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ESCO AND MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE

Impact on employment and education policies for labour and skills mobility

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ESCO & ACQUIS CHAPTERS

ESCO relevance:

Chapter 2 – Free movement of workers
(EURES regulation, vacancy database)

Chapter 19 – Social Policy and Employment
(efficient employment policies and support to jobseekers including learning opportunities)

Chapter 26 – Education and culture
(qualifications transparency tools; flexible learning)

ESCO ramifications

Chapter 3 – Right of establishment and freedom to provide services (eg mutual recognition of professional qualifications)

Chapter 18 – Statistics (eg labour force, job vacancy statistics)

Economic criteria: functioning market economy; capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within EU



European network of employment services (EURES)

European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets

[EUR-Lex - 02016R0589-20190731 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

EURES objectives:

- apply workers' right of free movement in practice (job-matching, information services for jobseekers and employers)
- improve the operation and integration of national labour markets;
- promote fair, voluntary geographical and occupational mobility in the cross-border regions

EURES portal

- definition of user needs and business requirements to be transmitted to the Commission for the operation and development of the portal
- systems and procedures for the exchange of job vacancies, job applications, CVs and supporting documents and other information
- ESCO key for matching of job vacancies, job applications and CVs

Example: Albania, Chapter 2 progress

- integrated database for its employment services that, upon its connection to EURES, can facilitate exchanges of information
- National List of Occupations has been aligned with ESCO multilingual classification allowing for database transfer and connection with EURES.
- 2900 codes have been mapped to the ESCO list of occupations, out of 5400 codes included in the national list occupations.

[Albania Report 2024 - European Commission](#) (October 2024)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: ESCO & EU TRANSPARENCY TOOLS

- EQF recommendation
- Europass Decision, the European Learning model (ELM) & European digital credentials for learning (EDC)
- Directive 36/2005 on mutual recognition of professional qualifications
- Recommendation on a European approach to micro-credentials
- Recommendation on the recognition of qualifications of 3rd country nationals

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (EQF) FOR LIFELONG LEARNING (2008 & 2017)

Art.23: “A European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations classification (ESCO) is being developed by the Commission. **Used on a voluntary basis**, it could support a better link between education and employment.”

Description of the qualification expressed in **learning outcomes** can be linked with ESCO skills

Relationship to occupations is optional, can be displayed if available at national level

ANNEX VI

Elements for data fields for the electronic publication of information on qualifications with an EQF level

| DATA | | Required/Optional |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Title of the qualification | | Required |
| Field (*) | | Required |
| Country/Region (code) | | Required |
| EQF Level | | Required |
| Description of the qualification (***) | Either | Knowledge |
| | | Skills |
| | | Responsibility and autonomy |
| Or | Open text field describing what the learner is expected to know, understand and able to do | |
| Awarding body or competent authority (**) | | Required |
| Credit points/notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes | | Optional |
| Internal quality assurance processes | | Optional |
| External quality assurance/regulatory body | | Optional |
| Further information on the qualification | | Optional |
| Source of information | | Optional |
| Link to relevant supplements | | Optional |
| URL of the qualification | | Optional |
| Information language (code) | | Optional |
| Entry requirements | | Optional |

Annex VI: data fields for electronic publication of qualifications with EQF levels 5

DECISION (EU) 2018/646 on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass)

Art. 3. The Europass online platform shall provide available information or links to:

(a) learning opportunities &
(b) qualifications and
qualifications frameworks or
systems;

(c) opportunities for
validation of non-formal and
informal learning;

(d) recognition practices and
relevant legislation in
different countries, including
third countries;

(e) services offering
guidance for transnational
learning mobility and career
management;

(f) skills intelligence as
produced by relevant Union-
level activities and agencies

(g) information on skills and
qualifications that could be
relevant to the particular
needs of third country
nationals arriving or residing
in the Union to support their
integration

(17) Use of ESCO:

- Following appropriate testing, and due regard for the position of Member States, ESCO could be used by the Commission within the Europass framework;
- The use of ESCO by Member States is on a voluntary basis, following testing with, and evaluation by the Member States.

EUROPASS ONLINE PLATFORM

Europass profile uses ESCO occupations & skills

Occupation or position held i *

Tourist information centre manager

Occupation description

Tourist information centre managers are in charge of managing employees and activities of a centre which provides information and advice to travellers and visitors about local attractions, events, travelling and accommodation.

Choose an alternative name for your occupation (Optional)

Tourist information centre supervisor

Key skills for this occupation

These skills are relevant to the occupation you indicated. If you accept those suggestions, they will be included in your section "My skills".

have computer literacy ✓ ✗

keep up to date on local events ✓ ✗

maintain customer records ✓ ✗

handle personal identifiable inform... ✓ ✗

ensure infrastructure accessibility ✓ ✗

create solutions to problems ✓ ✗

manage staff ✓ ✗

analyse data about clients ✓ ✗

manage medium term objectives ✓ ✗

design press kit for media ✓ ✗

Skills

i Tips

i Please note that in order to publish your profile in EURES and leverage our job matching algorithms, it is required to make use of the Europass standard classification. Those are marked by the EU flag within the lists. Please ensure that you select as many of these skills as possible to fill your profile.

Search or add new skill



Select from list or enter fre...



Import from My Skills

Suggestions

+ identify customer's needs EU 0

+ organise participation in local or international events EU 0

+ geographical areas relevant to tourism EU 0

+ analyse internal factors of companies EU 0

+ maintain customer records EU 0

+ analyse work-related written reports EU 0

Added skills

- Microsoft Excel

- Microsoft Word

- SEO

+ Add skill category

Cancel

Save

EUROPASS & THE EUROPEAN LEARNING MODEL (ELM)

The [European Learning Model \(ELM\)](#) is a multilingual data model providing a single vocabulary for the description of learning in Europe.

Member States wishing to publish information on their qualifications and learning opportunities in Europass need to structure their data according to ELM

Learning outcomes in digital credentials



The screenshot shows a digital credential interface. On the left, a sidebar lists various qualification types and their sub-components. The main area displays a learning outcome record with the following fields:

- Informed by:** Applied mathematics course, Applied mathematics study unit, Concrete structures I course, Dynamics of structures and earthquake engineering course, Geotechnical engineering course, Stability of structures course.
- Entity Owner:** Europass digital study, Civil engineer, Recognized for credit.
- Sub-Achievements:** Applied mathematics, Concrete structures I, Dynamics of structures and earthquake engineering, Geotechnical engineering, Stability of structures.
- Specification:** Ach4ord-D-Scheme identifier: Ach3SpecD75.
- Learning Outcomes:** EUR related to applied mathematics, LO3 related to applied mathematics, To formulate equations of motion and solve them analytically for engineering problems, to solve them numerically by using numerical methods.
- Reusability Level:** cross sector skills and competences.
- Related ESCO Skills:** ESCO Skills: 102 related to applied mathematics, 103 related to concrete structures I, 104 related to dynamics of structures and earthquake engineering, 105 related to geotechnical engineering, 106 related to stability of structures.
- Related Skills:** Related skills: applied mathematics, perform engineering calculations, construct mathematical structures.
- LO2 related to applied mathematics:** EUR related to applied mathematics.
- LO related to concrete structures I:** EUR related to concrete structures I.
- LO related to dynamics of structures and earthquake engineering:** EUR related to dynamics of structures and earthquake engineering.
- LO related to geotechnical engineering:** EUR related to geotechnical engineering.
- LO related to stability of structures:** EUR related to stability of structures.
- Languages of instruction:** English, Croatian, French.
- Volume of Learning:** 140 hours.
- Maximum Duration:** 21 months.

Data model fields (elements)

Learning Outcome Shape

A statement regarding what a learner knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process, which are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and responsibility and autonomy.

- Target Class: elmLearningOutcome

| Property name | URI | Expected value | Card. | Description |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------|---|
| identifier | adms:identifier | IdentifierShape | 0..* | An alternative identifier of the learning outcome. |
| name | dc:title | StringShape | 1..* | A single, descriptive name for the learning outcome. Maximum cardinality of one per language. |
| type | dc:type | CodeShape | 0..1 | The learning outcome type. |
| reusability_level | elm:reusabilityLevel | CodeShape | 0..1 | The reusability level. |
| related_skill(s) | elm:relatedSkill[] | CodeShape | 0..* | A link to a related skill or the level of a related skill on a skill framework (except ESCO). |
| related_ESCO_skill(s) | elm:relatedESCOSkill[] | CodeShape | 0..* | A link to an ESCO skill. |

ESCO is integrated within the European Learning Model, allowing for the easy referencing of relevant skills concepts through Europass published qualifications or learning opportunity & the [European Digital Credentials for Learning \(EDC\)](#).

ELM and ESCO can support skills recognition, facilitate interoperability in learning in Europe & supporting the development of new tools such as learning opportunity recommender systems or skills intelligence tools.

PUBLICATION OF QUALIFICATIONS IN EUROPASS

Europass qualifications & learning opportunities interface

Find a course

Please note that you can find qualifications from the following countries: Austria, Belgium(nl), Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden. Information from other countries will be progressively made available.

What are you looking for?

Courses Qualification All

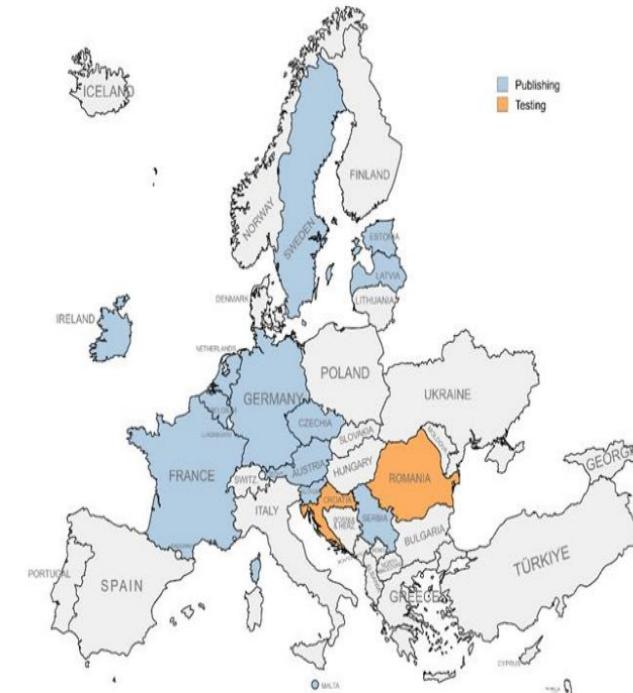
Search by keyword Place

Compare your EQF level [↗](#) with other countries.



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State of play: publication of qualifications in Europass



EUROPASS, ELM & EUROPEAN DIGITAL CREDENTIALS FOR LEARNING (EDC)

European Commission makes available a full **infrastructure to create, issue, view, store, share & verify European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDC)**.

EDC is a multilingual format for electronically sealed, digital presentations of learning credentials.

It applies to all learning and can take the form of diplomas, micro-credentials, certificates of participation,etc.

Learning outcomes can be directly linked to 'related skills' in frameworks such as ESCO but are not mandatory.

Individuals can showcase the specific skills they have acquired through a learning experience.

Digital micro-credential creation

Learning Provider



Campus Square 429, D08 Dublin, Ireland



info@learningprovider.edu

Legal ID

0000

Research Alliance ID

Res1818

▲ Learning Outcomes

Communication, collaboration and creativity

Related ESCO Skills

[establish collaborative relations, communicate with target community, stimulate creativity in the team](#)

Related Skills

[manage findable accessible interoperable and reusable data](#)

Show less ▲

Developing digital content

Reusability Level

cross-sector skills and competences

Related ESCO Skills

[develop digital content](#)

Related Skills

[Developing digital content](#),

[Developing digital content Level 4](#)

Show less ▲

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON A EUROPEAN APPROACH TO MICRO-CREDENTIALS (2022)

The Recommendation encourages member states :

- to adopt a European approach to micro-credentials & apply a common EU definition, EU standards and principles for the design and issuance of micro-credentials
- to use existing EU tools—such as Europass and the European Learning Model (ELM)—to ensure micro-credentials are portable and machine-readable

ESCO is embedded in both Europass and ELM, enabling:

- **Semantic interoperability** across systems
- Multilingual access to skills and occupation data

Enabling training providers to describe micro-credentials in a way that is:

- Consistent with **EU-wide standards**
- **Easily understood** by employers, learners, and education systems.

ANNEX I

European standard elements to describe a micro-credential

This annex includes a list of common European standard elements to describe micro-credentials recommended as a resource to support implementation²⁷.

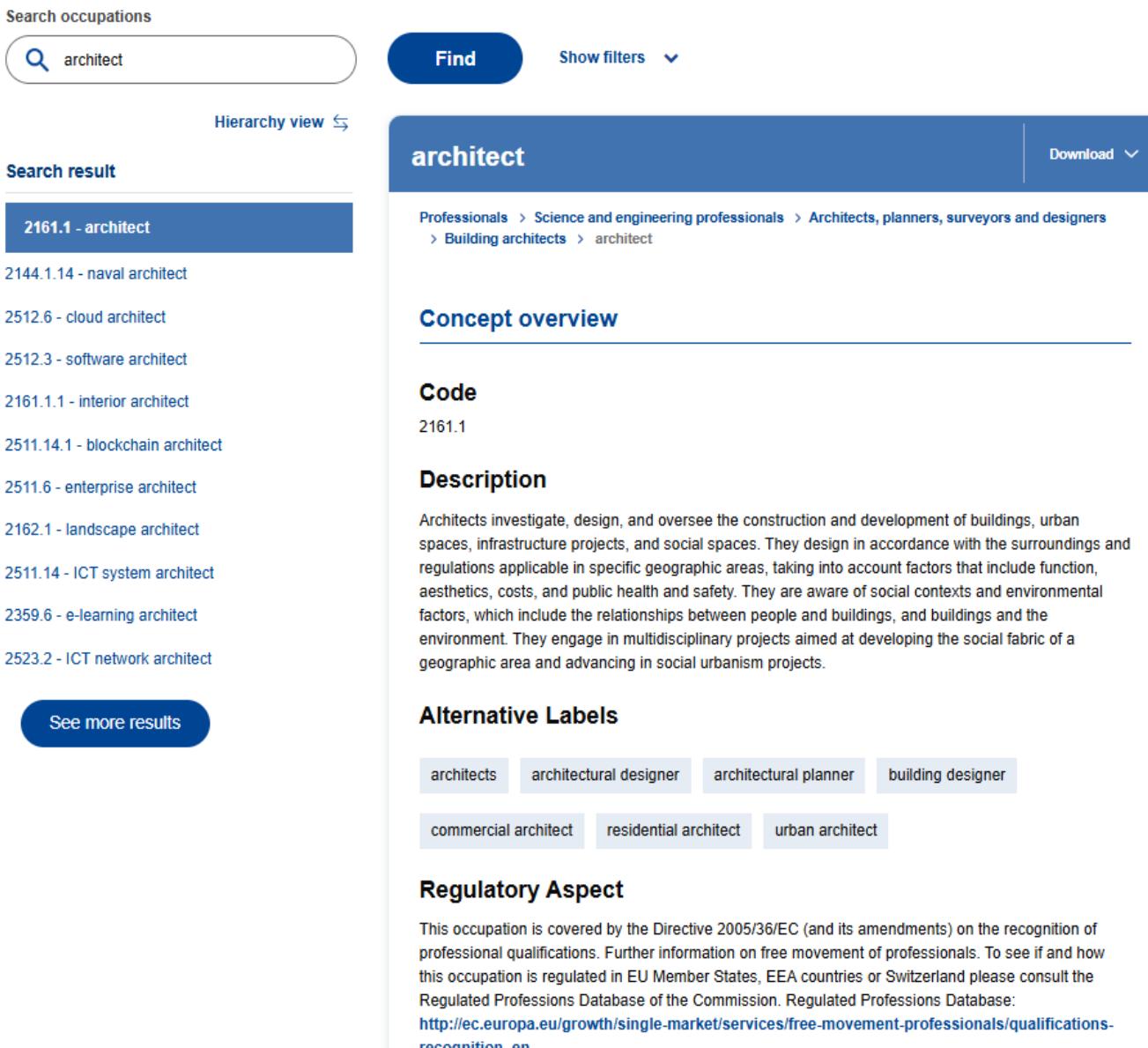
| | |
|---|---|
| Mandatory elements: | Identification of the learner Title of the micro-credential Country(ies)/Region(s) of the issuer Awarding body(ies) Date of issuing Learning outcomes Notional workload needed to achieve the learning outcomes (in ECTS credits, where possible) Level (and cycle, if applicable) of the learning experience leading to the micro-credential (EQF, QF-EHEA), if applicable Type of assessment Form of participation in the learning activity Type of quality assurance used to underpin the micro-credential |
| Optional elements, where relevant (non-exhaustive list) | Prerequisites needed to enrol in the learning activity Supervision and identity verification during assessment (unsupervised with no identity verification, supervised with no identity verification, supervised online, or onsite with identity verification) Grade achieved Integration/stackability options (stand-alone, independent micro-credential/integrated, stackable towards another credential) Further information |

DIRECTIVE ON MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS (DIRECTIVE 2005/36/EC AND ITS AMENDMENTS)

Allows for a Europe-wide automated recognition of professional qualifications for **seven regulated professions** (doctors, nurses, dental practitioners, veterinary surgeons, midwives, pharmacists, and architects)

Occupations in ESCO can be part of regulated professions, i.e. they can have a scope of practice that is (partly) covered by the regulated profession.

ESCO systematically provides reference to the regulated professions database and to the Directive



The screenshot shows the ESCO website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "architect", a "Find" button, and a "Show filters" dropdown. Below the search bar, there is a "Hierarchy view" link. The main content area is titled "Search result" and shows a list of occupation codes and names. The code "2161.1 - architect" is highlighted with a blue background. Below it is a list of other codes: 2144.1.14 - naval architect, 2512.6 - cloud architect, 2512.3 - software architect, 2161.1.1 - interior architect, 2511.14.1 - blockchain architect, 2511.6 - enterprise architect, 2162.1 - landscape architect, 2511.14 - ICT system architect, 2359.6 - e-learning architect, and 2523.2 - ICT network architect. At the bottom of this list is a "See more results" button. To the right, there is a detailed view for the "architect" occupation, including a "Concept overview", "Code" (2161.1), "Description" (Architects investigate, design, and oversee the construction and development of buildings, urban spaces, infrastructure projects, and social spaces. They design in accordance with the surroundings and regulations applicable in specific geographic areas, taking into account factors that include function, aesthetics, costs, and public health and safety. They are aware of social contexts and environmental factors, which include the relationships between people and buildings, and buildings and the environment. They engage in multidisciplinary projects aimed at developing the social fabric of a geographic area and advancing in social urbanism projects.), "Alternative Labels" (architects, architectural designer, architectural planner, building designer, commercial architect, residential architect, urban architect), and a "Regulatory Aspect" section. The "Regulatory Aspect" section states: "This occupation is covered by the Directive 2005/36/EC (and its amendments) on the recognition of professional qualifications. Further information on free movement of professionals. To see if and how this occupation is regulated in EU Member States, EEA countries or Switzerland please consult the Regulated Professions Database of the Commission. Regulated Professions Database: http://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/services/free-movement-professionals/qualifications-recognition_en".

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON THE RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS (2023)

Art.15 National authorities should adopt **the European Learning Model for structuring data on recognition decisions to support interoperability** and easier sharing of information on the recognition of skills and qualifications of third-country nationals

Art.16 National authorities **should use ESCO when they record information on occupations, qualifications and knowledge, skill and competences** within their national systems in order to facilitate the exchange of information between Member States and third countries and translation of data

Art. 19 Member States should **develop interoperable national databases on the comparability of third-country qualifications**, so as to facilitate the sharing of information on their recognition decisions and further the transparency of recognition procedures. To facilitate interoperability, the databases should be based on the standards of the European Learning Model.

Thank you!

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