European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDCL)

Issuing Requirements & Verification Tool

This tool is based on official Europass/European Commission documentation on the issuance and verification of European Digital Credentials for Learning (EDC), and on the European Learning Model (ELM) application profiles used by EDC. The checklist below consolidates the most common EU-standard elements used to describe learning achievements and to support recognition/verification decisions.

What it is

This tool supports VET providers in Ukraine in understanding:

- What an institution must have (legal, technical, procedural) in order to issue an EDCL
- How a credential must be structured to meet EU standards
- Which metadata fields are mandatory, and which are recommended
- How the digital signature (eSeal) works and how it is verified
- How to interpret, analyse and translate EDCL information into learning outcomes
- How to check whether a credential is valid, complete, and compliant
- How to use EDCLs to support learner recognition, curriculum design and mobility

In the Europass EDC Issuer, mandatory fields are marked with a red asterisk (*) and may vary depending on the credential type and use case. Therefore, the items listed in this checklist should be read as:

- **Mandatory** (system/technical) where required to issue a valid, seal-verifiable credential (e.g., eSeal), and/or
- **Recommended** (content/quality) to improve interoperability and recognition (e.g., ESCO linkage, EQF/NQF reference when applicable).

This checklist is intended as a quality and completeness control for issuers and/or verifiers, not as a “request to the EU” for permission to issue credentials.

The tool consists of a **Practical Exercise**, called **“Design and Prepare a European Digital Credential”**. It is a hands-on activity for teachers, trainers, or administrators to simulate the issuance of an EDCL based on a real course they currently deliver.

Practical Exercise

Design and Prepare a European Digital Credential

Scenario

You are part of a VET institution preparing to issue a European Digital Credential for one of your training courses.

As a teacher, trainer or administrator, you are asked to describe the essential information that would be required in the Europass Issuer in order to create and seal the credential.

Instruction

Choose one course or module that your institution currently provides and fill in the following sections with realistic data and examples. Use the official Europass guidance (links provided below) to understand what each field refers to.

PART 1: Credential Drafting Template (EDCL Data Preparation)

Requirement	Description/Guidance	Your Example (based on your course)
Issuer identity	Official name of the institution issuing the credential	….

Qualified eSeal	Confirm if your organisation holds an eIDAS-compliant eSeal (Advanced or Qualified)
Credential type	Select type: diploma, certificate, badge, micro-credential etc…
Credential title	Full title of the learning activity or award
Holder identity	Learner's name and identification (example)
Issue date	Planned issuance date
Learning outcomes	Describe the expected learning results (knowledge, skills, responsibility/autonomy)
ESCO linkage	Add relevant ESCO skills/occupations (if applicable)
EQF/NQF reference	Indicate level if applicable
Assessment method	Describe how learning is assessed
Evidence	Examples of documents, portfolios or tests attached
Validity period	State if the credential expires or remains valid indefinitely
Data protection	Confirm compliance with GDPR / data management policy

PART 2: Reflection Questions for Participants

- Which information was easy or difficult to provide?
- Which parts would require support from your institutional administration (e.g., eSeal, registration)?
- What would you need to have ready before accessing the Europass Issuer?
- Are ESCO skills/occupations included where appropriate? If not, which ESCO codes would you add?
- Are your learning outcomes written in a measurable way (knowledge/skills/responsibility & autonomy) and, where relevant, aligned to EQF logic?
- What improvements would you propose to make the credential more interoperable and recognisable (EU mobility/recognition use cases)?
- What actions must be completed before you can issue the credential (who does what, by when)?
- How could your institution start preparing for digital issuance in the future?

PART 3: Final Output Template, EDCL Issuance Plan

Output	Content
Issuance status	Ready to issue/Ready with conditions/Not ready
Justification	….
Required improvements (before issuance)	….
Owner(s)/Responsible role(s)	….
Implications for the VET school	….