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# ePortfolio 2004

*in 2010,  
every citizen  
will have  
an eportfolio*



**Transforming  
Individual and  
organisational  
learning**

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## ePortfolio 2004 Conference Proceedings

European Institute for  
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## Introduction

I have great pleasure in introducing the Conference Proceedings for ePortfolio 2004. This was the second international conference on the ePortfolio and it was heartening for us to see the progress being made by what we may now call the international ePortfolio community. The range and quality of the papers presented here demonstrate clearly that the ePortfolio is becoming a vital part of the learning landscape and that exciting initiatives in a range of sectors are multiplying.

The 2003 Conference saw the launch of Europortfolio, the European Consortium for the ePortfolio, which has made significant progress in its attempts to unite ePortfolio players in making the ePortfolio the tool of choice for lifelong and lifewide learning. At ePortfolio 2004 EIFEL introduced *ePortfolio Objective 2010* – committing the Institute to working on the ambitious goal of ensuring the availability of an ePortfolio in concertation with its international partners

You will find the papers an invaluable source of information about ePortfolio activities worldwide. Here I take the opportunity to highlight some of the key themes and issues arising both from these papers and from the presentations and debates during the Conference. The keynote speakers launched the debate which was ably taken up by the presenters, whose work you will find in these proceedings. Keynote presentations explored a variety of ways in which ePortfolios can contribute to innovative ways of learning – for example through digital story-telling or the use of mobile devices to record and reflect on learning. ePortfolio tools should also make a major impact on continuing professional development and organisational learning in the 21st century. A further important theme, which was taken up in the papers is ensuring that the demand for ePortfolio tools and services is met effectively.

Among vital issues emerging from the papers presented here is the evolution of 'ePortfolio policy'. The representation of all stakeholders in ePortfolios projects is critical to their success: the more 'macro' the representation, the greater the chance of sustainability and impact. It was also felt that we should be looking to 'join up' ePortfolio and ePortfolio-related initiatives where there is clear synergy and where all actors would benefit – for example, building bridges in Europe between the Europass portfolio suite and current ePortfolio initiatives..

A recurring concern is the need to optimise the dissemination of practice and co-operation in order to avoid both the dangers of duplication of effort and the development of systems incapable of inter-operating. One of the key conclusions arising from the parallel presentation sessions on interoperability of ePortfolio systems was that technical standards are needed to improve the portability of ePortfolios across applications and systems and compatibility between organisations.

Presenters and conference participants agreed on the need for support for portfolio users and for competencies for all ePortfolio actors. There is also a clear need to see learning – particularly reflective learning – underpinning all the other valuable purposes that an ePortfolio can serve. Research into the way into which ePortfolios can help learners in their learning process to ensure meaning and contextualised learning and to enable learners to take ownership of their learning is also greatly needed.

The issue of accessibility is another important area for research and policy initiatives. While the ePortfolio is seen by many as an excellent tool for encouraging educational and social inclusion, there is still considerable inequality in access to equipment, and the critical issue of multiculturalism must be addressed. Security also need to be assured not only for technology but also from users, so there is a need to have an ethical code of conduct for all ePortfolio stakeholders taking on board international, EU and local requirements.

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