



Erasmus +

EU programme for education,
training, youth and sports
2014 - 2020

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Europass website

New interoperability functions,
and more!

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Kurz gesagt

Liebe Leserin, lieber Leser!

In dieser Ausgabe des Europass-Magazins möchten wir Ihnen Erasmus+ präsentieren, das neue EU-Programm für Bildung, Jugend und Sport 2014 – 2020. Auf den Seiten 2 bis 14 machen wir Sie mit den Zielen und den wesentlichen Merkmalen des Programms bekannt und gehen auch auf die Verbindungen zwischen Erasmus+ und Europass ein; einige Maßnahmen, die eine reibungslose Zusammenarbeit in der Zukunft sichern sollen, wurden ja bereits getroffen. Weiters bringen wir eine Übersicht über Europass-Aktivitäten in der spannenden Welt der sozialen Netzwerke (Seite 5 und 6): Besuchen Sie Europass auf Facebook, Twitter und Pinterest!

Seite 7 informiert über neue Features auf der Europass-Website und verweist auf technische Informationen zur Interoperabilität mit anderen Webseiten. Auf Seite 8 begrüßen wir wieder ein neues Mitglied, die Republik Mazedonien. Die Seiten 9 bis 11 liefern ein frisch geschnürtes Paket voll Neuigkeiten und Berichten aus den nationalen Europass-Zentren in ganz Europa.

Das Europass-Koordinationsteam wünscht Ihnen ein fröhliches Weihnachtsfest und viel Glück im Neuen Jahr!

En bref

Chères lectrices, chers lecteurs,

Dans ce nouveau numéro du Magazine Europass, nous avons choisi de vous présenter Erasmus+, le nouveau programme 2014 – 2020 de l'Union européenne pour l'éducation, la formation, la jeunesse et le sport. En pages 2 à 4, découvrez le programme, ses objectifs, ses principales caractéristiques, ses liens avec Europass ainsi que les mesures prises en vue d'assurer une bonne coopération dans le futur. Pour en savoir plus sur la présence d'Europass dans l'univers des réseaux sociaux, rendez-vous aux pages 5 et 6 et retrouvez Europass sur Facebook, Twitter et Pinterest.

La page 7 est consacrée aux nouveautés du portail Europass, avec notamment un nouveau site entièrement dédié à l'interopérabilité. En page 8 : le réseau Europass souhaite la bienvenue à l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine. Pour terminer: trois pages (9 à 11) pour tout savoir sur l'activité des centres nationaux Europass aux quatre coins de l'Europe.

L'équipe Europass vous souhaite un joyeux Noël et une excellente année 2014.

Erasmus+

EU programme for education, training, youth and sports



Erasmus+

The world is changing fast, certain transversal competences need to be taught in all sectors of education, boundaries are blurring between formal and non-formal learning, the benefits of synergies between the two are increasingly recognised, including with the advent of ICT which has the potential to transform teaching and learning. Furthermore, the need for strategic cross-sectoral partnerships between the worlds of education and work are increasingly necessary to tackle the significant skills gaps we are facing and ensure the modernization we need.

This is why the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Union's countries agreed on an integrated programme and structure, Erasmus+, as the new EU programme for education, training, youth and sport for 2014-2020. It brings together seven previously separate programmes into one, including introducing funding for sport for the first time.

Europass will be fully integrated in Erasmus+, under its Key Activity 3. This Key Activity will support, among other projects, European policy tools facilitating transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits and validation of non-formal and informal learning.

It is expected that around 2 million higher education students and 650,000 vocational learners will spend part of their education and training abroad under Erasmus+. Moreover, more than 500,000 young people will be able to volunteer abroad or participate in youth exchanges under the new programme. These activities will represent an excellent opportunity to enhance the visibility of Europass and its documents, fulfilling Europass's main mission of promoting mobility and lifelong learning.

Under Erasmus+ the European Commission will be supported by the Executive Agency, Education, Audiovisual and Culture (EACEA) for the management of an important part of Erasmus+ projects and networks, including Europass. The Agency, launched on 1 January 2006 to implement Community Programmes, is currently preparing the 2014 Europass call for proposals that will guide National Europass Centres in their tasks for next year.

Europass Coordination Team

Key figures: Erasmus+ (2014-2020)

Overall budget	€ 14.7 billion Additional funds will be allocated for funding the actions with third countries (partner countries), but the decision will probably be taken in 2014.
Overall mobility opportunities	More than 4 million people
Higher Education	Around 2 million students
Vocational Education and Training students	Around 650,000 students
Staff mobility	Around 800,000 lecturers, teachers, trainers, education staff and youth workers
Volunteer and Youth exchange schemes	More than 500,000 young people
Master's degree loan guarantee scheme	Around 200,000 students
Joint Master Degrees	More than 25,000 students
Strategic Partnerships	Around 25,000 linking together 125 000 schools, vocational Education and Training institutions, higher and adult Education institutions, Youth organisations and enterprises
Knowledge Alliances	Knowledge Alliances More than 150 set up by 1500 higher Education institutions and enterprises
Sector Skills Alliances	More than 150 set up by 2000 vocational Education and Training providers and enterprises



What will Erasmus+ do? An overview of the structure of the programme

Key Action 1: Mobility of individuals

- » Mobility of learners and staff
- » Joint Master Degrees
- » Master Student Loan Guarantee

Key Action 2: Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices

- » Strategic Partnerships
- » Knowledge Alliances
- » Sector Skills Alliances
- » Capacity Building
- » eTwinning, European Platform for Adult Learning, European Youth Portal

Key Action 3: Support for policy reforms

- » Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth
- » Prospective Initiatives
- » Support to European policy tools
- » Cooperation with international organisations
- » Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion

Jean Monnet Activities

- » Academic Modules, Chairs, Centres of Excellence
- » Policy debate with academic world (Networks and Projects)
- » Support to institutions and associations
- » Studies and Conferences

Sport

- » Collaborative Partnerships
- » Not-for-profit European sports events
- » Strengthening of the evidence base for policy making
- » Dialogue with relevant European stakeholders
- » Presidency events

Adapted from: [European Commission: Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#). Valid as of 1 January 2014

Who was the great European humanist after whom the successful EU programme takes its name? Here's some of what Wikipedia, itself a distant heritage of humanism in its being a free as well as objective source of human knowledge, tells us about Erasmus of Rotterdam:

Desiderius Erasmus Roterodamus (1466 –1536), known as Erasmus of Rotterdam, or simply Erasmus, was a Dutch Renaissance humanist, Catholic priest, social critic, teacher, and theologian.

Erasmus was a classical scholar who wrote in a pure Latin style. He was a proponent of religious toleration, and enjoyed the sobriquet „Prince of the Humanists“; he has been called „the crowning glory of the Christian humanists“. Using humanist techniques for working on texts, he prepared important new Latin and Greek editions of the New Testament. These raised questions that would be influential in the Protestant Reformation and Catholic Counter-Reformation. He also wrote *On Free Will*, *The Praise of Folly*, *Handbook of a Christian Knight*, *On Civility in Children*, *Copia: Foundations of the Abundant Style*, *Julius Exclusus*, and many other works.

Erasmus lived against the backdrop of the growing European religious Reformation; but while he was critical of the abuses within the Church and called for reform, he kept his distance from Luther and Melanchthon and continued to recognise the authority of the pope. Erasmus emphasized a middle way, with a deep respect for traditional faith, piety and grace, and rejected Luther's emphasis on faith alone. Erasmus therefore remained a member of the Catholic Church all his life. In relation to clerical abuses in the Church, Erasmus remained committed to reforming the Church from within. He also held to Catholic doctrines such as that of free will, which some Reformers rejected in favour of the doctrine of predestination. His middle road approach disappointed and even angered scholars in both camps.

Erasmus died suddenly in Basel in 1536 while preparing to return to Brabant, and was buried in the Basel Minster, the former cathedral of the city. A bronze statue of him was erected in his city of birth in 1622, replacing an earlier work in stone. Source: Wikipedia, retrieved 8 December 2013

Full text and footnotes here: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erasmus_of_Rotterdam



Europass debut into the world of Erasmus+

In September 2013, a joint meeting took place between two networks of knowledgeable, creative, innovative, inspiring and practical people: the Inspectors responsible for the European educational projects within County School Inspectorates (also Europass promoters) and the Youth in Action trainers. It was a "get to know each other" meeting aiming to start the cooperation between these networks for further collaborative work.

An interesting mix of participants with various educational, training and professional backgrounds met, got to know each other, bonded and exchanged ideas. They worked in groups, used creativity, innovation and previous experiences to come up with feasible project proposals targeting different groups.

The contribution by Europass to this gathering was intended, on one hand, to update participants' information regarding Europass and its use and, on the other hand, to explain and promote recent and future developments. A number of key points relating Europass to the Erasmus+ framework were also discussed.

"An interesting mix of participants with various backgrounds met, got to know each other, bonded and exchanged ideas."

The added value of the event in the light of Erasmus+ can be seen in:

- » people from different settings connected and found common ground of collaboration;
- » people with diverse backgrounds shared their experience to develop valuable project proposals suitable for the upcoming Erasmus+ funding schemes and opportunities;
- » professionals from the National Agency got a feel on how the substantial people might work together in the future.

Angelica Radu | NEC Romania

Europass and ECVET: in a close partnership towards Erasmus+

Erasmus+, the new programme in the areas of education, youth and sports, is embedded in the overarching political strategies EU2020, ET2020, and recently the Commission initiative "Rethinking Education", which calls for the establishment of a European Area of Skills and Qualifications. Its main aims, to foster inner-European mobility of learners, teachers and those active in youth work and the establishment of transnational partnerships, have to be seen within the broader context of these long-term political frameworks. Regarding education, a common denominator of these initiatives is, on the one hand, the promotion of mobility and, on the other hand, the focus on skills and competences.

"The aim is to support the impact of mobility experiences gained under Erasmus+ and to contribute to the paradigm shift towards a learning outcomes approach"

This is exactly where Europass and ECVET come in: both instruments have been developed to support the documentation and validation of learning outcomes which have been acquired abroad. While Europass concentrates on the transparent and EU-wide legible documentation of individual skills and competences (CV, Language Passport), learning outcomes (Mobility) and of national qualifications (Diploma and Certificate Supplements), ECVET aims to facilitate the validation, recognition and accumulation of work-related knowledge and skills acquired during a stay in another country or at different venues in the context of achieving vocational qualifications. ECVET thus goes one step further but builds on the Europass documents.

Taking into account this close interconnection, the German National Europass Center (NEC) and National Contact Point ECVET (NCP) have established a common work programme for 2014. This includes common activities based on the concept of learning outcomes. These are: the development of examples of formulation of learning outcomes for the Europass CV and Mobility, workshops with stakeholders on the assessment and documentation of learning outcomes in the Europass Mobility, and the elaboration of joint practice-oriented materials such as short internet-based video clips and brochures. Furthermore, NEC and NCP collaborate closely with their colleagues within the National Agency who are in contact with potential applicants under the Erasmus+ programme. The applicants shall be informed on how to fill in the Europass Mobility following a learning outcomes approach once their application has been successful.

The aim of these activities is to support the impact and sustainability of mobility experiences gained under the Erasmus+ programme and in the long term to contribute to the paradigm shift towards a learning outcomes approach when formulating skills, competences and qualifications at regional and national level.

Franziska Bopp | NEC Germany

Going 2.0: Europass and social media

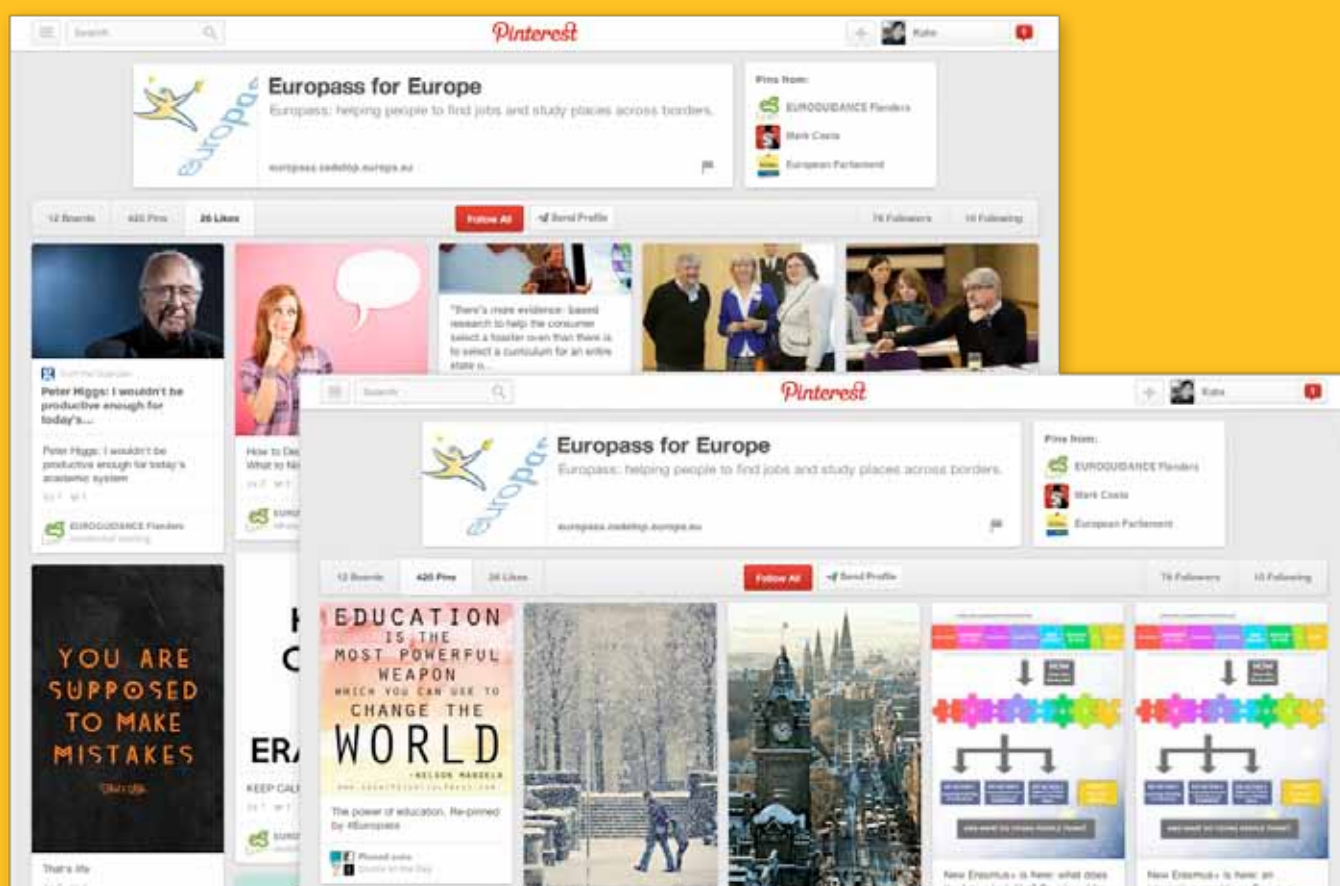
The members of the Europass Network across Europe have been joining efforts to build and develop the image of Europass in social media. Our goal is to bring the message closer to the online community as well as kindle interaction with Europass users and fans regardless of age or country borders.

On the following two pages, we give you examples and links to Europass presentations and useful contents in three exciting social networks: Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Click on the screens to meet Europass online!





Pinterest



Europass website: What's new - What's next?

What's new?

August 2013: new portal dedicated to Europass interoperability. The new platform provides replies to questions such as: Why Interoperate with Europass? Which are the interoperability options? Also, web developers can learn more on the options available and have access to the new web services and documentation, including the vocabularies/schemas for representing the information contained in the CV, Language Passport and European Skills Passport in both XML and JSON format (V 3.0). More info at:
» <http://interop.europass.cedefop.europa.eu>.

October 2013: Europass website is available in Macedonian language. This brings up to 27 the number of languages (a huge thank you to the colleagues who translated the whole website and editor). The National agency for European educational programmes and mobility, appointed as national Europass centre for FYROM, can be contacted at:
» <http://www.na.org.mk>

November 2013: statistics confirms the increased use of Europass: 75 million visits since the launch of the portal in 2005, 32 million CVs completed online and 29 million CV templates downloaded. Every month, ca. 1 million CVs are completed using the online editor.
(state of play: November 2013)

December 2013: new Language Passport template and editor. Changes include: new graphical identity inspired from the Europass CV (new font, use of colours); more user-friendly online interface with direct preview of the final document; improved tutorials for better structured information.

What's next?

January 2014: Cover letter editor is launched. Users of the CV online can complement their CV and ESP with a cover letter. The editor will propose tutorials adapted to the different uses of the cover letter (reply to job offer, spontaneous candidacy, etc.)

February 2014: Europass starts integrating ESCO, the multilingual classification of European skills/competences, qualifications and occupations. First step: the list of occupations currently used in the Europass editor (ISCO 88) is replaced by the ESCO occupations pillar

March 2014: Integration of the CV, LP, ESP and cover letter in a single editor. Users of the CV online can combine their Europass documents and ESP from a single entry point.

Mid 2014: An ICT self-assessment tool is integrated in the Europass CV. Based on the model of the language self-assessment tool, it helps job seekers evaluate their ICT basic skills (retrieving and storing information, communication, creation of content, safety, problem solving). The tool uses descriptors broken down in three levels of proficiency: foundation, intermediate and advanced

Europass Team at Cedefop

europass Language Passport

Barbara Smith

Mother tongue(s)		Other language(s)		
Danish		English, Spanish / Castilian		

English

Self-assessment of language skills

Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	Writing
C1 Proficient user	C2 Proficient user	B2 Independent user	C1 Proficient user	B2 Independent user

Certificates and diplomas

Title	Awarding body	Date	Level**
Cambridge English: Advanced (CAE)	Victoria's English Center, Montpellier	April 2009	C1

Linguistic and intercultural experience

Description	Duration
Using languages while living or travelling abroad: frequent stays in the United Kingdom	00–Present

Spanish / Castilian

Self-assessment of language skills

Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	Writing
B1 Independent user	B2 Independent user	B2 Independent user	B1 Independent user	B1 Independent user

* Indicate level of the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) if specified on certificate or diploma.
The Europass Language Passport is part of the European Language Portfolio developed by the Council of Europe (www.coe.int/portfolio).
© European Union and Council of Europe, 2004-2013 | <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>

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Europass introduced in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

The Macedonian version of the Europass website is now available online and opened the gate for the nationals to actively use the Europass documents.

The National Agency for European Educational Programmes and Mobility is the National Europass Centre.

In order to raise the visibility of the Europass and promote the use of the Europass documents, NA in the course of November and December is to organize series of events.



In addition, NA will also participate in events organized by other institutions, whereby it will present the Europass documents to the targeted groups: pupils and students, job-seekers, teachers and trainers, employers, higher education staff, and other. NA is also responsible for the implementation of other European programmes and initiatives, such as Lifelong Learning Programme, Youth in Action Programme, Eurydice, eTwinning. Currently, the Ministry of Education and Science and the National Agency are dedicated to the realization of the process for full participation in the new programme Erasmus+.



One of the main challenges for the national education system in the last two decades was its adjustment to the new market economy and democratic environment that were introduced at the beginning of the '90s. In this context, several important reforms and projects of international scale were introduced and implemented: Vocational Education and Training reform (PHARE, VET1, VET2), introduction of nine-year primary education, computerization of the schools, establishment of private universities, adoption of the NQF, etc.

The National Europass Centre is in process of creating a network of stakeholders, especially policy makers that could enhance the promotion of the use of the Europass documents in the society. Consequently, through the implementation of the Europass in the country, it will support further application of lifelong learning in the educational system and society in general, and more systematic introduction of the concept of mobility among students, university staff, labour force, youth, etc.

Dejan Zlatkovski & Goce Velichkovski | NEC FYROM

TOEFL®, Europass Language Passport & more ...

On September 26, 2013 the European Day of Languages celebrated the linguistic and cultural diversity in Europe.

To join in the celebrations, the Austrian Europass Centre offered a workshop in collaboration with the OeAD - International Testing Services. Participants started with a 25 minute simulation of the TOEFL® (Test of English as a Foreign Language) followed by a session on how to best use the Europass Language Passport.

The 35 participants self-assessed their hearing-skills in a language of their choice and were instructed on how to fill in their results in the Europass Language Passport. After the group sessions there was time for individual advising on the TOEFL® and Europass Language Passport.

The 90 minute workshop was concluded with an information session on grants and scholarships abroad.

Alexandra Enzi | NEC Austria



News & Bits

Fresh ideas for using Europass

Europass is a popular tool in Finland and throughout Europe – but it could be used more efficiently. The Finnish NEC invited guidance and counselling professionals, education institutions, students and labour market representatives to discuss how to better use Europass in making skills and competencies transparent.

What can Europass do for you?

Vast majority of young graduates in Finland know of Europass, particularly of the Europass-CV – but often fail to use, or even understand, the whole potential of Europass.

There is also a misunderstanding of what Europass is meant to be: “Europass is not a miracle tool” – and users need better guidance on how Europass can help them. “Europass is about content, and content is about You: what you can do, but also how you can express it using Europass.”

Discover the hidden skills

It is not uncommon that an employer has a need for certain skills and competencies, but the applicants fail to effectively display them. The Europass offers tools to make such skills more visible, but it is apparent users need support to do this more efficiently – and perhaps there is also need to develop Europass further towards making it easier to record informal and non-formal learning.

The skills and competencies acquired abroad are a prime example of hidden skills that go unrecognised. Often employers and job-seekers themselves fail to see beyond the obvious. Everyone recognizes the international and multicultural competency that can be gained through studies or traineeships abroad – but also such skills as for example problem-solving or adaptability that employers are typically seeking after, are skills one commonly learns when spending time in another country.

Reaching out

Guidance and counselling is at the focal point of more efficient use of Europass. Where e.g. education institutions are traditional and important key actors, information on Europass needs to reach wider audiences. The information, support and guidance on Europass need re-thinking: how can more people use Europass better.

[English summary of the event available here.](#)

Susanna Kärki | NEC Finland

New tools for young job-seekers and mobile learners, by NEC Czech Republic

In recent years, guidance activities focused on labour market topics have become an important part of NEC CZ's services. Europass has been present in numerous job fairs and other events offering visitors an opportunity to consult their CVs with HR professionals and participate in simulated job interviews held in Czech or English. The job interview training sessions were particularly popular with the clients. They appreciated the chance to partake in realistic simulation of a job interview and to receive from specialists an immediate feedback on their performance (and on their CV), including useful advice on strengths to cultivate and mistakes to avoid.

In June 2013 the National Europass Centre Czech Republic (NEC CZ) launched its new website at www.europass.cz. The concept of the new site has been informed by an analysis of Europass users' needs and requests expressed both by visitors of the old website and clients coming for direct consultation provided regularly by the NEC CZ staff. Besides keeping what had proven most effective in the old website, and to add value to the new one, NEC CZ introduced a new section providing people who enter the labour market with practical guidance, useful tips and essential to-dos regarding writing a CV or a motivation letter as well as preparing for a job interview.



The HR professionals also contributed to the formulation of the „tips & tricks” section introduced on the new website. Monitoring has indicated a constant increase in the number of visitors to this particular section between June and October 2013. During this period, the number of people visiting „tips & tricks” exceeded 10.000 which amounted for 8% of the total traffic on the website. The most popular topics people seek advice about are the tips on how to compose a good CV and a motivation letter. In August, the section was enriched with useful advice on job search techniques and strategies. In the future, the website will also feature more specialised guidance on how to present language skills, communication skills, organisational and professional competences. The information has been recently transformed into printed flyers to hand out in seminars and conferences.

Another new feature of the NEC CZ website is the digital signpost for people who consider going abroad, whether to be students, workers, entrepreneurs, volunteers, lifelong learners or just travellers. The signpost is called „Kudykam” („Whereabouts”) and its goal is to direct users to online information and tools relevant for international mobility such as study programmes, job vacancies, expat assistance services, or volunteering opportunities. To encourage internationally mobile students in secondary education to share their experiences with others, NEC CZ has organised a contest running until November 2013. The students post and share photos, videos and links related to their learning periods abroad. The initiative will also feed into the NEC CZ Facebook activities at >> www.facebook.com/europass.cz.

Lucie Šnajdrová | NEC CZ

New Certificate Supplements and language testing tools by Europass in Germany

In July 2013, new Certificate Supplements for full-time school-based vocational qualifications have been published. In contrast to the dual-system vocational education, the full-time vocational education is not standardized for the whole of Germany but is regulated by the 16 Bundesländer. The Kultusministerkonferenz and the Ministries of Education of the Bundesländer as relevant bodies agreed upon the new Certificate Supplements. This represents a milestone on the way towards a complete list of all training occupations in Germany as well as further development of Europass. The new Certificate Supplements are expected to be handed out to trainees together with the leaving certificates by schools. They complement the existing Certificate Supplements for dual-system vocational education and new qualifications are continuously added. For more information see >> <http://www.europass-info.de/index.php?id=63>.

Are you a language enthusiast?

Europass also focuses on non-formally acquired and demonstrated competences with no less attention. Are you a language enthusiast? Or would you simply like to brush up your language competence? The small playful language test developed by NEC DE will examine your knowledge of English, French, Italian and Spanish. It is part of a more comprehensive DVD with teaching materials, and is accessible at >> <http://www.europass-info.de/fileadmin/sprachenspiel/index.html>

Isabel Götte | NEC Germany

Further reading on Erasmus+ :

- » Erasmus+ home website
- » European Commission (2013a): Erasmus+ Programme Guide. Valid as of 1 January 2014
- » European Commission (2013b): Press Release - Green light for Erasmus+: More than 4 million to get EU grants for skills and employability
- » Erasmus+ legal regulation



Check the previous issues, too!

- » Europass Magazine Nr. 5, July 2013
(Main story: Youth unemployment in Europe: How Europass can help)
- » Europass Newsletter Nr. 4, April 2013
(Main story: External evaluation of Europass + Work Groups and Regional Clusters)
- » Europass Newsletter Nr. 3, December 2012
(Main story: Europass 2012 – 2014: What is going to change?)
- » Europass Newsletter Nr. 2, September 2012
(Main story: European tools and principles for skills and qualifications)
- » Europass Newsletter Nr. 1, May 2012
(Main story: Europass at the interface of education and labour market)

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Nr. 7 – March 2014
Nr. 8 – August 2014
Nr. 9 – November 2014



Europass wishes you a
Happy Holiday Season
and a Great New Year



Education and Culture

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