

Europass and EURES synergies

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EURES and the New Europass

The Commission aims for a more structured and trusted information exchange between EURES and Europass. Such a close cooperation will combine the strengths of the two services but also following a 'complementary' approach to avoid duplications where EURES is the European job platform and Europass the European framework to support the transparency and understanding of skills and qualifications.

Modernisation of EURES ...

Since 1993 EURES has been helping mobile jobseekers in Europe to find work in another Member State through a network of human advisers and a European web portal and ICT system. In 2016 the Parliament and the Council adopted a revised EURES Regulation¹ with the ambition of turning EURES into a modern European placement, matching and recruitment tool by ensuring that both at EU and national level all data is easily accessible in all online tools for case handlers across the EU who match supply (candidates) and demand (jobs) within PES and other EURES member organisations and carry out specific (intra-EU) recruitment projects for that purpose.

The modernised EURES network makes it easier to access multilingual information on labour markets and jobs across Europe and offer better support to both jobseekers and employers free of charge.

... and Europass

Europass was established in 2004 to help learners capture and communicate their learning experiences. Its current version consists of the Europass CV and four other document templates, including Europass Mobility, frequently used by learners during VET mobility. The Europass CV has been a flagship EU service in this period - users have created more than 130 million Europass CVs.

In April 2018, the Parliament and the Council adopted a new Europass Decision² with the goal of modernising Europass and making it fit for the digital age. The new Europass Decision sets out that Europass is a framework of web-based tools and information to support the transparency and understanding of skills and qualifications. Europass will contain open, accessible, multi-lingual web-based tools that support documentation and communication of information on skills and qualifications. Europass will also provide information to enhance the use of the web-based tools and support career management and lifelong learning choices. These web-based tools and information provision will be complemented by an interoperable framework that supports more effective and efficient labour market, learning and development practices. This ensures that Europass will offer a relevant, quality public service to ensure inclusive, open practices that benefit everyone.

Better positive synergies between Europass and EURES: a win-win for users

While the overall objective of EURES is to facilitate and promote voluntary geographical and occupational mobility in the Union on a fair basis, the main focus of Europass is to help mobile

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/589 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 April 2016 on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets, and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013 (Text with EEA relevance)

² Decision (EU) 2018/646 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 April 2018 on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass) and repealing Decision No 2241/2004/EC (Text with EEA relevance.)

Europeans manage their lifelong career, i.e. improving their employability through reskilling and upskilling and putting their skills and qualifications to work.

The Europass Decision calls for synergies and cooperation with EURES, in order to “reinforce the impact of both services” (Recital 18). While EURES has more than 3.3 million job posts available, Europass on the other hand is visited by more than 2 million people each month who create their CV, mostly (> 65%) for the purpose of job search domestically or in another country. Developing closer synergies between the two is a win-win for users.

So far, only limited interoperability between the Europass and EURES portals and ICT systems has been achieved. Users of each portal can export their profile to the other platform, but visibility of EURES services on Europass and vice versa is very limited.

A much higher level of synergies between the two complementary tools could be achieved while maintaining the nature and core competence of each tool, i.e. EURES supporting job search and matching across the EU and Europass to make skills and qualifications transparent, to help people document their skills and qualifications and plan their learning. Cooperation should build on the strengths of the two services:

- EURES experience of cooperation between employment services, its network of human advisors, and its advanced job matching features using common standards;
- Europass' large user base, network within the education and training world, and existing interoperability with labour market tools.

Next steps towards better synergies

By the launch version of new Europass in early 2020, the Commission aims to achieve three elements of cooperation between Europass and EURES, with the goal of an improved user experience:

- Users of Europass will be able to search for EURES jobs, and get suggestions for interesting jobs that match their profile³. While search and matching is performed by EURES, results will be directly visible on Europass. Job vacancies will not be directly uploaded by any other employment service to Europass, but provided solely through EURES. Once a job has caught their interest, users are forwarded to EURES to access the full job offer. This matching function is exclusively reserved for EURES, no other employment services, job boards, etc. will be offered this function. Other employment services, job boards, etc. interested in this service will need to become an official EURES member/partner. In its communication activities for Europass the Commission will support EURES' activities to extend its network.
- Users that are registered on one portal will have easy access to the services of the other portal, without the need to re-enter all their data. This will benefit users that are registered on Europass and want to create an account on EURES in which they reuse the data they already entered. Vice versa, users of EURES can easily create their user account on Europass and import the data they recorded in the EURES CV Online. This functionality has been partly implemented between the current Europass and EURES, but usability and visibility should be enhanced. Similar types of interoperability, however without a matching service, have also been established between Europass and Monster, Xing as well as CV Library. Other public or

³ Only in the languages that are supported by EURES and Europass.

private actors might follow. The initiative to export or import a profile is always an individual choice taken by the user.

- The presentation of Europass and EURES on the respective other portal will be improved. Good signposting will help users to find their way to the service they need. In addition, information that is relevant to the respective target audience will be directly integrated into each portal (e.g. EURES information on living and working conditions⁴ to be directly visible in Europass).

Interoperability between Europass and EURES will build on the existing technical, semantic and organisational interoperability solutions including the use of the EURES CV & JV Standards⁵ incorporating ESCO concepts. With the adoption of the Implementing Decision, and the increasing use of ESCO in cross-border and other labour market activities, ESCO has become widely accepted by Member States for job search and job matching.

In addition, the Commission will explore additional synergies during development of the new Europass platform, such as cooperation in software development for the two ICT systems. In the course of 2020/2021 the Commission will explore additional synergies, in particular:

- enabling search for Europass learning opportunities on the EURES portal, and suggesting Europass learning opportunities based on the profile of EURES users;
- integrating a wallet for Europass Digital Credentials⁶ in EURES so that users can store their digital credentials directly in their EURES account.

The Commission will regularly update the Europass Advisory Group and the EURES Coordination Group on progress. It will also invite members of both groups to the beta testing phase of the New Europass. Once the work advances, further areas for collaboration and integration could be identified, based on a demonstration of achieved functionalities in the two systems.

⁴ Only relevant for EEA.

⁵ Established under Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1257 of 11 July 2017 on the technical standards and formats required for a uniform system to enable matching of job vacancies with job applications and CVs on the EURES portal (Text with EEA relevance)

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/europass/digitally-signed-credentials>