

Recognition of Education for Refugees with Insufficient Documentation

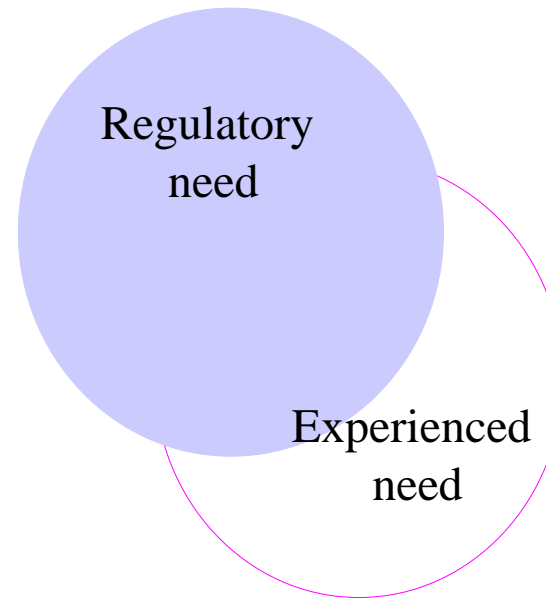
The Norwegian Implementation of the Lisbon Convention, Art. VII

Content

- Background
- The Norwegian pilot project
- Experiences from the project
- From project to implementation

Background for doing something for refugees

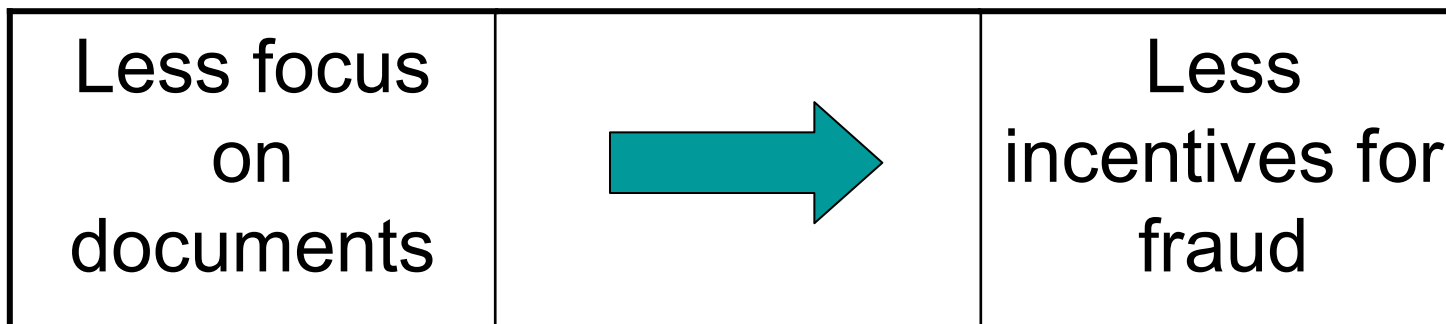
- A regulatory need from the Lisbon Convention
- An experienced need from problems with fraud and lack of verifications



Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq

- Documents submitted come in a variety of formats (stamps, signatures, forms)
- Difficulties in getting verification from the universities

Hypothesis:



Suggested procedure for refugees with insufficient doc.

1. Establishing an educational portfolio through reconstructions and supporting evidence
2. An evaluation interview at a HE institution with an expert within the specialty
3. A practical test as a home assignment or work placement (If needed)

The result:

- An educational portfolio + evaluation of it
- A full or partial recognition of the education
- Advice on further studies

The Norwegian Pilot Project

- NOKUT, 2 university colleges and 1 APL assessment centre
- Financed by the Ministry of Education and Research
- Academic area: Engineering
- Number of candidates: ca. 20
- Time: Jan-June 2004

The candidates

- Refugee or in a refugee-like situation
- 6 candidates in Narvik and 14 in Oslo
- Afghanistan (6), Iraq (11), Somalia (2) and former Yugoslavia (1)
- 19 men and 1 woman
- All claimed to have completed an engineering degree
- Education completed between 1977 and 2000

1. Establishing a portfolio

- Form + all sorts of supporting evidence
- Hard to remember all details
- Good work in this preparation makes the evaluation easier



2. The Evaluation

- Preparation for the interview
- The interview with one academic and one administrative staff
- Home assignment (if needed)
- Evaluation and report



Reconstructed course descriptions

Navn Adhane Allami Utdanning Collage of Engineer

Nr. WE 101	Fag/emne: Mathematics
Beskriv kort hva du lærte om i dette faget/emnet	
3-5 ALGebra of square Matrices.	
4) Linear Equations	
4-1 Linear Equation in two unknowns	
Nr. ME 101	Fag/emne:
Beskriv kort hva du lærte om i dette faget/emnet	
4-2 Two Linear Equations in two unknowns.	
4-3 General System of Linear Equations.	
4-4 Vectors and Linear Equations.	
Nr. ME 101	Fag/emne:
Beskriv kort hva du lærte om i dette faget/emnet	
5) The Binomial Coefficients and Theorem.	
5-1 Factorial Notation.	
5-2 Binomial Coefficients.	

First Year 1992-1993

Subjects	units
National Education:- subject is for 2 semester. Introduction to politic, art and society Education	2
Mathematics (1):- subject is for 2 semester. Introduction to Calculus, derivatives, applications of derivatives, chain rule, integrals, exponential and logarithms, integration, polar coordinats and complex number, infinite series, vectors and matrix.	6
Engineering Drawing:- subject is for 2 semester(3 hour/week) Introduction to Engineering Drawing, Standard Abbreviations, Line Thickness, Size of Drawing Paper, Layout of drawing Sheets, Dimensions and Dimensions Drawing, Screw threads, Isometric, Selection Symbols and methods, Drawing Sectional Views, Fits and Tolerance, Geometrical Constructions, Auxiliary Views(Primary and Secondary) and Drawing Analysis	2
Thermodynamics(1):- subject is for 2 semester. Laboratory is 3 hours in the week. Basic Concepts of Thermodynamics, Transformation of energy, Thermodynamics of Closed and Open systems, Internal energy(Kinetic and Potential energy), Processes and Cycles, Pressure, Temperature, Work, Power, The First Law of Thermodynamics, The Second Law of Thermodynamics, Third Law of Thermodynamics, Entropy and Enthalpy.	5

The results

- A full or partial recognition of the education and/or advice on further education
- 4 recognized as at least bachelor level
- 12 recognized as 1-2 years of study
- 4 got no recognition as higher education

Experiences from the project

- **The dilemma of the time span**
 - Much is forgotten over the years
 - Difference from document-based recognition
- **The language barrier**
 - Is the candidate able to communicate his/her skills and knowledge in Norwegian or English?
- **Who should do the recognition?**
 - An institution with the field of study
- **The costs**
 - 3-7 days work
 - Far less than for re-educating the candidate

How to use the recognition?

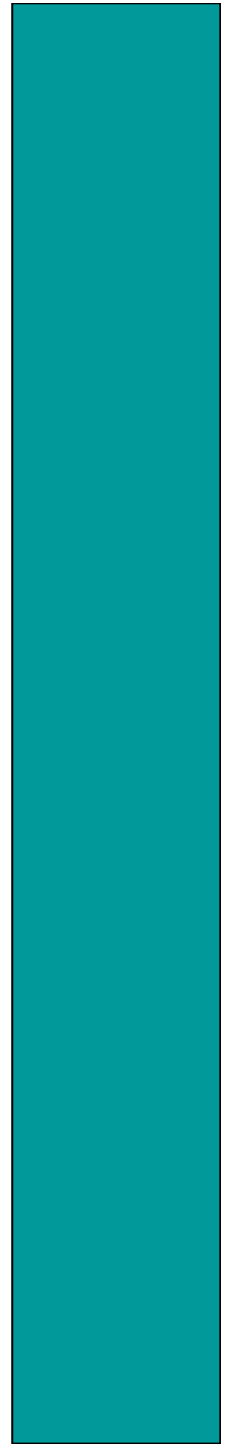
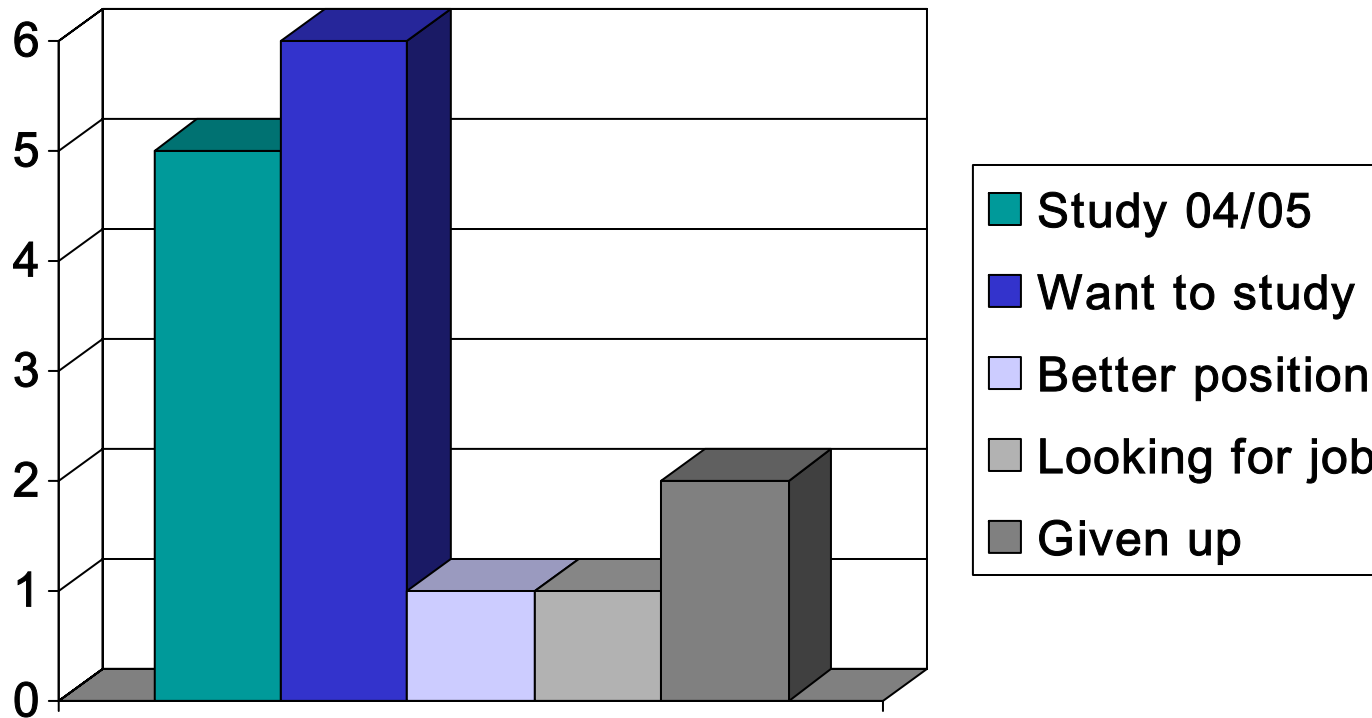
- Try to enter the profession or give it up?
- Search for work or go for further studies?



15 candidates one year after

- 5 studied during 04/05 whereof 2 at master level
- 6 want to study further when the language requirements are fulfilled
- 1 has improved his work situation as an engineer
- 1 is in practice/looks for relevant job
- 2 has totally given up engineering

15 candidates one year after



From project to implementation

- NOKUT and the Ministry of Education and Research recommend to use the procedure at the HEIs
- Some institutions have started using the procedure but with few candidates each
- NOKUT gives information and advice to potential candidates and institutions
- No big launching of the initiative

Finding its place in the recognition landscape

- Recognition based on documents will stay the rule in Norwegian higher education
- While the special procedure for refugees provides an alternative for those few special cases