

europecv: an unofficial class for European curricula

Nicola Vitacolonna

vitacolo@dimi.uniud.it

Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
University of Udine, Italy

2004/06/01

Abstract

As of 11 March 2002 the European Commission has defined a common format for curricula vitæ. This class is an unofficial L^AT_EX implementation of that format. Although primarily intended for users in the European Union, the class can be used for any kind of curriculum vitæ.

1 Overview

This class is an unofficial L^AT_EX implementation of the standard model for curricula vitæ (the *European CV*) as recommended by the European Commission.¹

The European CV defines both the content and the layout of a curriculum vitæ. The `europecv` class provides support for the latter, and for the former as far as personal information is concerned. If you want to know how the content of a European CV must be structured you must read the documentation provided by the European Community website.

This class tries to be as close as possible to the standard model without sacrificing flexibility. Although it is primarily intended for users of the European Union, the class can be used for any kind of curriculum vitæ (possibly with the options `notitle` and `noflag`, see below).

A minimal (empty) curriculum vitæ, quite similar to the official one, can be obtained with the following code:

```
\documentclass[helvetica,narrow]{europecv}
\usepackage{graphicx} % Required to draw the flag
\begin{document}
  \begin{europecv}
    \end{europecv}
\end{document}
```

This produces the following output, having only the *title* and a flag²:

¹<http://europa.eu.int/scadplus/leg/en/cha/c11057.htm>.

²It also produces a footer with the page number, not shown here.

EUROPEAN CURRICULUM VITAE FORMAT



The main differences with respect to the official model are the use of Helvetica (which should be in any standard L^AT_EX distribution) instead of Arial, and the use of a vector image for the flag instead of a low-resolution bitmap.

2 A curriculum through class options

Font options

`helvetica`

Uses Helvetica as the default font.

`arial`

Uses Arial as the default font. In order for this option to take effect, the font must have been installed and must be accessible through L^AT_EX.

How to install fonts in L^AT_EX goes beyond the scope of this document: read *The Font Installation Guide* you can find on CTAN. The `europcv` class expects the font filenames to use `m` for the supplier (Monotype) and `a1` for the typeface (Arial). For more information, please refer to the *Fontname* guide you can find on CTAN.

`narrow`

Uses a condensed version of the font. This option must be used with either `helvetica` or `arial`.

Notes

If you do not specify any font option, `europcv` will use the default font.

Language options

`danish`

Chooses Danish language.

`english`

Chooses English language. This is the default if you do not specify a language.

`french`





Chooses French language.

`finnish`

Chooses Finnish language.

`german`

Chooses German language.

<code>italian</code>	Chooses Italian language.
<code>portuguese</code>	Chooses Portuguese language.
<code>spanish</code>	Chooses Spanish language.
<code>swedish</code>	Chooses Swedish language.
Notes	<p>If you need a different language, you must create a new <code>.def</code> file, and add the corresponding <code>\DeclareOption</code> in the class file. Possibly, more languages will be available in the future.</p> <p>The choice of the language only affects the appearance of the title (“European Curriculum Vitæ Format”), the personal information section, and the footer with the page number. The use of this option is unrelated to Babel. You may include the <code>babel</code> package in your document if you like.</p>
Flag options	
<code>noflag</code>	Draws no flag.
<code>flagWB</code>	Draws the following:  This is the default.
<code>flagBW</code>	Draws the following: 
<code>flagCMYK</code>	Draws the following: 
<code>flagBlueCMYK</code>	Draws the following: 
Notes	You must include the <code>graphicx</code> package in your document if you want to draw a flag.
Title option	
<code>notitle</code>	Omits the title (“European curriculum vitæ format”) at the beginning of the curriculum vitæ.
Notes	Users outside the European Community who might want to use the <code>europecv</code> class may specify <code>notitle</code> and <code>noflag</code> among the class options.

3 A curriculum through commands

Personal information

<code>\ecvfirstname{name}</code>	Sets the first name to <i>name</i> .
<code>\ecvlastname{name}</code>	Sets the last name to <i>name</i> .
<code>\ecvaddress{addr}</code>	Sets the address to <i>addr</i> .
<code>\ecvtelephone{tel}</code>	Sets the telephone number to <i>tel</i> .
<code>\ecvfax{fax}</code>	Sets the fax number to <i>fax</i> .
<code>\ecvemail{email}</code>	Sets the email to <i>email</i> .
<code>\ecvnationality{nationality}</code>	Sets the nationality to <i>nationality</i> .
<code>\ecvdateofbirth{birth}</code>	Sets the date of birth to <i>birth</i> .
<code>\ecvpersonalinfo</code>	Typesets personal information.

Notes

`\ecvpersonalinfo` must appear only inside a `europcv` environment. Personal information definition commands can appear anywhere before the `europcv` environment, either in the preamble or in the document. `\ecvpersonalinfo` has an optional argument that tells how much vertical space to leave after the personal information block.

Sectioning commands

<code>\ecvsection{title}</code>	Starts a new section. This section was started with <code>\ecvsection{Sectioning commands}</code> .
<code>\ecvitem{left}{right}</code>	Puts <i>left</i> text on the left of the vertical rule and <i>right</i> text on the right of the vertical rule.
<code>\ecvitem*{left}{right}</code>	The same as above, but produces a small bullet before <i>left</i> text, as in the next item. Pretty pointless, but this is how the European CV does it.

• Notes

Sectioning commands must be used inside the `europcv` environment, and text within the environment should be typeset only inside a sectioning command. All of them have an optional argument that specifies how much vertical space to leave *after* that command. For instance, the previous item has been specified by

```
\ecvitem[15pt]{...}{...}
```

Footer

`\ecvfootnote{note}`

Puts a note in the footer which will appear on every page of the curriculum vitæ.³

Some parameters can be set by using the following commands.

Sizing

`\ecvRuleWidth{width}`

Sets the thickness of the vertical rule. The default is 0.4pt. This part has been typeset with `\ecvRuleWidth{2pt}`.

`\ecvExtraRowHeight{height}`

Puts extra space between subsequent items. The default is 0pt. This part has been typeset with `\ecvExtraRowHeight{10pt}`.

`\ecvColSep{width}`

Sets the space between the vertical rule and the surrounding text. The default is 12pt. This part has been typeset with `\ecvColSep{1cm}`.

`\ecvFlagWidth{width}`

Sets the size of the flag. The default is 10mm.

`\ecvLeftColumnWidth{width}`

Sets the text width in the left column to *width*. The right column fills the page. The default is 5cm. This part has been typeset with `\ecvLeftColumnWidth{6cm}`.

`\ecvtitlekern`

Changes the kerning of the title. The default value is 1.5pt.

Notes

To change global sizing parameters, such as the page size, the margins and so on, use the **geometry** package.

You may draw horizontal lines with `\hline` or `\cline`. The line above was obtained by:

```
\ecvitem[0pt]{Notes}{...}
\cline{2-2} \ecvitem{}{...}
```

³Standard footnotes can also be used inside the **europcv** environment.

4 Bibliography

The main weakness of this class is related to bibliography. If you insert a bibliography inside the `europcv` environment with a command like:

```
\ecvsection{Additional Information}
\ecvitem{}{\bibliographystyle{plain}
\nocite{*}
\bibliography{mypublications}}
```

the bibliography will flow out if it does not fit in the current page. The reason is that the `europcv` environment is a `longtable`, each `\ecvitem` corresponds to a row of the table, and a row cannot be split across pages. Therefore, you can safely put a bibliography using the `\bibliography` command only outside the `europcv` environment. Which may be or may not be what you want.

Another possibility is to use the `bibentry` package, and put each `\bibentry` command inside an `\ecvitem` command:

```
\ecvitem{}{\textsc{Publications}}
\ecvitem{}{\bibentry{pub1}}
[...]
\ecvitem{}{\bibentry{pubN}}
```

The drawback of this solution is that you have to use a `\bibentry` command for each bibliography item you want to appear. If you have written many publications, this can be a pain in the neck. Unfortunately, the only solution I know is to write a script to perform the task automatically.

5 Dependencies

The `europcv` class is built upon the `article` class, so you can use all standard `article` options, such as `12pt`, `draft`, `a4paper`, and so on. It requires the `array`, `longtable` and `fancyhdr` packages, which should be available by default on any decent \LaTeX distribution.

6 Official European CV and `europcv`: the differences

Unless you want to install Arial Narrow, you will probably typeset your curriculum vitæ in condensed Helvetica typeface⁴ if you want to adhere to the standard model.⁵ Differences are however quite small:⁶

Condensed Helvetica:
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z ! ? \$ % & / () # *

Arial Narrow:
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z ! ? \$ % & / () # *

⁴I am not sure whether it would be correct to talk about “Helvetica Narrow”.

⁵I must say that I find the choice of the font questionable at the least.

⁶Yes, they are really different! Compare the G’s, for example.

The `europcv` class uses a `\Large` font for the title (14.4pt, if normal size is 10pt), while the official model uses a 13pt size. The vertical rule is thinner than the official one, but this can easily be changed with `\ecvRuleWidth`. Small caps are typeset differently, but I am pretty sure that L^AT_EX behavior is typographically sound. The `europcv` environment never uses small caps in italics. The small bullet is not perfectly round in the official model, but I think this is a problem of the word processor they used, which narrowed punctuation along with the font. Another problem with the official templates is that they often produce unequal vertical spacings.

The last noticeable difference is the span of the vertical rule. In the examples I saw it has often different lengths (and from time to time is missing), but in general it goes through the page footer. This raises the question: Should I need a footnote, where should I put it? The `europcv` class keeps the footer separate from the text of the curriculum vitæ.

7 Disclaimer

I was not involved in any way in the development of the European CV. So, if you don't like it (I don't), don't complain to me, but write to the European Commission and teach them about good style and typography. And, maybe, about T_EX.

I am not a T_EXpert or a typographer, so I may have introduced typographical mistakes myself, and the class may contain bugs. Please let me know of anything wrong, but use at your own risk.

The flags have been downloaded from http://europa.eu.int/abc/symbols/emblem/index_en.htm. As far as I can understand, distributing those files within this class does not violate any license or copyright.

8 License

All files in this package may be distributed under the terms of the L^AT_EX Project Public License. See <http://www.ctan.org/tex-archive/help/Catalogue/licenses.lppl.html> for the details of that license.