

European Passport for Refugees: a chance to prove qualifications despite insufficient education documentation

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.

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. 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. Based on positive outcome of the process, the applicant receives the [European Qualifications Passport for Refugees \(EQPR\)](#).

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?

At NAWA, as the Polish ENIC-NARIC centre, we believe that enabling the issue and use of EQPR in Poland will be a chance especially for learners and students from the territory of Ukraine who have no possibility to provide all education documents required for formal recognition procedure. We would also like to create an opportunity for state institutions, HEIs and employers to learn about EQPR and experience its methodology of evaluation.

In late September NAWA is planning to organize an EQPR conference in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Polish Ministry of Education and Science. It will include a series of interviews conducted with the first group of eligible refugees who will decide to apply for EQPR in Poland.

Interested refugees can already register through the [EQPR IT Platform of the Council of Europe](#).

For more information (in Polish, English, Ukrainian or Russian) please contact us by email:

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