgraduate degree structure has been modified into a three-cycle system, bachelor, master, and doctorate.

National qualifications frameworks are developed to be compatible with the overarching framework of qualifications of the EHEA. Ireland's National Framework of Qualifications was verified as compatible with qualifications framework of the EHEA; this means that higher education and training qualifications from Ireland are consistent with the EHEA bachelor, master and doctorate cycles.



Erasmus+



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

Benefits of the Bologna Process to students, teachers and employers.

- **Social Dimension** - Promotes wider access and participation of under-represented and disadvantaged groups in higher education.
- **Mobility** - Facilitating the mobility of staff students and graduates
- **Employability** - Encourages higher education institutions to equip graduates with transversal, multidisciplinary and entrepreneurial skills and competence to be able to gain initial employment, to maintain employment and to be able to move around within the labour market.
- **Easier recognition of Qualifications** - The overarching framework of qualifications for the EHEA establishes a common framework for higher education qualifications. The purpose of recognition is to make it possible for learners to use their qualifications from one education system in another education system (or country) without losing the real value of those qualifications.
- **Contributing to the improvement in Quality** - Co-ordinate European cooperation in quality assurance of higher education with a view to developing comparable criteria and methodologies.
- **Making the diversity of higher education in Europe more transparent** - Quality assurance, qualifications framework and recognition, together with the tools designed to facilitate their implementation, such as Diploma Supplement, European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and the Lisbon Recognition Convention, have contributed substantially to this goal.

Where can I find out more?

If you want to know more about how the EHEA and the Bologna Process please visit the official Bologna Process website. <http://www.ehea.info/>

The Higher Education Authority acts as the national agency for the Erasmus+ programme and hosts the Irish Bologna website which includes useful information on how the Bologna Process has been implemented in Ireland. <http://www.eurireland.ie/>



Erasmus+



ESCO - European Skills/Competences,
qualifications and Occupations



Erasmus+



ESCO - European Skills/Competences,
qualifications and Occupations

ESCO

ESCO: A common language, bridging the worlds of work and education

ESCO is the multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations. ESCO is part of the Europe 2020 strategy. ESCO identifies skills, competences, qualifications and occupations relevant for the EU labour market and education and training. It shows the relationships between these different concepts. ESCO has been developed in an open IT format, so it is available for use free of charge to everyone.

What are the benefits of ESCO?

- Facilitate the dialogue between the labour market and the education/training sector.
- Allow employment services to exchange relevant labour market information across borders.
- Boost online and skill-based job-matching.
- Facilitate geographical and occupational mobility through using a common understanding of terminology associated with occupations, competences and qualifications.
- Help employment services in the shift towards a skills and competences-oriented approach.
- Help describe qualifications in terms of knowledge, skills and competences.
- Enable the development of innovative career guidance services.
- Ultimately, getting more people into jobs throughout Europe!

ESCO supports other initiatives developed by the European Commission aimed at making labour market and education systems more transparent, stimulating mobility and creating opportunities.

- EURES, the European Job Mobility Portal, is an on-line portal that allows public employment services to share their vacancies at a European level and reach out to workers beyond national borders.
- Erasmus+ programme enables Europeans to study in another Member State and bring new skills and competences back to their country of origin.
- The European Qualifications Framework aims to increase the comparability of levels of qualifications across borders.
- Europass-CV, a multilingual tool that provides a European template for the description of the holder's skills, competences, qualifications and professional achievements.



Erasmus+



ESCO - European Skills/Competences,
qualifications and Occupations

Where can I find out more?

The European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations website is available at:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esco/home>



Erasmus+





EUROGUIDANCE IRELAND

Start Here, Go Anywhere!

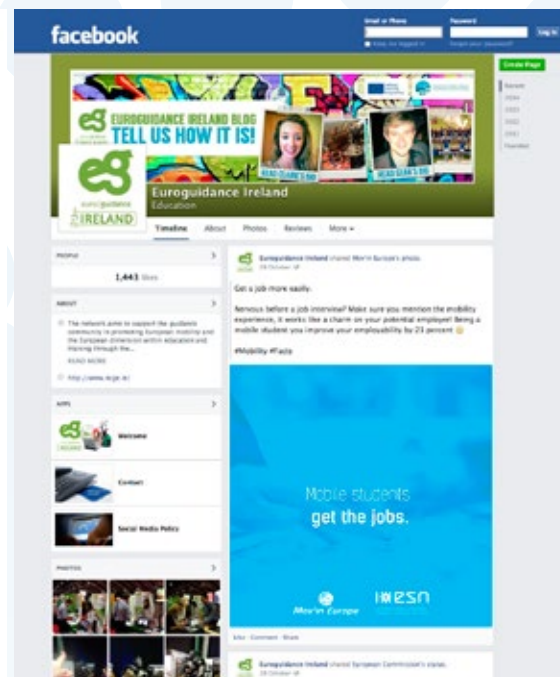
www.ncge.ie/europe/euroguidance-centre-ireland/

www.euroguidance.ie

www.euroguidance.eu

Information and on-line tools to support the guidance community and individuals in their decision to study in Europe.

To find out more visit www.euroguidance.ie and begin your journey!



Erasmus+



What is Euroguidance?

Euroguidance is a European network of national resource and information Centres for guidance. Euroguidance Centres operate in 34 countries, with 67 Centres (and growing!). Euroguidance Centres share the common goals of promoting the European dimension in guidance and providing quality information on lifelong guidance and mobility for learning purposes.

Euroguidance promotes the European dimension in guidance by supporting national and international networking of guidance practitioners, organising seminars, training and study visits, promoting cooperation among stakeholders in guidance internationally and collaborating with the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN).

Euroguidance provides quality information on lifelong guidance and mobility for learning purposes including international mobility opportunities; education, training and guidance systems in the EU, EEA member states and the candidate countries; European initiatives and programmes within the field of education, training and mobility and project results, innovative working methods; and good practice in the field of lifelong guidance

The Euroguidance Centres provide answers to queries submitted through PLOTEUS – the European portal on learning opportunities. Euroguidance Centres are partly financed by European commission's Erasmus + programme and partly by national funding sources.

The main target group of Euroguidance is guidance practitioners and policy makers from both the educational and employment sectors in all European countries.

The Irish Euroguidance Centre is located in the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) and is the lead country in the Development of a Cloud-based Solution for Interconnection of National Datasources to PLOTEUS II project funded by the European Commission and national funding sources.

Why use Euroguidance Ireland?

Euroguidance Ireland is a free, impartial information service funded by the European Commission and the Department of Education and Skills. Euroguidance Ireland is part of a network of guidance professionals in Europe and can access expert, localised information for the guidance community. Euroguidance Ireland provides a wealth of resources for guidance counsellors and individuals, including the Euroguidance Ireland Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EuroguidanceIreland>, the Euroguidance Ireland website www.euroguidance.ie, the Euroguidance Ireland Blog <http://blog.euroguidance.ie/>, while actively contributing to PLOTEUS <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>.

How do I use Euroguidance Ireland?

Log on to www.euroguidance.ie and begin your journey!

Where do I find out more about Euroguidance Ireland?

Visit our website: www.euroguidance.ie, or through the NCGE website at: <http://www.ncge.ie/europe/euroguidance-centre-ireland/>

Follow us on Facebook to stay informed and receive alerts about our work, and about opportunities to work, study or volunteer in Ireland and overseas. Speak to the Euroguidance Ireland team or meet them at events nationally.





PLOTEUS

Portal on Learning Opportunities Throughout the European Space

<http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>.

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/a4/Ploteus.gif>

www.tempus.ac.rs/uploads/images/Euroguidance_logo_basic_color.jpg

<http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>

PLOTEUS is an acronym of Portal on Learning Opportunities Throughout European Space, meaning 'navigator' in ancient Greek.

It is a European Union web portal, coordinated by the European's Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DGEAC). It aims to help citizens find out about education and training opportunities throughout the European Union. The portal offers easy access to a comprehensive source of information on educational opportunities in Europe. PLOTEUS has been prioritised as a 'project of common interest' by the European Commission (Commission Decision of 23 December 2002, article 8.2.c).

The portal is run by the Euroguidance network (www.euroguidance.eu) and financed by the Erasmus + (formerly the Leonardo da Vinci programme and the Lifelong Learning programmes). It is interconnected with EURES, the European Commission's portal on job mobility information and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Both PLOTEUS and EURES are considered examples of "pan-European services". Following on from the launch of PLOTEUS and EURES in 2003, the Bologna process drive to favour student mobility in Europe was further expanded in 2004 with the launch of the Europass program, which is accessible from the EURES portal, as well as PLOTEUS.

The portal was officially launched in March 2003 by Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth, Media and Sport, with the aim of making it easier for citizens to find the necessary information to study and train in another part of Europe. It provides information on education systems, qualifications, grants and tuition fees in the EU countries. It also provides practical help on matters such as finding a place to stay, living costs, the legal aspects of studying abroad, taxes, and social security as well as facilitating exchange programmes and the process of moving from one Member State to another. In this first phase, the portal provided access to about 5,000 links available in 11 languages.



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The European Parliament and the European Council further supported transnational web-based services such as PLOTEUS with the introduction of the second phase of the project, PLOTEUS II. This phase was to make it possible to query directly the content of national databases through the interface of the European portal, and thus to obtain direct answers to specific queries about single courses. In order to interconnect national databases in the European portal, a common protocol was developed in collaboration with the Euroguidance Network.

In 2010, its promotion was incorporated in the Youth on the Move campaign launched by the European Commission to extend opportunities for learning mobility to all young people in Europe by 2020. The Council Recommendation (28 June 2011) indicated that member states should cooperate with the Commission to further develop and update the PLOTEUS portal on learning opportunities, by increasing the number of national information resources which citizens can directly access through the multilingual PLOTEUS interface.

The Irish Euroguidance Centre, located within the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), took a lead role in this second phase, PLOTEUS II. As part of Ireland's membership of the PLOTEUS coordination group, it designed and implemented a pilot project to explore alternative mechanisms for connecting National Data Sources (NDSS) to the PLOTEUS portal in 2010 and 2011. Several significant developments were made as part of this pilot. The interconnection architecture devised and implemented as part of this pilot has now been adopted as the only supported mechanism for member states to connect their national data sources to the PLOTEUS portal. This architecture is also being considered as the only mechanism by which member states will connect their national qualifications databases (NQF in Ireland) to a central European portal. On the basis of this pilot project, an interconnection of national databases has been implemented using web services as a technical solution.

The Commission further has further supported the development of the portal by providing financial support to countries wishing to develop their own national data feed in order encourage maximum participation in PLOTEUS II. The Irish Euroguidance Centre is also the lead country in this phase of PLOTEUS II, undertaking the Development of a Cloud-based Solution for Interconnection of National Datasources to PLOTEUS II project funded by the European Commission and national funding sources while actively contributing a national data feed to PLOTEUS.





ELGPN

European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)

www.ncge.ie/europe/european-lifelong-guidance-policy-network

www.elgpn.eu

What is the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)

The ELGPN is a network of 31 member countries working to promote co-operation at Member State level in implementing the priorities identified in the EU Resolutions on Lifelong Guidance (2004; 2008). The four key priority areas of the Resolutions focus on Access to, and Co-ordination and Co-operation across the guidance sectors; the development of Quality Assurance and evidence gathering systems, and the development of Career Management Skills in guidance for individuals.

ELGPN currently consists of 31 member countries

(AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, SI, TR, UK).

The aim of the ELGPN is to assist the European Union (EU) Member States, the neighbouring countries eligible for the EU Lifelong Learning Programme, and the European Commission in developing European co-operation on lifelong guidance in both the education and the employment sectors. The network was established by the Member States. The EU Commission supports its activities under the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-13 and Erasmus + in 2014.

What does the ELGPN do?

ELGPN meets at least twice per year, with meetings held in the host country of the EU Presidency. At these Plenary meetings, the members collaborate through working groups / policy clusters to develop the areas of Career Management Skills and Quality Assurance and Evidence in guidance, and Access and Co-operation and Co-ordination in guidance.

What is Ireland's involvement in the ELGPN?

Ireland has participated as a Full member of the ELGPN since 2011, and participated as an Observer from 2008 – 2010. The National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) is the designated representative for Ireland at the ELGPN.



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Currently, Ireland is actively involved in the Policy Cluster Group on Career Management Skills, working with 18 other countries to develop the guidelines in this area.

Ireland also acts as the Lead Country in the Quality Assurance and Evidence base policy cluster group, to develop the ELGPN proposed QA system for guidance services across EU.

The ELGPN works closely with other Networks internationally and across the EU – including the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG www.iaevg.org/IAEVG) and the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP <http://iccdpp.org>). We collaborate with the HoPES network and the Euroguidance Network at EU and national levels.

Why is ELGPN relevant to me?

The ELGPN is involved in supporting Member States to develop and implement policies identified within the EU Council Resolutions on guidance. Hence, the ELGPN does not provide guidance service directly to the individual. However, in the development of guidance systems at national or local level, the publications of the ELGPN will inform and support systems development which will, in turn, benefit the individual.

Where do I find out more?

- Visit the NCGE website www.ncge.ie/europe/european-lifelong-guidance-policy-network
- Visit the ELGPN website www.elgpn.eu
- Contact NCGE on ncgeinfo@ncge.ie for more details



National Centre for Guidance in Education
Lárionad Náisiúnta um Threoir san Oideachas



Erasmus+

enic-naric.net
gateway to recognition of academic and professional qualifications

ENIC-NARIC





QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Qualifications Recognition Advice Service (ENIC-NARIC Centre)

FACILITATING THE RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS IN IRELAND
&
PROMOTING THE RECOGNITION OF IRISH QUALIFICATIONS ABROAD



**Offering
advice on
the academic
recognition
of foreign
qualifications**

**Offering
information
to individuals,
employers, education
and training providers,
and professional
recognition
bodies**

**Promoting
understanding of
the Irish education
system abroad**



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**National Framework
of Qualifications**



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

What is the Qualifications Recognition Advice Service?

The Qualifications Recognition Advice Service, based at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), provides advice on the academic recognition of foreign qualifications. Further, the service offers information on the Irish qualifications and education systems.

We are the Irish centre in an international network known as ENIC-NARIC (European Network of Information Centres / National Academic Recognition Information Centres). This network shares information on qualifications and education systems around the world as a way of aiding academic recognition and mobility. Further information and contact details for each centre are available at www.enic-naric.net.

Why use the Qualifications Recognition Advice Service?

The Qualifications Recognition Advice Service uses Ireland's National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) to provide academic recognition advice on foreign qualifications. The service aims to compare a foreign qualification to a qualification at a particular level on the NFQ.

This information can help individuals to make informed decisions about qualification choices and consider progression opportunities available to them. The information we provide may also help an employer, professional recognition body or education and training provider determine if an applicant holds an appropriate qualification for employment/programme entry.

Similarly, information provided on the Irish education system helps individuals travelling with their Irish qualifications gain fair recognition. Our advice helps recognition authorities abroad easily access relevant information to make informed decisions about the fair recognition of qualifications in their own context.

How do I use the Qualifications Recognition Advice Service?

Log onto www.QQI.ie and look for Qualifications Recognition Advice Service under the 'What We Do' tab. Here, you will find access points to:

- **Recognition Advice Database:** Comparability statements for over 200 qualifications from various countries can be downloaded from our Recognition Advice Database (NARIC tab on QSearch) at your convenience. These comparability statements are designed to help employers, institutions and individuals understand foreign qualifications and access advice on their comparability in Ireland.
- **Irish Country Education Profile:** We maintain a detailed description of the Irish education and training system on our website to help those travelling abroad with Irish qualifications.
- Details of our projects and development work, in Ireland and internationally.
- Our online supports for accessing information and submitting queries.



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www.europass.ie
The Europass CV



The Europass CV

Your skills can take you further than you think!



Show what you know with the Europass CV

- User-friendly in a clear format - it is the CV layout recommended by the European Commission.
- Captures your skills and achievements, explains your qualifications, embed references and other documents
- Help employers understand your abilities and experience
- Puts you at the heart of Europe-wide talent searches
- Sits in your European Skills Passport



Find the Europass CV on www.europass.ie



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www.europass.ie



Europass Curriculum Vitae

www.europass.ie

The Europass CV is a standard CV template widely used in Europe. It is an effective, easy and user-friendly way to capture and present your skills and achievements. In a constantly changing labour market, which is becoming more and more international, the Europass CV can help you to 'Showcase your skills' and make it easier for employers to understand your qualifications and competences. The CV can be completed and updated online in 27 languages (languages of the EU and candidate countries, European Economic Area).

What is the Europass Curriculum Vitae?

A CV to put you at the heart of Europe-wide searches for talent. Europass provides free personal career management tools that work to help your achievements, skills and qualifications get appropriate recognition in Europe and beyond. Europass is an initiative of the European Commission.

Why use the Europass CV?

- The Europass CV is the most widely used CV template in the world. 50 million Europass CVs generated through the online editor since its launch in 2005 (one every 2.5 seconds, equivalent to a 10 km high pile of paper)
- Many employers and education and training providers use the Europass CV as a requirement in applying for a job or study placement
- Use this clear standardised format, that makes it easy for employers to see your strengths
- Captures ALL your skills and achievements, including those leading industries say are keys to success in the workforce
- Explains your qualifications and skills to employers across Europe
- Save your CV on line, as part of your personal European Skills Passport
- Access to FREE online template with hints and tips to help you create your unique CV
- Interoperability with LinkedIn - users can import their LinkedIn profile to create a Europass CV

How do I complete it?

- Log on to www.europass.ie to create your own on-line CV and European Skills Passport
- Work your way through the template following the cues and clues
- Save your CV and any other documents you might need in your European Skills Passport (e.g. cover letters, Certificate Supplement, Diploma Supplement, References) for easy access when you need it.

Where do I find the CV?

- Find the CV and the European Skills Passport on www.europass.ie
- Follow us on Facebook for alerts on work, study and volunteering opportunities in Ireland and overseas!



www.europass.ie
The Europass
Certificate Supplement



Show what you know with the

Europass Certificate Supplement



Use your Europass Certificate Supplement

- Tell employers more about what you know and can do
- Get an official record of your specific skills and knowledge
- Improve your chance to use your skills in work or study at home and abroad
- Save it in your Europass CV and European Skills Passport, beside your certificate and transcript



Available to download from www.qqi.ie for QQI qualifications at levels 4, 5 and 6

Find the Europass Certificate Supplement on www.europass.ie



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www.europass.ie



Let your qualifications take you further with the Europass Certificate Supplement

Europass Certificate Supplement www.europass.ie

The Europass Certificate Supplement is an official document that explains your vocational qualification. It helps your skills and qualifications get the recognition they deserve in Europe and beyond. In Ireland, QQI provide the Certificate Supplement for most further education and training awards. Across Europe, Certificate Supplements are familiar explanatory documents for vocational qualifications, and are provided by awarding / certification bodies. The Certificate Supplement is one of five tools in the Europass career management service. Europass is a free service funded by Erasmus+.

Why use the Europass Certificate Supplement?

- The Europass Certificate Supplement helps you to showcase your vocational skills with confidence
- It describes in an EU-wide standard format, the purpose of your award and the level and kind of learning involved. It explains the legal status of your qualification, and describes how you might have achieved your standards, the grading and kinds of assessment you experienced
- The Certificate Supplement illustrates the National Framework of Qualifications and the European Framework of Qualifications, and describes the national context for your studies and any international recognition arrangements associated with the qualification
- The Supplement is a really clear format that employers find easy to read and use. Because the format is standardised, employers can quickly see your skills in contrast to other applicants
- Education and training providers use the Certificate Supplement to make sure that your next learning opportunity is at the right level for you

- ENIC NARIC Offices, such as the Qualifications Recognition service in Ireland, use Certificate Supplements to advise on the comparability of your qualifications to those achieved in other countries
- Embed the Certificate Supplement in your Europass CV to help ensure that your qualifications are understood and recognised
- Save your CV on-line in your personal European Skills Passport; store all your career information and documentation in one single place. This makes it easy to be systematic and ready for any opportunity that comes.

How do I get my Certificate Supplement?

- Find the Certificate Supplement for Further Education and Training level 5 and 6 major, special purpose and supplemental awards in the QQI Awards Directory on **www.QQI.ie**
- Download and save the Certificate Supplement attached to your vocational qualification.
- Take control of your personal records today as part of your own Europass free career management service.

Where do I find out more about the Certificate Supplement and Europass?

- Find out more about Europass and how we can help you on **www.europass.ie**
- Find out more about ENIC NARIC centres including Qualifications Recognition in Ireland on **www.enicnaric.net**
- Follow Europass Ireland on Facebook for alerts on work, study and volunteering opportunities in Ireland and overseas!



www.europass.ie
The Europass
Diploma Supplement



Show what you know with the

Europass Diploma Supplement



Use your Europass Diploma Supplement

- Tell employers more about what you know and can do
- Get an official personalised record of your specific skills and knowledge
- Improve your chance to use your skills in work or study at home and abroad
- Save it in your Europass CV and European Skills Passport, beside your parchment and transcript

**Available from your higher education institution,
personalised to your experience and achievement**

**Find the Europass Diploma Supplement
on www.europass.ie**



Erasmus+



www.europass.ie



Let your qualifications take you further with the Europass Diploma Supplement

Europass Diploma Supplement www.europass.ie

The Europass Diploma Supplement is an official document that explains your higher education qualification. It is designed to help your skills and qualifications get the recognition they deserve. In Ireland and across Europe, higher education institutions issue the Diploma Supplement automatically to support your parchment and transcript of results. The Diploma Supplement is one of five tools in the Europass career management service. Europass is a free service funded by Erasmus+.

Why use the Europass Diploma Supplement?

- The Europass Diploma Supplement helps you to showcase your higher education learning with confidence.
- It describes in an EU-wide standard format, the nature, level, context, content and status of studies you have completed in higher education.
- It provides information on your personal achievement, including your ECTS credits, your qualification, including its level and function, and the specific learning content, results, certification and overarching national system.
- The Diploma Supplement illustrates your qualifications place on the National Framework of Qualifications and European Framework of Qualifications. It also describes any international recognition arrangements associated with the qualification.
- The Diploma Supplement is in a really clear format that employers find easy to read and use. Because the format is standardised and simple, employers can quickly see your skills in contrast to other applicants.
- Education and training providers use the Diploma Supplement to make sure that your next learning opportunity takes account of what you have already achieved.

- **ENIC-NARIC** Offices use Diploma Supplements to advise you, employers and others on the recognition of your qualification to those achieved in other countries.
- Embed the Diploma Supplement in your Europass CV to ensure recognition of your qualifications.
- Save your CV on-line in your personal European Skills Passport; store all your career information and documentation in one single place. This makes it easy to be systematic and ready for any opportunity that comes.

How do I get my Diploma Supplement?

- In Ireland, because we are part of the 'Bologna process', students graduating from higher education institutions have the right to receive their Diploma Supplement automatically, free of charge and in a major European language, according to the standards set down by the European Commission, the Council of Europe and UNESCO. Request your Diploma Supplement from your Examinations Office on campus

Where do I find out more about the Certificate Supplement and Europass?

- Find out more about Europass and how we can help you on **www.europass.ie**
- Find out more about ENIC-NARIC centres including Qualifications Recognition in Ireland on **www.enicnaric.net**
- Follow Europass Ireland on Facebook for alerts on work, study and volunteering opportunities in Ireland and overseas!



www.europass.ie
The Europass Language
Passport



Show and tell what you know with the

Europass Language Passport



Use your Europass Language Passport

- Record your language competences and qualifications in a standardised format using the 6 European levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for languages
- Include competence gained both inside and outside formal education
- The Language Passport complements your Europass CV, save it online, as part of your personal European Skills Passport
- FREE online, user friendly template helps you get the job or course you want

Find the Europass Language Passport
on www.europass.ie



Erasmus+



www.europass.ie



Show and tell what you know..... with your Europass Language Passport www.europass.ie

The Europass Language Passport is one of five tools in the Europass career management service. The Language Passport allows you to detail your language skills and competences - your ability to understand, speak and write a language and your experience of learning and using them.

It is a self-assessment document where you describe your proficiency regardless of whether it was attained formally or informally. The Language Passport uses the six European levels of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) to help you record your level of language proficiency in a standardised format. The CEFR grid system consists of three broad levels:

1. Basic user (levels A1 and A2)
2. Independent user (levels B1 and B2)
3. Proficient user (levels C1 and C2)

Why use the Europass Language Passport?

- The Language Passport provides an overview of your proficiency in different languages at a given point in time.
- Update your language passport at regular intervals, to reflect progress in language learning and the acquisition of new intercultural experiences.
- Use the Language Passport to complement your Europass CV!
- Save it online in your personal European Skills Passport to ensure that your language skills and competences are understood and recognised and to make sure that your next learning opportunity is at the right level for you.

How do I get my Europass Language Passport?

The Europass Language Passport may be completed online with the help of guiding instructions or the template may be downloaded and completed offline. Detailed instructions and samples of completed Europass Language Passports are provided on www.europass.ie

Don't forget that you can append to your Language Passport other forms of validation of your proficiency, for example, references from employers in different countries, educational qualifications that you have obtained through the medium of another language, etc. These documents can be stored in your ELP and saved online in your personal European Skills Passport. Europass is a free service funded by Erasmus+.

Where do I find out more about the Europass Language Passport?

- Find out more about the Europass Language Passport and how it can help you on www.europass.ie
- Follow Europass Ireland on Facebook for alerts on work, study and volunteering opportunities in Ireland and overseas!



www.europass.ie
Europass Mobility



Europass Mobility

Opening the door to learning and work in Europe



Use your Europass Mobility

- Pave the way to professional and occupational mobility in Europe.
- Record and validate learning outcomes achieved during an organised period of time spent in Europe training, working, or learning.
- Complement your Europass CV and enhance employability! It is the best way to show employers evidence of the experiences you mention in your CV.
- Save it online, as part of your personal European Skills Passport

Find out more about Europass Mobility
on www.europass.ie



Erasmus+



www.europass.ie



Opening the door to learning and work in Europe

Europass Mobility www.europass.ie

Europass Mobility is one of five tools in the Europass career management service. It is a personal document which is used to record an organised period of time (a mobility experience) that a person spends in another European country for the purpose of learning or training. The Europass Mobility is intended for any person undergoing a mobility experience in a European country, whatever their age or level of education.

Why use Europass Mobility?

- Utilise a standardised European structure, understood and employed in 31 countries.
- The Europass Mobility document records and validates the learning outcomes achieved during a time spent abroad training, working or learning. This includes accredited professional qualifications and skills gained in informal settings, e.g. social or organisational skills.
- It helps individuals to display their skills and competences to employers.

Europass Mobility might be helpful if you are:

- undertaking a work placement in a company abroad
- a student undertaking a term abroad as part of a higher education programme
- a worker undertaking a voluntary placement in an NGO

How do I get my Europass Mobility?

If you would like to receive the Europass Mobility document, you will need to ask the sending partner (the organisation, company, or institution that is organising your Mobility placement) to register with us www.europass.ie. The sending partner along with the host organisation (the organisation, company or institution that you will be visiting when abroad) will then complete the relevant documents. Both partners agree on the purpose, content and duration of the experience and a mentor is identified in the host country. Once you have completed your time abroad, your sending partner will issue you with a Europass Mobility Document.

Examples of particular funding opportunities that are eligible for Europass Mobility are those that make up the Erasmus+ Programme.

Where do I find out more about Europass Mobility?

- Find out more about Europass Mobility and how it can help you on www.europass.ie
- Follow Europass Ireland on Facebook for alerts on work, study and volunteering opportunities in Ireland and overseas!





EURES IRELAND

European Employment Services

What is EURES?

EURES (European Employment Services) was established by the European Commission in 1993 to facilitate the free movement of workers between the European Union/ European Economic Area countries. In Ireland, EURES operates under the Department of Social Protection and has 18 Advisers across the country.

At European Level, EURES is a co-operation network formed by public employment services in all EU/EEA countries plus Switzerland. The purpose of EURES is to provide information, advice, and recruitment/placement (job-matching) services for the benefit of workers and employers as well as any citizen wishing to benefit from the principle of the free movement of persons.

Why EURES?

All EURES services are completely FREE for both employers and jobseekers

As a jobseeker, availing of EURES services can open up new doors for you and your career. EURES can provide you with the latest labour market information and advice about your job search in Europe. There are over 2 million vacancies on the EURES portal and our EURES Advisers are ready to help, so why wait?

As an employer, EURES can open your business up to a whole continent of talent and skills. Sometimes companies have positions that are hard to fill from the local or national labour market. Whether it is a specific language, skillset or business acumen that your company needs, let EURES help you find the people you need.

EURES Portal

The EURES Portal is an online job mobility portal. As a jobseeker, it gives you access to over 2 million vacancies and over 2,000 employers. You can create an account online, build a skills passport or upload your CV to apply for jobs across Europe that suit you. But that's not all, the EURES Portal is for employers too. As an employer you can advertise a vacancy or search for certain skills to help you fill your vacancy with the perfect candidate and the skills you require. www.eures.europa.eu

Support Network

EURES provides more than just an online service. Through our network of 900+ EURES Advisers we provide individual service to both jobseekers and employers to help them with their labour market needs. EURES Advisers can provide you with information and guidance on using the EURES Portal, living and working in another European country, and finding the skills or languages that your business needs by recruiting through the European labour market.



UNDERSTAND
DIRECT
ADVISE
HELP
INFORM
INTEGRATE

European Job Days



EURES has a packed calendar of European Job Days and other events all over Europe. European Job Days are events for employers and jobseekers to meet and discuss opportunities, as well as meet with EURES advisers to find more information about recruiting from, or working in, another European country. These events can be both online and on-site, so log on or drop in and find out what EURES can do for you. You can find a detailed calendar of events online at the EURES Portal.

DIALOG

Dialog is a communication platform with migrant workers. Through DIALOG, EURES Ireland aims to provide migrant workers with information and advice that will help with integration in local communities. For more information contact your local EURES adviser or visit welfare.ie

How and Where?

Visit the EURES Portal at www.eures.europa.eu. Here you can also find contact details for EURES advisers across Ireland and Europe.

-  facebook.com/EURESireland
-  [@EURESireland](https://twitter.com/EURESireland)
-  eures@welfare.ie





EPALE

Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe



What is EPALE?

The Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe is a multilingual online community for anyone involved in adult learning. It was designed with input from practitioners and is intended for all those active in the field, including teachers, trainers, researchers, academics and policy makers.

EPALE is operated by the European Commission and funded through Erasmus+; it is supported by the governments of EU member states. It is administered in each participating country by a National Support Service, which in Ireland is Léargas.

Why use EPALE?

The dedicated EPALE website is the hub for adult learning news, reports, events and discussion across Europe. You can browse articles, receive updates, and search the extensive database of adult learning resources (including policy documents and project results). Registered members can also upload content and contribute to discussions.

EPALE is organised around five key themes in adult learning:

- learner support
- learner environments
- life skills
- adult education policy developments
- best practices in improving quality in adult education

Support materials and resources for each of these themes can be easily accessed on the EPALE website. Users of the site can also contribute resources they feel would be relevant.

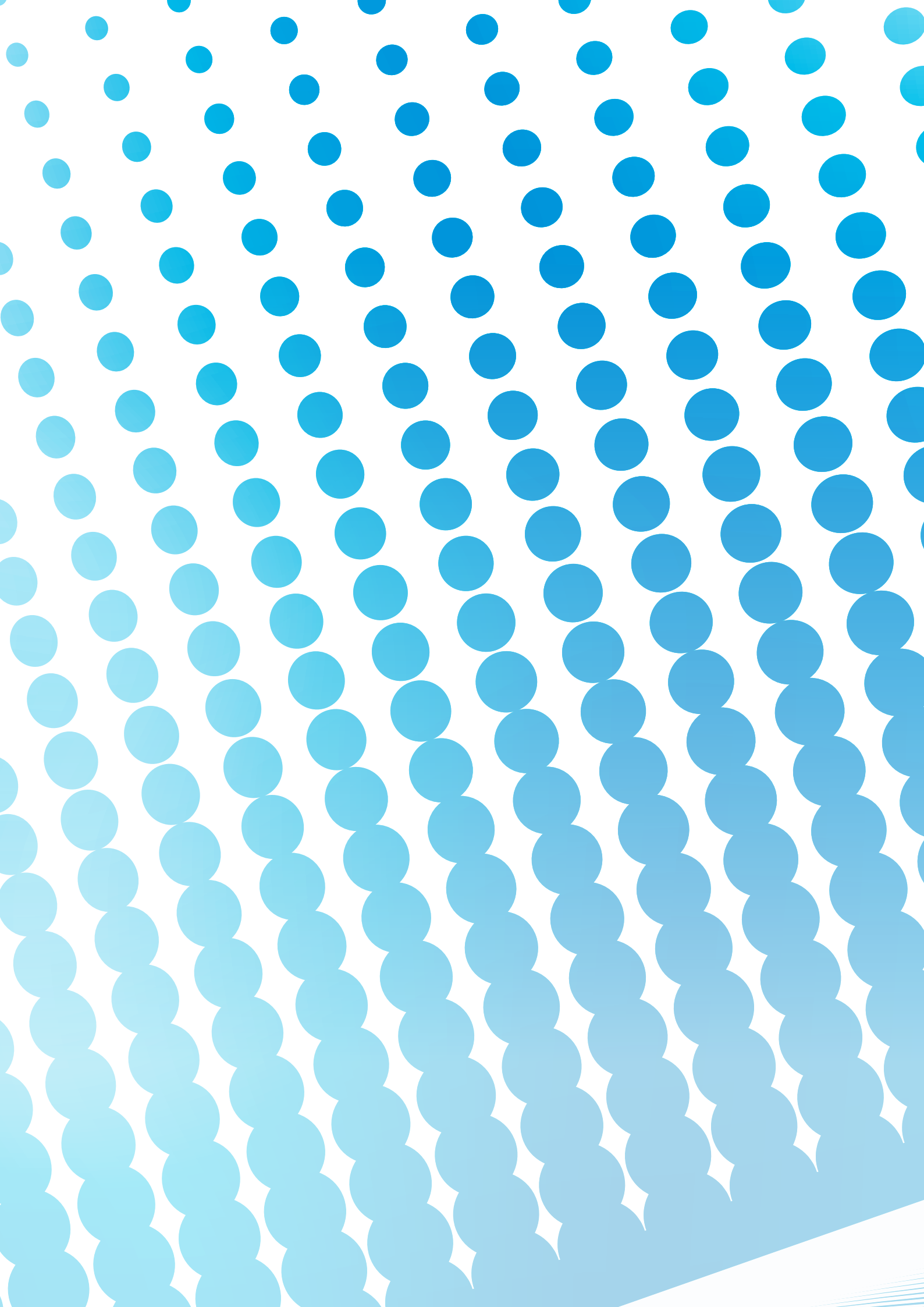
If you're interested in using EPALE, who do you contact?

In Ireland, Léargas is the National Support Service for EPALE; you can contact us at:

Léargas
King's Inns House
Parnell St
Dublin 1
D01 A3Y8
www.leargas.ie
epale@leargas.ie



Erasmus+





ECVET

European Credit system for Vocational Education & Training



What is ECVET?

The European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training is a framework for the transfer and recognition of learning outcomes across VET learning environments. It allows learners to accumulate their vocational experience with a view to achieving a qualification. In an Irish context, ECVET can be used to integrate the learning achieved through vocational training abroad into the Irish VET system. As a result, ECVET facilitates and supports the movement of European citizens between countries and between VET systems.

The ECVET framework is based on the description of qualifications in terms of units of Learning Outcomes, i.e. concise statements of what a learner is expected to know or be able to do at each stage. ECVET sets out a process for transferring these units between systems, and provides templates for necessary documents such as learning agreements and personal transcripts. A full description of this process and all the necessary tools are available through the ECVET toolkit (www.ecvet-toolkit.eu)

Why use ECVET?

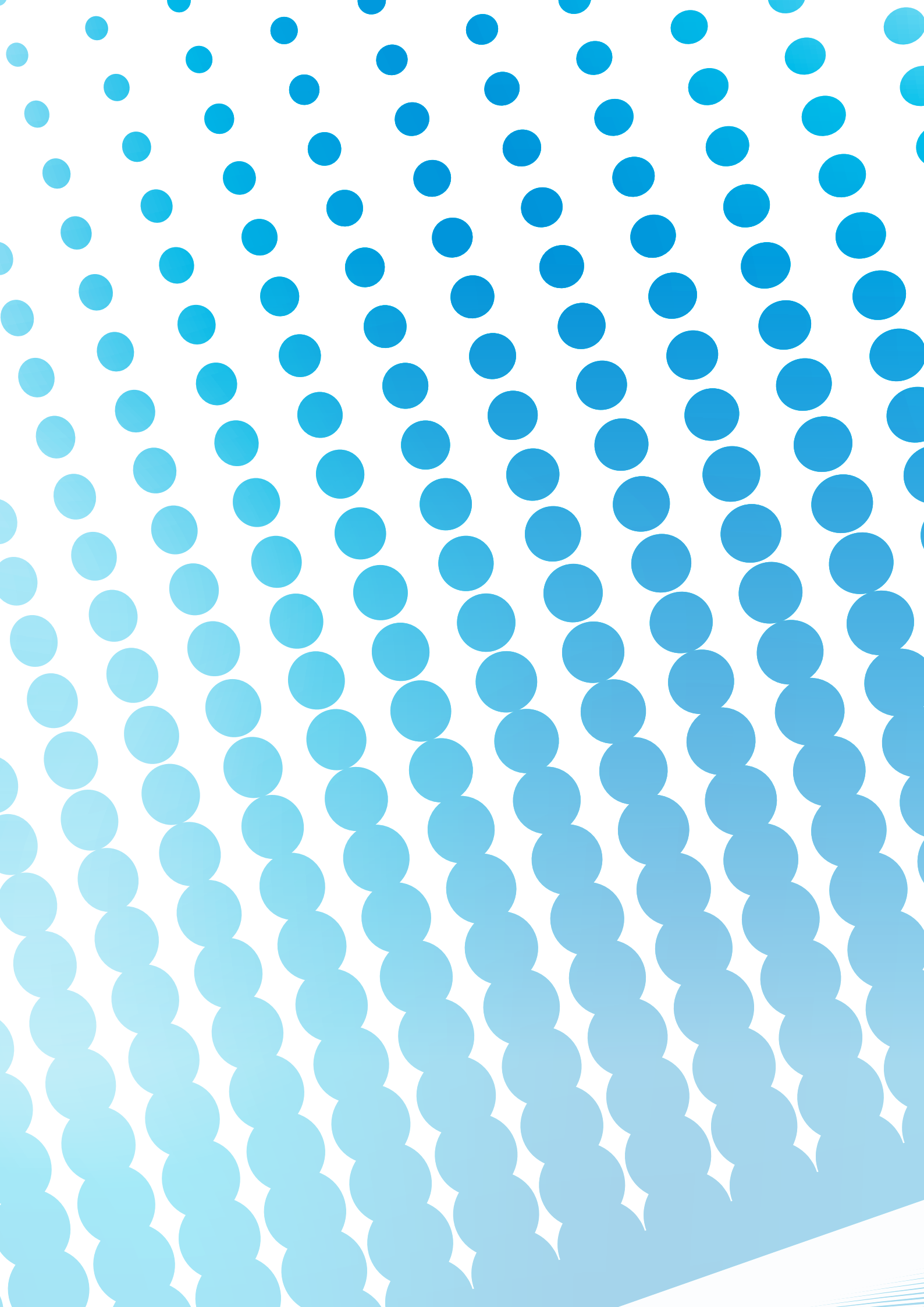
For organisations, ECVET streamlines the process of integrating a transnational work placement into an existing course of training. It improves flexibility in education systems and increases recognition of learning, including that achieved while abroad. In the longer term, sustained use of ECVET also works hand in hand with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) to provide greater transparency in European qualifications, promoting the mobility of workers and learners, and facilitating lifelong learning.

For learners, ECVET facilitates the transfer of credits between systems and countries, and so allows the learning achieved through geographical mobility count towards the intended qualification.

If you're interested in using ECVET, who do you contact?

In Ireland, ECVET is managed by Léargas; you can contact us at:

Léargas
King's Inns House
Parnell St
Dublin 1
D01 A3Y8
www.leargas.ie
info@leargas.ie



Youthpass

Youthpass



Youthpass

Youthpass

Recognition of non-formal learning in the youth field

What is Youthpass?

Youthpass is a European recognition tool for non-formal and informal learning in youth work. Youthpass is for projects funded by the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme. With Youthpass, the participants of these projects can describe what they have done and show what they have learnt. For more information, go to www.youthpass.eu

Why use Youthpass?

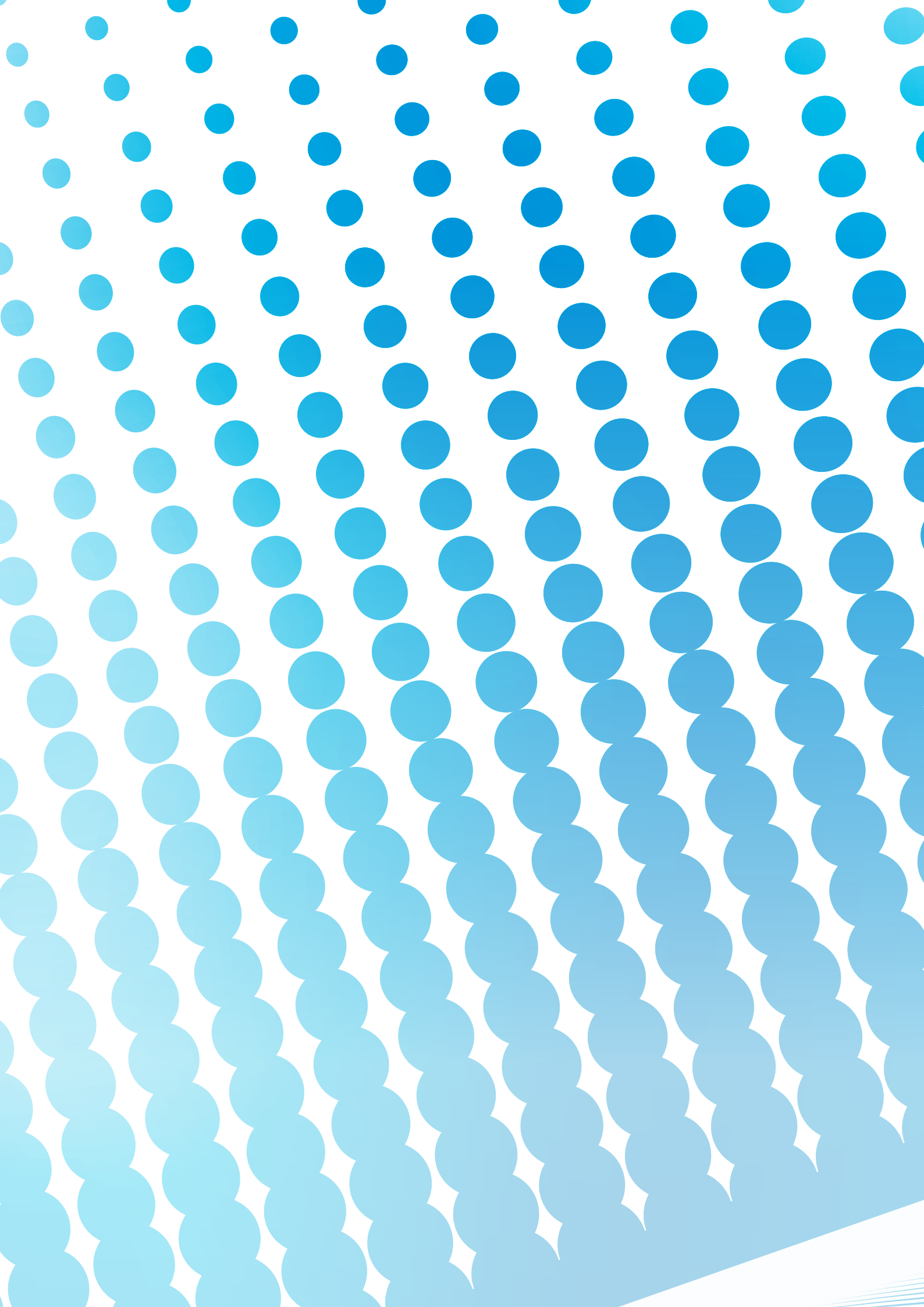
Youthpass is:

- a certificate for people participating in Erasmus+ Youth in Action activities
- a confirmation of participation in a specific activity by the organisers of that activity
- an individualised description of the activities undertaken and the learning outcomes (at the moment this includes participation in Erasmus+ Key Action 1 Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service, or Training Courses)
- firmly based on principles of non-formal education and learning
- a tool that puts the key competences of Lifelong Learning into practice
- supported by the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme of the European Commission
- a way of improving visibility of learning in the Erasmus+ Youth in Action Programme
- an explanation of programme activities that can be understood by people outside the youth sector

If you're interested in using Youthpass, who do you contact?

In Ireland, Léargas is the National Agency for Erasmus+ Youth in Action; you can contact us at:

Léargas
King's Inns House
Parnell St
Dublin 1
D01 A3Y8
www.leargas.ie
youthadulted@leargas.ie





GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Term	Description of Term	Website
BFUG	Bologna Follow-Up Group - The BFUG oversees the Bologna Process between the ministerial meetings and meets at least once every six months, usually for one-and-a-half days.	www.ehea.info
CEFR	Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - provides a common basis for the elaboration of language syllabuses, curriculum guidelines, examinations, textbooks, etc. across Europe.	http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1_en.asp
DSP	Department of Social Protection	www.welfare.ie
EASQ	European Area of Skills and Qualifications - This is the title given to the consultation process on skills and qualifications policy managed by the EU in 2014 and reflects the ambition for further integration of the European instruments for transparency and mobility.	https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/erasmus-charter-for-higher-education-2014-2020_en
ECHE	Erasmus Charter for Higher Education: An accreditation granted by the European Commission giving the possibility to higher education institutions from Programme Countries to be eligible to apply and participate in learning and cooperation activities under Erasmus+. The Charter outlines the fundamental principles an institution should adhere to in organising and implementing high quality mobility and cooperation and states the requisites it agrees to comply with in order to ensure high quality services and procedures as well as the provision of reliable and transparent information.	https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/erasmus-charter-for-higher-education-2014-2020_en
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a tool that helps to design, describe, and deliver study programmes and award higher education qualifications.	http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/ects_en.htm
ECVET	European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training - is designed to facilitate the transfer, accumulation and recognition of people's learning outcomes, from one VET system to another, or from an informal learning situation to a formal learning context.	http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/vocational-policy/ecvet_en.htm
EHEA	European Higher Education Area - The EHEA aims to facilitate cooperation between systems, institutions, and individual staff and students throughout the EHEA and to make European higher education known and appreciated throughout the world. The EHEA is meant to ensure more comparable, compatible and coherent systems of higher education in Europe.	www.ehea.info





ELGPN	European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network - The European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, ELGPN aims to assist the European Union (EU) Member States (and the neighbouring countries eligible for the EU Lifelong Learning Programme) and the European Commission in developing European co-operation on lifelong guidance in both the education and the employment sectors. Its purpose is to promote co-operation at Member State level in implementing the priorities identified in the EU Resolutions on Lifelong Guidance (2004; 2008).	www.elgpn.eu
ENIC-NARIC	European Network of Information Centres - The Council of Europe and UNESCO established the ENIC Network in 1994 in order to develop joint policy and practice in all European countries for the recognition of qualifications. National Academic Recognition Information Centres - The NARIC Network is similar to the ENIC Network but is supported by the European Commission.	http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/highereducation/recognition/enic_EN.asp
ENQA	European Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education - is an umbrella organisation which represents quality assurance organisations from the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) member states. ENQA promotes European co-operation in the field of quality assurance in higher education and disseminates information and expertise among its members and towards stakeholders in order to develop and share good practice and to foster the European dimension of quality assurance.	www.enqa.eu
EPALE	EPALE - is the Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe is a multi-lingual online community for anyone involved in adult learning. It was designed with input from practitioners and is intended for all those active in the field, including teachers, trainers, researchers, academics and policy makers.	http://www.eqavet.eu/gns/home.aspx
EQAVET	European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training - is a community of practice bringing together Member States, Social Partners and the European Commission to promote European collaboration in developing and improving quality assurance in VET by using the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework.	http://www.eqavet.eu/gns/home.aspx
EQF	European Qualifications Framework - is an overarching qualifications framework, or common European reference framework, which links countries' qualifications systems together, acting as a translation device to make qualifications more readable and understandable across different countries and systems in Europe.	http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en



EQF - AG	European Qualifications Framework Advisory Group - Assist the Commission in implementing the recommendations.	http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2107
ERASMUS+	Erasmus+ brings together seven existing EU programmes in the fields of Education, Training, and Youth; it will for the first time provide support for Sport. As an integrated programme, Erasmus+ offers more opportunities for cooperation across the Education , Training , Youth , and Sport sectors and is easier to access than its predecessors, with simplified funding rules.	http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm
ESCO	European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations - ESCO is a multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations relevant for the EU labour market and education and training.	https://ec.europa.eu/esco/home
EURES	European Employment Services - A network coordinated by the European Commission to facilitate the free movement of labour throughout the European Economic Area and Switzerland.	www.eures.europa.eu
EURO-GUIDANCE	Euroguidance - Euroguidance Ireland, based in NCGE, promotes mobility and learning opportunities across EU as part of a network of 66 Centres.	www.euroguidance.ie
HEA	Higher Education Authority - The Higher Education Authority is the statutory planning and policy development body for higher education and research in Ireland.	www.heai.ie
HEI	Higher Education Institution - Providers of Higher Education.	http://www.education.ie/en/The-Education-System/Higher-Education/
HOPES	Heads of Public Employment Services	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=105&langId=en
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations - ISCO is a tool for organising jobs into a clearly defined set of groups according to the tasks and duties undertaken in the job.	http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/
LÉARGAS	LÉARGAS - Léargas manages national and international exchange and cooperation programmes in education, youth and community work, vocational education and training and adult education. Léargas is appointed by the Department of Education and Skills to manage the Erasmus+ programme in Ireland, jointly with the Higher Education Authority.	www.leargas.ie





NCGE	National Centre for Guidance in Education - The National Centre for Guidance in Education is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills, with responsibility to support and develop guidance practice in all areas of education and to inform the policy of the Department in the field of guidance.	www.ncge.ie
NEC	National Europass Centre - Europass is an EU wide service helping to make sure that skills, qualifications and achievements are recognised and understood across Europe using five common tools in common template. The National Europass Centre is hosted in QQI.	www.europass.ie
NFQ	National Framework of Qualifications - The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is a ten-level system (1 - 10) giving an academic or vocational value to qualifications obtained in Ireland.	www.nfq.ie
NRP	National Reference Point for vocational qualifications promotes the recognition of Irish vocational qualifications throughout Europe.	http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/european-skills-passport/certificate-supplement/national-reference-points
VET	Vocational Education and Training - Education and training which aims to equip people with knowledge, know-how, skills and/ or competences required in particular occupations or more broadly on the labour market.	
YOUTH-PASS	Youthpass - is a European recognition tool for non-formal and informal learning in youth work. Youthpass is for projects funded by the Erasmus+ Youth in Action programme. With Youthpass, the participants of these projects can describe what they have done and show what they have learnt.	https://www.youthpass.eu/en/youthpass/



Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Background Context

The education and training sector in Ireland under the leadership of the Department of Education and Skills, participates in a wide range of EU programmes of work, initiatives and working groups, in a leadership or representative capacity. Typically these activities relate to the core mission and remit of the individual agency and service where these connect to the overarching context of creating an EU-wide Area of Skills and Qualifications and more critically, to our need to ensure coherent national responses and development.

As agencies and as individuals, we represent Ireland and implement EU initiatives and programmes nationally.

It can be challenging for stakeholders, service users and different programme teams to understand the different initiatives, to relate one to another and to see where the benefits of the work may apply in different contexts.

QQI, in collaboration with Léargas and Euroguidance at the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), is hosting an EU Reference Group in 2014 to address some of these issues and to allow stakeholders consider possible linkages and efficiencies recognising the context of reduced national resources.

This Reference Group for the first time will give an opportunity for common sharing of education and training actions and plans across all sectors within education and training.



Purpose

The Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills will

- Provide an opportunity to showcase a range of EU initiatives, working groups and projects in the education and training sector in a broad policy context
- Promote understanding of each programme's unique selling point and contribution
- Assist in the identification of potential synergies with existing stakeholder plans and promote possible efficiencies through sharing objectives, key events, outputs, directions etc.
- Support the development of a publication by November 2014 outlining succinctly and in a common format, the purpose, aims, and intended benefits of each programme.
- Review the contribution and methodology of the Reference Group to determine continuance and governance beyond 2014
- Collaborate and connect with each other to disseminate information and opportunities among the relevant constituencies
- Assist in the coordination of a national response to relevant European policy developments in education and training

Methodology

It is proposed that the group would meet periodically, providing for the initial introduction of programmes of work and for general updates. Participants may be invited to comment on relevant policy developments, programme work plans, publications, or other proposals between meetings.

It is intended that the Reference Group would meet again in November 2014.

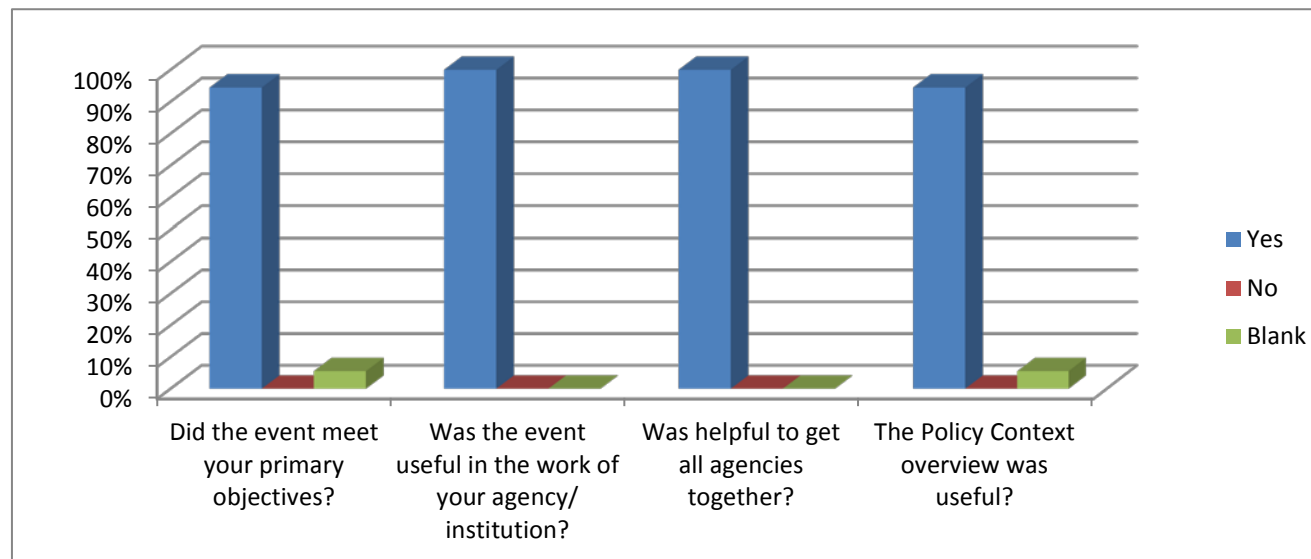
Evaluation and Feedback - Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills, Clock Tower, 19 November 2015

18 returns

% Response

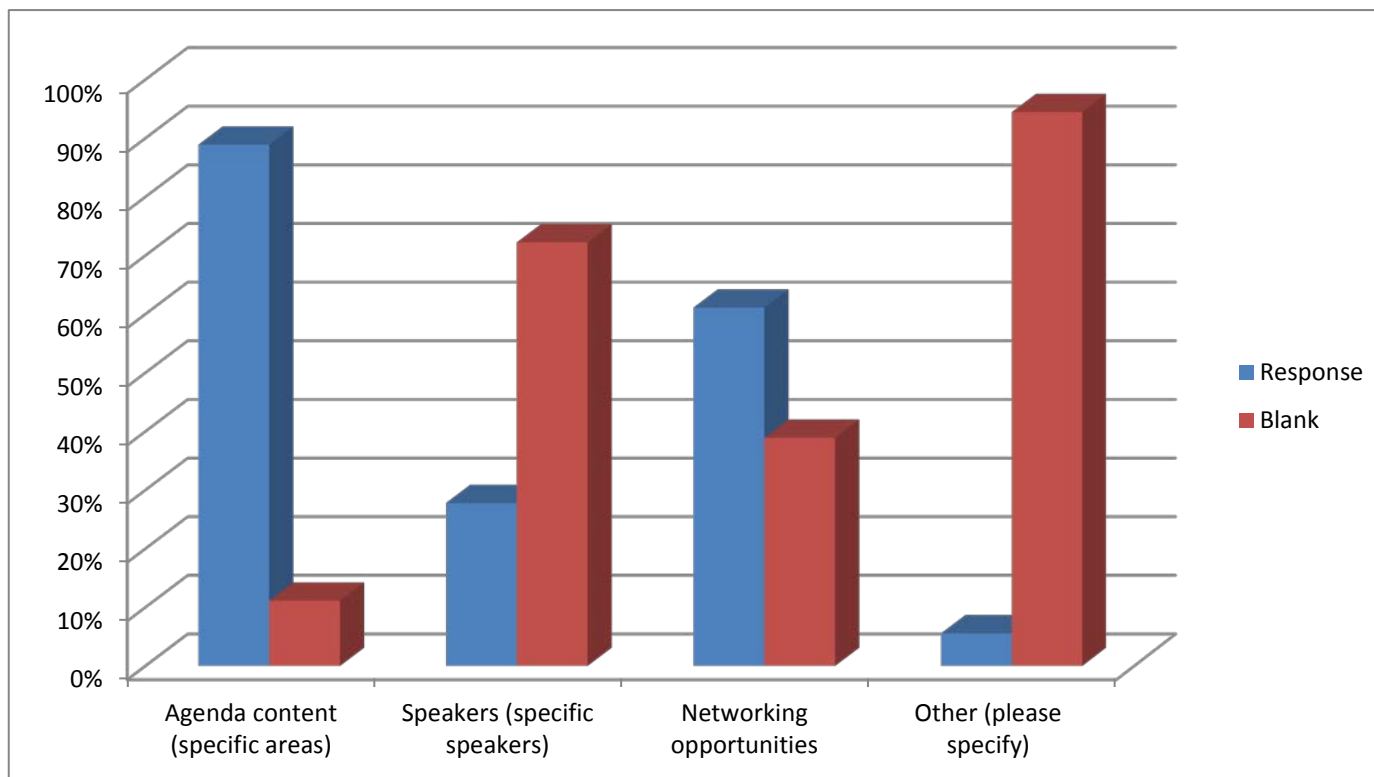
Question 1

Coding	Please answer <i>Yes</i> or <i>No</i> to the following questions/ statements:	Yes	No	Blank
1	Did the event meet your primary objectives?	94%	0%	6%
2	Was the event useful in the work of your agency/ institution?	100%	0%	0%
3	Was helpful to get all agencies together?	100%	0%	0%
4	The Policy Context overview was useful?	94%	0%	6%

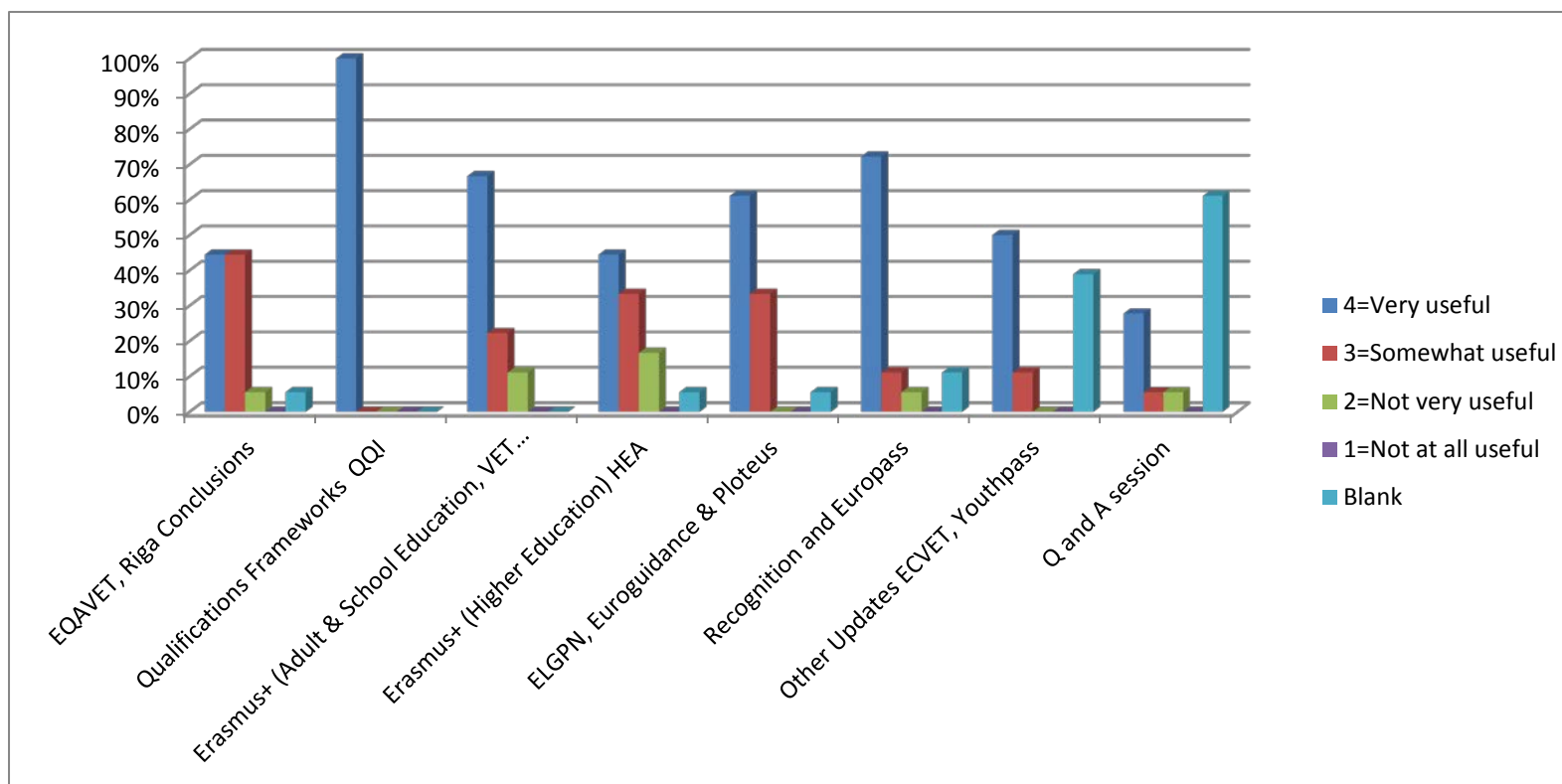


Question 2

Coding	What attracted you to this event? (Tick all that apply)	Response	Blank
5	Agenda content (specific areas)	89%	11%
6	Speakers (specific speakers)	28%	72%
7	Networking opportunities	61%	39%
8	Other (please specify)	6%	94%

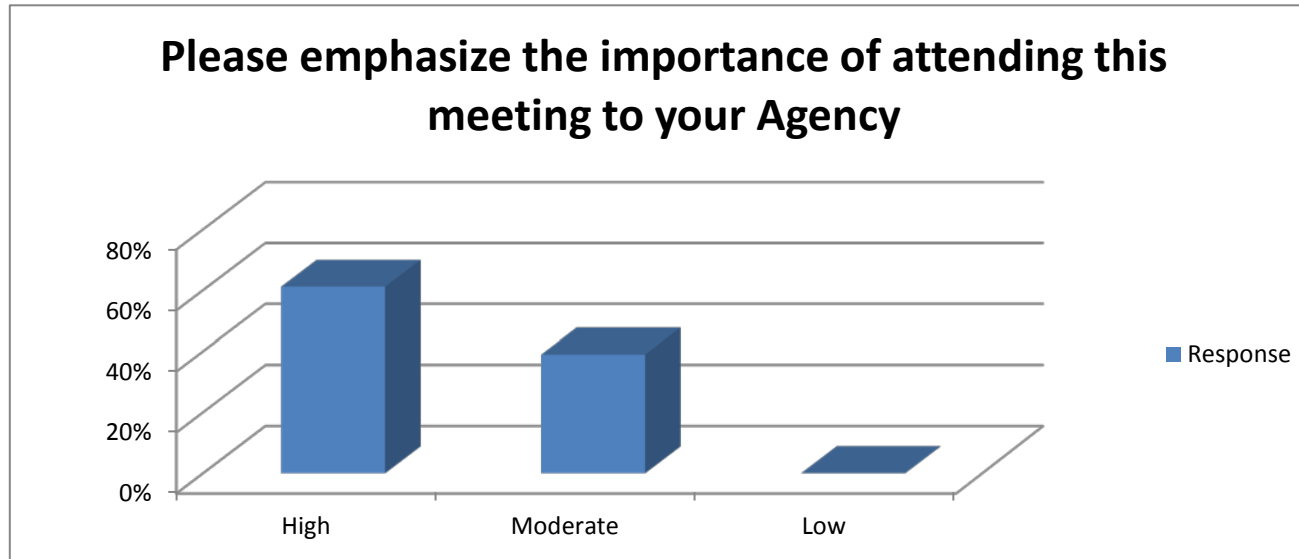


Question 3 Coding	Event content... Using the scale, how would you rate the usefulness of each update/ programmes/ initiative presented to your agency/ institution?	2=Not				
		4=Very useful	3=Somew hat useful	very useful	1=Not at all useful	Blank
9	EQAVET, Riga Conclusions	44%	44%	6%	0%	6%
10	Qualifications Frameworks QQI	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%
11	Erasmus+ (Adult & School Education, VET & Youth) Léargas	67%	22%	11%	0%	0%
12	Erasmus+ (Higher Education) HEA	44%	33%	17%	0%	6%
13	ELGPN, Euroguidance & Ploteus	61%	33%	0%	0%	6%
14	Recognition and Europass	72%	11%	6%	0%	11%
15	Other Updates ECVET, Youthpass	50%	11%	0%	0%	39%
16	Q and A session	28%	6%	6%	0%	61%

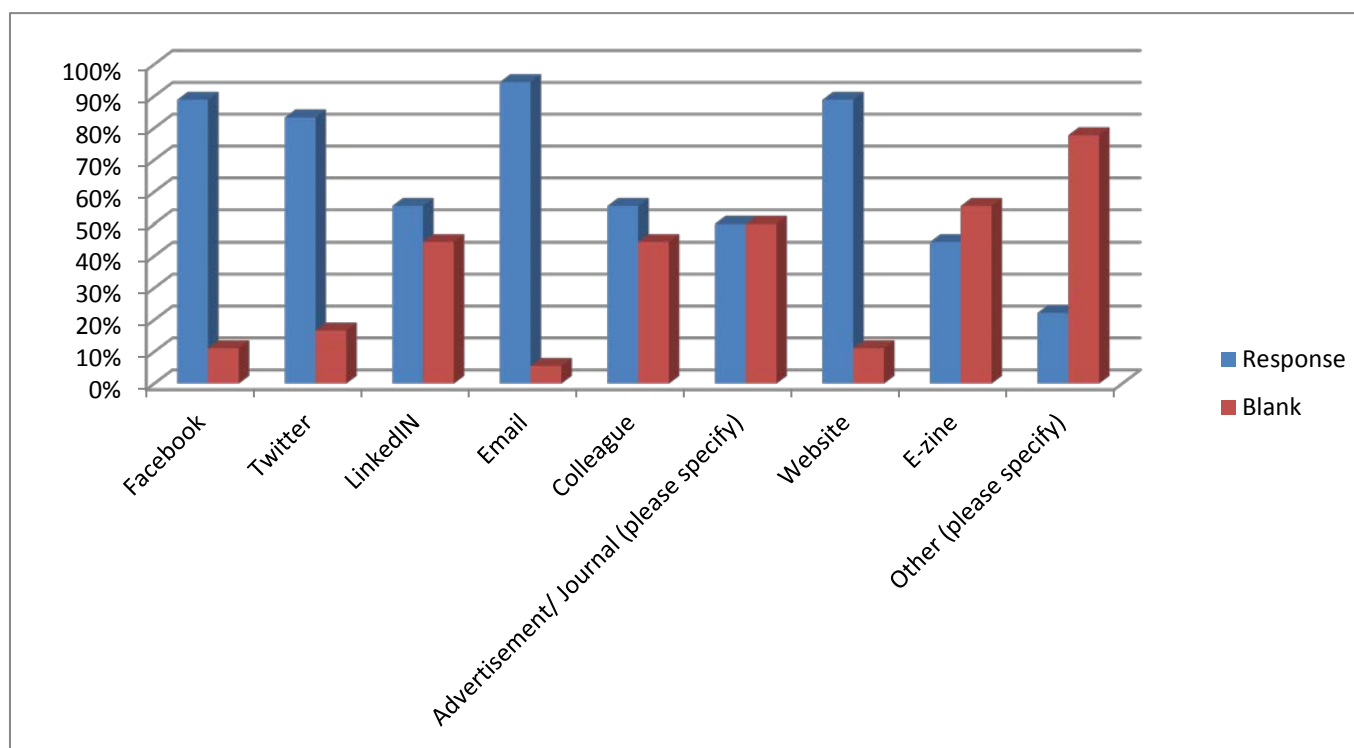


Question 4

Coding	Please emphasize the importance of attending this meeting to your Agency	Response
17	High	61%
18	Moderate	39%
19	Low	0%

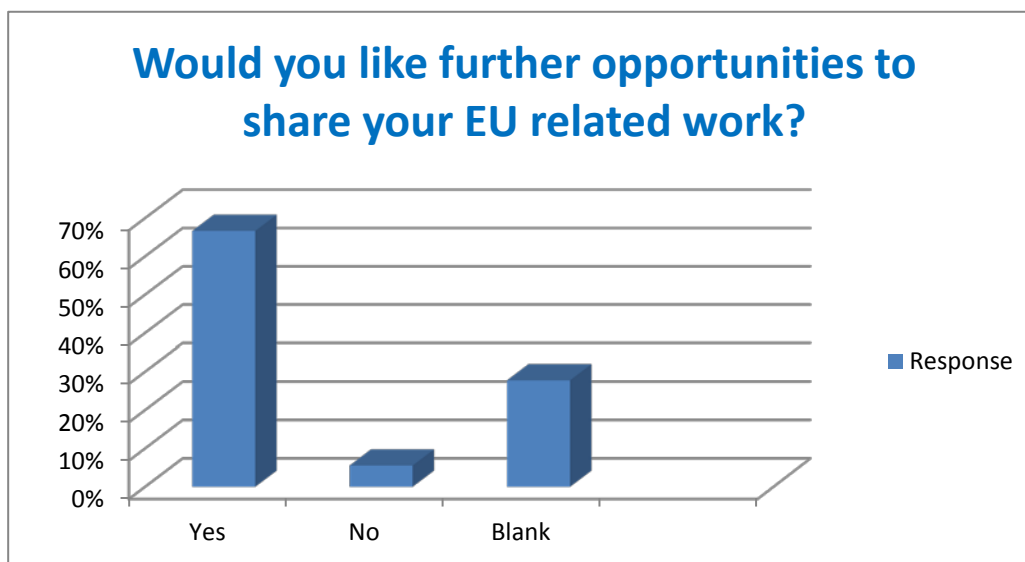


Question 5	Which of the following media does your Agency / Institution use to communicate?		
Coding	(Tick all that apply).	Response	Blank
	<i>Social media channels</i>		
20	Facebook	89%	11%
21	Twitter	83%	17%
22	LinkedIn	56%	44%
23	Email	94%	6%
24	Colleague	56%	44%
25	Advertisement/ Journal (please specify)	50%	50%
26	Website	89%	11%
27	E-zine	44%	56%
28	Other (please specify)	22%	78%



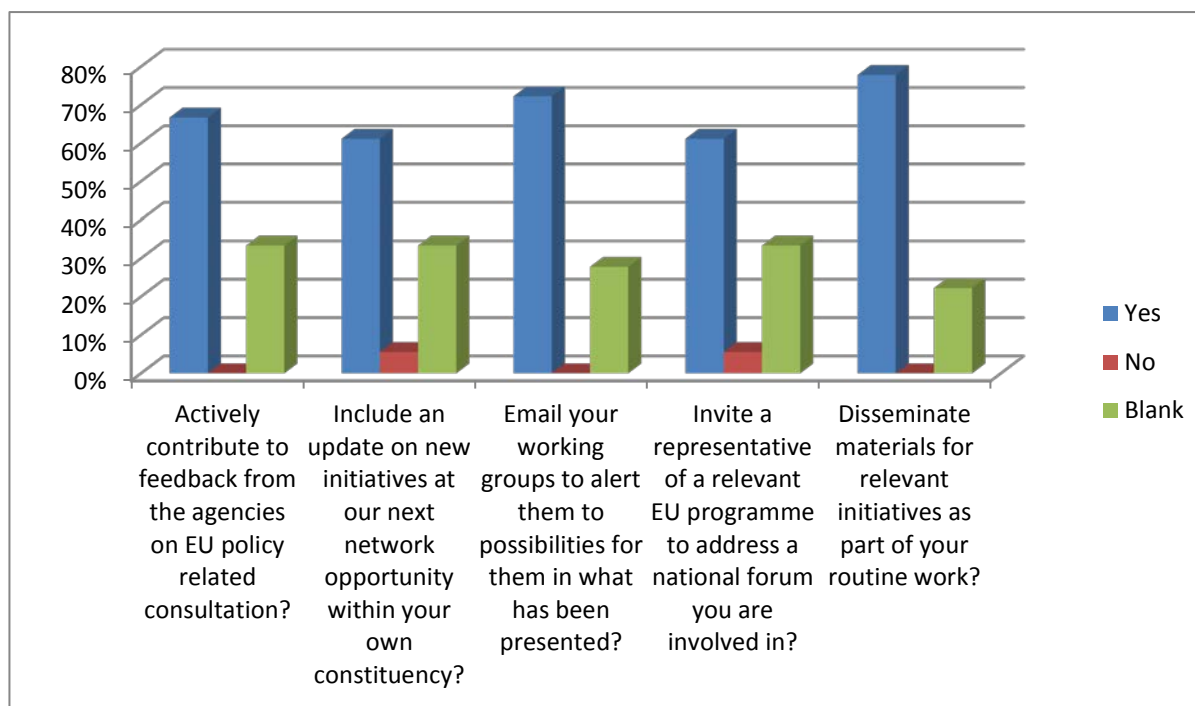
Question 6

(a) Coding	Would you like further opportunities to share your EU related work?	Response
29	Yes	67%
30	No	6%
31	Blank	28%



Question 6

(b) Coding	Could you or your agency/ Institution (please circle)	Yes	No	Blank
32	Actively contribute to feedback from the agencies on EU policy related consultation?	67%	0%	33%
33	Include an update on new initiatives at our next network opportunity within your own constituency?	61%	6%	33%
34	Email your working groups to alert them to possibilities for them in what has been presented?	72%	0%	28%
35	Invite a representative of a relevant EU programme to address a national forum you are involved in?	61%	6%	33%
36	Disseminate materials for relevant initiatives as part of your routine work?	78%	0%	22%





Thank you for your attention!

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