

**Name or title of the recognition tool/practice:****Europass Mobility for Volunteers****Developed by:**

National Europass Centre of the Netherlands

**Short description:**

The Europass Mobility for volunteers was a pilot initiative to use already existing Europass Mobility in the context of domestic volunteering. The tool was used to record skills, competences and knowledge the volunteer gained during the voluntary service. The document is signed (validated) by a sending and a hosting partner organisation.

**Type of the tool/practice:**

Assessment tool, Certificate/Attestation

**Recognition dimensions addressed by the tool/practices:**

Self-recognition, Social recognition

**Level of influence of your tool/practice:**

Local/Regional, National

**Target group(s) for the tool/practice:**

Young people, Adults, Early school leavers, Volunteers

**Background and the context of development of the tool/practice:**

Following a request from a local volunteering centre to use the Europass Mobility document (one of the five Europass documents) with their volunteers, the European Commission gave the National Europass Centre of the Netherlands permission to issue this document in the context of volunteering. Following this, the Europass centres of the Netherlands and the UK started a pilot scheme with a few volunteers and voluntary organizations.

**Development process:**

The pilot was a great success, for the volunteers, the organizations and also for us, the National Europass Centre of the Netherlands. The EU has started a process to develop a new document (called 'Europass Experience'). In the near future there will also be a document for non-formal and informal learning.

**Objectives:**

For volunteers the main objectives for using the Europass Mobility is that it provides a stepping stone to a paid job, it increases self-recognition of competences gained by the volunteer, enhances their opportunities, and they receive better recognition of their competences by the voluntary organizations.

For the National Europass Centre the objective is to increase the number of volunteers who receive a Europass Mobility document for volunteering.

**Description of the tool:**

The Europass Mobility document for volunteers can help to explain what a volunteer has learned during a period of voluntary activities. It gives a clear and objective description of the work carried out. The employer appoints the experience gained by the volunteer and highlights his or her qualities. He/she is then able to present him/herself better and increase his/her position in the labour market.

The document is signed by a sending partner (volunteer agency) and a hosting partner (where the voluntary work takes place). The period, type of work and the skills and competences gained are recorded in the document.

**Outcomes, results and impact:**

Up to date there are 743 volunteers who have received a Europass Mobility for volunteers. The National Europass Centre in the Netherlands have seen that organizations very much like to use Europass Mobility for volunteers. They see the document as a means to put the volunteers in the spotlight and to appreciate them. When a person already holds a Europass document, a voluntary organization can estimate their talents for the next voluntary job.

The goal is to reach organizations that want to use Europass for recognition and, at the same time to attract young people to voluntary work. The first successes have already been achieved. In the future, the Europass Experience for formal, informal and non-formal learning will replace the Europass Mobility for volunteers.