

ENIC-NARIC ANNUAL JOINT MEETING 2024 WORKSHOPS

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ITEM 5. WORKSHOPS 24/06/2024 11.30-13.00

5.1 Workshop: Transnational education in the spotlight: discussing the revision of the code of good practice

1. Overview and context of the workshop

The workshop aims at enlarging the discussion and gathering feedback from ENIC-NARIC Centers on the "Revised code of good practice in the provision of transnational education (2007)". The goal of the workshop is to present a draft structure of the document elaborated by the LRCC Bureau and, by adopting an interactive modality, receive as much inputs as possible from representatives of ENIC-NARIC Centers, so to have a document that for its content is in line with the latest development on transnational education and the current international context. For supporting the discussion, a draft version of the document, will be circulated on time with participants in advance.

2. Panel

Chair: Luca Lantero, LRC Committee President

Speaker 1: Allan Bruun Pedersen, First Vice-President

5.2 Workshop: National challenges in recognition of undocumented qualifications and the EQPR – new developments

1. Overview and context of the workshop

The aim of the workshop is to discuss the complementarity of the EQPR with national instruments in the recognition of refugees' qualifications as a tool for the successful integration of refugees in higher education and in the labour market. The lessons learned in the implementation of the EQPR will be discussed and new developments presented. The workshop will be structured in several presentations with a testimony of an EQPR holder on the benefits of the EQPR. German experience from the first German EQPR session last autumn in Bonn and French EQPR experience from May 2022 in Paris-Sèvres and June 2024 in Lyon. France would like to shortly report on our specific experience concerning refugees from Ukraine, as this country ranks 1st for the treatment of refugee diplomas in our centre in 2023. Ukraine ranks at 4th position for all received diplomas at the French ENIC-NARIC Centre in 2023.

2. Panel

Chair: Villano Qiriazzi, Council of Europe

Speaker 1: Miriam Wiederhold, ENIC-NARIC Germany

Speaker 2: Samir Heco, Council of Europe

Speaker 3: Roxane Hindié, ENIC-NARIC France

5.3 Workshop: ENIC-NARICs: Expertise and remit beyond higher education

1. Overview and context of the workshop

Over the last decades, the ENIC-NARIC networks have built a wealth of expertise and knowledge in the recognition of foreign qualifications. Recently, policy initiatives such as the creation of the EEA, have given a push to strengthen recognition also in levels beyond academic recognition.

This situation raises a few questions: Is there a role for ENIC-NARICs -as experts in their national context- beyond academic recognition and what this could be? What can we learn from centers that have expanded their role, formally or informally?

The goal of the session is to address the above questions, by focusing on three Erasmus+ NARIC projects dealing with the expertise being built in areas beyond the higher education remit, such as upper secondary education, VET and automatic recognition of access qualifications. Specifically, the goals of the session are:

1. provide the ENIC-NARIC networks with an update from 3 projects in order to disseminate the results and to collect feedback from the Networks:

- AR25, dealing with study periods in upper secondary education: <https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/recognition-projects/ar25-2023-2025>
- BRAVO - Bridging a European Network for Recognition of Vocational Qualifications, dealing with level 4 and 5: <https://hkdir.no/en/bravo>
- ARAQUA, automatic recognition, access qualifications, dealing with automatic recognition of access qualifications: <https://aic.lv/en/par-aic/projects/aragua>

2. engage participants in a reflection on the role of their centre in their national recognition infrastructure, by presenting the outcomes and exchange of experiences;

3. discuss how centres can collaborate to support each other when expanding their remits.

The structure of the session is threefold:

1. Welcome chair, introduction (10 -15 min): Introduction providing policy context and latest initiatives relevant to the networks.

2. Presentations & group work (ca 60 min): Three presentations, each consisting about 50% information via presentation and 50% small group work to foster interaction:

- AR25 (20 min)
- BRAVO (20 min)
- ARAQUA (20 min)

3. Closing discussion with participants (15-20 min):

- Discussion based on presentations, focused on more general questions as outlined above.
- Chair wraps up at end.

2. Panel

Chair: Christian Kiefer, European Commission

Speaker 1: Baiba Ramina, ENIC-NARIC Latvia

Speaker 2: Silje Molander, ENIC-NARIC Norway

Speaker 3: Jenneke Lokhoff, ENIC-NARIC Netherlands

5.4 Workshop: Building the capacity of ENICs through the Council of Europe calls for projects

1. Overview and context of the workshop

In an unprecedented initiative for 2023, the Council of Europe introduced a call for projects under the "Learners First- Support for the ENIC Centres" programme. This initiative aims to foster the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention. A diverse array of six projects were selected, covering essential areas such as the recognition of refugee qualifications, combating educational fraud, and enhancing the operational capabilities of ENIC centres. This workshop provides a unique platform for project coordinators to share their insights, experiences, and best practices gathered from the implementation of these projects.

This workshop invites the coordinators of the following four projects to present their experiences and results.

Armenia: "Equipping Education Stakeholders with Competences to Detect and Combat Education Fraud (DETECT)"

Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Implementation of the Lisbon Convention in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ILIRIC)"

UK: "Tracking Refugee Applications for Study and Employment in the UK (TRASE UK)"

Georgia: "Promoting Implementation Procedures in Practice for the Recognition of Education Received by Refugees"

2. Panel

Chair: Catherine Dolgova Dreyer, Council of Europe

Speaker 1: Gayane Haratyunyan, ENIC Armenia

Speaker 2: Mirta Mandic Martinovic, ENIC Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speaker 3: Jodie Duffy, ENIC United Kingdom

Speaker 4: Nino Kadagishvili, ENIC Georgia

ITEM 6. WORKSHOPS 24/06/2024 14.30-16.00

6.1 Workshop: Transnational education in the spotlight: discussing the revision of the code of good practice

1. Overview and context of the workshop

The workshop aims at enlarging the discussion and gathering feedback from ENIC-NARIC Centers on the "Revised code of good practice in the provision of transnational education (2007)". The goal of the workshop is to present a draft structure of the document elaborated by the LRCC Bureau and, by adopting an interactive modality, receive as much inputs as possible from representatives of ENIC-NARIC Centers, so to have a document that for its content is in line with the latest development on transnational education and the current international context. For supporting the discussion, a draft version of the document, will be circulated on time with participants in advance.

2. Panel

Chair: Luca Lantero, LRC Committee President

Speaker 1: Baiba Ramiņa, Second Vice-President

6.2 Workshop: Qualifications, Refugees and Recognition – ensuring sustainable implementation of LRC Article VII

1. Overview and context of the workshop

How can ENIC-NARICs contribute to the implementation of Article VII of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in their national contexts? The 2019 LRC monitoring report showed that 70 % of LRC Parties did not have any formal procedures in place for recognition of insufficiently documented qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons, and persons in a refugee-like situation. The 2022 monitoring report reaffirmed the weak implementation of Article VII, showing that only about half of the Parties provide information about recognition of refugees' qualifications. The report stresses that procedures for the recognition of refugees' qualifications should be implemented at the national level, highlighting the role of ENIC-NARIC centres.

Launched in 2023, the Erasmus+ project EQUAL aims to improve the implementation of LRC Article VII by supporting three NARIC offices in establishing sustainable recognition procedures that are aligned with national legislation and admission practices at HEIs. The project will result in white papers for each country, consisting of an assessment protocol adapted to local needs, as well as recommendations to national policy makers on regulations and legislation. The workshop will showcase preliminary results from the project, including the draft white papers, and use these as basis for a discussion on how ENIC-NARICs should go ahead with adapting existing regulations and legislation, and putting in place sustainable recognition procedures for refugees' qualifications.

2. Panel

Chair: Andreas Snildal, ENIC-NARIC Norway

Speaker 1: Gianina Chirazi, ENIC-NARIC Romania

Speaker 2: Hanna Reczulska, ENIC-NARIC Poland

Speaker 3: Rita Stasiulienė, ENIC-NARIC Lithuania

Speaker 4: Bas Wegewijs, ENIC-NARIC Netherlands

Speaker 5: Bessy Athanasopoulou, NARIC Greece

Speaker 6: Francesco Sanasi, ENIC-NARIC Italy

6.3 Workshop: ENIC-NARIC centres' role in implementing the Commission's 2024 higher education package

1. Overview and context of the workshop

The purpose will be to discuss the implementation of the recognition aspects of the higher education package with ENIC-NARIC centres. Following a Commission introduction, two ENIC-NARIC centres and ENQA will be invited to outline the measures they intend to take to implement the recognition aspects and the support they require, from both national and European sources. It will also be an opportunity to discuss possible projects in recognition that could be supported in the 2024 Erasmus+ call for recognition stakeholders.

2. Panel

Chair: Kinga Szuly and Julie Anderson, European Commission

Speaker 1: Jim Murray and Andrina Wafer, ENIC-NARIC Ireland

Speaker 2: Elisa Petrucci, ENIC-NARIC Italy

Speaker 3: Elena Cîrlan, ENQA

6.4 Workshop: Automatic Recognition: How legal can you go

1. Overview and context of the workshop

Automatic recognition: How much have we achieved after more than a decade with AR as the hot topic in recognition? Have we come far or are we as some will say still in a state of limbo, when it comes to implementation of AR? How do we proceed from where we are now and are we willing to go legal on Automatic recognition?

Although many countries report a high level of activities with the purpose of implementing AR in forms of bilateral and multilateral agreements and have introduced online tools in support of automatic recognition, there are arguments from different sides that not enough progress has been made. Arguments stating that recommendations such as Bologna Ministerial Communiqués and the “Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of qualifications and learning periods abroad” have not triggered enough progress in terms of implementing AR throughout EHEA.

The question is now: Where are we in terms of implementing automatic recognition and how can we proceed from where we are now? This workshop will give an overview on the current status of the implementation of automatic recognition in Europe and discuss the pros and cons of different modes of implementing AR. Most notably, we will focus on possible legal implementation. Is the era of recommendations over and are we entering a new phase of legal implementation? Can we foresee a legally binding European text on automatic recognition in a near future? What could be the benefits and challenges of going legal on automatic? Participants will be asked to share their opinions enthusiasm and scepticism on different ways to progress with the implementation of automatic recognition.

2. Overview and context of the workshop

Chair: Cecilia George, ENIC-NARIC Sweden

Speaker 1: Allan Bruun Pedersen, ENIC-NARIC Denmark

Speaker 2: Gunnar Vaht, ENIC-NARIC Estonia

ITEM 8. WORKSHOPS 25/06/2024 09.00-10.30

8.1 Workshop: PowerSheet: options and opportunities for an annual data report of the international ENIC-NARIC network

1. Overview and context of the workshop

The ENIC-NARIC network presents itself via the website ENIC-NARIC - gateway to recognition of qualifications including basic documents, references and guidelines, as well as the list of ENIC-NARIC's member countries. Still no information is available concerning the precise mission of each centre, such as which kind of certificates are produced or not, the volume of its activity, the number of staff to handle the workload, etc.

The intention of this workshop is to discuss the possibility of ENIC-NARIC to up-date the Square TST2 project, and especially the statistical data collection on an annual basis, allowing to present a more precise and powerful "professional business card of international diploma recognition".

This "ENIC-NARIC power sheet" (or report card) could include a brief description of the mission of each centre: which kind of recognition certificates are produced or not annually ; does it include authentication and equivalence evaluation, or only systemic evaluation?; the legal statute of the entity (governmental or independent); the number of staff to handle the workload; government support; number of Erasmus+ projects; training sessions organised.

Via the TST2 project, a basic document "who are we?" exists: [Typology of ENIC-NARIC centres](#). This workshop wants to discuss an annual up-date and the selection of pertinent information to mention in a transparent way: an annual data information sheet on which each ENIC-NARIC centre can agree.

Of course: statistic information can be sensible. Some centres may not wish to communicate certain information, such as financial figures. That's okay! The idea is not neither to create a competition or league ranking amongst ENIC-NARICs. It does not matter which centre produces the most certificates, as the activity of the ENIC-NARIC centre depends on the size of the national population, economic power, number of universities of the country. Also, the missions of the ENIC-NARIC centres vary from country to country. Still, statistics talk. Especially to politicians. Thus, publishing in a transparent way, our annual numbers will be useful to promote each ENIC-NARIC centre nationally and on the European and international level.

This workshop will be presented and co-animated by ENICs from France, the Netherlands and Canada/Elcore. Our discussions may allow us to create an annual power sheet (report card) in form of an extended business card allowing us to increase our impact.

3. Panel

Chair: Martin Beyer, ENIC-NARIC France

Speaker 1: Bas Wegewijs, ENIC-NARIC Netherlands

Speaker 2: Nathanaël Poli, ENIC Canada

8.2 Workshop: A holistic approach to recognition through digitalisation

1. Overview and context of the workshop

The potential of digital solutions to enhance the recognition process is gaining momentum in an increasingly interconnected world, particularly with the aim of improving transparency, information sharing, and the efficiency of recognition. However, the use of digital tools is not sufficient to digitalise the recognition workflow. It is fundamental to rethink the entire workflow to transpose analogic processes into digital ones. This implies:

- Considering the governance of the recognition process, involving relevant actors in a systemic approach.
- Conducting a detailed analysis of internal strategies, objectives and processes to identify the most appropriate tools to be used.
- Ensuring alignments with EU, international and national policies.

Against this background, the workshop has the main aim of sharing practical experiences on the holistic approach needed for implementing digital solutions for the recognition agenda.

Starting from a methodological and theoretical introduction to give participants a common ground provided by Nuffic, the Dutch ENIC-NARIC, three centres will present their experiences in digitalising their workflow.

NAWA, the Polish ENIC-NARIC, will present its Syrena system, with a special focus on the process of developing its interconnection with other external database.

CIMEA, the Italian ENIC-NARIC will present its experiences in developing new digital solutions starting from the use of blockchain technology in 2019 to the development of its new digital management system with a view on solutions to foster automatic recognition and to employ artificial intelligence.

The presentations will be followed by a practical exercise to give participants the opportunity to reflect on how the recognition workflow can be digitalised at the national level.

2. Panel

Chair: Elisa Petrucci, ENIC-NARIC Italy

Speaker 1: Evelien Willems, ENIC-NARIC Netherlands

Speaker 2: Serena Spitalieri, ENIC-NARIC Italy

Speaker 3: Hanna Reczulska, ENIC-NARIC Poland

8.3 Workshop: Automatic recognition. (Y)Our frontiers

1. Overview and context of the workshop

The concept of a “bachelor is a bachelor is a bachelor” is high on policy agenda’s for over a decade now. Various initiatives emerged to support the practice of automatic recognition across the EHEA and the EU.

While continuous progress is made, several reports show there is still work to do to achieve full practice of automatic recognition. The I-AR, Digi-AR and AR25 projects each work towards further progress based on implementation thus far, paving the path towards full automatic recognition in 2025. Pioneering new frontiers is part of this effort and we invite all centres to join!

This session aims to share some new work done in the Networks to take automatic recognition further in all centres. Specifically, the goal of the session is:

- To present to the ENIC-NARIC networks with the EHEA qualifications table, developed in the Erasmus+ Implementation of Automatic Recognition in the Networks (I-AR) project, and what analysis of the use of the ongoing Automatic Recognition in 2025 project shows about the state of implementation and how this complies or differs with your experience;
- To share the latest pre-liminary results of the Creating Digital Tools for Automatic Recognition (Digi-AR) project, in particularly the statement developed for which the Benelux Baltic treaty provides the underlying structure, and reflect how this could be useful in your situation?
- Present and organize a discussion about the proposal for the implementation of a universal model for automatic recognition by Greece;
- Organize peer exchange and reflect how the outcomes can support the implementation of automatic recognition in the ENIC-NARICs and the networks at large;
- To offer participants a reflection on what frontiers are still to be conquered to achieve automatic recognition in their national context;
- We cant bring to you the Paris Olympics, but are able to present you the Tour de France of AR.

The structure of the session is threefold:

1. Welcome chair, introduction (5 min)

Allan Bruun Pedersen.

Introduction providing policy context and latest initiatives relevant to the networks.

2. Presentations, group work and discussions (70 min):

Four interventions are foreseen:

- I. The I-AR EHEA table + AR25 report on EHEA Table (20 min)
 - The EHEA table is developed in the I-AR project provides an overview of all qualifications in the EHEA for the three cycles and can be used for AR. The AR25 is fine tuning the table and input from the centres would be desired.
 - The AR25 used the EHEA table to test the table, its outcomes however show some interesting findings in regards of the ability for centres to be able to automatically recognize these qualifications.
 - What can we learn from these outcomes, and how can these be used in the own national context?
- II. Digi-AR: (20 min). Having the Baltic-Benelux treaty as an underlying structure, this project develops a recognition statement for the Baltic Benelux countries to support implementation of the treaty. The aim

is to present the preliminary ENIC-NARICs can support their higher education institutions in the implementation of automatic recognition. The report outcomes will be used to discuss with the participants their experiences and what strategies can be used in their own national context.

- III. Presenting the uniform model for automatic recognition, followed by discussions;
- IV. Tour de France de automatic recognition. Example of implementation activities in France to achieve full implementation of automatic recognition in 2025.

3. Closing (5 min)

Chair wraps up at end.

Additional notes: tbc - we would like to do some group work, so a room set up that would facilitate this + microphone + possible flipboard would be welcome.

2. Panel

Chair: Allan Bruun Petersen, ENIC-NARIC Denmark

Speaker 1: Jenneke Lokhoff, ENIC-NARIC Netherlands

Speaker 2: Helén Sophie Haugen, ENIC-NARIC Norway

Speaker 3: Aurelija Valeikiene, ENIC-NARIC Lithuania

Speaker 4: Orestis Kalogirou, ENIC-NARIC Greece

Speaker 5: Roxane Hindié, ENIC-NARIC France

8.4 Workshop: Different Methods of Recognition Practices: How to accommodate recognition of skills and qualifications to meet society's needs?

Objectives: The LRC lays down the fundamental principles of the fair recognition of qualifications. On the other hand, the recognition of foreign qualifications may take place in a variety of legal procedures for a variety of purposes. Focusing on different practices by the centers will help the network realize different solutions to different problems in each country.

The aim of this workshop is to open a pathway for applicant-oriented recognition systems. It can also help the centers for future collaboration through knowledge sharing, study visits, projects, etc.

Overview: The ENIC-NARIC Türkiye has been working on flexible recognition practices for HE qualifications. Recognition should not be limited only to issuing or rejecting decisions. Türkiye has been using a unique evaluation process and various tools, which are facilitating the applicant to get the recognition statement for academic and professional use. Examples of these practices can be listed as “alternative, partial, or conditional” recognition. Each form of recognition practice will be explained and presented over real recognition files.

A major challenge in Europe today is to get qualified skilled workers. How can our centers' recognition procedures alleviate the skills gap? As a response to this, the Norwegian ENIC-NARIC office offers assessment of vocational qualifications on EQF level 4 and 5. This workshop will showcase how we go about assessing skills and qualifications other than HE, and how our cooperation with the labor market is an integral part of this process.

Format: The workshop will be organized in 3 sections. The presentations on nationally specified practices will form the first two sections, whereas the last part will focus on the questions, discussions, exchange of view and knowledge.

2. Panel

Speaker 1: Fatma Öztürk, ENIC-NARIC Türkiye

Speaker 2: Silje Molander, ENIC-NARIC Norway