What is the DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT?

The Diploma Supplement (DS) is a document attached to a higher education diploma aiming at improving international ‘transparency’ and at facilitating the academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is appended.

The DS is produced by national institutions according to a template that has been developed by a Joint European Commission-Council of Europe-UNESCO working party that tested and refined it.

The DS is composed of eight sections (information identifying the holder of the qualification, information identifying the qualification, information on the level of the qualification, information on the contents and results gained, information on the function of the qualification, additional information, certification of the Supplement, information on the national higher education system).

This Diploma Supplement model was developed by the European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO/CEPES. The purpose of the supplement is to provide sufficient independent data to improve the international ‘transparency’ and fair academic and professional recognition of qualifications (diplomas, degrees, certificates etc.). It is designed to provide a description of the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were pursued and successfully completed by the individual named on the original qualification to which this supplement is appended. It should be free from any value judgements, equivalence statements or suggestions about recognition. Information in all eight sections should be provided. Where information is not provided, an explanation should give the reason why.

What it is not?

*It is not a Curriculum Vitae. *It is not a substitute for the original qualification or a transcript. *It is not an automatic system that guarantees recognition.

What does the DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT offer to higher education institutions?

*It facilitates academic and professional recognition, thus increasing the transparency of qualifications. *It protects national/institutional autonomy while offering a common frame which is accepted all over Europe. *It promotes informed judgements about qualifications that can be understood in another educational context. *It raises the visibility of the institution abroad. *It promotes the employability of their graduates at national and international level. *It helps saving time since it provides the answers to a lot of recurrent questions put to administrative services in institutions about the content and portability of diplomas.

For More Information

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