

EQPR - European Qualifications Passport for Refugees

On 9 May 2022 Poland joined the project European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR), coordinated by the Council of Europe.

Fleeing from war and persecutions, refugees often have no time nor possibility to take with them all the documents that prove their education. Documentation kept by schools and universities or state archives on territories affected by war or violence, may be inaccessible or simply get destroyed, which makes it impossible to recreate the evidence of acquired qualifications, required for formal recognition in another country.

What is EQPR?

[The European Qualifications Passport for Refugees \(EQPR\)](#) is a special international tool developed to assess refugee's qualifications for which there is insufficient or missing documentation. It allows for issue of a standardized document that explains the qualifications a refugee is likely to have based on the available evidence.

The following qualifications may be subject to assessment: higher education qualifications, vocational and technical education including professional practice, full secondary education.

Who can apply for EQPR? How to prove refugee status or refugee-like situation?

An application for European Qualifications Passport for Refugees may be submitted anyone who holds an appropriate document confirming refugee status, asylum seekers and persons with the right to temporary defense.

In the case of citizens of Ukraine that moved to Poland due to armed conflict in their homeland, the following documents are valid:

- page of the passport with a stamp confirming entrance on the territory of Poland after 24.02.2022; or
- certificate issued by the Polish Border Guard (Straż Graniczna);
- PESEL number with UKR status.

What to do to receive EQPR?

The procedure itself is multi-stage. The refugee has to register an account in the Council of Europe's [EQPR IT Platform](#) and then thoroughly fill a detailed form, to which they have to enclose all accessible evidence of the qualifications held.

Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) does not receive EQPR application, nor conducts assessment nor issues the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees - those competences belong to the Council of Europe. Interested refugees shall only apply directly through [EQPR IT Platform](#).

A step-by-step manual for the process of setting up an account, filling the application form and attaching documentation is shown in [this leaflet](#) in English. Leaflets in other languages are available on the [Council of Europe](#) website.

The next step is a structured interview with trained evaluators who know the education system of the applicant's country. The talk is held in a language in which the refugee is proficient enough to describe their learning experience. The talk may take place online or during a face-to-face sessions in a location agreed with the Council of Europe (in Poland such sessions may take place, for instance, at NAWA premises in Warsaw and are organized when there is a relevant number of applicants).

Based on positive outcome of the process, the applicant receives the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) for a period of 5 years.

What is the cost of qualifications assessment and issuing the EQPR?

The process of documentation assessment and the issue of an electronic EQPR document is provided to refugee applicants **free of charge**.

How EQPR can help a refugee in their life?

Although the document is not a formal recognition act, it provides credible information that can be relevant in connection with applications for employment, internships, qualification courses and admission to studies. Additionally, the document can be used also in other countries participating in the EQPR project (e.g. Italy, France, Greece, Germany, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Romania, Moldova).

Poland does not have experience in using EQPR at the moment, however, in countries such as Italy or France successful holders of EQPR were admitted to universities or employed on positions that required a considerable level of education, despite not being in possession of all their original diplomas or certificates ([more on refugees' experiences with EQPR](#)).

How is NAWA involved in EQPR project in Poland?

Department of Academic Recognition at NAWA, as the Polish ENIC-NARIC centre, promotes the opportunities and potential implementations of the European Qualifications Passport for Refugees during its dissemination and training activities.

We can explain the qualifications verification process leading to issue of EQPR and advise on the usefulness and appropriateness of the solution in a particular situation.

As a participant to the EQPR project we follow all the updates on how the tool is used in other countries; we also learn about good practices worth implementing in Poland.

We are open to co-operation and discussion with institutions that take any formal decisions based on documents attesting education. We can help assess the advantages and risks connected with the decision to approve EQPR as evidence of completed education for the purpose of the conducted procedures.

[Relation from the EQPR conference in Warsaw held on 19 September 2022 r.](#)

For additional information on EQPR in NAWA (in English, Polish, Ukrainian or Russian) please contact us on the phone: +48 451 058 653.

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