

News

European Degree – Final Report

A new **Erasmus+ policy experimentation report** highlights how **joint degree programs and transnational cooperation** can strengthen **European higher education**. By pooling resources, universities can enhance **competitiveness, innovation, and talent retention**.

The report explores e.g.,:

- ✓ **European degree (label)**: A framework for **simplified joint degree programs**.
- ✓ **Institutionalized EU cooperation**: Removing barriers to transnational education.
- ✓ **Digital European degree label**: Supporting seamless recognition of qualifications.

 Read the full report: [European Commission Report](#)

New DEQAR API Launched!

Following DEQAR's expansion to include **certified micro-credentials and additional providers**, EQAR has launched a **new version of the DEQAR API**.

The DEQAR **Application Programming Interface (API)** allows seamless integration of **live DEQAR data** into your local system, website, or analytics software. With **real-time access** to higher education institutions, quality assurance reports, and EQAR-registered agencies, the API enhances **data interoperability and transparency**.

 Learn more & access the API: [DEQAR API](#)

Update on ESG Revision: Strengthening Trust and Transparency

The **Tirana Ministerial Communiqué** acknowledges the crucial role of the **Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)** in promoting **trust, transparency, and accountability** in higher education. By enhancing recognition and fostering institutional collaboration, ESG continues to be a cornerstone of European quality assurance efforts.

 Read more here: [ESG Revision Background Paper](#)

Union of Skills: Building a Skilled and Competitive Europe

The Union of Skills is an initiative that reflects into the work of education institutions and organisations in various ways.

Addressing the Skills Gap in Europe

The **Union of Skills** initiative aims to:

- ✓ Empower everyone in Europe to develop skills.
- ✓ Enable employers to find the right talent.
- ✓ Ensure skills and qualifications are transparent, trusted, and recognized across borders.

Key Pillars of the Union of Skills

♦ Building Skills for Life and Jobs

- Action Plan on Basic Skills
- STEM Education Strategic Plan
- EU VET Strategy

♦ Upskilling and Reskilling for the Future

- Individual Learning Accounts & Skills Guarantee
- Expansion of micro-credentials
- Targeted EU Skills Academies

♦ Circulating and Allocating Skills Across the EU

- Skills Portability Initiative
- European degree/label and potential VET diploma

♦ Attracting and Retaining Global Talent

- EU Talent Pool for non-EU professionals
- Visa Strategy for top students and researchers

Skills Portability Initiative: Breaking Barriers

To support workforce and learner mobility across Europe, the **Skills Portability Initiative** aims to:

- Improve **interoperability** through digital credentials.
- Simplify **recognition processes** for regulated professions.
- Explore **common rules** for recognizing skills and qualifications from third countries.

 Read more about the Union of Skills here:

https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/union-skills_en

Acronyms and Tools That Matter

There are numerous initiatives and tools in place to enhance skills transparency and mobility across Europe. To help you navigate them, you can explore webinar recordings that introduce these various tools and their applications.

Basics of the European Learning Model (ELM)

On **28 November 2024**, the European Commission hosted a webinar introducing the **European Learning Model (ELM)**, a multilingual data model providing a single vocabulary for the description of learning in Europe.

 Watch the webinar recording here: [ELM Webinar](#)

 Learn more about ELM: [European Learning Model](#)

Basics of the European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDCs)

On **29 January 2025**, the Commission hosted a webinar on **European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDCs)**, a European solution to digital credentials. The webinar covered how institutions can start issuing EDCs.

 Watch the webinar recording here: [EDCs Webinar](#)

 Learn more about EDCs: [European Digital Credentials](#)

 Find EDC issuers here: [EDC Issuers](#)

Qualification Dataset Register (QDR): A Key Policy Initiative

At the end of March, the European Commission held a webinar titled ‘**The Importance of Publishing Qualifications Data – Getting Started with the QDR**’.

 Watch the recording here: [QDR Webinar](#)

What is the Qualification Dataset Register (QDR)?

The **QDR** is a crucial tool within the **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)**, supporting transparency and accessibility of qualifications across the EU. The 2017 EQF Council Recommendation emphasized the need for structured, accessible qualification data, leading to the QDR’s development.

Why is the QDR Important?

- **Interoperability:** Linking national databases for seamless navigation across borders.

- **Recognition:** Supporting skills validation and workforce mobility.
 - **Open Data:** Enhancing cooperation, innovation, and transparency in skills intelligence.
 - **Guidance:** Helping learners and job seekers navigate their career pathways.
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Upcoming events



Save the Date: The next Diploma Supplement Webinar 20.5. 10 to 12 CET.

Provisional agenda

- 10.00-10.10 **Opening and welcome words**
- 10.10.10.30 **Union of Skills**
- 10.30-11.00 **Diploma supplement for joint programs**
- 11.10-11.30 **Sub-chapter 6.1. Additional information**
- 11.30-11.55 **Using AI to draft LOs**
- 11.55-12.00 **Final words and closure**

We will soon send an invitation with information on how to sign-up for the event!

Automatic Recognition in 2025 – Final Conference (16 April 2025)

Are you interested in applying **automatic recognition** within 30 seconds? Or improving recognition in your admissions processes, including micro-credentials?

Join us for a **two-hour online conference** showcasing the key outcomes of the Erasmus+ **NARIC AR25** project, which supports the **2018 Council Recommendation on automatic recognition**. This event will highlight **new insights and progress made so far**.



Date: Wednesday, 16 April 2025



Time: 09:30 – 11:30 CET



Location: Online



Learn more: [Automatic Recognition in 2025](#)

Cedefop Virtual Workshop on VET Qualifications (2nd of June)

Join the event online **2 June 2025, 10:00–13:00 CET** for “**Towards a methodology for comparing and recognising VET qualifications.**”

The expert workshop explores approaches to recognition, the role of digital tools, and how to support employment through qualification comparison.

Register by 26 May to secure your spot – participation is free but mandatory.

👉 [Towards a methodology for comparing and recognising VET qualifications](#)

Conference: The Impact of Learning Outcomes on Teaching and Learning (13 June)

Join policymakers, experts, and researchers as they discuss the final findings of a three-year study on how **intended learning outcomes** are transformed into **achieved learning outcomes**.

🔍 **Key topics include:**

- The impact of **learning outcomes-based curricula** on teaching and assessment.
- Lessons and recommendations for supporting policymakers and stakeholders.
- Insights from **Cedefop's research** on the growing use of the learning outcomes approach across Europe.

 **Date and registration:** [Event details](#)

Reminders: Stay Connected and Get Involved!

Spread the Word

Encourage colleagues to join our mailing list by emailing europassi@oph.fi for important updates.

Informal Workshops

Got ideas for a Zoom or Teams workshop? Let us know!

Contact Us

For more details or suggestions, feel free to reach out to Petra, Susanna and Yolanda