

## Refugees and Recognition – 2<sup>nd</sup> consortium meeting

**Time:** 27-28<sup>th</sup> of October 2016

**Venue:** CIMEA – NARIC Italia, Viale XXI Aprile 36, 00162, Rome, Italy

### Participants:

#### ENIC-NARICs from:

Armenia	Inna Ghabulyan Gayane Hartutyunyan
France	Wafa Triek
Italy	Silvia Bianco Chiara Finocchietti Luca Lantero Vera Lucke
Netherlands	Katrien Bardoel
Norway	Marina Malgina Stig Arne Skjerven
UK	Lisa Collett
European Commission	Petronela Burceag

## Minutes from the meeting

1. **Welcome to the meeting by NOKUT and CIMEA, some practical information**
2. **Presentation of film about CIMEA's activities by Luca (CIMEA)**
3. **Information from the offices:**
  - Norway – applications from Syria are increasing, NOKUT's Qualifications Passport for Refugees becomes an integrated part of NOKUT's recognition procedures, NOKUT takes part in development of bridging courses for refugees in cooperation with HEIs, CoE – pilot project in a refugee camp in Greece – working on the details
  - France – two conferences on refugees (MoE+ all the stakeholders, developed new pages for refugees – welcome refugees (EN, AR)
  - Armenia – Syrian refugees with Armenian identity. Professional recognition as one of the requirements to enter the job market, professional recognition mainly for physicians and nurses. Currently no language programme. Discussion: regulated vs not regulated professions.
  - Netherlands – 2015: 500 applications from refugees. Started online application, app, toolkit to help the institutions for admission purposes. Steps: explanation of the framework; interview on the basis of the background paper. HEIs are autonomous, EP-NUFFIC provides information. Some institutions are flexible, different approaches. Webpage: to bring together all the information available for refugees, working together with NGOs supporting refugees. One Syrian refugee working in the office.
  - UK – Brexit. Changes and reshuffling. 20000 refugees will be brought from Jordan and Lebanon. + children with UK relatives from Calais camps. Developing information packages for refugees.
  - Italy – coordination of a committee helping Italian HEIs in their work with refugees (CNVQR). Statement of comparability is free of charge for refugees. Suggestion that one of the tools might be a map of the implementation of the Article VII.
4. **Practical follow ups after the 1st meeting**
  - Budget overviews for the partners include only direct costs – staff costs + travel and sub. costs. Rest of the payments will be made after 1.11.
5. **Activity 2: Country briefings for 5 countries - Libya (UK), Afghanistan (NOKUT), Syria (EP-NUFFIC), Iraq (CIEP), Eritrea (NOKUT).** Consortium agreed on the template, and template is sent to all the involved offices. The responsible project partners can already start to work on the chapters and Marina will add the text on the purpose at a later stage (by 18th of November). The responsible partners should send the filled Country Briefing back to this group by 25 November, the consortium has then time until 9 December to comment and add additional information. The final version should be ready by the end of this year.

6. **Activity 3: Publishing of the country profiles** - will be published at the project website developed by NOKUT and linked to the ENIC-NARIC webpage in January 2017. NOKUT and CIMEA are responsible partners.
7. **Activity 4: Elaboration on common guidelines** – Consortium agrees that guidelines are well elaborated in EAR- manual, good starting point.
  - Accessibility
  - Information provision
  - Equal treatment
  - Competent treatment
  - Effectiveness
  - Transparency
  - Relevance
8. **Activity 5: Common procedures / tools** - Overview over tools, definition of tools to be used:
  - a) Country briefs – tools helping to understand the education system and qualification in question
  - b) Questionnaire – important tool, especially in cases with insufficient or lacking documentation
  - c) Templates for structured interviews – standardized tool which help to organize the interview
  - d) Guidelines on verification and getting information from the relevant authorities in 5 countries in question – Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea, Libya, Syria.
  - e) Background paper
  - f) Qualifications Passport
  - g) Map of existing methods
9. **Activity 6 and 7: Testing of the tools to understand the instruments and come to conclusion on the final statement.** Next meeting will be devoted to discussion on testing and on development of e-learning modules. Testing will start from April 2017.
 

Italy: wishes to test Qualifications Passport methodology

Netherlands: have tested their tools and methodology and will not participate in testing

Armenia: wishes to test Qualifications Passport methodology

France: wishes to test Qualifications Passport methodology

UK: Will be confirmed later (as Liza had left the meeting)

Norway: Methodology tested in Spring 2016 and sees no need for further testing in Norway

In addition, also other NARICs might be invited to do testing, according to budget available, since neither Netherlands nor Norway finds it rational to do testing in their home country. This should be decided upon at the next meeting.

CIMEA will prepare a proposal on how the trial phase could look like and will present it during the next consortium meeting. It will then be discussed with the partners.
10. **Activity 8: E-learning modules:** Katrien from EP-NUFFIC presented the model for E-learning, the final decision on the form and the responsible participants will be taken during the 3rd meeting in March. UK NARIC didn't have the opportunity to present their plan, as Lisa had to leave earlier. From the project plan it is stated that the partners to be primarily involved with this is UK, Netherlands and Norway.
11. **Next meeting will be held in the UK, Cheltenham on Thursday-Friday 30-31. March 2017.**