



Lisbon Recognition Convention – 20 years of development of good practice in Europe

Conference on the Revised Reykjavik Declaration:
The Nordic Approach on Recognition

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Europe until 1997 in recognition

- Seeking equivalency
- Lack of information provision
- Only in some countries had a contact point or an information centre
- Not well functioned networking
- No transparent assessment of foreign qualifications
- No regulations of recognition

Drafting new convention for European Region

Need to change the concept of recognition of qualifications – **from equivalency to recognition**. But not only...

- Applicants are entitled to a fair recognition of their qualifications
- Reasonable time limit
- Transparent, coherent and reliable procedures
- Right to appeal
- Recognition unless substantial differences can be shown
- Importance of information
- Recognition information centres (national ENIC)

Key concepts of new convention

And – adjustment of **terminology**

1997

- On 11 April 1997, 27 countries signing the **Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region** (“Lisbon Recognition Convention”)

Council of Europe and UNESCO

A number of countries, signatories to the LRC will start to establish or maintain national ENIC office to follow the provisions of the Convention.

1998-1999

- **First ratifications:**
 - Azerbaijan (10.03.1998)
 - Switzerland (24.03.1998)
 - Estonia (01.04.1998)
 - Kazakhstan (07.10.1998)
 - Lithuania (17.12.1998)

Ratification by 5 countries – the Convention entering into force on 01.02.1999

1999

- **1st session of the LRC Committee (16.06.1999 in Vilnius)**
 - **Rules of Procedure** was adopted (the function of the Committee, tasks of the Bureau, sessions, elections, etc)
 - **Revised Diploma Supplement** – the Committee encouraged the implementation of the DS at national level
 - **Recommendation on International Access Qualifications** (adopted)
 - Interim Report of the WG on **transnational education (TNE)**. The Committee encouraged the continuation and successful completion of WG activities.

| 1999-2001 |

- Recognition issues in the **Bologna Process** (support by the Bureau to the ENIC/NARIC Working Group on this issue)
- Creation of the WG on **electronic communication** (ELCORE) focused on to establish a website and to maintain the listserv to implement the provisions of Sections VIII and IX.

- **2nd session of the LRC Committee (06.06.2001 in Riga)**
 - **Code of Good Practice for the Provision of Transnational Education** (adopted)
 - Useful text for recognition of TNE qualifications and combating against illegal TNE activities
 - **Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications** (adopted)
 - A fundamental document for new attitudes on assessment of qualifications. A key document to adjust national legislation on recognition of qualifications and in day-to-day work on assessment of qualifications by national authorities (ENICs, HEIs)

2002-2004

- The boom of ratifications - **13 more countries became a Party** to the Convention within this period. The Convention became “popular”.
- The LRC Bureau working actively **together with ENIC Bureau and NARIC Advisory Board** on supporting implementation of the concept of **Bologna Process**
 - Recognition; DS; ECTS, HE based on two main cycles (BA-MA system)

2004

- **3rd session of the LRC Committee (09.06.2004 in Strasbourg)**
 - **Joint ENIC/NARIC Charter of Activities and Services (adopted)**
 - A supportive text to maintain national information centres, their tasks, and information provision. It also gives a concept for further functions of ENIC/NARIC Networks.
 - **Recommendation on Recognition of Joint Degrees (adopted)**
 - The LRC Committee exchange of views on **possible measures** to further the implementation of the LRC, with special consideration of the **strategy of the ENIC/NARIC Networks** and the developments within the **Bologna Process**.

2004-2006

- Strasbourg Statement on **Recognition Issues in the EHEA**
(Contribution by the ENIC and NARIC Networks to the Bologna Process)
 - Importance to improve the implementation of the LRC in Europe
- **Quality Assurance** and links between the recognition and quality.
Seeking cooperation with ENQA
- **Substantial difference** – what it is?
 - A WP on Substantial Differences – Towards a Common Understanding? was established at the ENIC and NARIC Networks

2007

- **4th session of the LRC Committee (19.06.2007 in Bucharest)**
 - **Revised Code of Good Practice in Provision of Transnational Education** (adopted)
 - The **Revised Explanatory Notes to the Diploma Supplement** was discussed and adopted
 - The need for revision according to the developments in the Bologna Process



2007-2010

- **National Action Plans on Recognition**
 - EHEA countries were asked to present national action plans on recognition, and agendas for implementation of the LRC.
- Recognition in a **global context**
 - Attempts to discuss the need on **recognition outside of the UNESCO regions**
 - Exploring opportunities for **relations between Europe and other regions**

2010

- **5th session of the LRC Committee (23.06.2010 in Sèvres)**
 - **Revised Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for Assessment of Foreign Qualifications (adopted)**
 - Revised according to the progress in the EHEA – qualifications framework, learning outcomes, assessment of five key elements of the qualification, quality, recognition of former qualification.

2010-2012

- **European Area of Recognition (EAR) Manual**
 - EAR will contribute to a EHEA for recognition to practice a methodology of recognition that is based on similar standards.
 - EAR Manual covers good and best practices to implement LRC and its subsidiary texts.
- Recognition in a **global context** continuing
 - Seeking cooperation (networking) between the Europe and other regions
- (Asia-Pacific Recognition Convention (2011, Tokyo), and the view to prepare other new regional conventions based on the general concept of the LRC)

2013

- **6th session of the LRC Committee
(19.06.2013 in Split)**
- **Recommendation on the Use of Qualifications
Frameworks in the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications
(adopted)**
 - Supportive text to the Recommendation on Criteria and Procedure focusing on assessment based on QF.

2014-2015

- **Refugees**
 - Taking into account the situation in Europe the Council of Europe and other intl. organisations recall Parties to implement Art.VII as soon as possible and to take all relevant measures on national level.
- **Interregional activities in Africa and LAC, discussions and presentations of good practices in Europe**
 - Presentation of LRC in other regions – a contribution to draft new generation regional conventions.
- **Global Convention**
 - The LRCC Bureau member participating on Experts' Group "Towards on Global Convention on a Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications".

2014-2015 (cont.)

- **Monitoring the implementation of the LRC**
 - First time since 1997
 - Purpose – to oversee the implementation of provisions determining the obligations of the Parties.
 - What and how is regulated at national level
 - How the national authorities oversee the internal (HEI) regulations and implementation of the LRC

2016

- **7th session of the LRC Committee (29.02.2016 in Paris)**
- **Presentation of the Monitoring the implementation of the LRC** (report was endorsed)
- **Revised Recommendation on the Recognition of Joint Degrees** (adopted)
- **Statement on the recognition of refugees' qualifications**
 - Recalling Parties to implement fully Art.VII
 - Recommend Parties to implement it before the end 2018
 - Invite to develop a Recommendation on the recognition of refugees' qualifications (mandate to draft the text by the Bureau)

2016-2017

Main activities of the LRCC Bureau in this period:

- **Drafting the Recommendation on Recognition of Qualifications Held by Refugees, Displaced Persons and Persons in a Refugee-like Situation**
 - Draft is presented to the LRC Committee for adoption on their extraordinary meeting in Strasbourg on 14 November 2017)
- **Drafting Guidelines for ENICs and NARICs national online information systems**
 - What information is needed for assessment and recognition of qualifications and recommendation on how to present it.



Thank you!

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