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European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) Thematic Peer Group on the LRC

19/04/2024

23 April 2024









EQPR – European Qualifications Passport for Refugees

Objectives

- To provide a methodology making it possible to assess refugees' qualifications fairly even when these cannot be fully documented
- To describe the assessment in a format, which provides clear and accurate information about the qualifications and is accepted as a valid documentary supplement by the end-users.



Admission to studies and labour market





Principles and objectives

Fairness

Portability

Utility

 Shared European Responsability







European Qualifications Passport for Refugees – a brief history



2016

Initiative by **Greece** to help refugee students

Qualifications passport methodology developed by **Norway** and **UK**First meeting in **Athens fall 2016**



2018-2021

13 countries, UNHCR, diversified group of applicants, interview both face to face and online (Netherlands), involvement of universities in Italy, stakeholders like Ministry of the Interior in France



2023

22 countries, evaluation sessions in Strasbourg (CoE), Germany, Italy, continuous online sessions, trainings for EQPR evaluators

Pilot project 2017, **4** countries, UNHCR, three rounds of interviews in **Greece (Attika)**

2017

20 countires, building capacity and continue raising awareness among end-users



2022





EQPR (2017-2024): main achievements

Proven and upscalable solution – **building trust**

Pool of trained evaluators in 22 countries

Combination of face-to-face and online interviews

Solid IT platform – based on **blockchain technology**

EQPR holders are accepted to further studies and work

1101 interviews were conducted out of which 943 EQPR have been issued (571 men and 372 women)





Partners

National authorities

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

International organizations

- Council of Europe
- UNHCR and UNESCO

Higher education institutions

Conference of University Rectors of Italy

ENIC-NARICs (22)

 Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, United Kingdom

Voluntary contributions have been received from Belgium (Government of Flanders), Georgia, Greece, Monaco, Italy and Norway.





Way forward: to upscale the EQPR implementation

- At a policy level: by developing a Council of Europe Recommendation on Valuing the Academic and Professional Skills of Refugees in Europe, containing principles and guidelines.
- On a practical level: by increasing the number of the EQPR countries. The target could be to have by 2027 at least 50 % of the Council of Europe member States on board (28 member States).
- At the country level integration into national legislation Portugal, Italy
- Close co-operation with UNESCO EQPR and UQP as important instruments for the implementation of the UNESCO Global Convention