

The European curriculum vitae: a passport for mobility

Clearly expressing your vocational qualifications and skills is no easy matter. Even less if you have to address a European employer from a country other than your own. Don't despair: Europass is an ideal tool for achieving it.

The Europass portfolio is one of the tools developed by the European Commission in order to help its citizens to express their skills in a uniform manner over the whole of the European territory. This portfolio provides citizens with five types of documents that constitute a true passport for mobility within the Old Continent. They are available in every European language.

Efficiency

The first is the Curriculum Vitae, in which you are invited to present yourself efficiently. Patrick Meuwissen, Manager of the Europass Centre, is delighted: "We have exceed-



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ed the threshold of 20 million CVs! Currently, it is above all the 20-28 age group that is using it. But the 15-20 age group, for example for exercise purposes or in search of traineeships, is not far behind." This European CV has a significant advantage: "This form particularly highlights the candidates' aptitudes and skills, which is what the employers are looking for most. This might be an oversight on a traditional CV."

Everyone is then free to send his or her CV to potential employers, temp agencies, public employment services such as Forem or the databases that exist at the European level, such as Eures.

The second document is the language passport, which allows self-appraisal of your linguistic skills and qualifications. Please note: you can download these first two documents from the Europass website free of charge, with instructions, examples and models for support.

Record knowledge and skills

The three other documents are the ones delivered by the competent teaching and training authorities. First, is the Mobility Europass, which allows you to record the knowledge and skills that you have acquired in another European country. Patrick Meuwissen: "This can concern theoretical, technical, linguistic, IT, cultural, social or other skills. It is to some extent a letter of recommendation standardised at the European level. The Mobility Europass can be two to three pages long."

Next we have the Descriptive Supplement of the certificate, which point by point develops the knowledge and skills that teaching and vocational training certificate holders have acquired.

Lastly, the Diploma Supplement describes the knowledge and skills acquired by higher-education diploma holders.

More information:

http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/fr/home

PHILIPPE VAN LIL

redaction.be@mediaplanet.com