



**Broadening Horizons in Europe
Diploma in European Competences
Primary Level**

PRIMARY DEC

Specifications

Valid from September 2024



UCAPE

**Union pour la Culture et l'Avenir Professionnel en Europe
Union for Culture and Professional Advancement in Europe**

Diploma in European Competences

Primary Level

Opening hearts and minds through linguistic and cultural exchange

1. INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Candidates for the Diploma at this level should spend a **minimum of two days** in a country where the language studied is spoken or used as a means of communication. The visit may be part of a group stay, e.g. a class trip, or an individual stay, e.g. a family holiday. Contact with local people is essential so that the young person can improve their language skills and experience the culture and daily life of the country.

The Diploma should be accessible to the average learner. The arrangements are flexible and may be adapted to suit the educational system of each country.

If a visit to another country is not practical, the stay may be replaced or supplemented by written or virtual exchanges such as pen pal letters, eTwinning, Sky/Zoom/Teams, Little Fraternity.

If a written or virtual exchange is chosen, it must include at least 12 hours of contact time with a partner abroad. When applying for the Diploma, the type of foreign stay must be stated, i.e. whether it was a written, virtual or in-person exchange and whether it took place in a school or family setting. Participating schools are free to determine how the stay abroad is documented. Possible forms include a presentation, an oral examination, a written account of the stay or artistic or digital project work which may be carried out individually or in small groups.

2. FOREIGN LANGUAGE(S)

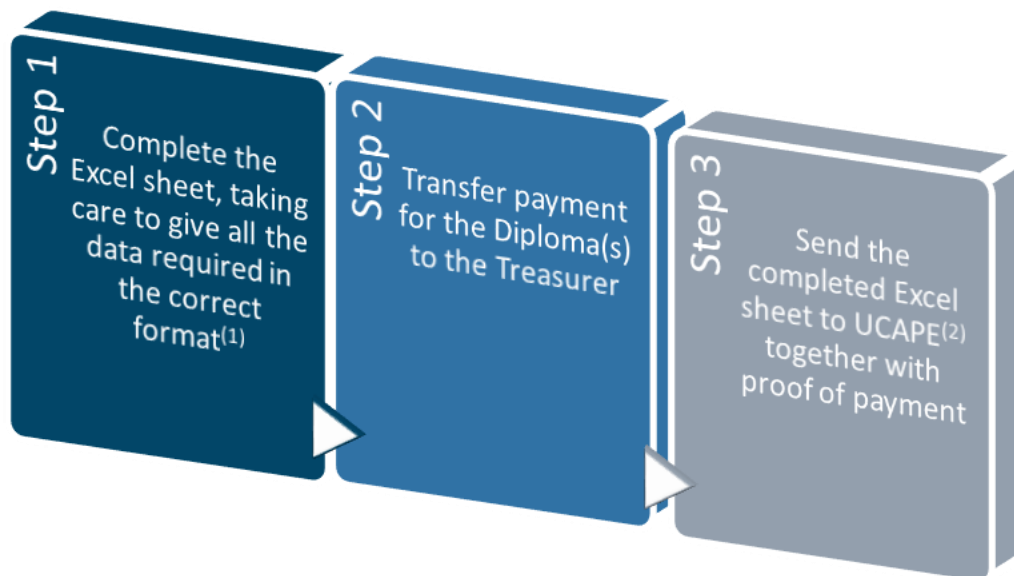
Learners should be able to understand and to make themselves understood at a level which is appropriate to their age and stage. A speaking assessment may be carried out to assess learners' language skills or on-going evaluation may be used, depending on normal practice in the learner's country. Candidates may be presented in more than one language. Learners must have reached the language level set by their country's reference framework. The skills to be evaluated are speaking with confidence, reacting and interacting, listening and understanding.

3. KNOWLEDGE ABOUT EUROPE

The Knowledge about Europe module may be integrated into the normal delivery of social subjects, especially Geography and History, in the last two years of Primary education.

Individual research work, guided by the teacher, may also be proposed. Pupils may be evaluated by a class test, by delivering a presentation to their class, by presenting a dossier linked to current events or a cultural dossier on a European topic (e.g. a European Union country). It is important to ensure that the evidence submitted is not a compilation of copy/paste from the Internet, or a document produced by Artificial Intelligence (AI).

HOW TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A DIPLOMA



(1) The Excel sheet can be downloaded from the UCAPE website www.ucape.eu.

(2) All requests for Diplomas should be sent to: ucapeinfos@gmail.com. Please allow at least two months for the Diploma(s) to be issued.

ABOUT OUR DIPLOMAS

The DEC (Diplôme Européen de Compétence/Diploma in European Competences) is an additional qualification offered Europe-wide for pupils in primary and secondary schools. Schools outside Europe may also prepare their learners for the Diploma.

The Diploma is offered at three levels: Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary.

The Diploma recognises skills and competences in the following areas: International Exchange; Foreign Language Skills; Knowledge about Europe.

Preparation for the DEC may be integrated into the school's curriculum or may be offered as an extra-curricular club or activity. Schools are free to choose the approach which best suits their local education system and local conditions. The modules described below may be adapted but the integrity of the diploma must be retained. Pupils may have more than one foreign language recognised.

The average learner should be able to meet the requirements of the Diploma and the programme should be seen as inclusive.

