

Date of Birth

Knowing your date of birth or having a birth certificate is a typical feature of the European world of the recent decades, but not all people everywhere in the world have a certificate of birth and know the exact date on which they were born (day / month / year). Therefore a person can have official certificates in which the date of birth is indicated as "born around yyyy", "*né vers aaaa*", e.g. "born around 1989".

As European bureaucracy demands a specific date in terms of day, month, and year, in such cases, it happens that arriving in Europe the Authorities provide a precise date of birth.

In Italy currently it is 01/01/yyyy (for instance 01/01/1989).

In the Netherlands, instead, this is not allowed anymore; a default value should now be used in the form of "00000000" (date of birth unknown), "yyyy0000" (month and day unknown), or "yyyymm00" (day unknown) ([http://www.bprbzk.nl/GBA/Nieuws/Geen fictieve geboortedatum registreren in de GBA](http://www.bprbzk.nl/GBA/Nieuws/Geen_fictieve_geboortedatum_registreren_in_de_GBA)).

The date format, which is the way in which the date is written down, is not the same in each country of the world, and even in a same country there may be differences.

The following formats are possible:

- dd / mm / yyyy (in most of the European countries and the vast majority of countries in the world)
- yyyy / mm / dd (for instance is the Chinese way for dates, and used also in some other Asian countries, Hungary and Sweden)
- mm / dd / yyyy (is the most common in the United States of America and in Canada).
- yyyy / dd / mm (for instance in The Netherlands also this format is used).

(<http://forum.wordreference.com/showthread.php?t=183783>)

Some example of possible confusion:

In Sweden 3/4 1999 means April 3, 1999. In the US it would be written 4/3/99 which Swedish people would interpret to March 4, 1999.

(http://www.algonet.se/~hogman/sl_swefact_eng.htm)