



Joining the Global Convention – NOKUT's experience one year after

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Norway's approval of the Global Convention

- The Global Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education adopted by UNESCO's Member States at the 40th General Conference on 25 November 2019.
- Approved by the Norwegian government and signed by the King on 7 May 2020.
- Instrument of approval registered with UNESCO on 8 June 2020, making Norway first country to join.
- How could it go so fast?



Renewed commitment to well-known principles

- Political significance: demonstrates UNESCO's Member States' wish to promote academic mobility and willingness to work closer together on establishing universal recognition principles.
- Facilitates interregional academic mobility.
- Extends recognition principles, practices and innovations from regional level to global level and develops further well-established principles and definitions.
- Builds on and complements long-standing commitments at regional level.



NOKUT's role in the process

- Took part in the drafting and intergovernmental negotiations leading up to the adoption in 2019.
- Provided advice to the Ministry of Education and Research.
- Assured the quality of Norwegian language translation in accordance with Norwegian recognition terminology.
- Why has this work been so important for NOKUT?



Reason no. 1: national policies for improved mobility



- Government white paper on student mobility (November 2020).
- Long term government objective: 50 % outbound mobility.
- Increase mobility to/from:
 - EU, North America, BRICS countries, Japan and Republic of Korea.
 - Non-English-speaking countries.

Reason no. 2: improved access to information

- The Global Convention
 - Affirms that information shall be shared free of charge.
 - Improves access to information about qualifications, education systems and QA mechanisms in other regions.
 - Connects regional networks of national information centres.



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Asia-Pacific Network of National Information Centres (APNNIC)

APNNIC is a regional network of National Information Centres (NICs) of the parties to the Tokyo Convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in the Asia-Pacific region. The APNNIC portal provides free and authoritative information on the recognition of qualifications to help facilitate physical or virtual mobility of students and academics. To date, the nine Parties to the Tokyo Convention are Australia, China, Fiji, Holy See, Japan, Mongolia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, and Turkey. Additional countries are nearing completion of their procedures to become a Party.

Australia China Holy See Japan Mongolia New Zealand Republic of Korea Turkey

National Information Centres

Reason no. 3: improved recognition practice

- The implementation structures of the Global Convention creates a platform for improving recognition procedures globally.
- Enables participation in collaborative projects with an interregional or global scope.
- In turn, this will improve our own practice and make us better equipped for assessing qualifications from all over the world.



What's next for NOKUT?

- With disrupted learning and admissions, COVID-19 has accentuated the need for better cooperation and information sharing globally.
- NOKUT will continue to support the Norwegian government and UNESCO's efforts to improve recognition practices and promote the Global Convention.
- Participates in UNESCO-led project on global qualifications passport for refugees ([UQP project](#)) in accordance with Art. 7 of the Global Convention and regional conventions.

