

Europass Digital Credentials



europass

Europass

Digital Credentials

Take the next step

Manuscript completed in February 2021

1st edition

Neither the European Commission nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for the use that might be made of the following information.

Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021

© European Union, 2021

The reuse policy of European Commission documents is implemented based on Commission Decision 2011/833/EU of 12 December 2011 on the reuse of Commission documents (OJ L 330, 14.12.2011, p. 39).

Except otherwise noted, the reuse of this document is authorised under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC-BY 4.0) licence (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). This means that reuse is allowed provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated.

For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the European Union, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective rightholders.

© Shutterstock, 2021

PDF ISBN 978-92-76-29024-7 doi 10.2767/124195 KE-04-21-027-EN-N

PRINT ISBN 978-92-76-29057-5 doi 10.2767/916051 KE-04-21-027-EN-C

What is Europass?

Europass allows you to record your **work and volunteering experiences, learning outcomes, achievements, awards, memberships and publications** all in one online tool.

Europass is available in **29 languages**, and helps learners, workers, volunteers and jobseekers to manage each stage of their career and learning.

Europass is a European Union (EU) **online public service** which was created in 2004.

What is the new Europass?

The new Europass is a set of online tools and information that helps you manage every step of your learning and career. The tools and information support you in communicating your skills, qualifications and experiences clearly and consistently across Europe. The European Commission developed Europass. As a service provided by the European Commission it is fully free of charge for all users.

The new Europass:



Allows education and training institutions to issue digital diplomas and certificates to learners in a European-wide digital format of Europass Digital Credentials, encouraging easy recognition.



Supports a 'fast track' to recognition, reducing administrative burdens and decreasing fraud by supporting automatic authentication of qualifications by employers and training providers.

The New Europass



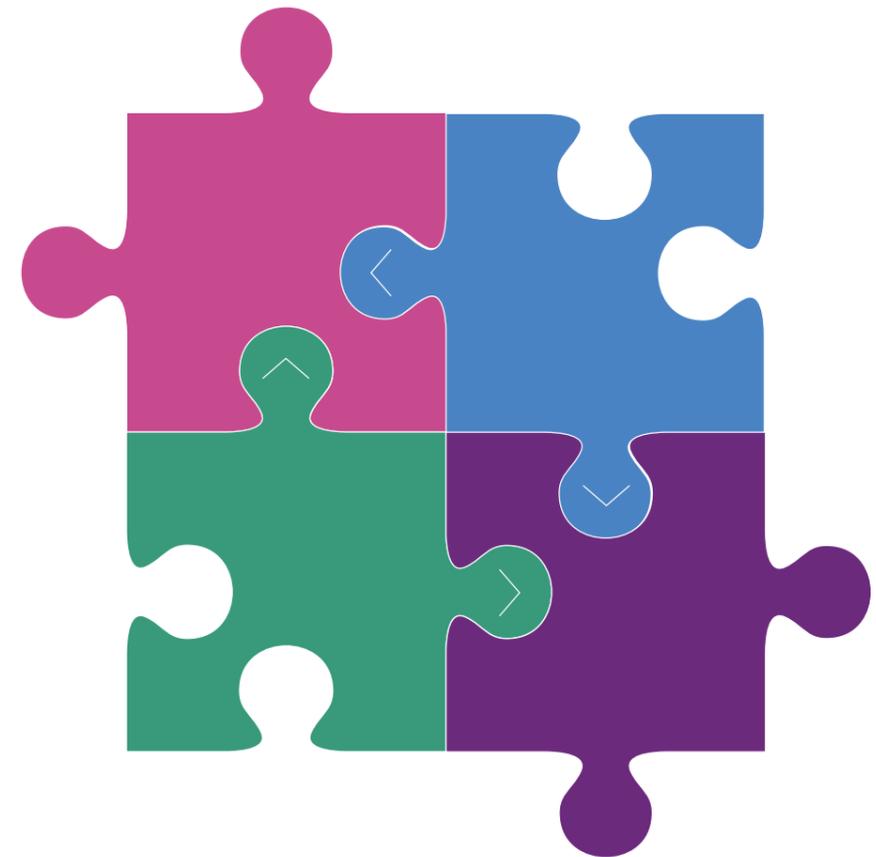
Enabling Interoperability

Enables the exchange of information on skills and qualifications amongst different stakeholders (universities, businesses, organisations, etc.)



Information Provision

Provides information or links to available information on skills and qualifications that helps Europass users to better manage their lifelong career.



Europass Profile

A set of digital tools where you can record learning and working experiences, achievements, skills, and more on your Europass profile. You can also create CVs, cover letters, add supporting documents and prepare and manage your applications.



Europass Digital Credentials

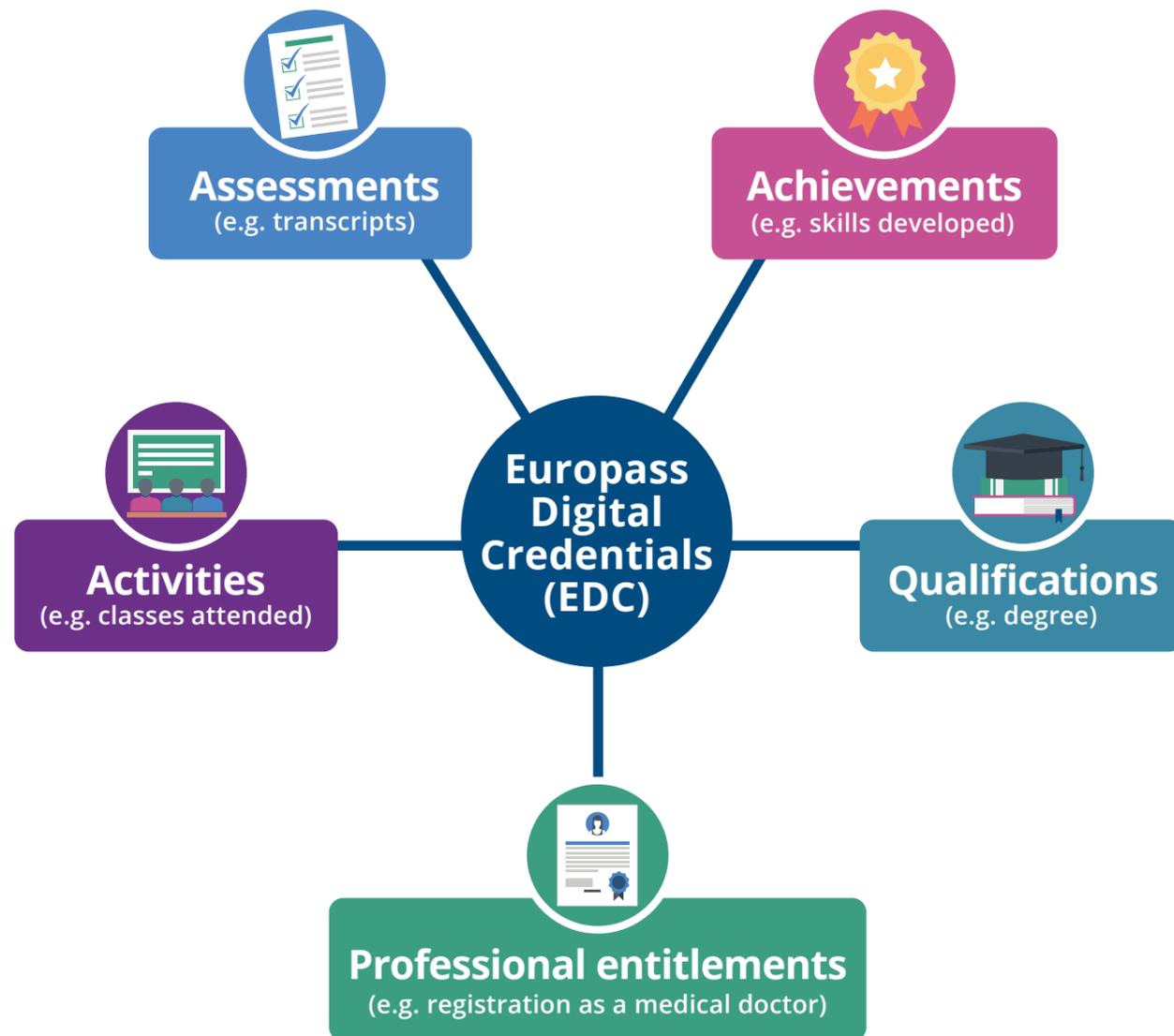
An interlocking set of standards, services and software that allows any party to issue, store, view, verify and share legally valid, tamper-evident digital credentials.

What are Europass Digital Credentials?

Europass Digital Credentials (EDCs) are digital diplomas and certificates presented in a **European-wide format** and **signed with a unique e-seal**, allowing education and training institutions to easily recognise and issue qualifications. This 'fast-track' to recognition reduces administrative burdens

and decreases fraud by supporting automatic authentication. EDCs have the **same legal validity as paper-based credentials** and are **recognised within the European Education Area**.

Your Europass profile includes a **wallet** to which EDCs can be sent and **stored indefinitely**.



What is the Europass Digital Credential Infrastructure

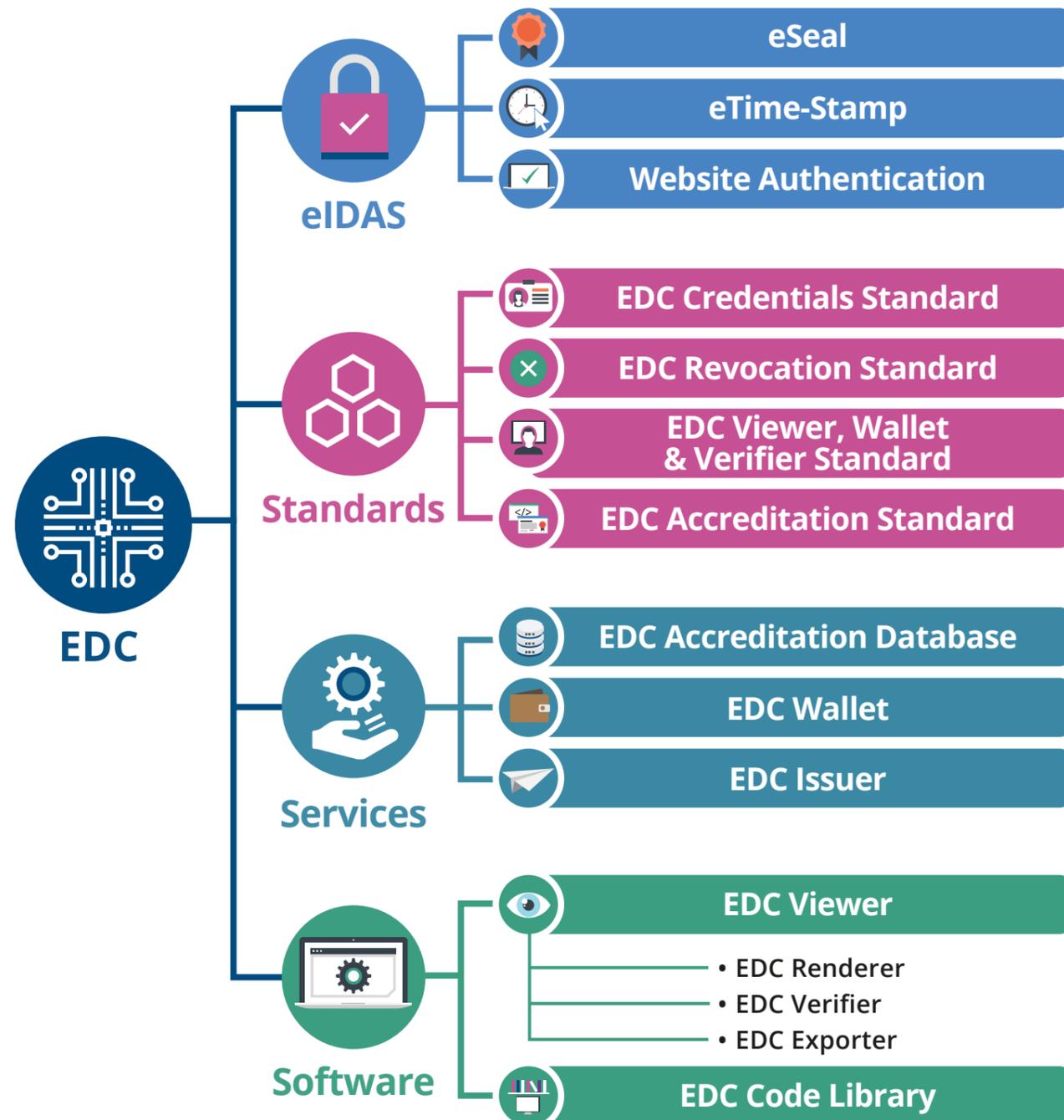
The **Europass Digital Credentials Infrastructure (EDCI)** is a set of standards, services and software developed by the European Commission to support **EDCs**. It is an integral part of the new

Europass platform, allowing institutions to **issue, store, verify, share and identify** EDCs in a manner which ensures they are **tamper-proof**.



Europass Digital Credentials Infrastructure

This visual representation of the Europass Digital Credential Infrastructure highlights how its components work together to create legally-valid, secure, and easily verifiable digital credentials.



The electronic identification, authentication and trust services (eIDAS) components secure EDCs by making them tamper-evident, allowing verification of their authenticity.

The EDC standards allow any organisation to build their own EDC-compatible issuer, viewer, and accreditation and revocation lists and integrate those components into their digital ecosystems.

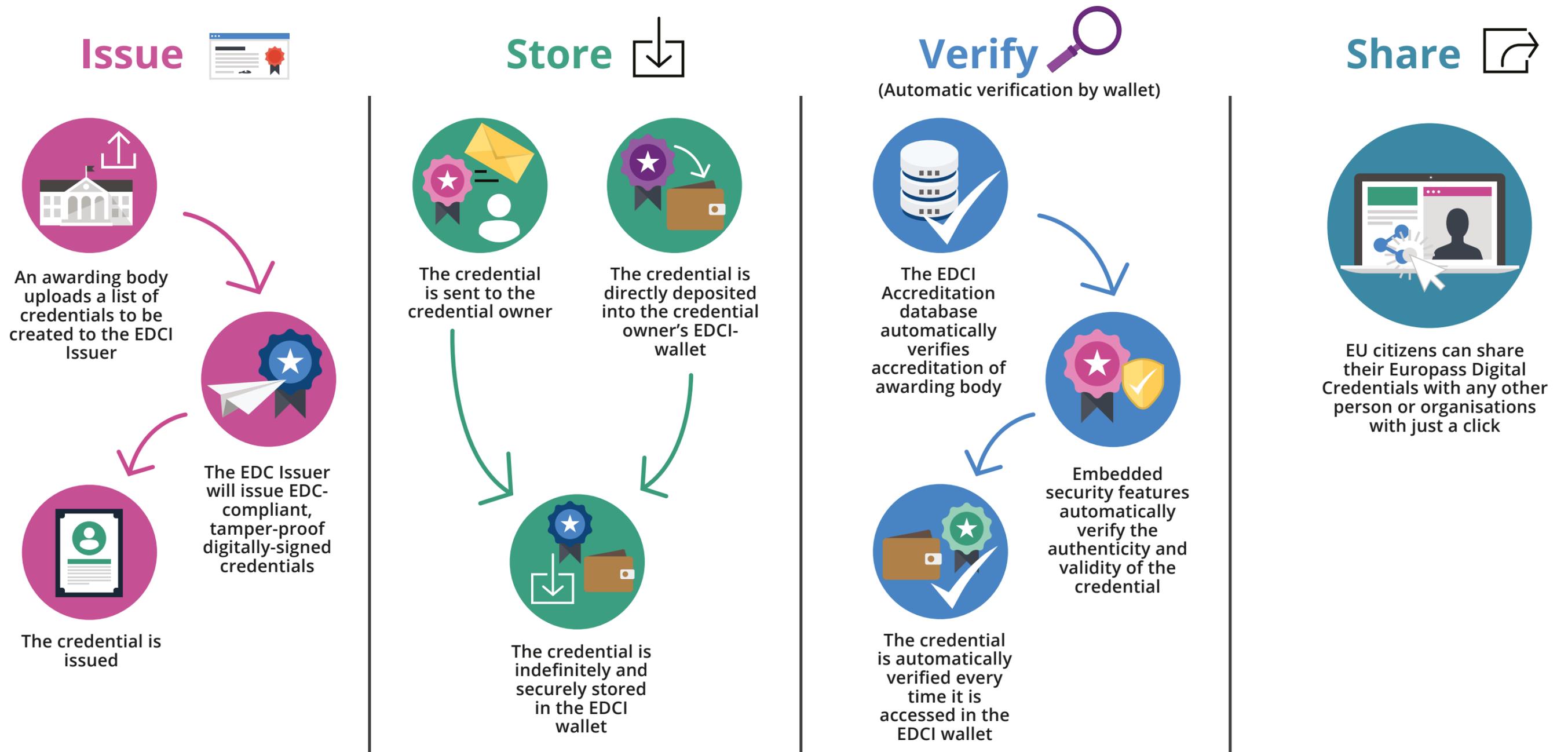
The EDC Accreditation Database, a list of all institutions officially accredited to issue credentials and the EDC Revocation List allow to verify and ascertain the provenance and authenticity of EDCs.

The EDC Issuer allows organisations to issue Europass Digital Credentials to their learners.

The EDC Viewer allows receivers of EDCs to visualise and export their credentials.

What can I do with the Europass Digital Credentials?

The Europass Digital Credentials have four functionalities as presented below. They can be issued, stored, verified and shared.



What are the benefits of the Europass Digital Credentials?

Europass Digital Credentials have many benefits for individuals, employers and organisations.



Individuals:

- can build an online portfolio to track their learning while being in full control of their data
- can easily reuse their credentials to get a job or apply for further training all across Europe
- can present and have their credentials verified at any point in their career, even if the institution who issued them closes, or if the data used to create them is lost



Employers:

- can dramatically reduce the time and cost of verifying credentials and processing job applications
- can better understand the credentials of candidates, especially from other Member States as they will be translated in their own language
- can trust tamper-evident credentials



Education and training providers:

- can reduce their costs for issuing credentials
- can better understand the credentials of learners, especially from other Member States as they will be translated in their own language'

As an organisation, how can I integrate Europass Digital Credentials?

The European Commission has recently launched an Early Adopters' Programme to support organisations interested in issuing, storing or receiving digital credentials, and incorporating EDC-compliant credentials into their digital eco-system.

Currently, this includes support for:

- education and training providers such as universities, schools and training centres to pilot issuing credentials to learners through Europass
- software companies designing student information systems, learning management systems, e-portfolios or human resource management systems to support interoperability with Europass digital credentials.

To find out more about the Early Adopter's Programme, you can register your interest via e-mail at EDCsupport@ext-ec-europa.eu.

Can I...

...have my qualifications verified across Europe?

YES!

Europass Digital Credentials are the first legally valid digital credentials format across the 34 Members of the European Education Area.

Their structure facilitates easier recognition of the qualifications and skills they describe across Europe.



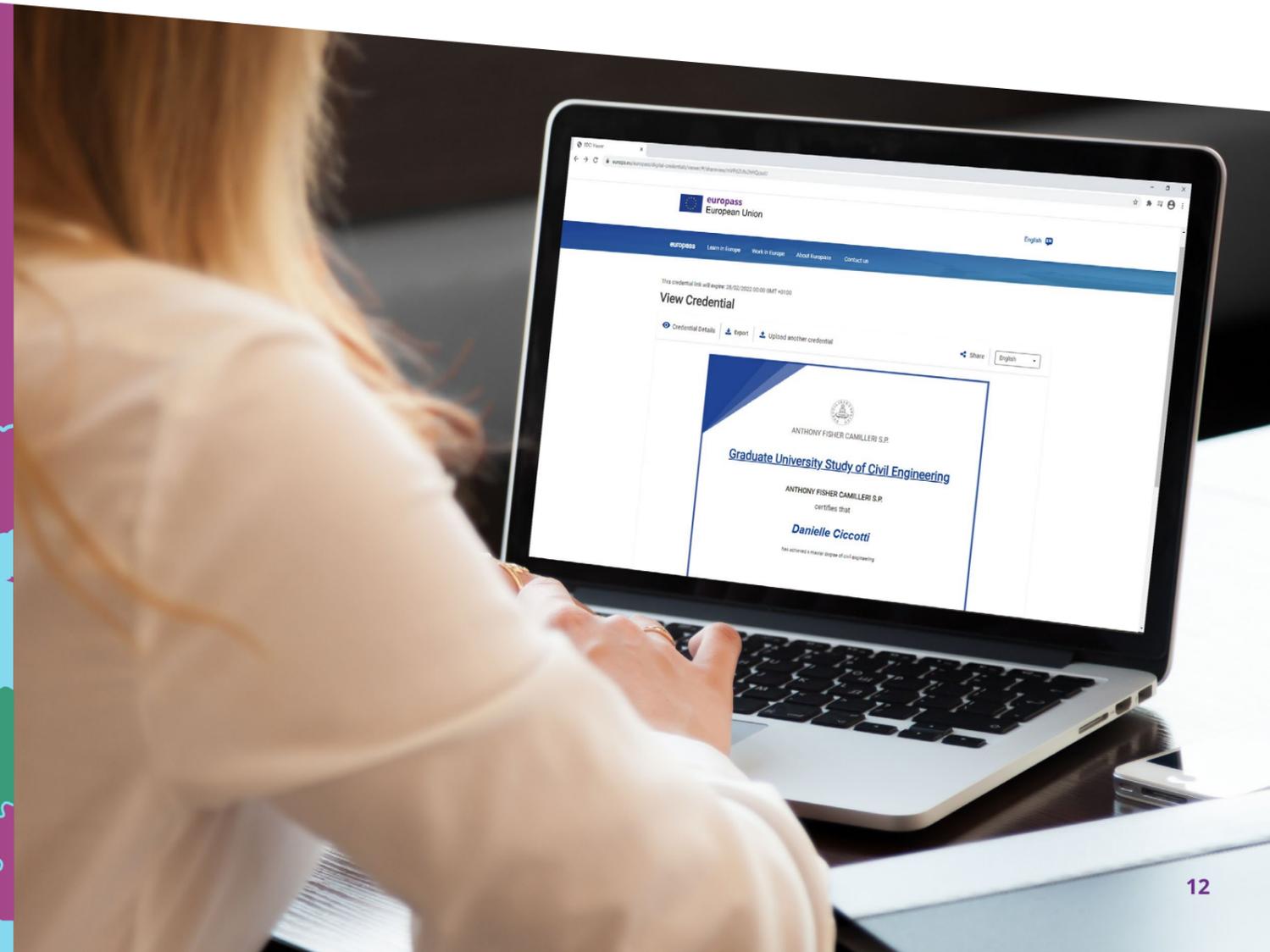
Can I...

...apply for jobs with my Europass Digital Credentials?

YES!

You can share your Europass Digital Credentials with any future employers across Europe. They will be able to read and verify the authenticity of your credentials.

Similarly, you can also share your Europass Digital Credentials to apply for any course or training across Europe.



Europass and You

Do you have ideas for features that are not yet available on Europass? Do you think the current features could be improved? Perhaps you need some help navigating the portal?

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us!

To **provide feedback, access support or leave a comment** regarding the technical aspects of the platform, please **contact us** via the form below:

<https://europa.eu/europass/en/contact-us/submit-query>

If you are interested in **promoting or collaborating on the new Europass at national level**, reach out to our **National Europass Centres**:

<https://europa.eu/europass/en/national-europass-centres>

Join the conversation on social media by making sure you use **#Europass** and follow the EU Facebook and Twitter channels for updates **@EU_Social**.

Find out more about the Europass Digital Credentials

The **Europass Digital Credentials Interoperability pages** (<https://europa.eu/europass/en/europass-digital-credentials-interoperability>) on the Europass platform are regularly updated, and give you an 'at a glance' overview of all the EDCI's components.

The EDCI functional mailbox (EDCsupport@ext.ec.europa) allows you to ask any question, request information, or provide feedback and suggestions.





Getting in touch with the EU

In person

All over the European Union there are hundreds of Europe Direct Information Centres.

You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: <http://europa.eu/contact>

On the phone or by e-mail

Europe Direct is a service that answers your questions about the European Union.

You can contact this service:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls)
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696
- by email via: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

Finding information about the EU

Online

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the Europa website at: https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en

EU Publications

You can download or order free and priced EU publications at: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publications>. Multiple copies of free publications may be obtained by contacting Europe Direct or your local information centre (see https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en).

EU law and related documents

For access to legal information from the EU, including all EU law since 1952 in all the official language versions, go to EUR-Lex at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu>

Open data from the EU

The EU Open Data Portal (<http://data.europa.eu/euodp/en>) provides access to datasets from the EU. Data can be downloaded and reused for free, both for commercial and non-commercial purposes.