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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

DROITS DE L'HOMME,
DÉMOCRATIE
ET ÉTAT DE DROIT

WHY THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS PASSPORT FOR REFUGEES?

Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe

Launching Conference

Athens, March 28, 2018

BACKGROUND

- 2015: greatest refugee crisis Europe has seen for decades
- Using refugees' real qualifications
 - Incomplete documentation
 - Uncertain status
- Virtuous or vicious circle?
- The alternative to full recognition cannot be no recognition



Produced by the Education Department, Council of Europe

Project partners:



In co-operation with:



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WE NEED TO

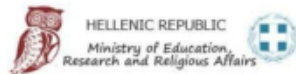
- Provide refugees with an assessment of qualifications that cannot be fully documented
- Have the assessment accepted across borders

HOW?

- Refugees interviewed by experienced credentials evaluators
- Use any supporting documentation available
- Assess whether the refugee is likely to have the qualifications (s)he claims to have
- Describe the qualifications in a standard format

THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS PASSPORT FOR REFUGEES

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



European Qualifications Passport for Refugees No 0123¹ Assessment Part

Issued: **14.03.2017**

Valid through: **14.03.2022**

Personal information

Surname: **Nasry**

Given names: **Ahmad**

Father's name: **Alawy**

Mother's name: **Rabaa**

Date of birth: **28.08.1983**

Place of birth: **Deir Ez-Zor, Syria**

Nationality: **Syrian**



Assessed qualifications

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

Additional relevant information from the applicant

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

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

Interview and documentation assessment is conducted by credential evaluators from D.O.A.T.A.P, CIMEA, NOKUT and UK NARIC.

On behalf of the project

Evaluation coordinator

Signature

Evaluator 1

Evaluator 2

Signature

Signature

For more information about the status of this document: <http://www.coe.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugee-qualifications>

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

² No available documentation

³ No available documentation

FIRST PHASE

- Hellenic Ministry and Council of Europe
- ENICs: Greece, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom
- UNHCR
- 92 interviews in three sessions in Greece
- 73 EQPRs issued
- Some EQPR holders have gained admission to studies
- Broad media and political attention

SECOND PHASE: PARTNERS

- Greece and Italy as “host countries”
- New partners: Armenia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands
- Even stronger UNHCR involvement

SECOND PHASE: MAIN FEATURES

- Proven methodology and format
- Greater use of online interviews
- Secure online storage of information
- More diverse refugee groups:
 - Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Secondary education
- EQPR alumni network
- Three year project

A TESTED SYSTEM FOR FUTURE CRISES

- Acknowledge the importance of recognizing refugees' qualifications
- A European system: not the responsibility of “first reception” countries alone
- A methodology and a format accepted throughout Europe
- A pool of qualified credentials evaluators
- Online interviews and storage of information