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Standard Recommendation
S.R. CWA 16131:2010

Europass Diploma Supplement Application Profile of the EuroLMAI (EuroLMAI Europass DS AP)

S.R. CWA 16131:2010

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NSAI 1 Swift Square, Northwood, Santry Dublin 9	T +353 1 807 3800 F +353 1 807 3838 E standards@nsai.ie W NSAI.ie	Sales: T +353 1 857 6730 F +353 1 857 6729 W standards.ie
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English version

Europass Diploma Supplement Application Profile of the EuroLMAI (EuroLMAI Europass DS AP)

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Management Centre: Avenue Marnix 17, B-1000 Brussels

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Foreword

The Europass Diploma Supplement (DS) has as its background the European framework for the transparent description of academic qualifications and professional competences and the intention of enhancing their compatibility and comparability within the European Higher Education Area. The Europass DS EuroLMAI Application Profile specifies refinements to the European Learner Mobility Achievement Information Model which facilitate representation of one of the core Europass documents: the Diploma Supplement.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. CEN [and/or CENELEC] shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

Recommended uses and representation of the Europass Diploma Supplement Document information through this EuroLMAI DS Application Profile are provided.

The development of the proposed model has been carried out within the context of the CEN WS-LT project on "Guidelines for a European Learner Mobility Model", funded under the 2008 ICT Standardization Work Programme. The project was initiated and led by the Hellenic Organization for Standardization (ELOT) and the Technological Educational Institute of Athens (Greece). The appointed project team also comprised experts from the following organizations: JISC-CETIS (UK), Hypatia AS (Norway) and KION (Italy). The document has been developed through the collaboration of a number of contributing partners, representing a wide mix of interests, among others the Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), University of Duisburg Essen/eLC (Germany), USIT/UiO (Norway), Digitary (Ireland), University of Vigo (Spain), ISFOL (Italy), Alan Paull Services (UK). The close collaboration and substantial support of the Rome Student Systems and Standards Group of software implementers regarding the European Learner Mobility (EuroLM) standardisation efforts is highly acknowledged.

The final CEN/WS-LT internal review/endorsement of this CWA was discussed at the meeting of Learning Technologies Workshop on January 11, 2010 in Bolton and was approved following an electronic process, which finished on April 5, 2010. WS-LT members from the following organizations participated in the Bolton WS-LT meeting and approved this document:

- CESI Group
- CETIS
- ELOT; TEI of Athens
- Hypatia AS
- K-INT
- KION SPA
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- Open University of the Netherlands
- Schemata
- University of Duisburg – Essen
- University of Jyväskylä
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Comments or suggestions from the users of the CEN Workshop Agreement are welcome and should be addressed to the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre.

Introduction

The Europass Diploma Supplement (DS) is considered one of the most important documents of the Europass framework, which significantly contributes to the transparent interpretation and recognition of academic and professional qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates) across the diverse European educational systems. In essence, the Europass DS aims at:

- Promoting transparency within and between higher education systems;
- Providing accurate and up-to-date information on an individual's qualifications;
- Aiding mobility and access to further study and employment abroad;
- Providing fair and informed information relating to qualifications; and
- Facilitating academic and professional recognition and thus increasing the transparency of qualifications.

The Europass DS constitutes an instrument upon which a high level of agreement on the content and structure has been achieved among the EU member states. The European countries have taken up the DS initiative and have specified their national variants, in most cases being minor variations of the Europass DS. However, currently the DS is mostly issued in paper-based format. In cases where it is issued electronically, the DS is represented in a proprietary manner. A major problem has been the lack of interoperable tools, impeding the recording and/or reuse of data in existing student management systems for the production of an electronic DS and the exchange of information among interested parties.

The EuroLM Achievement Information (EuroLMAI) Model is a generic model for representing the achievements of a learner within a formal learning setting that are attested by an institution and that are resulting from the learner's participation in one or more learning opportunity instances and including any available associated results. This document provides an Application Profile of refinements to the EuroLMAI model for representing the Europass DS.

1. Scope

This CWA defines refinements to the EuroLMAI model for representing the Europass DS.

The Europass Diploma Supplement Application Profile of EuroLMAI (in brief: "EuroLMAI Europass DS-AP"), in full compliance with the Europass requirements, focuses on the expression of information regarding the qualification awarded to a learner upon completion of a formal educational programme. The proposed profile is needed for the general purposes of:

- exploitation of academic achievements abroad: in continuing education or in seeking job opportunities
- admission of students or graduates in home and European universities: acknowledgment of credits or transfer of credits accumulated in home institutions moving from one university to another
- expression of the level, content and nature of qualifications to potential employers both nationally and at a European level
- enhancement of internal and European student mobility, from a university to another, or from one branch of studies to another
- proper integration of foreign workers into a country's employment setting
- normalisation of higher education qualifications, either in academic or non academic paths
- establishment of good practices in the recognition procedures of qualifications among Higher Education Institutions

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