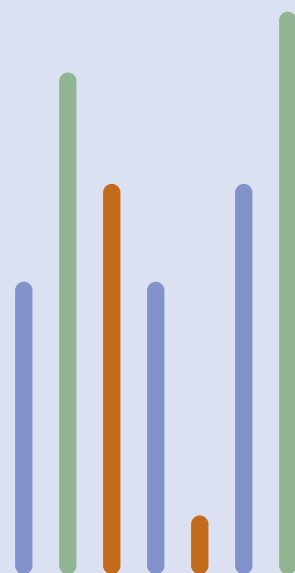
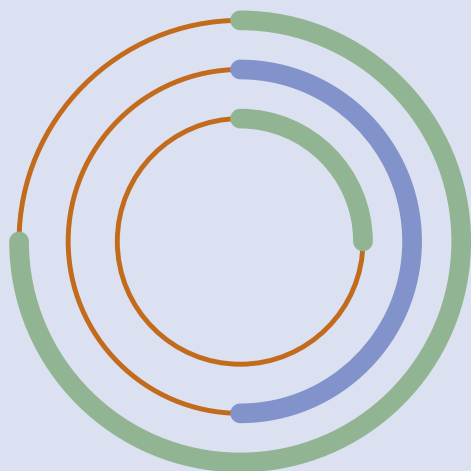


REPORT

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Survey on the use of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Survey on the use of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees

SURVEY ON THE USE OF THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS PASSPORT FOR REFUGEES (EQPR): ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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INTRODUCTION



↳ Convention on the Recognition
of Qualifications concerning Higher
Education in the European Region
– Lisbon Recognition Convention



↳ European Area
of Recognition Manual

Commitment to human rights and collective action

Established by the Council of Europe in 2017, the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) is an initiative which was developed as a response to the pressing need for effective integration of refugees into European societies in the wake of the refugee crisis in 2015-2016.

Millions of people fleeing war, persecution, and instability arrived in Europe during this period, especially from the countries like Syria and Afghanistan, and from Sub-Saharan Africa. Many of these individuals held educational qualifications and work experience but faced substantial challenges in starting their new professional lives and continuing studies in the host countries. The EQPR emerged as a solution to these challenges, exemplifying European solidarity by addressing the integration of refugees as a collective responsibility rather than one borne solely by the first receiving countries. By providing a standardised, reliable summary of an individual's educational, linguistic, and professional background, the EQPR empowers holders to pursue further education, seek employment, and contribute meaningfully to their host societies.

In compliance with Article VII of the **Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region** (Lisbon Recognition Convention), and following the principles outlined in the **EAR manual**, the EQPR embraced the collective knowledge and commitment of the ENIC and NARIC centres to meet the needs of the refugees arriving to their countries. The interview-based methods, which were first tested in Norway, were further elaborated and refined by the international teams of credential evaluators in the evaluation sessions regularly conducted in the contexts of Greece, Italy, and later also in the Netherlands, France and Germany. Acting as a bridge to national recognition systems by offering a credible, standardised assessment of qualifications, the EQPR is developed to work within the context of existing national recognition frameworks, respecting their standards and procedures. It is designed to complement, not replace, national recognition schemes, assisting refugees in having their qualifications assessed and valued when traditional recognition pathways are unavailable or impractical due to their circumstances.

Refugees often need guidance on how to use their qualifications in a new country with different education and employment systems. That's why the EQPR includes both general and individual recommendations for relevant further education, bridging programs, and access to formal recognition and authorisation. Providing this roadmap for personal and professional development, makes the EQPR even more actionable.

Acknowledging that every refugee's experience is unique, the EQPR is designed to adapt to varied cases. It accommodates individuals with both complete and incomplete documentation, varying language proficiencies, and diverse professional trajectories. The EQPR also ensures that language barriers are minimised by conducting interviews in the languages familiar to the applicants, such as Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, Ukrainian, Russian, in addition to commonly spoken languages like English, French, Spanish and Italian. This flexibility allows the EQPR to remain inclusive and relevant, offering tailored solutions without compromising on the integrity of the assessment process.

Launched as a joint initiative by four founding partners under the leadership of the Council of Europe, the EQPR has since 2017 evolved into a dynamic and widely supported programme. By 2025, it had grown to include 24 active partners - among them Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, France, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Spain and the United Kingdom. The EQPR's flexible and inclusive structure has also fostered collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including governments, higher education institutions, and civil society organisations, all committed to advancing recognition, equity, and integration for refugees and the communities that host them.

Ongoing relevance of the EQPR in an unstable world

In an era marked by global instability, conflict, and forced displacement, the relevance of the EQPR is more pronounced than ever.

While the initiative was developed in response to the 2015-2016 refugee crisis, the challenges it was designed to address have not diminished. New and ongoing crises, from war in Ukraine to conflict and political turmoil in regions across the Middle East, Africa, and beyond, continue to uproot millions of lives. Among those displaced are students, professionals, and skilled workers whose qualifications risk being lost or undervalued simply because of the absence of documentation or recognition opportunities.

In this context, the EQPR offers not just a practical solution, but a lifeline. It provides a structured, trusted means to assess and communicate individuals' academic and professional backgrounds, even when formal papers are missing. The initiative's adaptability and growing acceptance and recognition among educational institutions and employers make it an essential tool for navigating the increasingly complex realities of displacement.



Remaining responsive to the evolving needs and experiences of the users

As the initiative continues to expand, it is vital to assess its impact, gather feedback from its users, and understand how it can evolve to better serve the needs of displaced learners and professionals.

To this end, a comprehensive survey was conducted in spring 2025 to assess the practical utility, accessibility, and impact of the EQPR from the perspective of its holders. The survey also aimed to gather feedback for improving the EQPR process and to identify individuals interested in contributing to its development as peer advocates, focus group members, or ambassadors. A total of 336 EQPR holders from 1201 contacted individuals responded to the survey, sharing insights on their experiences with education, employment, and use of their language proficiency.

The rationale behind the user survey is rooted in a simple yet powerful principle: to develop inclusive policies and tools, we must listen to the people they are designed to support. Refugees who hold the EQPR are best placed to speak to its strengths, its limitations, and its real-life impact on their journeys toward education and employment.

Through the survey, we aimed to gather insights on several core aspects: how EQPR holders have used the document in practice; whether it has helped them to access further education or employment opportunities; what types of additional support or follow-up services they consider necessary; and what challenges they continue to face after receiving the EQPR.

In addition, the survey sought to engage EQPR holders as active stakeholders by inviting their perspectives on what works, what challenges remain, and how the EQPR can be improved.

Another important objective of the survey was to identify EQPR holders who are interested in contributing to the future development of the initiative through advocacy, storytelling, and participatory focus groups. The survey results paint a positive and encouraging picture. Many EQPR holders report that the document has helped them secure study opportunities, apply for jobs aligned with their skills, and regain professional confidence. Several have shared that the EQPR was the first step in being seen not only as a refugee, but as a qualified individual with real potential.

However, the survey also highlights areas for further development. For example, the importance of complementary support services, such as language training, mentorship, and guidance on how to use the EQPR effectively. The findings also suggest a need for continued awareness-raising among employers, universities, and public institutions to increase the recognition and practical utility of the EQPR.

Next phase of the EQPR's development

This survey marks a key moment in the project's lifecycle: an opportunity to listen directly to the EQPR holders, reflect on their feedback, and use these insights to strengthen and evolve the initiative.

The survey results offer valuable insights that not only reaffirm the relevance of the EQPR, but also align closely with the broader policy objectives and implementation guidance as outlined in the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member States on qualifications and linguistic competences of refugees in Europe and its Explanatory Memorandum.

The feedback from EQPR holders highlights the transformative role the EQPR can play in facilitating access to education, training, and employment. At the same time, their responses point to remaining barriers, including limited awareness or acceptance of the EQPR among some institutions and employers, and difficulties in navigating next steps after receiving the document. These experiences reinforce the Memorandum's call to move beyond isolated or pilot-phase usage and embed the EQPR as a complementary and reliable assessment tool to be used alongside national evaluation procedures within the national frameworks, while respecting and recognising the diversity of educational structures and local contexts.

One key implication is the need to enhance the visibility, credibility, and portability of the EQPR, also across borders. This echoes the Recommendation's guidance that recognition decisions should not only be fair and flexible but also transferable across jurisdictions, thus avoiding the duplication of assessment processes and ensuring continuity of opportunity for refugees on the move.

Additionally, the survey points to the importance of accompanying measures, such as guidance on how to use the EQPR, follow-up support, and complementary services like language training or job counselling. These findings align with the broader vision of the Recommendation, which views qualification recognition not as a standalone administrative act, but as part of a comprehensive inclusion strategy involving multiple stakeholders and support mechanisms.

The responses also suggest that greater communication and cooperation are needed between EQPR holders, recognition authorities, education providers, and employers to ensure the EQPR is understood, trusted, and effectively used. The Explanatory Memorandum encourages exactly this type of collaborative effort,

highlighting the role of ENIC/NARIC centres, higher education institutions, and national authorities in promoting good practice, developing shared standards, and creating enabling environments for recognition and practical use of the qualifications.

The insights gathered through this survey provide a solid foundation for informed policy development and future programming. Building on the valuable feedback from the EQPR holders and aligned with broader policy commitments on refugee inclusion and qualification recognition, the Council of Europe and its partners are committed to strengthening and expanding the EQPR initiative as a practical tool, ensuring that the EQPR remains a living, evolving response to real human needs.

Future efforts will focus on reinforcing the EQPR support ecosystem, by improving access to referral systems, orientation sessions, and follow-up guidance to help the EQPR holders effectively navigate education, training, and employment pathways. In parallel, the initiative will continue to collaborate with higher education institutions and employers, promoting broader awareness and acceptance of the EQPR as a credible and trusted document in admissions and recruitment.

To ensure inclusivity and wider use of the EQPR, particular attention will be given to linguistic integration of the refugees, through the targeted language learning opportunities, including access to the tools developed by the Council of Europe and its partners.

Finally, the future development of the EQPR will be guided by a participatory approach, drawing directly on the lived experiences and insights of the EQPR holders through advocacy, storytelling, and participation in focus groups. Their perspectives will help shape both policy and practice, ensuring that the EQPR remains responsive to real needs, fosters empowerment, and continues to promote fair recognition which goes hand-in-hand with access, support, and clear pathways forward.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a comprehensive survey conducted among holders of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR), aimed at understanding their demographic profiles, educational and employment trajectories, language competences, experiences with the EQPR process, and suggestions for future improvements. The EQPR is a vital initiative of the Council of Europe, designed to facilitate the recognition of qualifications held by refugees and asylum seekers when full documentation is lacking. The survey results affirm the growing relevance of the EQPR in supporting meaningful pathways to inclusion, education, and employment.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE AND EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

- ↳ Respondents came from over 40 different countries, with the largest numbers holding their highest qualifications from Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, and Cameroon.
- ↳ Most EQPR holders reported holding a bachelor's degree (40%) or a master's degree (29%), with an additional 8% having completed doctoral studies.
- ↳ The majority of respondents (74%) were between 26 and 45 years old, with 61% of the survey population identified as male.



EQPR INTERVIEWS

- ↳ Among the EQPR holders surveyed, a significant majority (69%) of the interviews were conducted online in connection with the evaluation sessions held in Italy and France, while in-person interviews were more frequently reported in Greece.
- ↳ Refugees first learned about the EQPR predominantly through refugee assistance organisations (43%) and online sources (25%).



EQPR USAGE AND IMPACT

- ↳ A majority of EQPR holders (59%) reported having used the document, primarily in the country where they received it. Around 5% had used it across borders in the early years of EQPR implementation (2017-2019).
- ↳ Of those currently studying (120 individuals), 65% indicated that the EQPR helped them to gain access to education.
- ↳ Among 123 employed respondents, 59% credited the EQPR with supporting their job search or employment opportunities. Over 60% were working in the same field as their prior qualifications, and nearly one-third reported increased levels of professional responsibility.
- ↳ The EQPR was found to be most useful when applied shortly after issuance, typically within six months, indicating a strong immediate impact.

LANGUAGE SKILLS AND CERTIFICATION

- ↳ Multilingualism was common, with English being the most widely spoken foreign language (83%), followed by Italian (49%) and French (35%).
- ↳ Official language certification significantly correlated with access to education and jobs: 63% of those in education and 59% of those employed held such certificates.
- ↳ Certified language levels often reached B2 or above in English, French, and Italian, suggesting readiness for academic and professional integration.



USER SUGGESTIONS AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENT

- ↳ The top priority for improvement was to increase awareness of the EQPR among education institutions and employers.
- ↳ Many respondents expressed a desire to be more involved in shaping the system: 69% were willing to join focus groups, and 135 were open to engaging with the media to advocate for recognition and integration.



USER EXPERIENCE AND SATISFACTION

- ↳ 95% of respondents stated they would recommend the EQPR to others.
- ↳ Participants highlighted the transparent process, supportive interview experience, high professionalism of the evaluators, and practical utility of the EQPR as its key strengths.
- ↳ Respondents also pointed to challenges, including limited awareness among employers and institutions, inconsistent recognition practices, and occasional language barriers during the application process.

The findings affirm the EQPR as a powerful and practical tool that not only facilitates recognition of education but also contributes to broader social and economic integration.

Targeted recommendations are presented to strengthen institutional awareness, expand language support, and involve EQPR holders more directly in shaping future developments.

SURVEY METHODS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the 2025 Survey on the use of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) was to assess the real-world use, perceived impact, and future potential of the EQPR, with a particular focus on access to education, employment, and integration pathways. Additionally, the survey sought to identify EQPR holders who are interested in contributing to the future development of the initiative through advocacy, storytelling, and participatory focus groups.



The survey was conducted during the spring of 2025. Data was gathered through an online questionnaire distributed to 1201 EQPR holders who had received the document between 2017 and end 2024. It received 336 valid responses, providing a rich and representative sample across different age groups, genders, countries of qualification, and current countries of residence.

The survey questions (Annex 1) were designed to capture both quantitative and qualitative data, allowing for nuanced insights into the EQPR holders' experiences. The survey included 45 questions covering a wide range of themes.

The design of the survey was user-friendly and accessible, using a mix of multiple-choice, scaled, and open-ended questions to encourage detailed and diverse feedback. Respondents were also invited to share their thoughts, propose improvements, and signal interest in becoming ambassadors for the EQPR.

This survey represents one of the most comprehensive exercises in collecting user-generated data on the EQPR since the project's inception.

It serves not only as a valuable feedback mechanism but also as a tool for evidence-based policymaking and targeted improvements to the EQPR process, ensuring that it continues to respond effectively to the evolving needs of displaced learners and professionals across Europe.

THEMES OF THE QUESTIONS

- ↳ **Demographic and educational background**, including country of origin, level of education, and languages spoken.
- ↳ **Language proficiency**, both self-assessed and officially certified, including CEFR levels and access to language training.
- ↳ **Experiences with the EQPR application and interview process**, including location, modality (in-person or online), and sources of information.
- ↳ **Usage of the EQPR**, including whether and where the document was used for education or employment, as well as timeframes and effectiveness.
- ↳ **Barriers encountered**, related to the recognition of qualifications, access to education, or job search experiences.
- ↳ **Impact and integration outcomes**, including fields of study and work, timelines, and changes in responsibility or seniority.
- ↳ **Satisfaction and perceived usefulness**, including willingness to recommend the EQPR, most appreciated aspects, and areas for improvement.
- ↳ **Interest in further engagement**, such as participation in focus groups or media advocacy.



SURVEY RESULTS

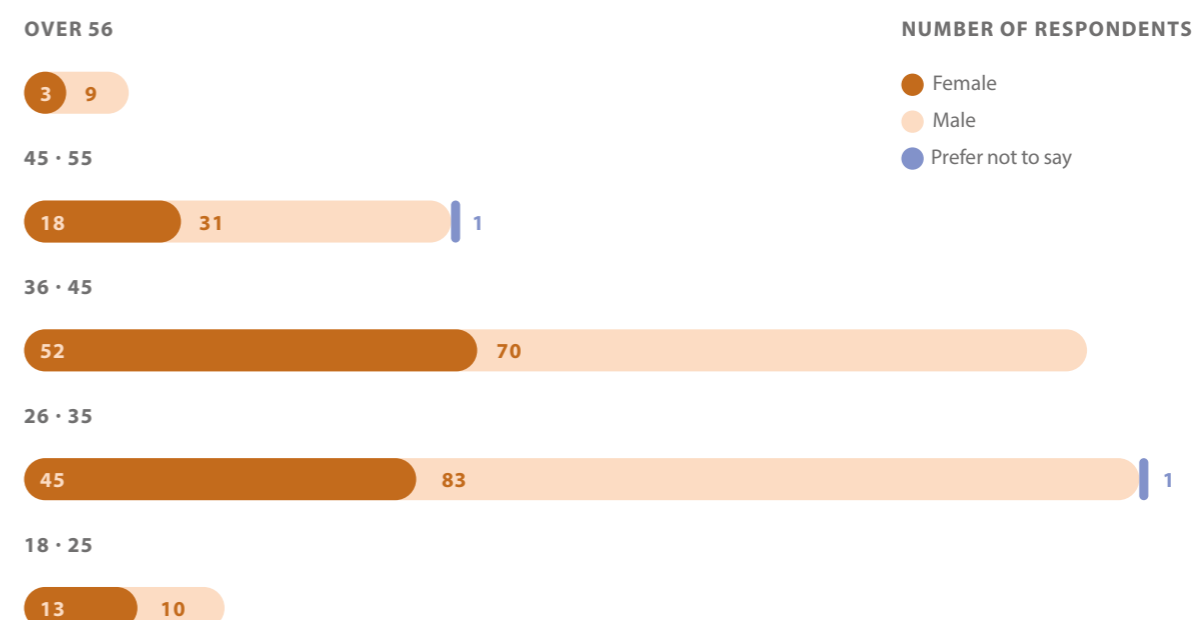
The survey analysis is structured into thematic sections reflecting the key dimensions of the EQPR holders' experiences. It begins with an overview of participant demographics and educational backgrounds, followed by detailed chapters on the use and impact of the EQPR in education and employment. Subsequent sections explore language proficiency, user satisfaction, and future engagement, offering a comprehensive understanding of the EQPR's reach, relevance, and potential for further development.

PARTICIPANT PROFILE ANALYSIS

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Distribution of the EQPR holders by age and gender

The survey captured responses from 336 EQPR holders, offering valuable insight into the demographic characteristics and lived experiences of a substantial portion of the individuals who have received the EQPR since its inception in 2017.



AGE DISTRIBUTION

The largest age group represented in the survey is 26 - 35 years old, with 129 respondents (38%). The second-largest group is 36 - 45 years old, with 122 respondents (36%). Together, these two age groups make up nearly 74% of all the EQPR holders surveyed, which aligns with typical periods of active participation in employment or further education. Numbers decrease significantly in both younger (18 - 25: 23 respondents, 7%) and older age groups (46 - 55: 50 respondents, 15%; over 56: 12 respondents, 4%). The 26 - 35 age group stands out as the most active user segment, particularly among men, where 83 respondents reported holding the EQPR, compared to 45 female respondents in the same group.

GENDER DISTRIBUTION

The data reveals a clear gender imbalance, with male respondents comprising 61% (206 individuals) of the total, compared to 38% female respondents (128 individuals). Only two individuals (approximately 1%) opted not to disclose their gender. This consistent male predominance across all age categories may reflect broader trends in access, awareness, or socio-cultural factors influencing refugee populations.

Distribution of the EQPR holders by country of their highest achieved qualification

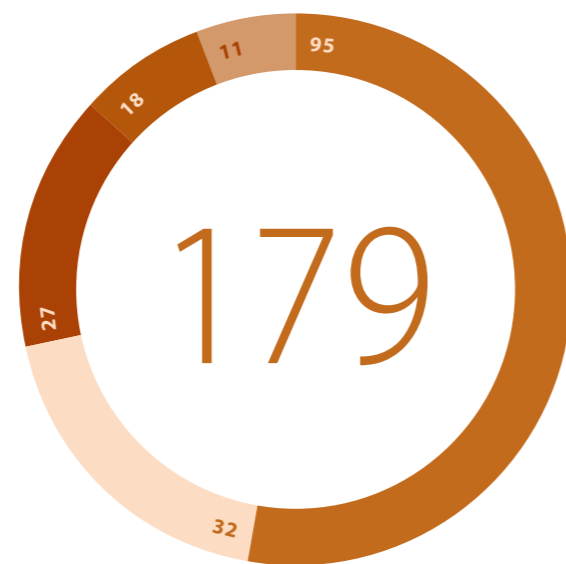
The surveyed EQPR holders reported having achieved their highest educational qualifications across a range of 40 countries spanning Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.

As the most frequently mentioned country, Ukraine accounts for 95 respondents (29%), highlighting both the scale of displacement from the region and the country's historically strong education infrastructure. Similarly, Afghanistan (32 individuals/10%), Syria (27 individuals/8%), Iraq (18 individuals/4 %), and Cameroon (11 individuals/3%) featured prominently, underscoring the ongoing impact of conflict and instability in these countries.

Countries like DR Congo, Guinea, Iran, and Pakistan are represented with 5-7 respondents each. Ethiopia, Eritrea, Gambia, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Palestine, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Türkiye, and Uganda are each represented with 3-5 respondents. Beyond these, the dataset includes a significant number of countries with only one or two respondents, including Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, China, Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, India, Jordan, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Togo, USA.

TOP 5 COUNTRIES OF HIGHEST ACHIEVED QUALIFICATIONS AMONG EQPR HOLDERS

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS



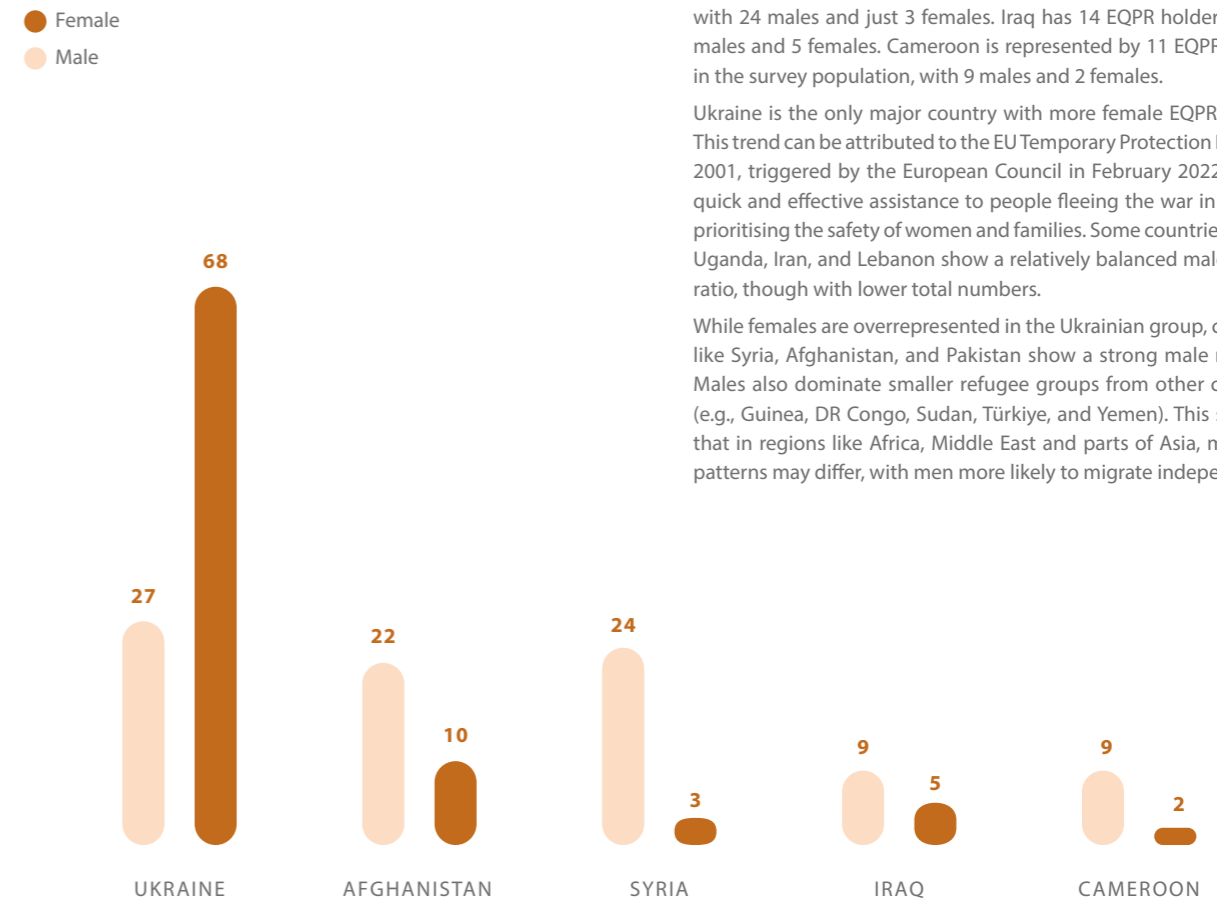
● UKRAINE ● AFGHANISTAN ● SYRIA ● IRAQ ● CAMEROON

Distribution of the EQPR holders by gender and country of the highest achieved qualification

Based on a subset of countries with the highest representation, the dataset provides further insight into the gender distribution of the EQPR holders by the country where the highest qualification is achieved.

GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF EQPR HOLDERS BY COUNTRY

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS



Ukraine stands out with the largest number of EQPR holders (95 in total), and a strong female majority: 68 females and 27 males. Afghanistan has the second-highest representation (32 EQPR holders), but with more male holders (22) compared to 10 female holders. Syria, ranked third with 27 holders, follows a similar male-dominant trend with 24 males and just 3 females. Iraq has 14 EQPR holders, with 9 males and 5 females. Cameroon is represented by 11 EQPR holders in the survey population, with 9 males and 2 females.

Ukraine is the only major country with more female EQPR holders. This trend can be attributed to the EU Temporary Protection Directive 2001, triggered by the European Council in February 2022 to offer quick and effective assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine, prioritising the safety of women and families. Some countries such as Uganda, Iran, and Lebanon show a relatively balanced male-female ratio, though with lower total numbers.

While females are overrepresented in the Ukrainian group, countries like Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan show a strong male majority. Males also dominate smaller refugee groups from other countries (e.g., Guinea, DR Congo, Sudan, Türkiye, and Yemen). This suggests that in regions like Africa, Middle East and parts of Asia, migration patterns may differ, with men more likely to migrate independently.

LEVELS OF EDUCATION ATTAINED

EQPR holders come from a range of educational backgrounds, though the data indicates a notably high level of academic qualifications among the respondents

● BACHELOR'S DEGREE

is the most commonly reported highest qualification, with 136 respondents (approx. 40% of the total).

● MASTER'S DEGREE

holders follow, accounting for 98 individuals (29%).

● DOCTORATE

holders make up 26 respondents (8%).

● SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION

was reported by 36 respondents (11%)

● VOCATIONAL TRAINING

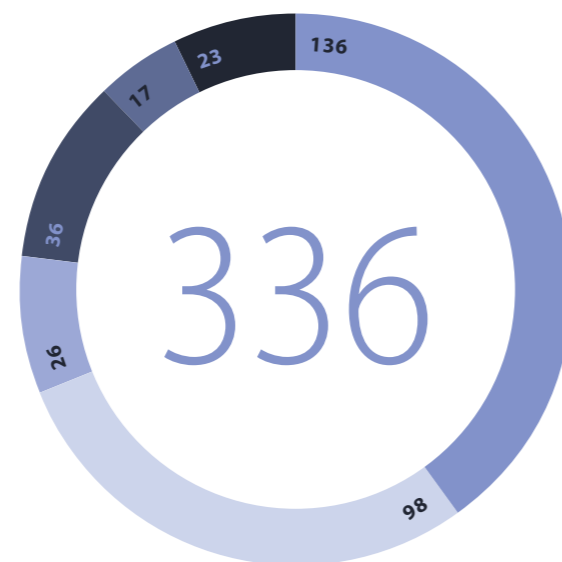
was noted by 17 individuals (5%).

● OTHERS

While 23 respondents (7%) selected "Other" as their highest level of education, a closer look reveals that many of these entries appear to have been misclassified or reflect variations in terminology rather than truly unclassifiable education levels.

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF EQPR HOLDERS

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS



KEY CLARIFICATIONS FOR SELECTION OF "OTHER" AS THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION

Misclassified advanced degrees

8 respondents (6 from Ukraine, 1 from Russia, and 1 from Ukraine again) respectively listed their qualifications such as Specialist (2nd cycle), Medical Doctor (2nd cycle), and Kandidat Nauk (3rd cycle). These are advanced academic degrees and are at the same level as Master's or Doctoral studies in the Bologna system. These entries were likely marked as «Other» due to differences in the national degree naming systems.

Recognisable tertiary education

6 respondents reported qualifications such as Associate Degrees or Diplomas, commonly awarded after post-secondary non-university education. These were from countries like Pakistan, Ghana, Eritrea, Uganda, and Syria, and could reasonably fit under vocational or tertiary education categories.

Secondary education entries

4 individuals indicated upper secondary school completion from countries including Afghanistan and Angola, which aligns with the existing «Secondary school» category and may have been mistakenly categorised as «Other».

Unfinished or ongoing higher education

3 respondents noted unfinished higher education studies in Afghanistan, Syria, and Uganda. 1 respondent is currently in the process of completing a Bachelor's degree in Germany.

The analysis of the "Other" responses suggests that the majority of these entries reflect valid, classifiable qualifications rather than unrecognised or unconventional educational paths. In many cases, the choice of «Other» may have resulted from differences in national degree naming systems, incomplete understanding of category definitions, and ongoing or interrupted study paths.

This underscores the importance of clearer guidance in future surveys for selecting education levels and possibly providing pre-mapped degree equivalences, especially for degrees from systems such as the post-Soviet or medical education tracks.

It also reaffirms that the educational level of EQPR holders is high, and even among those who selected «Other», the majority possess tertiary or advanced qualifications. This finding is an expected outcome given that the initiative is primarily designed for this group of individuals.

With over 80% of respondents holding a Bachelor's degree or higher, the survey demonstrates that many EQPR holders are highly educated and may be seeking to re-enter professional roles or advanced education pathways.

The presence of vocational and secondary school qualifications points to diverse educational needs, including pathways into skilled trades or further learning.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE EQPR INTERVIEWS

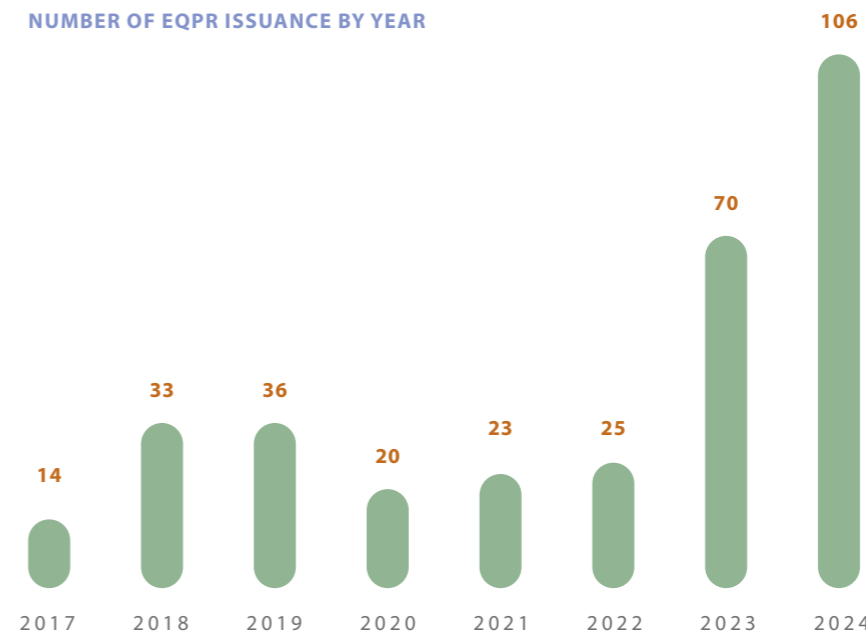
While the total survey sample includes 336 respondents, only 327 responses were recorded for the questions regarding the year of EQPR issuance, location and modality of the interview.

Such variation is not uncommon in voluntary surveys, where some participants may skip individual questions (intentionally or unintentionally), despite completing the rest of the survey. These missing responses were excluded from the analysis of the year, location and modality of the interviews to ensure accuracy in trend reporting.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE EQPR INTERVIEWS

Year of the EQPR issuance

NUMBER OF EQPR ISSUANCE BY YEAR



Out of the 327 respondents who answered the question on the year they received the EQPR, a significant majority obtained it in the last two years, with 106 respondents (approx. 32%) receiving the EQPR in 2024, and 70 respondents (21%) in 2023. Combined, these two years account for more than half (53%) of all responses, highlighting a clear concentration of recent EQPR holders in the survey sample.

The second-highest number of issuances among the respondents of the survey was recorded in 2023 with 70 respondents (21%), followed by 2019 (36, or 11%) and 2018 (33, or 10%). The early years of the EQPR are represented with more modest figures in the survey: 14 EQPRs in 2017 (4%), 20 in 2020 (6%), 23 in 2021 (7%), and 25 in 2022 (8%).

The high number of respondents who obtained the EQPR in 2023-2024 may reflect a combination of factors: the increased scale

and outreach of EQPR evaluation sessions in recent years, improved awareness of the initiative among the refugee communities, and a more recent and active contact list available for the survey distribution. This recency effect may have also contributed to higher response rates among more recent EQPR holders.

At the same time, many of the 2024 recipients are likely still in the early stages of using the EQPR, exploring education or job opportunities, initiating recognition processes, or engaging with local institutions.

Given this recency, some indicators, such as employment outcomes, education access, or satisfaction, should therefore be interpreted with consideration for time-related limitations. Many respondents may not yet have had the opportunity to realise or report the full benefits of holding an EQPR.

Given the high number of individuals who received the EQPR in the past years, there is a strong rationale for conducting follow-up surveys or longitudinal tracking to better understand how the EQPR influences holders' access to employment, education, and recognition systems over time. Such research would help the EQPR project team identify emerging patterns, challenges, and support needs as holders interact with employers, institutions, and relevant authorities. While this report presents the distribution of respondents by year of issuance, a detailed comparative analysis across different cohorts was beyond its current scope. However, this could be explored in the future studies to assess evolving experiences and outcomes, and to inform more targeted engagement, orientation, and support measures, particularly for the refugees with newly issued EQPRs.

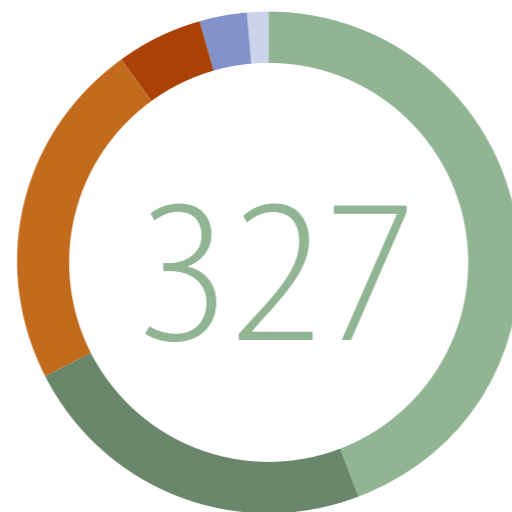
DISTRIBUTION OF THE EQPR INTERVIEWS

Location of the EQPR interview

This analysis reflects the countries where refugees participated in the EQPR interviews in 2017 - 2024, according to the 327 respondents who indicated the year and location of their interview.

NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS BY LOCATION

ITALY	145
FRANCE	76
GREECE	74
GERMANY	10
NETHERLANDS	4
OTHERS	18



Importantly, the country listed as the interview location does not always reflect where the team of the evaluators was physically based. For example, an interview recorded as taking place in Italy (physical location of the refugee) may have been held online, in connection with the international evaluation team conducting in-person interviews in France, Greece, or Germany.

While not representative of all the EQPR holders, the data offers meaningful insight into the distribution of interview activity among those who engaged with the survey.

Based on the survey responses, the top three countries where refugees participated in the interviews are Italy, France, and Greece, while Germany has emerged more prominently since 2022. Other locations, from where refugees were interviewed from, include Netherlands, Spain, Cyprus, and Poland.

Italy stands out as the most active host country for the refugees who were interviewed for the EQPR, particularly dominating in the

last two years (2023: 51 interviews; 2024: 44 interviews). The high number of EQPRs issued for the refugees residing in Italy can be attributed to the country's role as one of the founding partners of the initiative and its strong, ongoing commitment to its implementation. Italy has been particularly active in raising awareness, engaging key stakeholders, including higher education institutions, and hosting joint evaluation sessions, which have collectively contributed to the initiative's wide reach and success.

France has played a central and sustained role in hosting interviews, with a notable increase in activity in the most recent years (2024: 42 interviews). It has supported both in-person and online modalities, contributing to the accessibility of the EQPR. While earlier years saw moderate activity, France has now positioned itself as a major contributor to the initiative's rollout. This growth points to expanding operational support and growing interest from both educational institutions,

employers, civil society organisations and candidates.

Greece was one of the original and most active locations in the early years of the EQPR (especially between 2017 and 2019). Though its share of interviews has since decreased, it remains a steady contributor to the programme. Its role is particularly important historically, having helped to define the initial implementation framework.

Germany has become an increasingly active host since 2022, reflecting a newer phase of geographic expansion, and showing stronger institutional commitment as the EQPR partner country.

Other locations, including the Netherlands, Spain, Cyprus, and Poland, are the countries where the interviews were conducted remotely. These smaller but meaningful contributions demonstrate the EQPR's growing cross-European reach, particularly facilitated by online interviews.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE EQPR INTERVIEWS

Modality of the EQPR interview

The table below shows how interviews were conducted across different countries, specifically breaking down online vs. in-person modalities.

Out of the 327 responses on the interview location and modality, in 225 cases (69%) interviews were conducted online, and 102 interviews (31%) were conducted in person.

Refugees residing in **Italy** participated in the highest number of interviews overall (145), 86% of these (125) were conducted online.

For the refugees in **France** there were conducted 76 interviews, with a fairly balanced modality distribution: 45 online (59%), and 31 in person (41%).

Greece stands out as the only country with more in-person (42) than online (32) interviews. This may reflect Greece's earlier involvement in the project when interviews were predominantly held face-to-face, and a continued preference or need for in-person evaluation.

Other countries (e.g. Spain, Cyprus, Poland) - collectively, the refugees who reside in these countries participated in 18 interviews, with 15 conducted online.

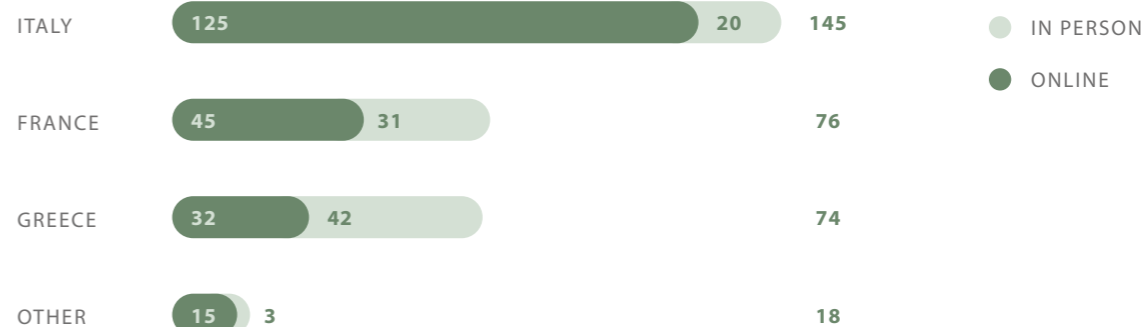
Germany and the **Netherlands** both had a small number of interviews for the refugees residing in these countries, but show use of both formats.

The predominance of online interviews, accounting for nearly 70% of all interviews, highlights a significant and intentional shift towards digital delivery within the EQPR process. However, the continued use of in-person interviews in countries like Greece, Italy and France suggests that maintaining a hybrid approach remains important to accommodate candidates who may lack digital access or who benefit from face-to-face interaction.

This data underscores the importance of modality diversity in ensuring the EQPR can adapt to varying conditions while maintaining quality and accessibility.

It also provides a valuable insight into how the EQPR process has evolved in terms of accessibility, delivery format, and operational flexibility, reflecting the collaborative and cross-border nature of the EQPR process, which is made possible by remote interview formats.

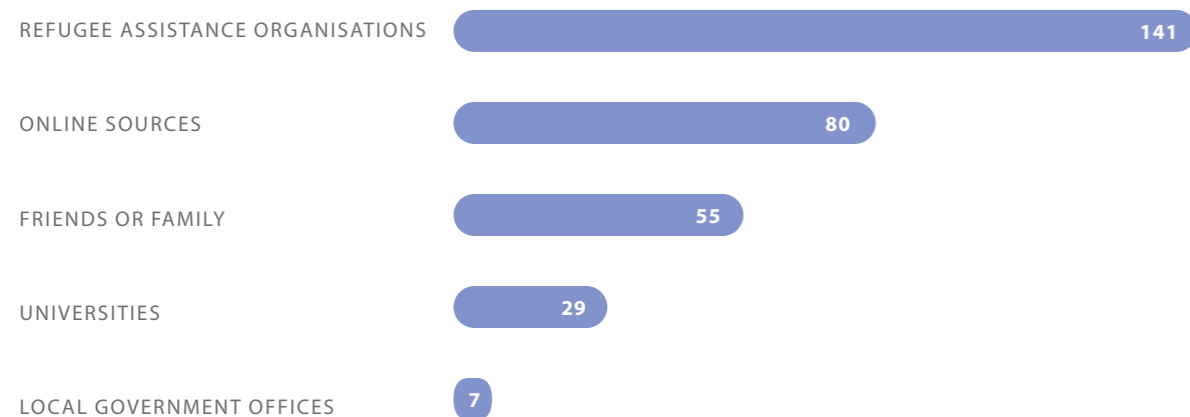
NUMBER OF INTERVIEWS BY LOCATION AND MODALITY



SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE EQPR

Respondents were asked how they first became aware of the EQPR. Out of 325 responses, the results reveal distinct patterns in how information about the initiative reaches potential candidates.

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS BY SOURCES



Refugee assistance organisations were by far the most common source, cited by 141 respondents (43%). This highlights the central role of civil society and humanitarian actors in connecting refugees and displaced persons with qualifications recognition and integration opportunities.

Online sources (websites, social media, etc.) were the second most cited, mentioned by 80 respondents (25%). This suggests that digital outreach is an increasingly effective channel for awareness, particularly among younger or more connected individuals. Online platforms are proving to be an essential and scalable tool to expand awareness, especially in countries or regions without a strong presence of humanitarian actors.

Friends or family played an important role for 55 respondents (17%), showing the power of word-of-mouth and peer networks in spreading information. Leveraging existing trust networks, such as friends or former EQPR holders, could be a strategic avenue for outreach.

Universities were listed by 29 respondents (9%), which may reflect EQPR engagement through academic counselling, admission processes, or refugee inclusion initiatives.

Local government offices were mentioned by just 7 individuals (2%), indicating that municipal and state institutions currently play a smaller role in EQPR awareness-raising.

To strengthen and expand the EQPR's reach, the current mix of outreach channels should be both reinforced and diversified. Investing in digital content, engaging universities and local authorities, and formalising peer-to-peer referral networks may all help ensure that more eligible individuals are aware of and able to benefit from the EQPR.



EQPR USAGE

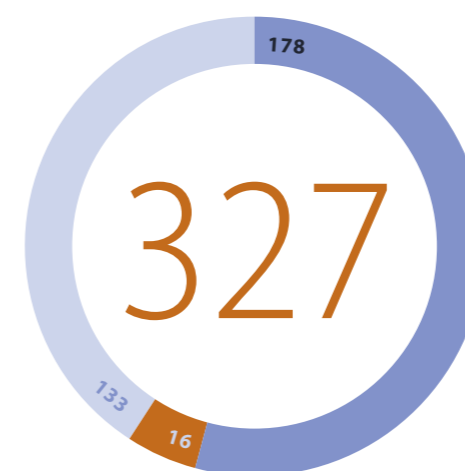
GEOGRAPHY
AND TRENDS

The survey explored whether the respondents had used the EQPR, and how its usage correlated with both the year of issuance, and the country where the interview took place (both online and in person interviews). Italy, France, Greece, and Germany were selected for more detailed analysis of the EQPR usage due to their prominent roles as host countries for the refugees participating in the EQPR interviews and the comparatively high number of survey respondents who received the EQPR in these locations.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRENDS

EQPR usage rate among the survey respondents

Out of 327 respondents, 194 respondents (59%) reported having used the EQPR, whether in the country where it was received or in another country, 133 respondents (41%) stated they had not used the EQPR at all since receiving it.



USE OF THE EQPR BY RESPONDENTS

● USED IN SAME COUNTRY	54%
● USED IN OTHER COUNTRIES	5%
● NOT USED	41%

Use of the EQPR in the country of issuance - Out of 194 respondents, who reported having used the EQPR, 178 respondents have used the document in the country where they received it. This suggests that the initial impact of the EQPR is most visible locally, where stakeholders (e.g. employers, universities, recognition bodies) are more likely to be familiar with the EQPR process, and where there may be better access to guidance and support following the interview.

Use of the EQPR across borders - A small but notable group of the EQPR holders reported using the document outside the country of issuance, either in a single different country (12 respondents) or across multiple countries (4 respondents), constituting 5% of the responses. Respondents reported using the EQPR across borders in countries such as Belgium, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, the UK, Canada, and Switzerland. The document was applied in both educational and employment contexts, including for formal recognition procedures and authorisation purposes. This data demonstrates the cross-

border potential of the EQPR and reflects the mobility of the holders themselves, who may move after receiving the EQPR or apply it in multiple systems. At the same time, this cross-border use remains relatively limited and often dependent on individual effort rather than systematic support from the stakeholders involved in integration of the refugees, including employers and educational institutions.

A significant share of respondents – 133 EQPR holders (41%) reported that they had not used their EQPR. This could be due to several reasons, including recent issuance, as of 2023-2024, and lack of awareness or guidance on how to use it, in addition to limited perceived value by education institutions and employers.

All this reflects the importance of post-interview support, outreach and awareness raising among the EQPR end users.

EQPR usage by the respondents located in Italy, France, Greece, and Germany

The four countries selected for detailed analysis - Italy, France, Greece, and Germany, represent a range of institutional, geographical, and policy contexts, which together provide a nuanced picture of the EQPR implementation and usage among the EQPR holders.

ITALY

Out of 327 in the survey sample, a total of 145 EQPR interviews were conducted with the refugees located in Italy between 2018 and 2024. Out of these, 103 EQPR holders (71%) reported that they successfully used the EQPR in Italy, the same country where their interview took place. However, 42 EQPR holders (29%) reported that they were not able to use the EQPR.

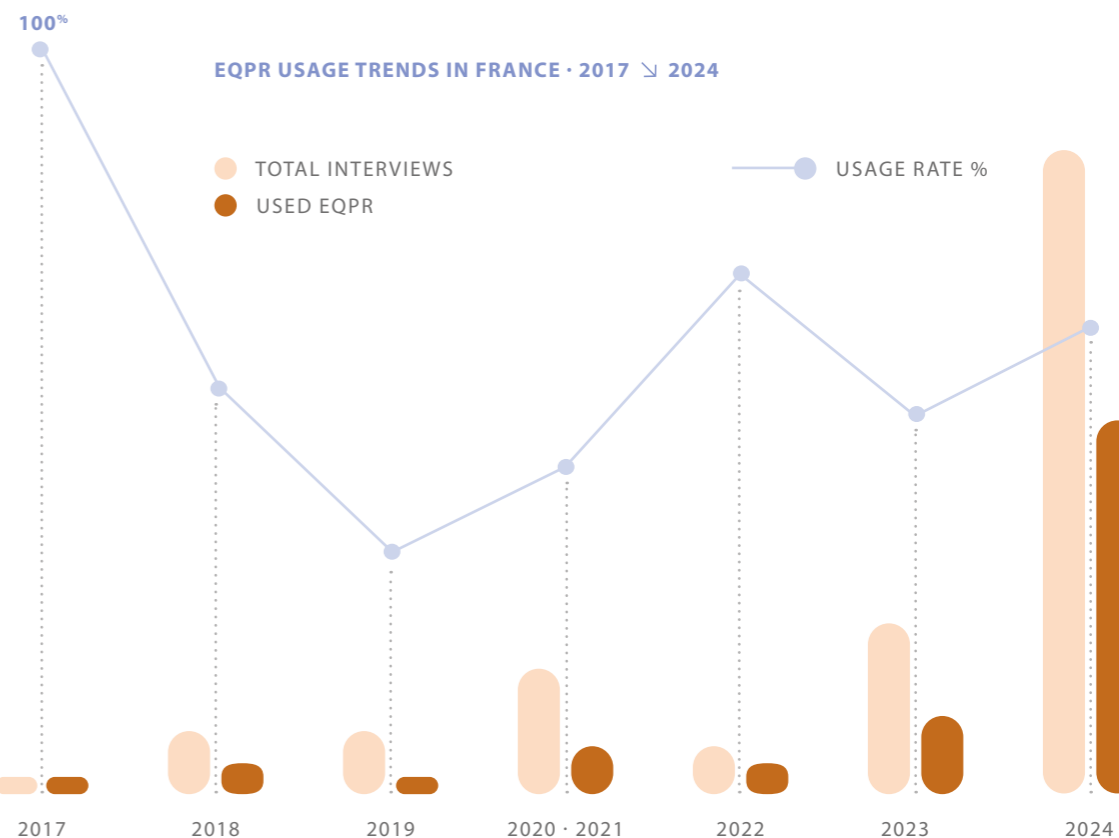
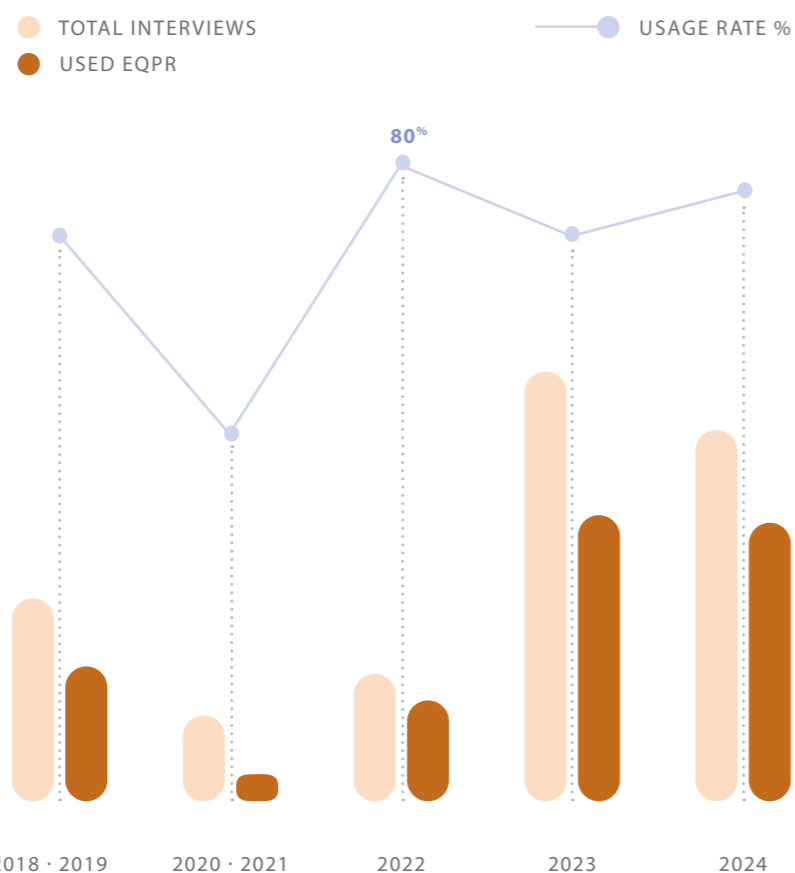
Over the past years, the implementation of the EQPR in Italy has shown a clear evolution shaped by global crises and operational adaptability.

Between 2018 and 2019, EQPR implementation in Italy saw gradual growth, with 24 interviews reported in the survey and 16 EQPR holders (67%) able to use the EQPR.

During the pandemic years (2020–2021), interview numbers dropped, and usage fell below 35%, likely due to the mobility restrictions and limited opportunities despite continued online operations.

From 2022 onward, amid the Ukraine war, both the number of interviews and usage rates rose. Usage reached 80% in 2022, when 12 out of 15 EQPR holders were able to use it, and remained above 70% through 2023 and 2024, when 34 out of 51, and 33 out of 44 EQPR holders respectively, were able to use the EQPR in Italy, in the country where they received it.

EQPR USAGE TRENDS IN ITALY · 2018 ↘ 2024



FRANCE

Out of the survey sample of 327 respondents, there are recorded 76 interviews which were conducted with the refugees located in France between 2017 and 2024. Among these, 39 individuals (51%) were able to use the EQPR within France, the country where they received it. Additionally, one respondent successfully used the EQPR across borders, specifically in Spain and Canada. This brings the total number of EQPR users in this group to 40 (53%). In contrast, 36 respondents (47%) indicated they had not used the EQPR at all.

France has played a consistent and evolving role in hosting EQPR interviews throughout the 2017 - 2024 period, with notable developments in both interview volume and the practical usage of the EQPR by refugees.

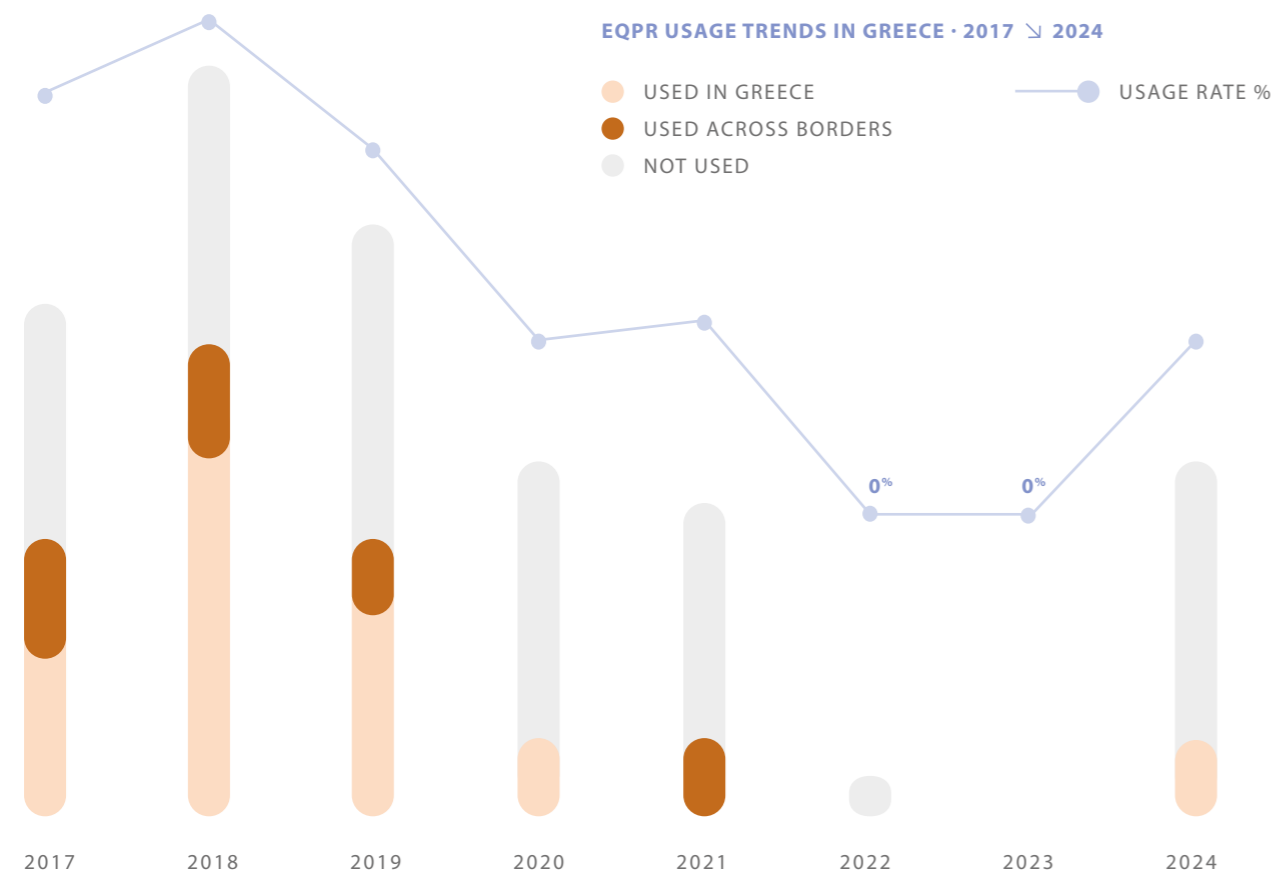
In the early years (2017–2019), the number of interviews conducted in France was relatively low, with modest usage outcomes: only 4 out of 10 EQPR holders interviewed during this period reported using the EQPR. These early efforts laid the groundwork for the programme's visibility but also reflected the initial challenges of implementation and limited institutional awareness.

Between 2020 and 2022, despite the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the EQPR process in France showed signs of consolidation. Interview numbers remained steady, and usage rates slightly improved, with 7 of 14 respondents able to use the EQPR. The balance between online and in-person modalities supported continued access and outreach.

A significant shift occurred in 2023 and 2024, when France substantially scaled up its role as a host country for a considerable amount of the Ukrainian refugees. These two years alone accounted for 42 of the 76 total interviews in the French context. 24 EQPR holders were able to use the EQPR (including one across borders), bringing the usage rate to 57% during this period. This increase suggests enhanced institutional support, broader recognition of the EQPR within the French context, more consistent follow-up mechanisms, and well-coordinated efforts of the national stakeholders, including employer organisations, educational institutions, and integration authorities.

Overall, France has demonstrated growing leadership in the EQPR implementation. The upward trend in both interview frequency and practical utility of the EQPR in the most recent years points to improved national frameworks and a more receptive environment for the EQPR recognition, though the near-equal number of non-users underscores the ongoing need for strengthened pathways to practical usage.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRENDS



GREECE

Between 2017 and 2024, Greece remained an active location for the EQPR interviews, with a total of 74 interviews reported by survey respondents. Out of these, 32 respondents (43%) were able to use the EQPR, either within Greece or across borders, while 42 individuals (57%) reported not having used it. Out of 32 respondents, who were able to use the EQPR, 22 (30%) were able to use the EQPR in Greece, the country where they received it, and 10 EQPR holders (13%) reported using the EQPR in other countries.

One of the most notable findings from the data is that Greece stands out as the country where the highest number of the EQPR holders went on to use it outside the country where it was issued. In 2017 - 2021, a total of 10 EQPR holders who were interviewed in Greece reported using their EQPR in another country: 6 in Germany, 3 in respectively the UK, Switzerland, and Belgium, in addition to one respondent who used the EQPR in unspecified multiple countries.

The data also reveal several important temporal trends regarding both the volume of EQPR activity and the extent of its usage.

Between 2017 and 2021, Greece was one of the earliest and most active countries implementing the EQPR, both as a site of issuance and as a contributor to cross-border portability of the EQPR, with the relatively high rate of the EQPR usage abroad. During this period,

64 interviews were reported, with a notable share of EQPR holders, particularly in 2017 - 2019, successfully using their qualification, including across borders. However, usage rates declined during the pandemic years, with more holders unable to apply the EQPR.

From 2022 to 2024, activity slowed significantly, with only 10 interviews reported and a continued low rate of usage. This shift suggests a need for renewed engagement and support to ensure EQPR holders in Greece can benefit fully from this recognition tool.

Given Greece's demonstrated role in facilitating both national and cross-border use of the EQPR, measures like changes in the legislation, reinforcing the awareness and guidance around EQPR usage, expanding of the EQPR interview opportunities, and sharing best practices may help to sustain and maximise the value of the EQPR for both the individuals who receive it and the broader European recognition system.

GEOGRAPHY AND TRENDS

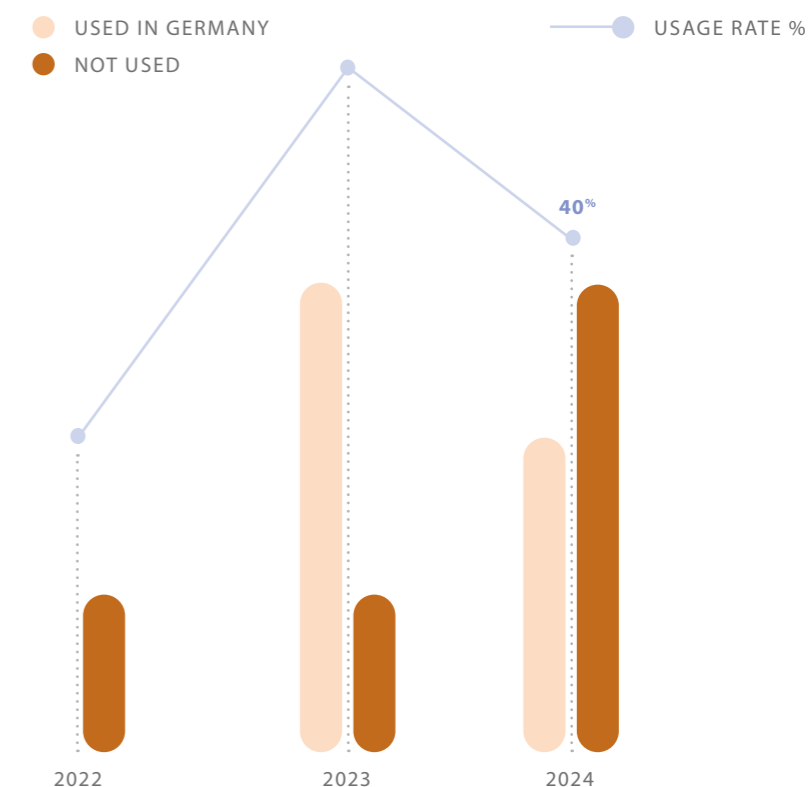
GERMANY

The data from Germany indicates that the majority of the EQPR interviews were conducted recently, with 9 out of 10 taking place between 2023 and 2024. This recency likely influences the observed usage patterns. Newly issued EQPRs may require more time before they can be effectively applied, as holders may still be in the early stages of navigating local recognition processes, education pathways, or employment opportunities.

Despite this, there are already promising signs: in 2023, 75% of respondents who received the EQPR were able to use it successfully within Germany. This suggests that once initial administrative or integration steps are completed, the EQPR holds substantial potential. The slight dip in the usage rate in 2024 (40%) may reflect the continued adjustment period for very recent holders, underscoring the importance of targeted follow-up support.

These findings highlight the potential for strengthened post-issuance guidance and closer cooperation between EQPR stakeholders and German institutions.

EQPR USAGE TRENDS IN GERMANY · 2022 ↘ 2024



CONCLUSION

The variety of national contexts offers multiple lenses through which EQPR implementation can be understood.

Italy's relatively high volume of the EQPR interviews and high success rate in the EQPR usage in the recent years, France's gradual expansion and stable success in the usage of the EQPRs, Greece's facilitative role in cross-border usage in the early years of the EQPR implementation, and Germany's emerging model - all bring unique operational and policy perspectives.

This diversity helps to identify not only best practices but also context-specific challenges. It reinforces the need for flexible, tailored strategies that address the particular needs of each host country through close cooperation with local authorities and stakeholders.

Engaging municipalities, regional employment services, education institutions, and civil society ensures that EQPR implementation is context-sensitive, responsive to local labour market needs, and supported by the institutions that directly serve refugee populations.

IMPACT ON EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

The dataset reflects responses regarding individuals' educational activities after receiving the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR), including age and gender of the individuals who are enrolled into education, geographical distribution, timelines for access to education, field of study alignment, and barriers to participation.

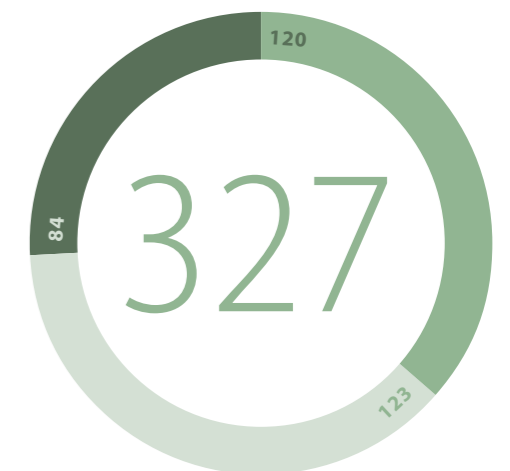


Access to education among the EQPR holders

Out of the sample of 327 EQPR holders, 120 individuals (37%) reported that they were enrolled in education.

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF EQPR HOLDERS

● ENROLLED IN EDUCATION	37%
● EMPLOYED	38%
● NEITHER	26%

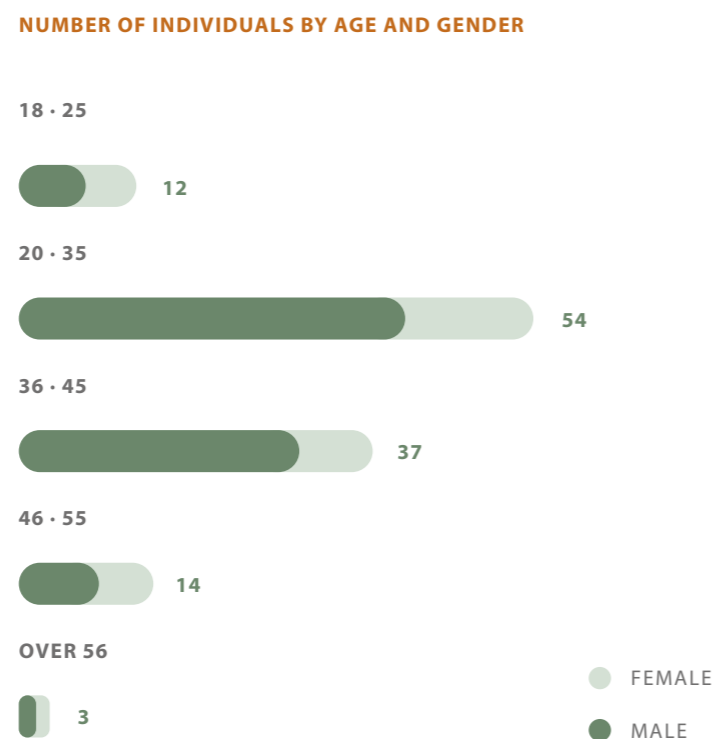


Age and gender distribution among the EQPR holders enrolled in education

The data on age and gender of the 120 EQPR holders in the sample who reported being enrolled in education is broken down by five age groups: 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56+, and segmented by gender (male, female, and undisclosed).

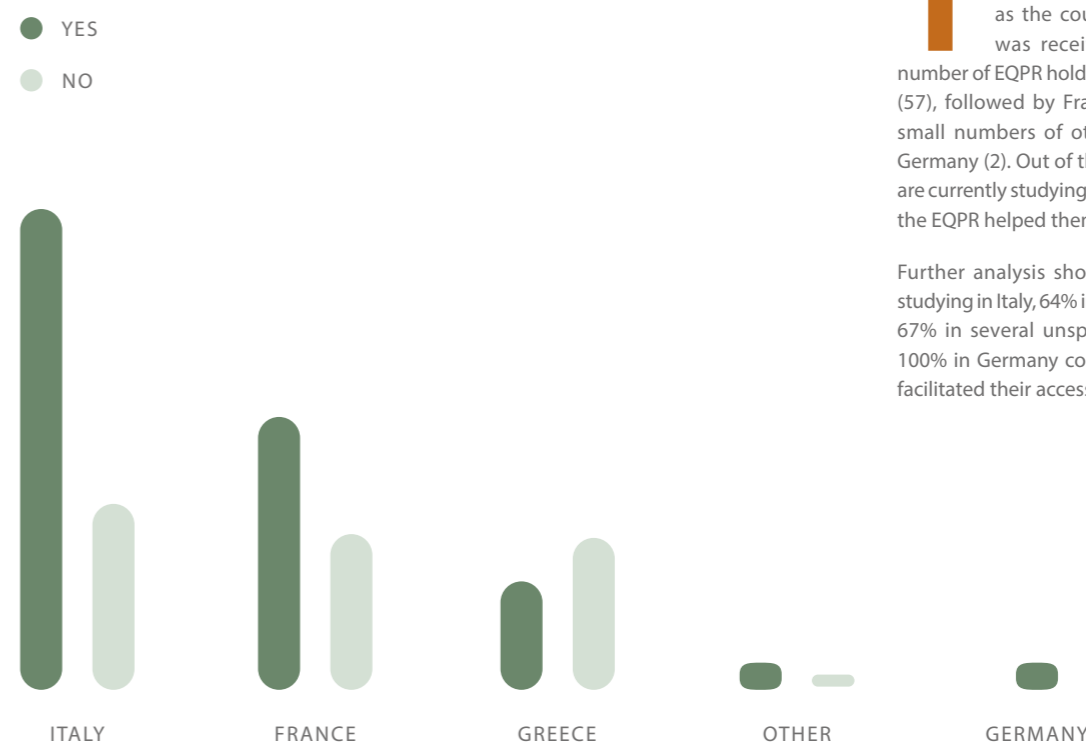
Among the 120 EQPR holders currently enrolled in education there are 12 individuals (10%) in the age group 18-25, evenly split between 6 females and 6 males; 54 individuals (45%) within the 26-35 age group, with a higher proportion of males (39 males, 15 females); 37 individuals (31%) in the age group of 36-45, including 28 males and 9 females; 14 individuals (12%) belonging to the 46-55 age group, with an equal gender distribution (7 males, 7 females); and 3 individuals (2%) are over 56 years old, consisting of 2 males and 1 female.

This distribution shows that most EQPR holders accessing education are between 26 and 45 years old (76%), with men making up a larger share in the older age groups. The data also reflects relatively balanced gender participation among the youngest and oldest learners.



EQPR support for entering education distributed by country

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS BY COUNTRY



The distribution by country reveals several important insights: Italy, as the country where the EQPR was received, had the highest number of EQPR holders pursuing education (57), followed by France (36), Greece (22), small numbers of other countries (3) and Germany (2). Out of the 120 individuals who are currently studying, 77 (64%) reported that the EQPR helped them to enter the studies.

Further analysis shows that 72% of those studying in Italy, 64% in France, 41% in Greece, 67% in several unspecified countries, and 100% in Germany confirmed that the EQPR facilitated their access to education.

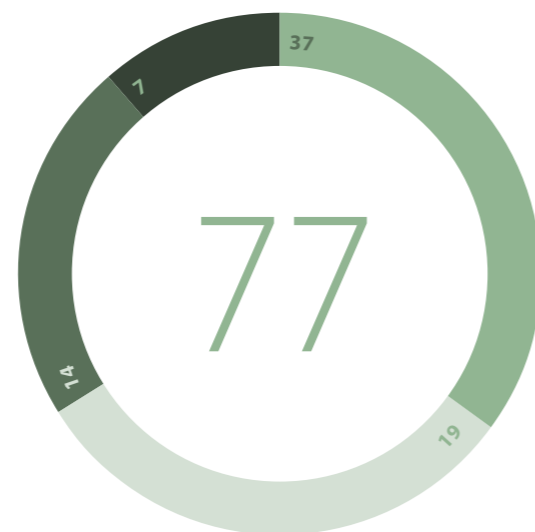
The concentration in Italy and France suggests that systems with more sustainable involvement of the national education authorities and institutions may provide more tangible routes into further education.

Timelines for access to education

Among the 77 respondents who reported that the EQPR helped them to enter education, the majority with 37 individuals (48%) were admitted to their studies within the first three months after receiving the EQPR.

TIME BETWEEN RECEIVING EQPR AND EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

- < 3 MONTHS
- 3-6 MONTHS
- 1-2 YEARS
- > 2 YEARS



19 individuals (25%) were enrolled between three to six months of time, 14 individuals (18%) entered education one to two years after receiving the EQPR, and 7 individuals (9%) reported accessing education more than two years after issuance. This longer delay may reflect more complex personal, legal, or institutional circumstances, or the time needed for planning and meeting admission requirements.

Overall, the dataset highlights that nearly three-quarters (73%) of EQPR-supported education admissions occurred within the first six months of receipt, underscoring EQPR's practical and timely relevance for facilitating educational opportunities.

Field of study alignment

The survey reveals that EQPR holders are pursuing studies in a wide range of academic fields, reflecting the diversity of their backgrounds and aspirations.

EQPR holders enrolled in education have reported that they are pursuing their studies in the fields of Education, Linguistics, Economy, Natural Sciences, Political Sciences, Engineering, Communication and Healthcare. Most individuals are enrolled in the universities for specialised programs and formal degrees, including bachelor's and master's degrees in the institutions like University of Sassari, University of Cagliari, Catholic University in Milano, University of Modena, University of Bari, University of Bologna, University of Milano, University of Parma, University of Padua, University of Palermo, University of Naples – all in Italy, Technical University of Applied Sciences Augsburg in Germany, International Hellenic University in Greece, University of Glasgow in the UK, University of Lyon 3, University of Bordeaux, UPEC University all in France, and Fontys University in the Netherlands.

Out of 75 individuals who responded to the survey question 'Are you studying in the same field as that of your original qualification (obtained before arriving to host country)?', 40 EQPR holders (53%) reported that their current studies are aligned with their previous qualifications, as referred to in the EQPR. 35 (47%) EQPR holders reported that their current studies are not aligned with their previous qualifications.



While just over half (53%) of respondents reported studying in a field aligned with their original qualifications, a significant proportion (47%) have transitioned into new areas. This indicates that while the EQPR facilitates continuity for many, it also supports flexibility and new opportunities for those seeking to adapt their career paths to the needs of the host country or personal interests.

Barriers to education

Among the respondents who were not successful in gaining admission to education, several key barriers were identified.

NUMBER OF RESPONSES FOR BARRIERS TO EDUCATION ENROLMENT REPORTED BY EQPR HOLDERS



The most frequently cited challenge, mentioned by 17 individuals, was the lack of flexibility or willingness from higher education institutions to accept the EQPR as part of their admissions documentation. Additionally, 15 respondents reported a lack of sufficient information about available study opportunities.

11 participants pointed to limited clarity around the admissions process and a lack of coordination among relevant authorities. Another 7 noted that admissions procedures appeared unclear and unnecessarily lengthy. In 10 cases, applicants were asked by the institutions to provide further validation of their EQPR despite its intended purpose as a recognised tool for qualification assessment. These findings highlight persistent systemic and procedural obstacles that limit the practical utility of the EQPR in facilitating access to further education.

This suggests that awareness raising among higher education institutions about the value of EQPR, still remains underutilised.

Strengthening institutional awareness, streamlining admissions processes, and ensuring consistent recognition practices are critical steps toward improving education access for EQPR holders.

In several cases, respondents also pointed to limited proficiency in the host country language, particularly German and French, as a substantial barrier to accessing their preferred study programmes. This highlights the importance of integrating language support alongside credential recognition to ensure meaningful access to education.



IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

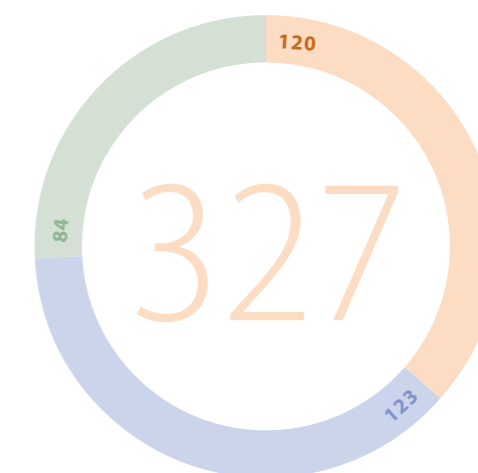
The dataset includes responses regarding employment outcomes after the delivery of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR), specifically focusing on age and gender of the individuals who are employed, time frames for finding the employment, geographical distribution, alignment with the qualifications, and challenges faced.



Employment status among the EQPR holders

Out of the sample of 327 EQPR holders, 123 individuals (38%) reported that they were employed.

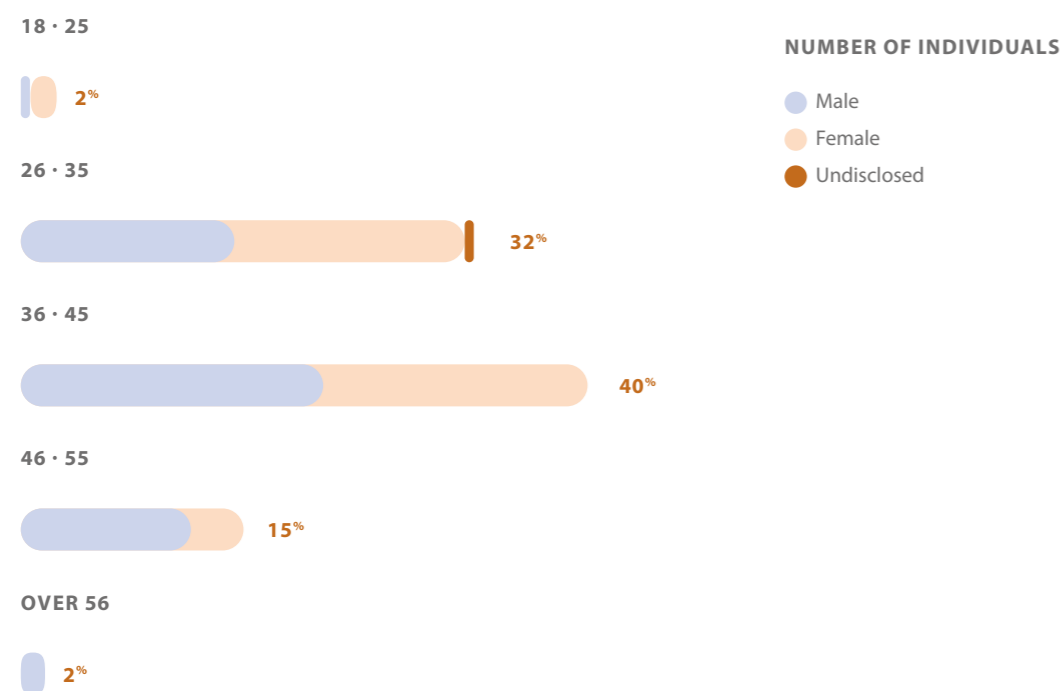
- ENROLLED IN EDUCATION
- EMPLOYED
- NEITHER



IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

Age and gender distribution among the EQPR holders who are employed

The data on age and gender of the 123 EQPR holders in the sample, who reported being employed is broken down by five age groups: 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, 56+, and segmented by gender (male, female, and undisclosed).



Out of the 123 EQPR holders who reported being employed, there are 3 individuals (2%) who are aged 18-25, including 1 male and 2 females; 39 individuals (32%) within the 26-35 age group, with 21 males and 18 females; 49 individuals (40%) who are aged 36-45, consisting of 25 males and 24 females; 9 individuals (15%) in the 46-55 bracket, including 14 males and 5 females; 2 individuals (2%) are over 56 years old, both male. One respondent in the 26-35 group preferred not to disclose their gender, which is represented separately in the chart.

The largest age group is 36-45, with 49 individuals employed (24 females and 25 males). The second largest is 26-35, with 39 employed individuals (21 females, 17 males, and 1 undisclosed). The 46-55 age group includes 19 individuals (14 males and 5 females). The 18-25

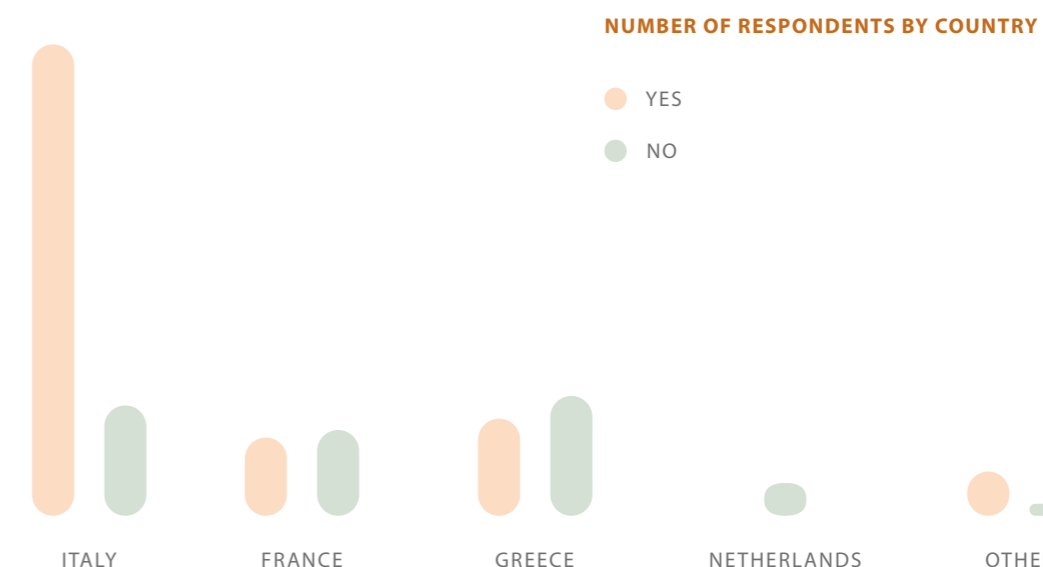
group includes 3 individuals (2 females and 1 male). The 56+ group includes 2 males. One respondent in the 26-35 group preferred not to disclose their gender, which is represented separately in the chart.

This distribution shows that employment among EQPR holders is highest in the mid-career range (ages 26-35 and 36-45), with gender representation relatively balanced in those age groups, and slight male predominance in the age group 46-55 and 56+.

IMPACT ON EMPLOYMENT

EQPR support for employment and geographical distribution of the employed EQPR holders

Among the 123 employed EQPR holders, 80 individuals (65%) indicated that the EQPR helped them to get employment, while 43 individuals (35%) stated it did not.



Further country-level analysis was essential to understand how the EQPR is being implemented and utilised in different national contexts. It allowed us to identify patterns of usage, providing valuable insights for tailoring future actions in country specific contexts.

An analysis of the EQPR holders who are currently employed reveals significant differences in how the EQPR is recognised and utilised across countries. Italy emerges as the strongest example of successful EQPR implementation in the labour market. Of the 68 respondents employed in Italy, 55 (81%) reported that the EQPR was helpful in securing employment. This high rate of utility reflects strong national recognition and effective operationalisation of the EQPR in Italy, suggesting that the EQPR is being well-integrated into employment pathways.

In contrast, France and Greece show more mixed results. In France, of 19 employed respondents, 9 (47%) indicated that the EQPR supported their employment process. Similarly, in Greece, 11 out of 25 respondents (44%) said the EQPR was helpful.

In the Netherlands, all 4 employed respondents reported that the EQPR was not helpful in securing their jobs. Though the sample is small, this suggests limited awareness or acceptance of the EQPR within the Dutch labour market.

In other countries, of the 7 employed respondents, 5 (71%) found the EQPR useful. This underscores the cross-border relevance and potential of the EQPR, particularly when employers are informed and willing to accept the EQPR.

These country-level insights highlight the importance of tailored outreach and policy dialogue to improve EQPR visibility and impact in different national labour markets.

Timelines for getting employment

Among the 80 EQPR holders who indicated that the EQPR helped them to secure employment, there are 40 individuals (50%) who were employed within the first 3 months after receiving the EQPR, suggesting that for half of the respondents, the EQPR played an immediate and effective role in facilitating job access.

24 individuals (30%) secured employment within 3 to 6 months, demonstrating EQPR's function as a near-term enabler of employment, even if not immediately following issuance. 12 individuals (15%) were employed 1 to 2 years after receiving the EQPR. These cases may reflect more complex job search journeys or alignment with longer-term professional goals. 4 individuals (5%) found employment more than 2 years after receiving the EQPR. While a minority, this indicates that the EQPR may retain long-term relevance, even when not immediately acted upon.

The fact that 80% (64 individuals) secured employment within six months of receiving the EQPR demonstrates the document's tangible value in improving labour market access for refugees. It also highlights the importance of timely qualifications recognition to enable faster transitions into host country job markets.

TIME BETWEEN RECEIVING EQPR AND EMPLOYMENT

< 3 MONTHS



3-6 MONTHS



1-2 YEARS



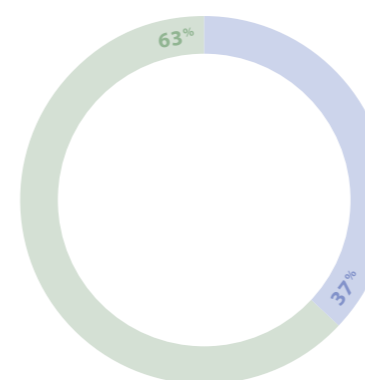
> 2 YEARS



Field of work and alignment with the qualifications

Surveyed EQPR holders reported employment across a wide range of professional sectors, with a notable concentration in healthcare. This includes 21 medical doctors, 11 dentists, 8 pharmacists, 5 nurses or assistants, and 3 chemical analysts.

ALIGNMENT OF CURRENT JOB WITH ORIGINAL QUALIFICATION

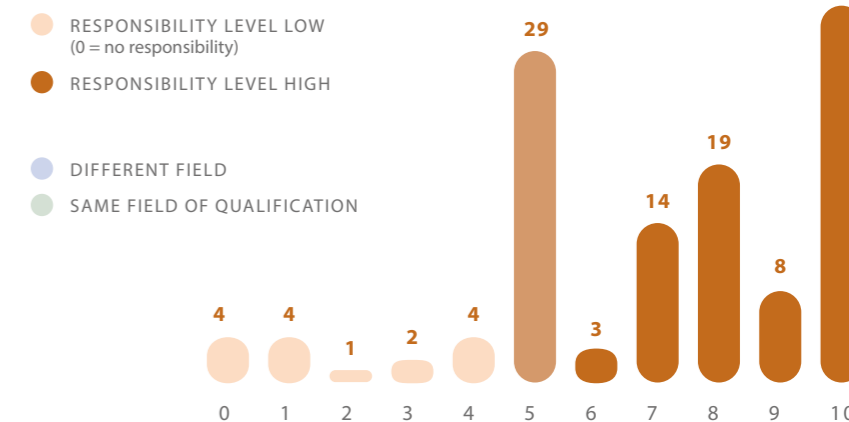


Other fields represented include education (5 teachers/lecturers), engineering (5), interpreting and translation (4), veterinary medicine (4), and humanitarian organisations such as IOM, Red Cross, and Caritas (4). Additional professional sectors include hospitality (3), logistics (3), finance and management (2), paralegal work (1), and design (1).

Of the 123 employed EQPR holders, 77 (63%) reported working in the same field as their original qualification obtained before arriving in the host country, while 46 (37%) indicated they are working in a different field.

This indicates that nearly two-thirds of EQPR holders successfully transitioned into roles aligned with their prior qualifications, demonstrating the EQPR's potential to support professional continuity. At the same time, more than one third of the EQPR holders found employment in different sectors,

NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT THE CHANGE IN RESPONSIBILITY LEVEL AT WORK AFTER MOVING TO HOST COUNTRY



suggesting the need for continued support in formal qualification recognition, licensing pathways, and labour market integration strategies.

The survey included a question designed to assess changes in professional responsibility after migration: "On a scale from 0 to 10, to what extent has your level of responsibility at work changed in your host country compared to before arrival?"

In this scale, 0 represented "I have no responsibility", 5 meant "I have the same level of responsibility", and 10 signified "I now have much more responsibility". The aim of this question was to understand how EQPR holders perceive their professional development and whether their roles in the host country have evolved in terms of responsibility and seniority.

The responses reveal meaningful insights. Among the 123 employed EQPR holders, 33 respondents (27%) selected scale 10, indicating they now carry significantly more

responsibility than in their pre-displacement roles. This was the most common response and suggests notable professional advancement for a substantial group.

29 respondents (24%) chose scale 5, reflecting no change in their level of responsibility. This suggests that for many, the EQPR facilitated entry into jobs comparable in responsibility to those they held before displacement - an indicator of recognition and continuity.

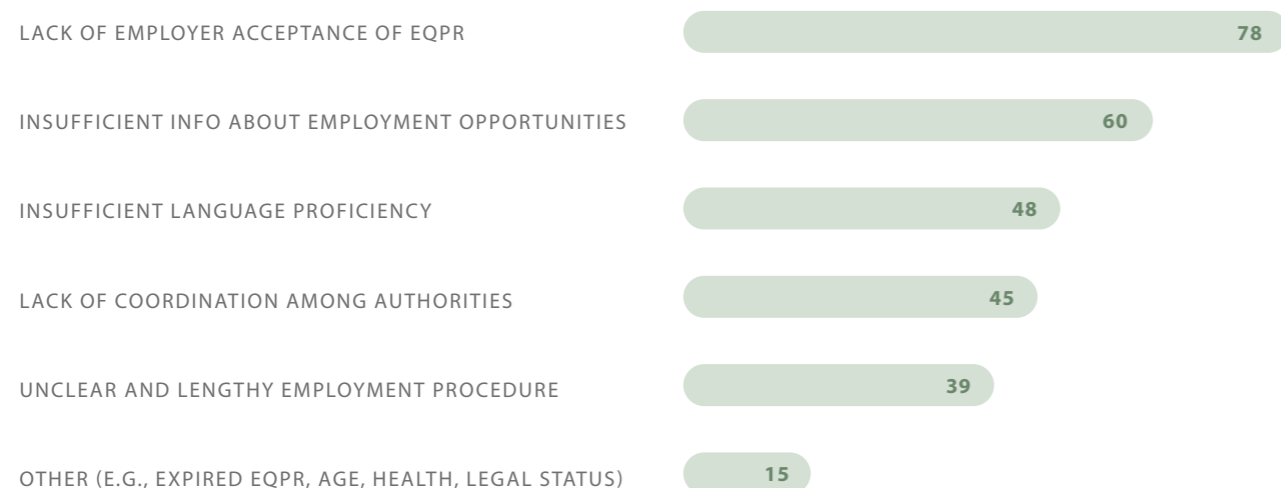
Overall, 60% of respondents selected values above scale 5, indicating an upward shift in responsibility. In contrast, only 14 individuals (11%) reported decreased responsibility (scores from 0 to 3), showing that downward mobility was not the dominant experience among respondents.

This data highlights that, when recognised and applied effectively, the EQPR can support not only labour market access, but also professional growth, helping refugees to rebuild careers and advance within new institutional and cultural settings.

Barriers to employment

The survey results reveal that while the EQPR has helped many refugees to access employment, significant structural, institutional, and personal barriers continue to hinder its full potential.

NUMBER OF RESPONSES FOR BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT REPORTED BY EQPR HOLDERS



Among the respondents who were unsuccessful in their job applications (78 individuals), the majority encountered employer reluctance or inflexibility in accepting the EQPR. This points to an urgent need to strengthen awareness and trust in the EQPR among employers, especially in sectors with a high demand for skilled labour.

Equally important are the information and communication gaps: 60 respondents reported insufficient information about employment opportunities, and 45 respondents pointed to lack of coordination among relevant authorities. These figures suggest that qualified individuals are often navigating a fragmented system without the necessary support or clarity. Simplifying procedures and enhancing institutional collaboration could substantially improve labour market access.

Language barriers remain a substantial hurdle, cited by 48 individuals, particularly in countries where fluency in the local language is essential for most professions. Targeted language support, especially sector-specific language training, could serve as a critical enabler for EQPR holders.

Other respondents (39) described the employment procedures as unclear or overly complex, while additional personal challenges were noted under “Other Barriers.” These included expired EQPRs (issued more than five years ago), age-related concerns (particularly among those over 56), lack of host-country work experience, and delays in legal status or professional licensing processes.

These diverse challenges emphasise that EQPR alone cannot resolve access issues, as it must be accompanied by broader integration efforts and policy alignment.

Overall, the findings call for a multi-layered response: reinforcing institutional recognition of the EQPR, expanding career guidance, job placement and language support, and improving coordination between stakeholders.



LANGUAGE SKILLS AND PROFICIENCY IMPACT



The EQPR survey data offers a rich and diverse linguistic profile of its 336 respondents, reflecting the multilingual realities of refugee populations across Europe. The inclusion of language-related questions in the EQPR survey was intentional and rooted in the recognition that language proficiency is a foundational component of successful integration.

Language is often the first and most immediate challenge faced by refugees and asylum seekers upon arrival in a host country, and it directly influences access to rights, services, education, and employment. Understanding the linguistic profile of the EQPR holders was therefore essential to evaluating how language skills interact with the recognition and practical use of qualifications.

Moreover, the EQPR aims not only to document academic and professional achievements but also to empower individuals to re-enter their fields of expertise. In this context, language proficiency, especially in the host country's official language(s), can serve as

either a key enabler or a limiting factor. By gathering data on official language test results, self-reported language use, and multilingual competencies, the survey sheds light on both the opportunities and barriers encountered by the EQPR holders in their efforts to rebuild their careers.

Including this topic in the survey also allows for better-informed policy and programming decisions. For instance, by highlighting the need of integrating language support services with qualification recognition processes and for designing targeted initiatives that promote both linguistic and professional integration.

Native languages and linguistic diversity

The data shows that EQPR holders speak a wide range of native languages, reflecting diverse origins and migration pathways.

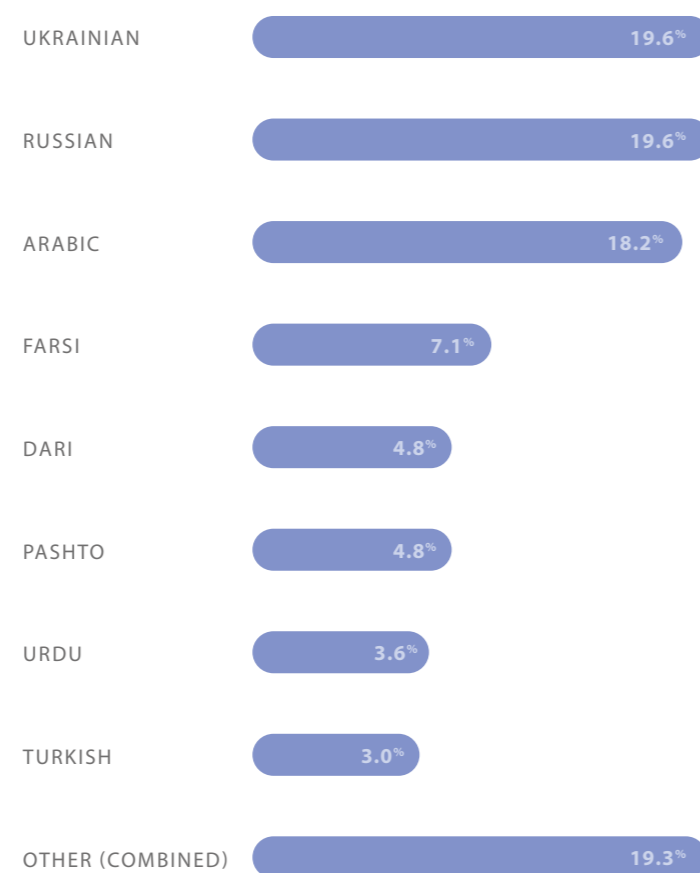
Out of 336 individuals, the most frequently reported native languages are Ukrainian (66 respondents), Russian (66), and Arabic (61), each accounting for approximately 18-20% of the total sample. These three languages alone represent over 57% of all respondents, highlighting their predominance among EQPR holders.

Other commonly reported native languages include Farsi (24 respondents), Dari (16), Pashto (16), Urdu (12), and Turkish (10). Each of these languages is spoken by 3-7% of the sample, reflecting the presence of communities from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Türkiye.

Beyond these, respondents reported a wide array of other native languages, such as Kurdish (Sorani), Bangla, Portuguese, Punjabi, Hindi, Tigrinya, Kinyarwanda, Amharic, Swahili, Wolof, Mandinka, Luganda, Igbo, Ewe, Yoruba, Fulani, Peulh, Bambara, Zarma, and Soninke.

Importantly, some respondents indicated two or more native languages, particularly in cases of closely related or coexisting linguistic identities, as for example, Russian and Ukrainian, Farsi and Dari, Arabic and Kurdish, Hindi and Bangla, Amharic and Tigrinya. This reflects the complex multilingual environments in which many EQPR holders were raised and educated.

DISTRIBUTION OF NATIVE LANGUAGES AMONG EQPR HOLDERS



Self-reported proficiency in international languages and languages of the host countries

A large majority of EQPR holders reported knowledge of multiple languages, including those of host countries and key global languages.

ENGLISH

English is the most widely spoken language, with 280 (83%) out of 336 respondents reporting some level of proficiency. Among these 280 individuals, 140 respondents identified their English proficiency as fluent, 101 reported themselves as intermediate users, 24 as beginners, and 15 as native speakers.

ITALIAN

Italian is spoken by 163 individuals (49%) out of 336 survey respondents, with 75 individuals who described their level as intermediate, and 68 who reported fluency. A smaller share (18 individuals) is identified as beginners, and only 2 individuals indicated Italian as their native language.

FRENCH

French is spoken by 117 respondents (35%) out of 336 in the sample, including 44 fluent speakers, 30 intermediate users, and 26 native speakers. 17 respondents are identified as beginner users.

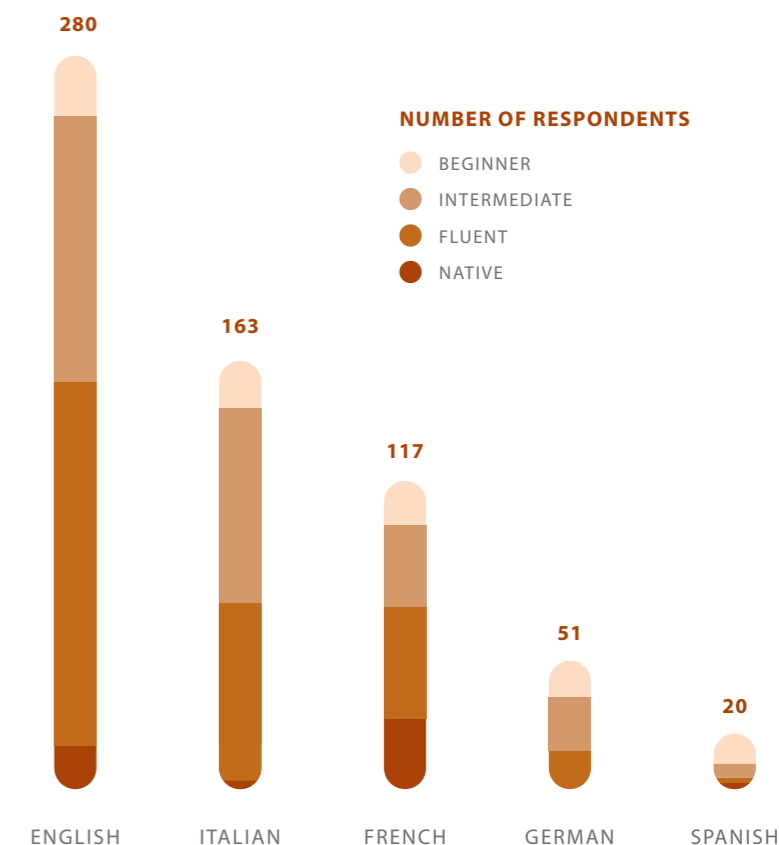
GERMAN

German is reported by 51 respondents (15%), with 14 fluent users, 20 at the intermediate level, and 14 at the beginner level.

SPANISH

Spanish is the language spoken by 20 respondents (6%), with 2 fluent users, 5 intermediate users, 11 beginner users, and 2 native speakers.

PROFICIENCY IN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES OF THE HOST COUNTRIES



This chart visualises the language proficiency of EQPR holders across five languages - English, Italian, French, German, and Spanish. Each segment is color-coded and labelled with both the number of respondents and the percentage they represent within each language group.

Official language testing among the EQPR holders

The survey participants were asked to report on their official language tests levels as referred to in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)¹.

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) describes and assesses language proficiency across six levels, ranging from A1 (beginner) to C2 (mastery). For English: IELTS (International English Language Testing System), TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language), Cambridge English Qualifications (e.g., B2 First, C1 Advanced, C2 Proficiency). For French: DELF (Diplôme d'Études en Langue Française) – A1 to B2, DALF (Diplôme Approfondi de Langue Française) – C1 to C2, TCF (Test de Connaissance du Français). For Italian: CILS (Certificazione di Italiano come Lingua Straniera), CELI (Certificato di Conoscenza della Lingua Italiana), PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri). For German: Goethe-Zertifikat (A1–C2), TestDaF (for academic purposes, typically B2–C1), TELC Deutsch. For Spanish: DELE (Diplomas de Español como Lengua Extranjera), For Greek: ΚΡΥ (Kratiko Pistopoiitiko Glossomathias – State Certificate of Language Proficiency). These certifications often play a critical role in supporting access to education and employment, especially in contexts where language proficiency is a formal requirement.

The data on official language testing among the EQPR holders reveals their broad linguistic capacity.

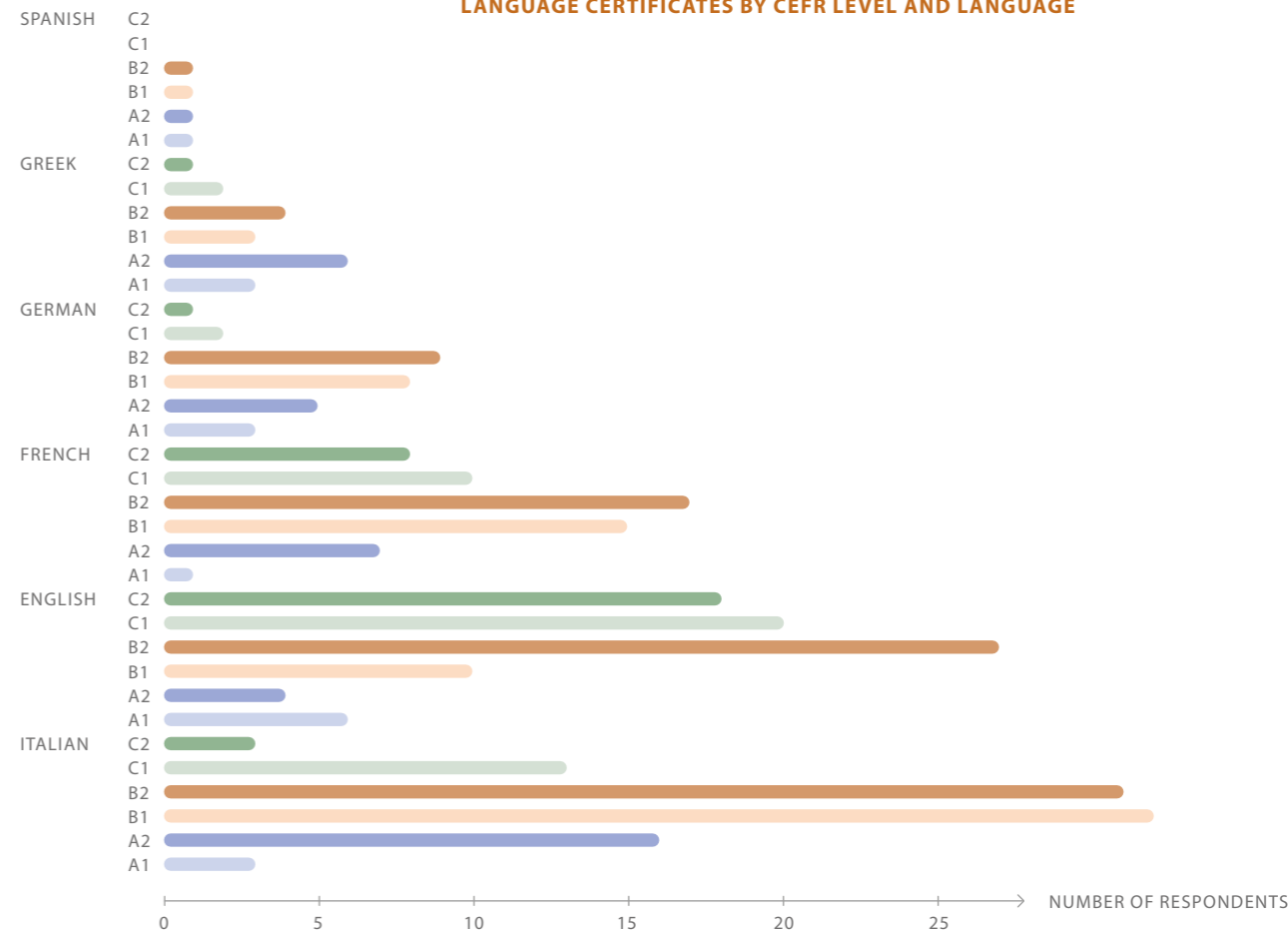
NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS WITH LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION BY LANGUAGE



- ITALIAN
- ENGLISH
- FRENCH
- GERMAN
- GREEK
- SPANISH



LANGUAGE CERTIFICATES BY CEFR LEVEL AND LANGUAGE



ITALIAN

Italian was the most tested language, with 98 respondents (29%) reporting certification. The most common levels were B1 (32 people) and B2 (31 people), followed by A2 (16 people), C1 (13 people), and A1 and C2 levels with 3 people in each group. Relatively high level of the certificates at level B1, B2 and C1 is suggesting readiness of the respondents for integration into academic or professional settings in Italy.

ENGLISH

English was the second most common, with 85 respondents (25%) reporting test completion. The largest group was at the B2 (27 people) and C1 (20 people) levels, followed by C2 level (18 people), B1 level (10 people), A1 level (6 people), and A2 level (4 people) indicating high functional or academic proficiency. This demonstrates that the significant majority (77%) of those tested reached a B2 level or above, indicating a strong level of academic and professional readiness in English.

FRENCH

French tests were taken by 58 individuals (17%). B1 (15 people) and B2 (17 people) levels were the most common, followed by advanced C1 (10 people) and C2 (8 people) levels, and lower levels A2 (7 people) and A1 (1 person). Approximately 60% of French test-takers reached B2 or higher, indicating strong preparedness for engagement in French-speaking education and work environments.

GERMAN

German tests were reported by 30 respondents (9%), with most scores in the range of B1 (8 people) and B2 (9 people), followed by A2 (5 people), A1 (3 people), C1 (2 people), and C1 (1 person) levels. Roughly 40% reached B2 or above, showing emerging competence suitable for employment and higher education in German-speaking contexts.

GREEK

Greek language testing was reported by 19 respondents (6%), most commonly at A2 (6 people) and B2 (4 people) levels, followed by A1 (3 people) and B1 (3 people) levels, and, finally C1 (2 people) and C2 (1 person) levels. Though most are still at early to intermediate levels, nearly 37% reached B2 or higher, suggesting a developing proficiency.

SPANISH

Spanish had a very small representation with 4 test-takers (1%), evenly distributed across CEFR levels A1 to C2.

Additionally, some respondents mentioned passing B1 or B2 level tests in Polish, Dutch, Swedish, and C1 level tests in Slovenian and Turkish.

This chart visualises both the number of respondents and the percentage for each CEFR level across different languages.

EQPR holders' access to language training

Out of 325 EQPR holders who responded to the survey question about participation in the language or training courses, 227 individuals (70%) indicated that they had participated in relevant language or training programmes in their host country. At the same time 98 individuals (30%) reported that they did not participate in such courses.

This high level of participation reflects a strong willingness among EQPR holders to improve their integration prospects and enhance employability or access to education. However, the 30% non-participation rate also suggests there are still barriers to access that needs to be addressed.

Among those 227 individuals who took part in language or training courses, the data shows that respondents accessed opportunities through a variety of institutional and community channels. Many individuals selected more than one setting, underlining the complementary nature of learning environments.

Refugee support associations were the most frequently cited source, mentioned by 55 respondents, which represents 24% of those who took courses.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) were identified by 51 respondents, accounting for 23% of course participants.

Online platforms were utilised by 37 respondents, or 16%, reflecting the growing role of remote learning in refugee education.

In addition to single-setting participation, a significant number of EQPR holders (84 respondents/37%) reported their participation in combined learning environments, which reflects the flexibility and adaptability of language and training provision.

These figures show that while formal and community-based learning opportunities remain central, online access to learning resources is becoming an increasingly important supplement or alternative, especially in the contexts where flexibility or accessibility is a key. The data highlight a dynamic landscape of learning, where Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), refugee support associations, and online learning platforms converge to offer more flexible and complementary learning opportunities.

Among those who took part in the training courses, as many as 84 (37%) individuals selected more than one learning setting, combining multiple sources of instruction to enhance their learning experience.

REFUGEE SUPPORT ASSOCIATIONS AND ONLINE PLATFORMS

21 respondents (9%) participated in the courses offered through both Refugee support associations and online platforms, underscoring the value of blended learning that combines community-based support with digital accessibility.

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIS) AND ONLINE LEARNING

8 individuals (4%) participated in their courses at the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) through online learning, which suggests growing popularity of hybrid formats within formal education systems.

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIS), REFUGEE SUPPORT ASSOCIATIONS, AND ONLINE PLATFORMS

7 respondents (3%) participated in language learning through all three channels, reflecting their proactive and diversified approach to acquiring skills.

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIS) AND REFUGEE SUPPORT ASSOCIATIONS

6 individuals (3%) took part in language learning facilitated by both Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Refugee support associations. This highlights the potential of collaboration between formal education providers and community-led initiatives.

REFUGEE SUPPORT ASSOCIATIONS AND ONLINE PLATFORMS

2 respondents (1%) reported participation across Refugee support associations, online platforms, and other unspecified sources, showing the presence and relevance of informal or alternative learning providers.

SOURCES OF LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR EQPR HOLDERS



NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS BY SOURCES

- REFUGEE SUPPORT ASSOCIATIONS 24%
- HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIS) 23%
- ONLINE PLATFORMS 16%
- OTHER / COMBINATIONS 37%

PARTICIPATION IN COMBINED LANGUAGE LEARNING CHANNELS



These combinations reflect a multi-channel engagement strategy that 84 (37%) of the EQPR holders have chosen to navigate and access education and training opportunities effectively. It also underscores the interconnectedness of community, institutional, and digital resources in supporting language acquisition and skills development.



Language proficiency is a foundational element in the successful integration of refugees and displaced individuals into both academic and professional environments. For EQPR holders, the ability to demonstrate certified language competence is often a prerequisite for pursuing further education or securing employment in host countries.

The survey shows that 63% of EQPR holders enrolled in education and 59% of those who are employed have at least one official language certificate. This underlines the importance of language certification not only as a tool for communication, but as a credential that significantly enhances employability and access to professional opportunities.

Language proficiency levels of the EQPR holders enrolled in education

Out of 120 EQPR holders currently enrolled in education, 75 individuals (63%) reported having at least one official language certificate, indicating that certified language proficiency is a key facilitator of access to higher education for refugees and displaced persons.

A significant share of these certified individuals, 56 out of 75 individuals (75%), hold certificates at B2 level or higher, reflecting the ability to study and communicate effectively in academic or professional contexts. These include 14 respondents with C2 levels (11 in English, 2 in French, and 1 in Italian), 19 respondents with C1 levels (10 in English, 4 in French, 4 in Italian, 1 in German), 23 respondents with B2 levels (7 in English, 7 in French, 8 in Italian, 1 in Greek, and 1 in German).

The remaining 19 individuals held certificates at more intermediate levels: 14 respondents with B1 levels (7 in French, 7 in Italian), 5 respondents with A2 levels (all in Italian).

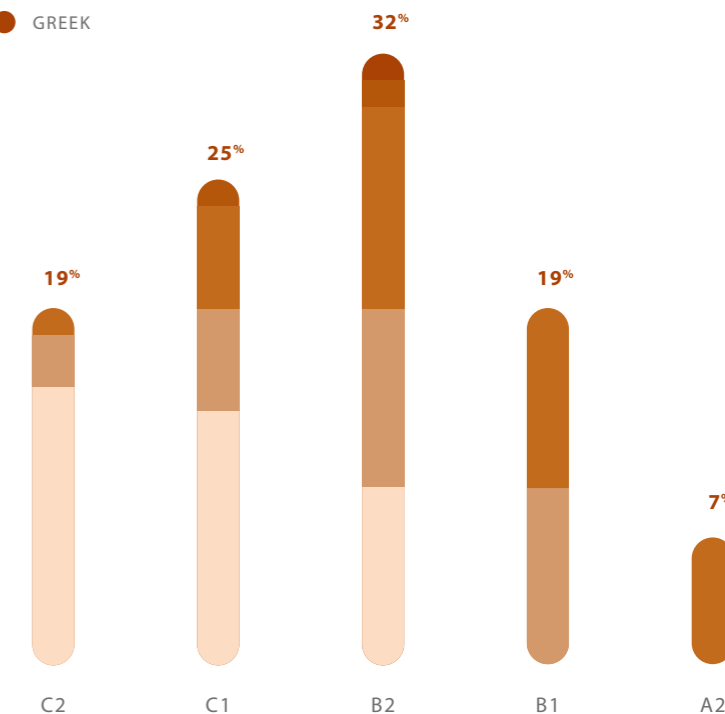
The most frequently tested languages among this group are English, French, and Italian, which aligns closely with the most common host countries offering EQPR interviews and educational opportunities. The data suggests that not only do higher levels of language proficiency improve access to education, but host country language acquisition (especially Italian and French) plays a critical role in educational inclusion.

This chart illustrates official language proficiency levels among EQPR holders enrolled in education. It includes both language distribution and percentage rates for each CEFR level.

PROFICIENCY LEVELS AMONG EQPR HOLDERS ENROLLED IN EDUCATION

LANGUAGES

- ENGLISH
- FRENCH
- ITALIAN
- GERMAN
- GREEK



Language proficiency levels of the employed EQPR holders

Among the 123 EQPR holders who reported being employed, 72 individuals (59%) indicated that they hold at least one official language certificate. This highlights that certified language proficiency plays a notable role in facilitating labour market access for refugees and displaced individuals.

The data shows that 48 of these 72 individuals (67%) hold certificates at B2 level or higher, indicating a strong working knowledge of the host country or another official language. These include 8 individuals with C2 level (4 in English, 3 in French, and 1 in Italian), 18 individuals with C1 level (8 in English, 4 in French, 5 in Italian, and 1 in German), 22 individuals with B2 level (4 in English, 6 in French, 7 in Italian, 3 in German, and 1 each in Spanish and Greek).

The remaining individuals hold certificates at B1 and A2 levels, reflecting beginner or intermediate proficiency: 16 individuals with B1 level (9 in Italian, 5 in French, 1 in English, and 1 in German), 8 individuals with A2 level (6 in Italian and 2 in English).

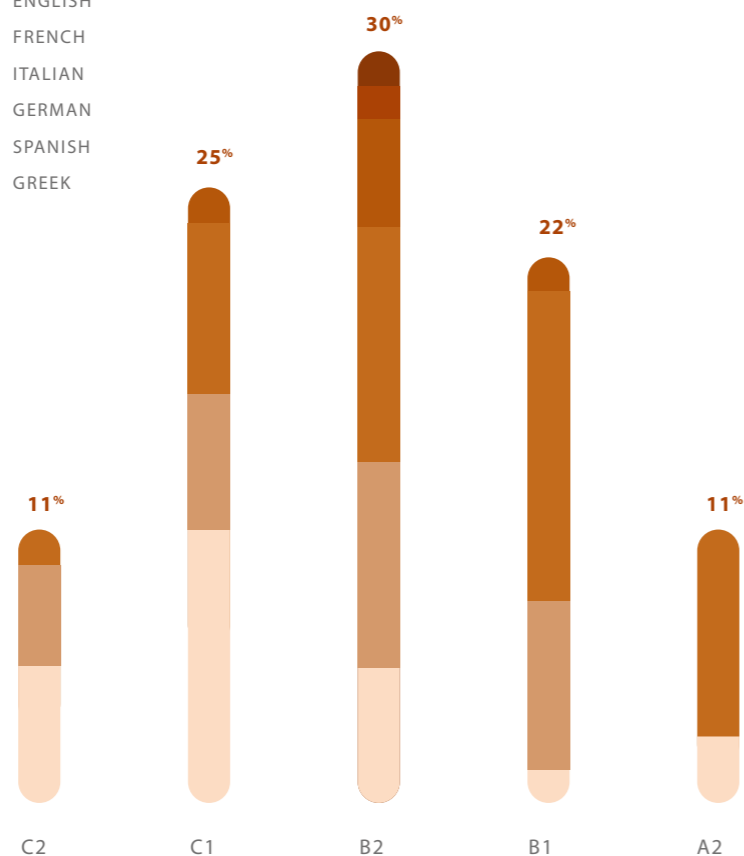
Italian and English appear as the most commonly tested languages, followed by French and German. This aligns with the most frequent host countries and working environments among the EQPR holders surveyed. The relatively high number of respondents with C1 and C2 certifications underlines the value of advanced language skills in securing employment.

This chart shows official language proficiency levels among the employed EQPR holders. It includes both language distribution and percentage rates for each CEFR level.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE CERTIFICATES AMONG EMPLOYED EQPR HOLDERS

LANGUAGES

- ENGLISH
- FRENCH
- ITALIAN
- GERMAN
- SPANISH
- GREEK



Language proficiency level and its correlation with the utility of the EQPR

The dataset reveals a strong association between certified language proficiency and the successful use of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) in both education and employment contexts.

LANGUAGE CERTIFICATE OWNERSHIP AMONG SUCCESSFUL EQPR USERS

- WITH LANGUAGE CERTIFICATE
- WITHOUT LANGUAGE CERTIFICATE



Among the 77 EQPR holders who successfully accessed education opportunities, 54 individuals (70%) possessed one or more official language certificates. Similarly, 60 out of 80 respondents (75%) who used the EQPR for employment had documented language proficiency.

Notably, 16 individuals with one or more language certificates reported successful use of the EQPR for both education and employment, highlighting the versatility of the EQPR and demonstrating how language certification and recognition of qualifications can open multiple institutional doors in host countries.

These figures point to a clear trend: the higher the level of language competence, the greater the likelihood of successful EQPR utilisation.

These findings suggest that while the EQPR is a valuable tool for facilitating access to education and the labour market, its effectiveness is significantly enhanced when complemented by strong and formally recognised language skills.

Language proficiency not only supports clearer communication and integration into academic and professional settings, but also appears to increase institutional and employer confidence in the qualifications presented by refugees and displaced individuals. The relationship

between certified language proficiency and the successful application of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) reveals a dynamic synergy that enhances the overall impact of both tools. The EQPR plays a crucial role in validating refugees' prior qualifications, while language proficiency, especially when officially certified, acts as a key enabler for putting those qualifications to use in real-world settings. Together, they offer a powerful, complementary framework for supporting refugees' transition into host societies. Recognising this synergy should inform future policies and support services, ensuring that EQPR implementation is paired with accessible and high-quality language learning pathways, tailored to the realities of refugees and asylum seekers.

IMPACT & USER EXPERIENCE WITH THE EQPR

Would you recommend EQPR to others ?

● YES
● NO



IMPACT & USER EXPERIENCE WITH THE EQPR

Overall satisfaction with the EQPR

When asked whether they would recommend the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) to others, an overwhelming majority of respondents - 296 out of 313 (95%) - answered yes, while only 17 individuals (5%) responded no.

This strong endorsement highlights the high level of satisfaction among EQPR holders with the overall experience and perceived value of the document. It suggests that, for most participants, the EQPR played a meaningful role in supporting their educational or professional pathways and was considered a worthwhile and empowering process.

The small proportion of respondents who indicated they would not recommend the EQPR may reflect individual challenges or unmet expectations related to local implementation, limited recognition

in certain institutions or sectors, or bureaucratic barriers. These perspectives should be further explored to inform continuous improvement efforts and to better tailor support mechanisms to diverse user needs.

Overall, the positive feedback indicates that the EQPR is viewed as a valuable tool for enhancing opportunities for refugees and displaced individuals seeking to rebuild their professional and academic lives in their host countries.

Aspects of the EQPR process which are most satisfying

Feedback from the EQPR holders reveals an overwhelmingly positive perception of the initiative, underscoring its relevance and value as a tool for recognition of qualifications among refugees and asylum seekers.

Many respondents described the EQPR process as clear, respectful, and professionally conducted, emphasising the dignity and sense of validation it provided. The interview phase, in particular, was repeatedly praised for being supportive, fair, and empowering.

A key element of this positive experience was the presence of professional evaluators who not only had deep knowledge of diverse education systems but also, in many cases, conducted interviews in the native languages of the applicants.

This significantly increased trust, comfort, and clarity for candidates, enabling them to express the full scope of their academic and professional experiences. Several individuals noted how the evaluators' respectful and informed approach helped them to restore a sense of dignity and self-worth.

The structure and content of the EQPR document itself were also highly appreciated. Many users highlighted how it effectively gathered and synthesised relevant personal, educational, and professional information into a concise, credible, and standardised format. The document was seen as a formal, tangible acknowledgment of their achievements, especially valuable for those unable to present fully documented files.

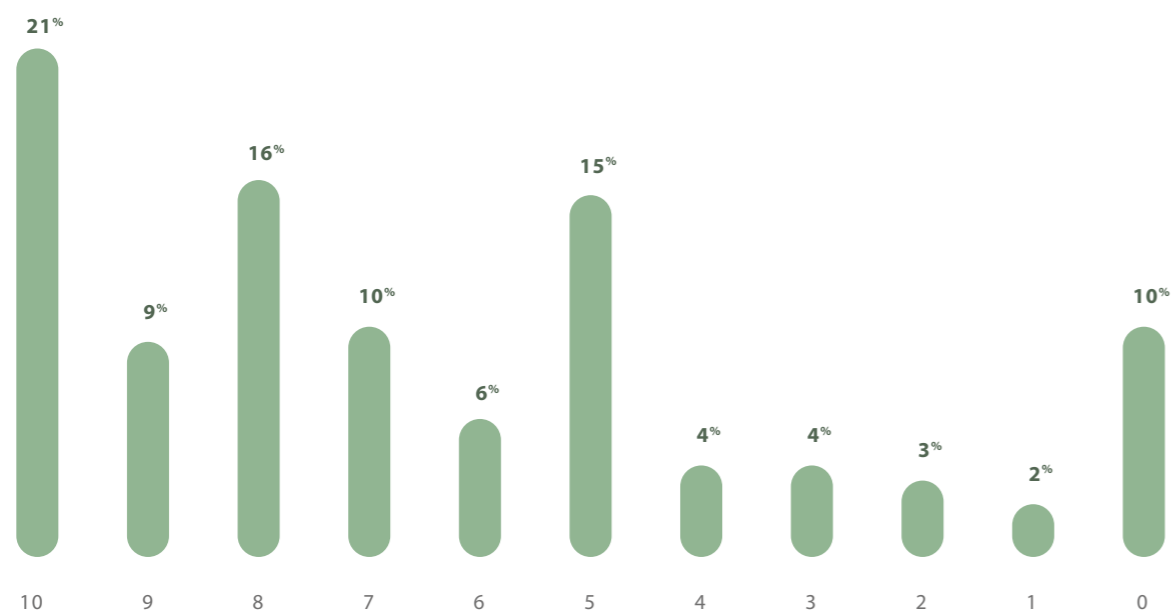
Importantly, the EQPR process was not only viewed as an administrative step, but as a transformative and motivational experience. Many respondents described it as a moment of empowerment, one that reignited their confidence and encouraged them to actively pursue further education, employment, and integration opportunities. In some cases, individuals described the EQPR as a turning point that helped them reimagine their future with a renewed sense of purpose and possibility.

IMPACT & USER EXPERIENCE WITH THE EQPR

Perceived impact of the EQPR on integration

As part of the survey, EQPR holders were asked to assess the extent to which the EQPR has improved their overall integration into the society of their host country, using a scale from 0 (no improvement) to 10 (maximum improvement). Out of 309 respondents, a substantial portion reported highly positive experiences.

EQPR IMPACT ON INTEGRATION IN HOST COUNTRY (SELF-RATED, 0-10 SCALE)



A combined 46% of respondents rated the EQPR's impact at 8, 9, or 10, with the most frequently selected rating being 10 (selected by 66 respondents, or 21%). This indicates that nearly half of those surveyed perceive the EQPR as a significant enabler of their integration, enhancing their ability to participate in educational, professional, and social life in the host country.

Another 31% of participants gave moderate ratings between 5 and 7, suggesting some benefits were felt, though possibly tempered by ongoing challenges such as limited recognition or access to opportunities.

While the majority of EQPR holders rated the programme as beneficial to their integration, a notable minority expressed limited or no perceived impact. Specifically, 59 out of 309 respondents (approx. 19%) rated the effect of the EQPR between 0 and 2, with 30 individuals (10%) selecting 0, indicating no improvement at all in their integration experience.



Several factors could help explain these lower scores

SHORT TIME SINCE EQPR ISSUANCE

For some respondents, not enough time may have passed between receiving the EQPR and participating in the survey. Integration is a gradual process, and individuals who received the document recently may not yet have had the opportunity to leverage it effectively for employment, education, or societal participation.

LANGUAGE BARRIERS

Limited proficiency in the host country's language remains a persistent barrier. As indicated in other sections of the survey, language acquisition is closely linked to the successful application of the EQPR. Without adequate language skills, EQPR holders may struggle to navigate employment, education, or recognition pathways, even with an assessed qualification in hand.

STRUCTURAL AND BUREAUCRATIC HURDLES

Respondents frequently highlighted the complexity of administrative requirements in host countries, particularly in accessing higher education or regulated professions. These barriers can significantly delay or prevent the practical use of the EQPR, leading to frustration and a diminished perception of its impact.

VARIABLE DEGREE OF ACCEPTANCE ACROSS COUNTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS

The degree to which the EQPR is acknowledged by employers, universities, and authorities differs significantly across national contexts. In some countries, low awareness or inconsistent acceptance by key institutions may hinder the EQPR's effectiveness.

WIDER INTEGRATION CHALLENGES

For many refugees and asylum seekers, integration encompasses more than education or employment. Social acceptance, legal status, housing, and mental health are also critical. If these broader challenges are unmet, even a successful EQPR experience may not be enough to shift the overall sense of integration.

In summary, the low ratings by a minority of respondents underscore the need for improved awareness, better follow-up support, expanded language training, and stronger institutional recognition of the EQPR. Addressing these systemic issues is a key to enhancing the EQPR's effectiveness as a tool for integration.

Greatest current challenges experienced by the EQPR holders

Survey participants were asked to identify the greatest challenge they currently face in their efforts to integrate professionally or academically using their qualifications. The responses revealed a set of recurring and interlinked themes, highlighting several structural and personal barriers.

1 LANGUAGE BARRIERS
The most frequently cited challenge was insufficient language proficiency in the language of the host country. Respondents mentioned struggling with national languages such as German, Italian, Greek, and English at levels required for employment or access to higher education. Many emphasised the difficulty of achieving near-native proficiency, which is often expected for professional roles, particularly in regulated sectors.

2 UNCLEAR OR INCONSISTENT BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES
Numerous respondents expressed frustration with slow, unclear, or inconsistent bureaucratic procedures related to recognition of foreign qualifications. Some mentioned specific difficulties in navigating the national systems for professional recognition, especially in Italy.

3 EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES
A significant number of respondents reported being unable to find jobs that match their qualifications. Respondents also cited overqualification or misrecognition of their professional experience, especially in sectors such as engineering, education, and health care.

4 LEGAL AND RESIDENCY STATUS
Several individuals raised concerns about the instability of their residency permits, which may cause them to miss employment opportunities.

5 LACK OF GUIDANCE AND FUTURE UNCERTAINTY
A few responses also revealed confusion about what happens after the EQPR expires, whether it can be renewed, and how it relates to the long-term integration pathways. Several respondents expressed a desire for clearer guidance and counselling on how to use the EQPR.

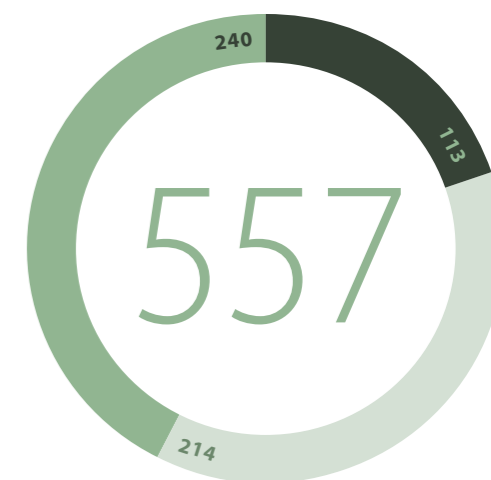
This feedback underlines that while the EQPR is a valued tool for assessment of qualifications, there remain substantial structural and systemic barriers, particularly related to language proficiency, recognition bureaucracy, and labour market access, that limit its full potential. Clearer policies, better coordination among authorities, language support, and stronger employer engagement could help mitigate these persistent challenges.

Priority areas for the EQPR improvement identified by the EQPR holders

Survey participants were asked to identify the most pressing areas for improvement related to the use of the EQPR, choosing among three options: (a) more information by competent authorities on refugees' rights to have their qualifications assessed; (b) more information on the EQPR assessment process itself; (c) raising awareness among education institutions and employers about the EQPR's function and utility. In addition, they were invited to share other areas for potential improvement.

KEY AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE EQPR SYSTEM

- CLEARER INFORMATION ABOUT THE EQPR PROCESS
- MORE INFORMATION BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES
- RAISING AWARENESS AMONG EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND EMPLOYERS



The findings offer valuable insights into current gaps and provide concrete suggestions for enhancing the EQPR's relevance, reach, and usability.

The most frequently cited need, mentioned by 240 out of 327 respondents (73%), was the need to raise awareness among education institutions and employers about the function, purpose, and utility of the EQPR. Several EQPR holders reported that their document was not accepted by the academic or labour market stakeholders, limiting its effectiveness. The lack of recognition and acceptance appears to stem from unfamiliarity with the EQPR rather than resistance, underscoring the need for continuous outreach and advocacy targeted at universities, employers, and professional associations.

The second most common concern, noted by 214 participants (65%), was the lack or insufficiency of adequate information from competent

authorities about the rights of refugees to have their qualifications assessed. This reflects the fact that many refugees are unaware of existing procedures or lack clarity on how to begin or navigate the recognition process. Respondents underscored the importance of ensuring that national and local authorities, including refugee support organisations, proactively disseminate clear and accessible information related to the opportunities and available options for recognition of qualifications.

Another group of 113 respondents (35%) called for clearer communication on the EQPR assessment process itself. This includes better guidance on what documents are required for the process, how and where to apply, how to prepare for the interview, what to expect during the evaluation, and how the EQPR can be used once it is issued. Respondents also requested more structured orientation resources and post-interview follow-up.



In addition to the predefined options, participants were invited to provide open-ended feedback. These comments revealed further structural and policy-related concerns like limited recognition and legal standing of the EQPR in the contexts of regulated professions, due to local licensing requirements; expiration of the EQPR (after five years), which is viewed as problematic, particularly if renewal procedures are not clearly defined; and necessity for stronger cooperation with national recognition authorities (e.g. ENIC-NARIC centres).

Several participants asked for creation of the support platforms connecting EQPR holders with employers, and development of the bridging courses, including language training, which can support effective use of the EQPR. Some called for update and upscale of the EQPR after its expiration date, to secure continuity and more efficient use of the document. Two respondents called for quicker processing time of the EQPR applications, while one of the respondents voiced concern about the EQPR title itself, suggesting it may unintentionally stigmatise holders or miscommunicate the document's purpose to the employers.

Overall, the feedback strongly affirms the value of the EQPR as a tool for facilitating integration and restoring access to professional and academic opportunities. However, it also signals that the EQPR's potential impact is constrained by gaps in visibility, acceptance, and institutional follow-up. Addressing these areas through coordinated efforts, both at policy and implementation levels, will be essential to ensuring that the EQPR can meet the evolving needs of refugee and asylum seeker professionals across Europe.

FUTURE ENGAGEMENT OF THE INTERESTED RESPONDENTS

Looking ahead, it is essential to build on the motivation and enthusiasm of the EQPR holders who have expressed a desire to remain engaged with the programme. Many survey participants indicated interest in contributing to the further development of the EQPR, including raising awareness, supporting outreach, and sharing their personal experiences to inform others.

Participatory engagement in focus groups

To strengthen the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) and ensure it evolves in line with the real-world needs of its users, survey respondents were asked: **“Would you like to be part of the focus group meetings to discuss ways to improve the EQPR?”**

This question aimed to assess not only their interest in future engagement, but also to identify a group of motivated individuals who could help inform future improvements to the EQPR framework based on their direct experience with the process. Out of 310 respondents, a significant majority of 214 individuals (69%) expressed a clear willingness to be part of such meetings, while only 96 (31%) declined.

A closer look at the demographic profile of those who responded reveals a strong representation across diverse age groups and genders. The largest group of interested participants was within the 36-45 age range, including 79 respondents (50 males and 29 females). The next most represented group was aged 26-35 age range, comprising 77 individuals (55 males and 22 females). The 46-55 age group followed with 35 participants (26 males and 9 females), while younger participants aged 18-25 accounted for 13 individuals (6 males and 7 females). Additionally, 9 individuals over the age of 56 (7 males and 2 females) expressed their interest, and one respondent chose not to disclose their gender.

Importantly, those who expressed interest in participating represent the full geographical diversity of the EQPR holders, covering regions across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Many possess strong language capacities not only in their native languages but also in widely spoken languages such as English, French, German, and Italian, languages in which they often hold official proficiency certifications. This multilingual and multicultural profile positions them exceptionally well to contribute to inclusive discussions that take into account linguistic diversity, communication barriers, and cultural nuances.

Engaging this motivated group through structured focus groups, user advisory panels, or consultation workshops could provide critical input on:

- The **accessibility and clarity** of the EQPR application and assessment process.
- **Barriers to recognition** in host country institutions or labour markets.
- **Opportunities** for wider dissemination and institutional uptake.
- Suggestions for increasing **the visibility and credibility of the EQPR** among employers, professional bodies, and educational institutions.

In addition, this initiative can foster peer learning, community-building, and collaborative problem-solving among EQPR holders themselves. It also presents an opportunity to integrate refugee voices more systematically into the policy development cycle, ensuring that future iterations of the EQPR are even more responsive, inclusive, and effective.



Awareness raising through media engagement

As part of the survey, respondents were asked: **“Would you be willing to speak to the media about your education and qualifications?”** (For example, speak to journalists and have your story published in different media)?”



Awareness raising through storytelling-driven advocacy

To understand how many EQPR holders are open to share their personal testimonies, the survey participants were asked: **“It is very important for voices like yours to be heard. Would you be willing to share your story with the public?”**

The purpose of this question was to assess the level of interest among EQPR holders in publicly sharing their personal and professional stories to help raise awareness about the importance of qualifications recognition and to advocate for improved support for refugees and displaced individuals.

Out of 326 respondents, 135 individuals (41%) indicated that they would be willing to speak to the media, 104 respondents (32%) were unsure, selecting “Do not know”, and 87 individuals (27%) stated that they would not be willing to engage with the media.

Demographic profile of those who answered “yes” reveals strong representation across age groups and genders. The 36–45 age group comprised the largest segment, with 49 respondents (28 males and 21 females), followed by the 36–45 age group, with 48 respondents (30 males and 19 females). In the 46–55 age group, 22 individuals expressed willingness (16 males and 6 females), while the 18–25 age group included 10 individuals (5 males and 5 females). Additionally, 5 respondents over the age of 56 (4 males and 1 female) expressed interest, and 1 individual who did not disclose their gender also indicated willingness.

This relatively high proportion of affirmative responses suggests that a significant part of EQPR holders is open to becoming active ambassadors for the initiative. Their personal testimonies could serve as

powerful narratives to highlight the impact of the EQPR on rebuilding lives and accessing education or employment opportunities. These stories could also play a vital role in influencing public perception, informing policy, and encouraging greater institutional acceptance of the EQPR across sectors.

At the same time, the considerable number of respondents who selected “Do not know” points to an opportunity for their further engagement. Clear communication on how participation would work, what kind of media exposure might be expected, and how individuals’ privacy and safety would be protected could help move more people toward active involvement.

The 27% who declined to participate may reflect understandable caution, and concerns about privacy. This highlights the importance of providing multiple forms of engagement, not limited to public visibility, for those who wish to contribute more discreetly to the EQPR’s development.

In summary, the data reveals a substantial potential for storytelling as a strategic tool, with EQPR holders willing to share their journeys and support broader efforts to promote the recognition and use of the EQPR.

Out of 326 respondents, 157 individuals (48%) answered “Yes”, expressing a clear willingness to publicly share their story and personal experiences related to education, qualifications, and the EQPR process; 113 individuals (35%) selected “Do not know”, indicating uncertainty, potentially due to privacy concerns or lack of clarity about what sharing their story might involve; 56 individuals (17%) responded “No”, declining to participate in public storytelling for various possible reasons, possibly including personal comfort, legal or security considerations, or emotional burden. The relatively high number of “Do not know” responses (35%) underscore the importance of providing clear, ethical communication around how the stories will be used, ensuring informed consent, and possibly offering media training or support to those interested but hesitant.

Personal testimonies are often powerful tools to raise awareness, shape policy, and humanise systemic challenges, especially in public campaigns, media stories, and stakeholder events. The fact that nearly half of all respondents are open to sharing their story suggests a significant pool of motivated individuals who view their experiences as potentially impactful. With appropriate guidance and protection, their stories could support the visibility and legitimacy of the EQPR, help build awareness within the society, and influence decision-makers.

In addition, based on the inputs shared by the EQPR holders in this survey, future engagement initiatives could include the creation of an EQPR alumni network, peer-support schemes, or mentorship programmes in which experienced EQPR holders support new applicants or recently arrived refugees navigating the recognition process. Such networks could foster a sense of community, facilitate the exchange of practical advice, and strengthen the visibility of EQPR also among peers.

Additionally, some participants proposed becoming local ambassadors or facilitators to help disseminate information about the EQPR within their communities or through partnerships with refugee support organisations.

Involving EQPR holders in dissemination, co-design of guidance materials, and advocacy efforts can help ensure that the system remains user-centred, responsive, and grounded in the real experiences of displaced professionals.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMEN- DATIONS

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR), drawing on empirical data from 336 respondents across a diverse demographic and geographic spectrum. The results offer evidence-based insights into the EQPR's role as a practical tool for facilitating the recognition of qualifications among forcibly displaced individuals and enhancing their access to higher education and employment.

The data clearly indicate that the substantial number of the survey respondents found the EQPR useful in pursuing further studies and professional integration. The key finding is that 59% of the respondents reported having used the EQPR after receiving it. This relatively high utilisation rate indicates that the EQPR has immediate and practical relevance for many holders.

When disaggregated by the outcome domains, the EQPR's impact becomes more evident. Among the 123 survey respondents who are currently employed, 77 individuals (63%) reported that they are working in the same field as their original qualification, which indicates a relatively high degree of occupational alignment. 72 of the 123 employed individuals (59%) possess at least one official language certificate, underscoring the important interplay between language proficiency and labour market access. In the domain of education, 120 EQPR holders of those who participated in the survey, reported being currently enrolled in academic programmes. Of these, 75 individuals (63%) held official language certificates, pointing to a clear association between certified language competence and access to formal study opportunities. Respondents who used the EQPR for academic admission did so in the country of EQPR issuance, where institutional awareness and procedural compatibility tend to be higher.

Furthermore, a significant majority (95%) expressed willingness to recommend the EQPR to others, reflecting broad user satisfaction and perceived utility.

Notably, the survey revealed a strong willingness among EQPR holders to contribute to the ongoing development and promotion of the initiative. Over two-thirds of respondents (69%) expressed their interest in participating in future focus groups aimed at improving the EQPR, and many indicated readiness to share their personal stories publicly to raise awareness about the value of qualifications recognition for displaced persons. This level of engagement highlights the potential for a user-informed, participatory approach to further enhance the EQPR's impact.

The report also highlights areas for systemic improvement. A substantial proportion of respondents pointed to barriers such as limited awareness of the EQPR among employers and academic institutions, insufficient communication from public authorities, and bureaucratic complexity in recognition processes. These issues were consistently reflected across age groups, countries of residence, and gender.

To conclude and build on the rich data gathered through the EQPR survey, there are presented some targeted recommendations:

- 01 Strengthen institutional awareness** about the purpose and validity of the EQPR across stakeholder groups.
- 02 Enhance access to information by improving the availability and clarity of official information about the EQPR process**, rights of refugees to have qualifications assessed, and the benefits of the EQPR.
- 03 Promote language proficiency as an enabler**, by integrating the EQPR with existing language programmes and ensure alignment with academic and professional language requirements.
- 04 Support professional continuity and upskilling**, by collaborating with licencing and authorisations bodies and employers to streamline pathways that allow EQPR holders to return to their original field of expertise.
- 05 Foster user engagement** in policy development and improvement of the EQPR by institutionalising focus groups and participatory feedback mechanisms.
- 06 Empower refugee voices** by offering structured opportunities to share their stories publicly and advise on communication and advocacy strategies.
- 07 Align integration policies with democratic values by embedding RFCDC principles into language and orientation courses**, helping refugees understand their rights and responsibilities and fostering mutual respect between communities.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Dear EQPR holder,

We are contacting you as you are a holder of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) and we would like to receive your feedback.

The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the use of the EQPR. In addition, we would like to create a group of EQPR holders who would like to be involved in the future of the project by participating in several activities of the EQPR.

We would appreciate if you could answer the questions in this short survey to help us to make the EQPR even a more powerful tool and to inform us if you are interested in becoming an EQPR ambassador.

We thank you for your kind co-operation!

The project team

PLEASE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW

PERSONAL INFORMATION

01 *Your full name* _____

02 *What is the number of your EQPR?* _____
It can be found at the top of your EQPR

03 *You are?*

- Male
- Female
- Non-binary/other
- Prefer not to say

04 *What is your age?*

- 18-25
- 26-35
- 36-45
- 46-55
- Over 55

05 *What is your current country of residence?* _____

06 *You are?*

- Secondary school
- Vocational training
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctorate
- Other (please specify) _____

07 *In which country did you obtain your highest education?*

08 *Which languages do you speak apart from your mother tongue and what is your proficiency?*

English

- I'm a beginner user
- I'm an intermediate user
- I'm a fluent user

French

- I'm a beginner user
- I'm an intermediate user
- I'm a fluent user

German

- I'm a beginner user
- I'm an intermediate user
- I'm a fluent user

Italian

- I'm a beginner user
- I'm an intermediate user
- I'm a fluent user

Other (please specify)

- I'm a beginner user
- I'm an intermediate user
- I'm a fluent user

ANNEX 01

09 Have you passed a language test evaluation from a language testing body – Cambridge or TOEFL or other certifying institution

- Yes
- No

10 If yes, what is your level

English		French		German	
A1	B2	A1	B2	A1	B2
A2	C1	A2	C1	A2	C1
B1	C2	B1	C2	B1	C2
Italian		Other (please specify)			
A1	B2	A1	B2		
A2	C1	A2	C1		
B1	C2	B1	C2		

EXPERIENCE WITH THE EQPR PROCESS

11 How did you learn about the EQPR?

- Refugee assistance organisations
- University
- Local government
- Online
- Friends or family
- Other (please specify)

12 When did you receive the EQPR?

2017	2021
2018	2022
2019	2023
2020	2024

13 Where did you have the interview?

- Italy
- France
- the Netherlands
- Other, please specify: _____

SURVEY QUESTIONS

14 The interview was:

- In person
- Online

15 You used the EQPR in the country where you received it

- In the country where I received it
- In another country (please specify, which one)
- In several countries (please specify)

16 Did you encounter any difficulties or barriers during the EQPR application process?

- Multiple replies possible
- No problem
- Lack of information
- Insufficient language proficiency level
- Understanding the process
- Lack of support
- Other (please specify)

17 Have you been enrolled in any study programmes since your EQPR was issued?

- Yes
- No

18 If yes, did the EQPR help you to enter the studies?

- Yes
- No

19 If no, please indicate if you have faced one or more of the following barriers:

- Insufficient information about study opportunities
- Insufficient information about the admissions process to education institutions
- Unclear and lengthy admissions procedure
- Lack of coordination among authorities
- Lack of flexibility and willingness of the higher education institutions to accept the EQPR as a part of the admissions documentation
- The education institution to which you applied demanded further validation of your EQPR
- Other barriers (please specify)

20 If yes, you were able to successfully use the EQPR:

- Within 3 months after the issue of the EQPR
- In 3 to 6 months after the issue of the EQPR
- In the period of 1 to 2 years after the issue of the EQPR
- After 2 years after the issue of the EQPR

21 Please provide information about the name and the country of the institution you are attending:

ANNEX 01

22 Please provide information about the name and level of the study programme you are attending:

23 Are you enrolled in a programme of study that is in the same field as that of your qualification obtained before arriving in your host country?

- Yes
- No

24 If no, what is the field of study in which you are enrolled at the moment?

25 What is the field of study / Your specialisation according to the qualification obtained before arriving in your host country?

26 Are you currently employed or have you been employed since obtaining the EQPR?

- Yes
- No

27 Were you able to find a job after you got/obtained the EQPR?

- Yes
- No

28 If no, please indicate if you faced one or more of the following barriers:

- Insufficient information about employment opportunities
- Insufficient language proficiency level
- Unclear and lengthy employment procedure
- Lack of coordination among authorities
- Lack of flexibility and willingness of the employers to accept the EQPR
- Other barriers (please specify)

29 If yes, did the EQPR help you to find a job?

- Yes
- No

30 If yes, you were able to successfully use the EQPR to find a job:

- Within 3 months after the issue of the EQPR
- In 3 to 6 months after the issue of the EQPR
- In the period of 1 to 2 years after the issue of the EQPR
- After 2 years of the issue of the EQPR

SURVEY QUESTIONS

31 Please provide information about the employer for whom you are working and your position at work?

32 Are you working in the same field in which you obtained qualification before arriving in your host country?

- Yes
- No

33 If no, in which field are you working?

34 On a scale from 0-10, to what extent has your level of responsibility at work changed in your host country in comparison to your responsibility at work before arriving in your host country? '0' means 'I have no responsibility', '5' means 'I have the same level of responsibility' and '10' means 'I now have much more responsibility'.

35 Have you been able to take any relevant language courses or any other types of training courses in your host country?

- Yes
- No

36 If yes, you took the language course:

- Within Higher education institution
- Within Refugee support association
- Online
- Others, please specify

37 What can you identify as your biggest current challenge?

38 It is very important for voices like yours to be heard. Would you be willing to share your story with the public?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

39 Would you be willing to speak to the media about your education and qualifications (for example, speak to journalists and have your story published in different media)?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know

40 *If no, please indicate if you faced one or more of the following barriers:*

More information provided by competent authorities on the right for refugees to have their qualifications assessed.

More information on the EQPR assessment process itself.

Raising awareness of education institutions and employers about the function and utility of the EQPR.

Other (please specify)

41 *Would you like to be part of the focus group meetings to discuss ways to improve the EQPR?*

41 *Please share with us any other thoughts you might have regarding the EQPR process, EQPR's utility and potential (for example, you might share what kind of information you would have liked to have received before applying, during or after the interviews, etc.):*

43 *We hope that you have had a positive experience throughout the EQPR process. Please share with us what are you most satisfied with?*

44 *On a scale from 1-10, how much has the EQPR improved your overall integration into the society of your host country?*

45 *Would you recommend others to apply for an EQPR*

SURVEY ON THE USE OF THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS PASSPORT FOR REFUGEES

Since 2017, the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) has offered a practical and innovative response to the challenges refugees face in having their qualifications recognised and in rebuilding their educational or professional pathways. Developed by the Council of Europe with the support of ENIC-NARIC centres, the EQPR provides a reliable assessment adaptable even when documentation is missing, and operates in full complement to national recognition systems.

In a world marked by continued crises and displacement, its relevance is stronger than ever. This report draws on a 2025 survey of EQPR holders, whose experiences highlight both the positive impact of the EQPR and the need for greater support, awareness, and usability.

These insights will guide the next phase of the initiative, focusing on strengthened guidance services, deeper cooperation with institutions and employers, and the active involvement of EQPR holders themselves. The EQPR continues to evolve as a living, inclusive tool that promotes fair recognition, empowerment, and meaningful access to opportunities for refugees across Europe.



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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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