

# WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS PASSPORT FOR REFUGEES?

 <b>HELLENIC REPUBLIC</b> Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs		 <b>COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b> CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE
<b>European Qualifications Passport for Refugees No 0123<sup>1</sup></b> <b>Assessment Part</b>		
Issued: <b>14.03.2017</b>		
Valid through: <b>14.03.2022</b>		
<b>Personal information</b>		
Surname: <b>Nasry</b>	Given names: <b>Ahmad</b>	
Father's name: <b>Alawy</b>	Mother's name: <b>Rabaa</b>	
Date of birth: <b>28.08.1983</b>	Place of birth: <b>Deir Ez-Zor, Syria</b>	
Nationality: <b>Syria</b>		
<b>Assessed qualifications</b>		
Highest achieved qualification: <b>(2011) Bachelor in Electrical Engineering, University of Damascus, Syria<sup>2</sup></b>		
<b>Additional relevant information from the applicant</b>		
Languages: <b>Arabic</b> (native speaker), <b>Arabic</b> (language of instruction), <b>English</b> (language course)		
Work experience: <b>5 years of teaching experience in Syria<sup>3</sup></b>		
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: <a href="http://www.coe.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugees-qualifications">http://www.coe.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugees-qualifications</a>		
<small><sup>1</sup> 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. <b>This document is only valid together with the explanatory part.</b></small>		
<small><sup>2</sup> No available documentation</small>		
<small><sup>3</sup> No available documentation</small>		
		
		

## **What is the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees?**

The European Qualifications Passport for Refugees is a special document issued to refugees with higher education qualifications, even in situations when they are not able to provide supporting documentation such as university degree, diploma, language certificate etc.

It also contains information about work experience and language proficiency that the refugee may have.

## **How does the procedure work?**

The procedure for obtaining this document has two steps:

- The candidate needs to complete a questionnaire which contains information about his/her education, language proficiency and work experience;
- Once the questionnaire is accepted, the candidate is called to take an interview with a team of evaluators.

## **When does this process start?**

The first group of candidates was interviewed from 7 to 9 March 2017 in Athens. The project brings together credentials evaluators from Greece, Italy, Norway and the United Kingdom to evaluate refugees' qualifications in Greece, their first host country. Two additional sessions were held in June and September 2017.

## **Can any refugee apply?**

The Ministry of Education, Research and Religious Affairs in Greece will contact refugees who claim to have fully or partially completed their studies at the level of upper secondary school and above (even with insufficient or missing documentation) and who wish to enter this process.

In this first phase of the pilot project, a selected number of refugees (about 50 in total in 2017) will go through the assessment process in Athens. The idea is to gradually establish a system which can be used by other countries in the future.

## **How long does this procedure take?**

The questionnaire is sent to the refugee candidate three weeks before the evaluation. She/he has two weeks to fill it in. Afterwards, the questionnaire is sent to evaluators who review the received documentation.

Following the review, the candidate is called for an interview which takes between 45-60 minutes after which a decision on whether or not to issue the document is made. If the decision is positive, the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees is issued to the candidate in the following week and is valid for five years from the date of issue.

## **So, it is not really a passport?**

No, not in a conventional sense. It does not replace identification or educational documentation. It does not guarantee admission to studies or employment. It is not a formal recognition act.

The European Qualifications Passport holds reliable information and is a first step towards employment and admission to further studies. It is designed to help refugees continue with their lives.

## **But why is it only for refugees?**

Because refugees are fleeing persecution, terror and war. As such, they need support. This concept is reflected in international law, including the Council of Europe/UNESCO Lisbon Recognition Convention, which foresees “procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously whether refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation fulfil the relevant requirements for access to higher education”.

## **Interesting, but has this worked in other countries?**

Yes, Norway and the UK have successfully started introducing this methodology.

## **So, this could potentially be used in more countries?**

Yes. The idea is that this information should be accepted and easily interpreted in any European country. In the long term, this methodology can save costs for host countries by facilitating and accelerating the assessment of refugees’ qualifications.

## **Once the decision is made, who will be aware of it?**

The National Information Centre in Italy, CIMEA, which has a central information role among the network of qualifications network centers in Europe, will store this information electronically.

## **How can the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees be used?**

Once relocated or granted stay in a European country, the refugee is strongly encouraged to contact the National Academic Recognition Information Centre of that European country in order to receive further information on university requirements and other possibilities.

**For more information on the project, please visit:**

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

# The Process:

