



European Qualifications Passport for Refugees

Bridges to new beginnings
European Youth Centre
Strasbourg, 5 December 2018



Refugees' stories

<https://www.coe.int/eqpr>

Origins



- Council of Europe/UNESCO Lisbon Recognition Convention
- Article VII of the LRC
- **Secretary General**
 - ✓ Action Plan on Building Inclusive Societies
 - ✓ Action Plan on Protection Refugee and Migrant Children in Europe

Objectives



- Provide refugees with an assessment of qualifications that cannot be fully documented
- Have the assessment accepted across borders



Methodology – 3 step process

- Questionnaire filled in by the applicant
- Interviews by experienced credentials evaluators
- Decision-making process



European Qualifications Passport for Refugees No 0123¹

Assessment Part

Issued: **14.03.2017**

Valid through: **14.03.2022**

Personal information

Surname: Nasry

Given names: Ahmad

Father's name: Alawy

Mother's name: Rabaa

Date of birth: **28.08.1983**

Place of birth: Deir Ez-Zor, Syria

Nationality: **Syria**



Assessed qualifications

Highest achieved qualification: **(2011) Bachelor in Electrical Engineering, University of Damascus, Syria²**

Additional relevant information from the applicant

Languages: **Arabic** (native speaker), **Arabic** (language of instruction), **English** (language course)

Work experience: **5 years of teaching experience in Syria³**

Interview and documentation assessment is conducted by credential evaluators from ENIC/NARICs participating in the project⁴.

On behalf of the project

Evaluation coordinator
Signature

Evaluator 1

Evaluator 2

Signature

Signature

For more information about the status of this document: <http://www.coe.int/espr>

¹ European Qualifications Passport for Refugees is neither a legal document nor replacement for the national recognition schemes, but a statement intended to be of help in connection with applications for employment/internships and studies. The evaluation is based on available documentation and a structured interview with a professional credential evaluator. This document is only valid together with the explanatory part.

² No available documentation

³ No available documentation

⁴ The project is carried out by the Council of Europe, the Ministry of Education, Science and Religious Affairs of Greece, the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research of Italy, the Conference of Italian University Rectors and the national academic recognition information centres (ENICs/NARICs) of Armenia, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom. The Ministry of Education and Research of Norway and UNHCR also support the project.

The European Qualifications Passport for Refugees

- Is a qualified assessment
- Describes qualifications
- Provides a basis for access to education or employment
- Is *not* a formal recognition decision
- Cannot *guarantee* qualifications
- Does *not* guarantee access to education/employment

Main Features

- Proven methodology and format
- Greece and Italy as “host countries”
- Evaluation in the Netherlands
- Greater use of video interviews
- Online storage of information
- More diverse refugee groups:
 - Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Secondary education
- Creation of a pool of trained credential evaluators
- Three year project

Second Phase: Partners

➤ National authorities

- Ministries of Education of Greece and Italy as host countries + financial support
- Ministry of Education of Norway (financial support)
- Government of Flanders (financial support)

➤ ENICs

- Armenia, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, United Kingdom

➤ International organizations

- Council of Europe
- UNHCR

➤ Higher education institutions

- Conference of University Rectors of Italy

So far ...

- 238 interviews
- 192 EQPR issued
- 38 video interviews
- 25 credential evaluators trained
- Different languages spoken (Arabic, Dari/Farsi, English French, Italian...)
- Broad media coverage

Financed thanks to:

- Voluntary Contributions:
 - Belgium
 - Greece
 - Italy
 - Norway
- Council of Europe ordinary budget
- CoE Action Plans
 - Protecting Migrant and Refugee Children in Europe
 - Building Inclusive Societies



“Refugees are a part of a solution and they have qualifications and skills.

We need all to see this, and to accept and ensure their contribution in the society so that they rebuild their lives with dignity.

This is the most important for us.”

Polyxeni Passa,

Protection Associate, UNHCR Representation in Greece

To sum up...

- Wider scope with new countries and new groups of refugees
- Use of online technologies to facilitate the use of the EQPR
- EQPR helps dealing with the current refugee crisis but also prepares our societies for the future ones