Update from the TPG B

TPG C Meeting
14 June 2024

Chiara Finocchietti
Co-chair of the TPG B
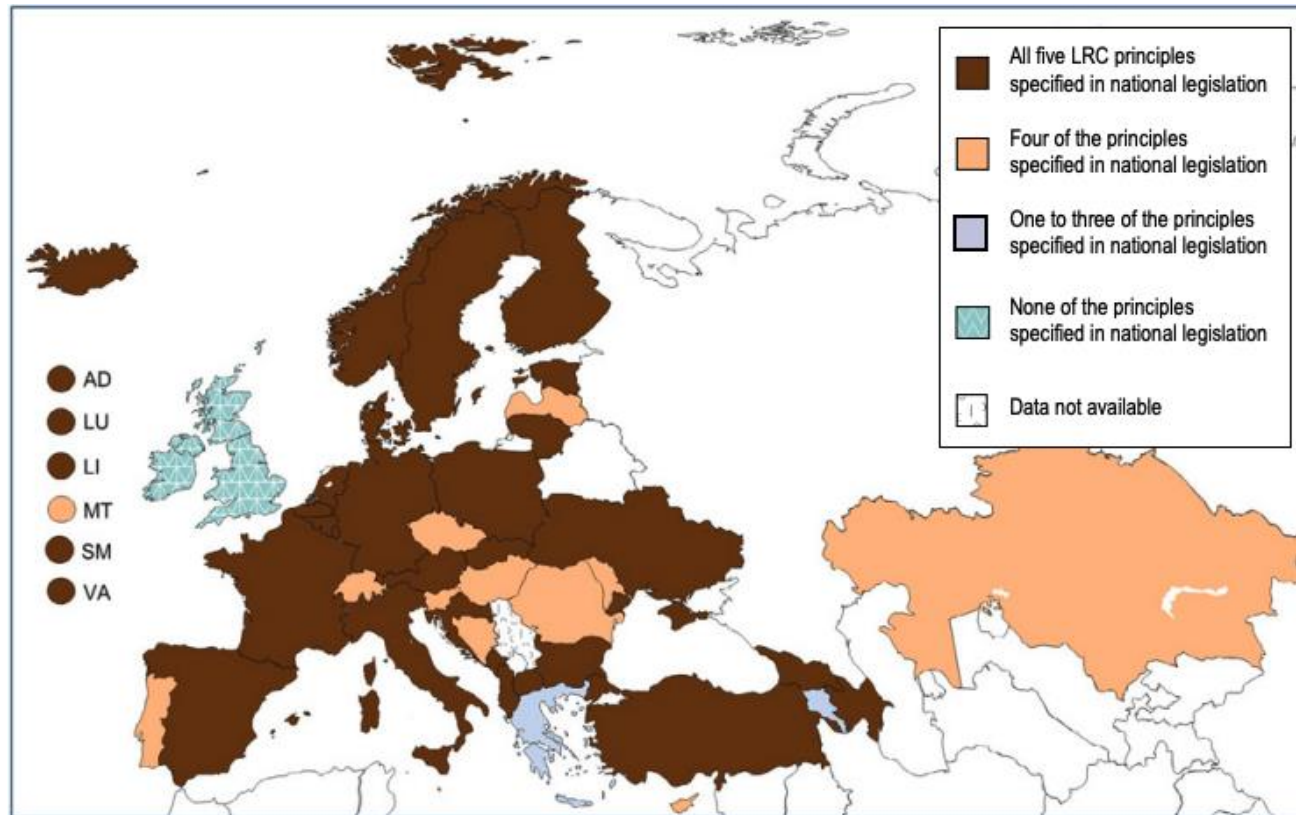
The European Higher Education Area in 2024

Bologna Process Implementation Report

Data on recognition

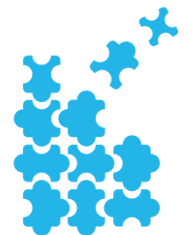# Principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in national legislation, 2022/2023

**Compared to 2020 increasing implementation: 8 more countries now implement all principles
Albania, Andorra, Austria, Croatia, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine**

Five LRC Principles:

1) applicants have right to fair assessment;
2) there is recognition if no substantial differences can be proven;

3) legislation or guidelines encourage comparing of learning outcomes rather than programme contents;

4) in cases of negative decisions the competent recognition authority demonstrates the existence of substantial difference;

5) applicant's right to appeal of the recognition decision.

Legend:
- All five LRC principles specified in national legislation
- Four of the principles specified in national legislation
- One to three of the principles specified in national legislation
- None of the principles specified in national legislation
- Data not available

AD, LU, LI, MT, SM, VA

EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

Implementation of the article VII of the LRC at national level, 2022/2023

- 29 systems have legal requirements for special recognition procedures for refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation
- Improvements in 7 countries since 2020
- Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Croatia, Latvia, and Portugal

Legend:
- Legally required
- Not legally required, but procedures are in place
- Not legally required, and procedures are not in place
- Data not available

AD, LU, LI, MT, SM, VA
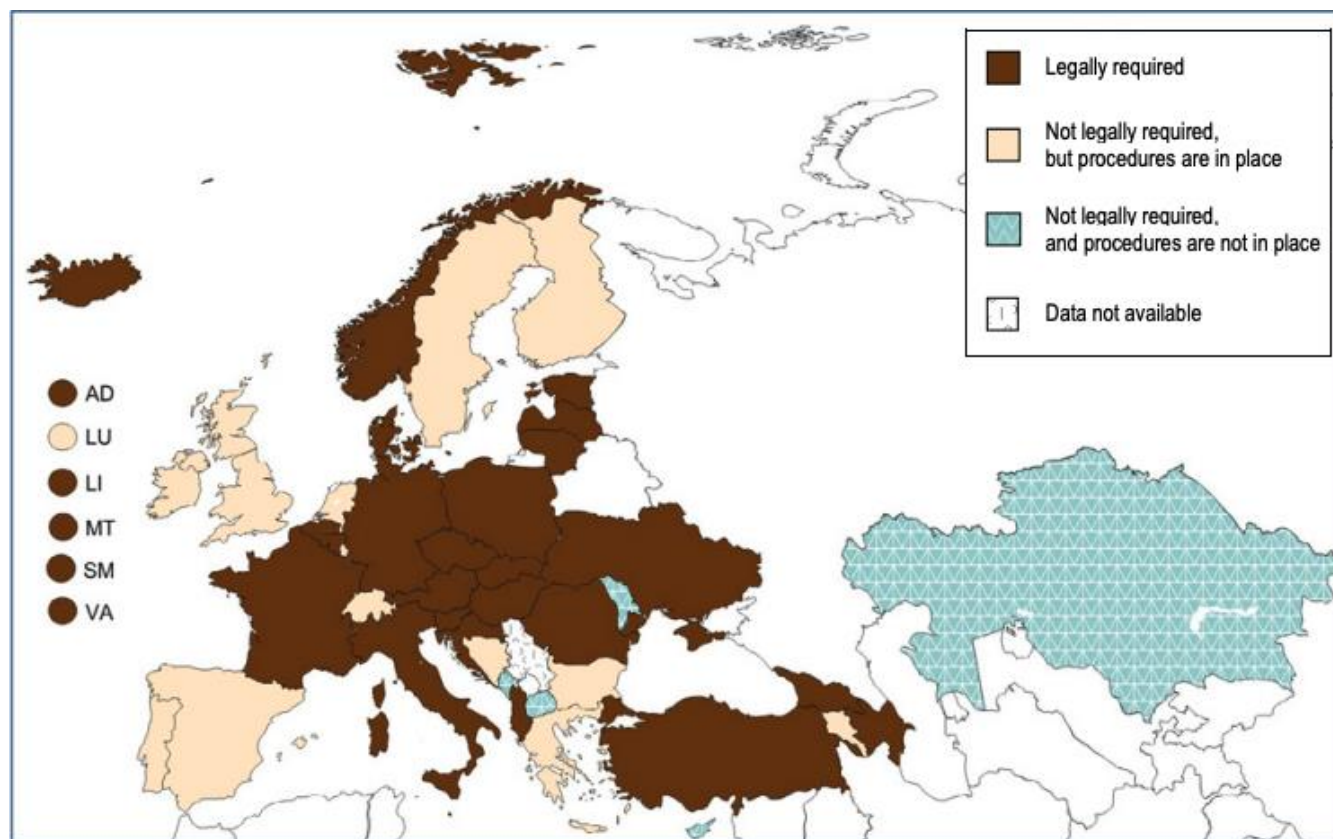
Art. VII: "Each Party shall take all feasible and reasonable steps within the framework of its education system and in conformity with its constitutional, legal, and regulatory provisions to develop procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously whether refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation fulfil the relevant requirements for access to higher education, to further higher education programmes or to employmentvactivities, even in cases in which the qualifications obtained in one of the Parties cannot be proven through documentary evidence".
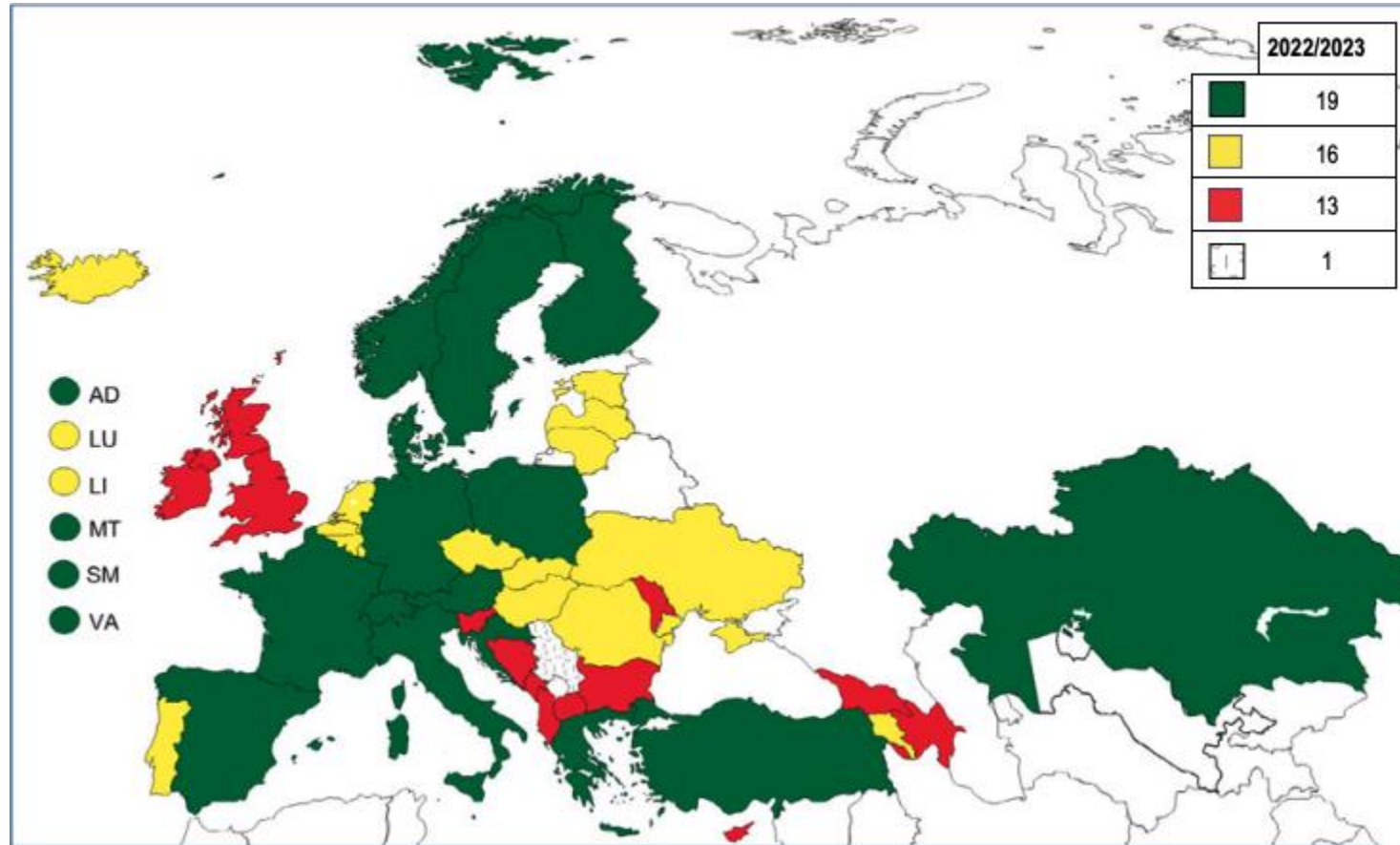
(Source: Lisbon Recognition Convention)

Source: BFUG data collection.

Scorecard indicator n°5: System level (automatic) recognition for academic purposes, 2022/2023

19 countries now operate system level automatic recognition, compared to 10 in the 2020 report

2022/2023	
🟩	19
🟨	16
🟥	13
⬜	1

Map legend:
- AD
- LU
- LI
- MT
- SM
- VA

🟢 Automatic recognition is in place, meaning that all higher education qualifications issued in other EHEA countries are recognised at system level on an equal level with comparable[49] academic qualifications in the home country and give the right to be considered for entry to a programme of further study at the next level.

🟡 Automatic recognition at system level takes place with a subset of European countries.

🔴 There is no automatic recognition.

⚪ Data not available.

Source: BFUG data collection.

[49] The term 'comparable' implies that foreign qualifications are treated in the same way as national degrees (e.g. a first-cycle degree from an EHEA country vs. a national first-cycle degree) for the purpose of further study at the next level without additional recognition procedures.

Peer Support Approach

Albania, France, Italy

Members
(48 – 40 countries; 7 consultative members; EC)

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium Flemish Community, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Council of Europe, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, EI - ETUCE, EQAR, Estonia, ESU - European Students' Union, EUA - European University Association, EURASHE, European Commission, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, The Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, UNESCO, United Kingdom

EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

bologna process
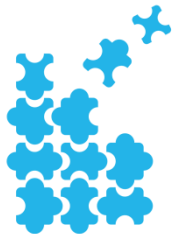
Co-funded by
the European Union

TPG B - 6 Specific thematic indications

Inclusion in the decision-making process and continuous monitoring

- Optimizing the potential of digital technology for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement

- Recognition of alternative pathways

- Achieving automatic recognition

- Establishing the distribution of work and responsibilities among the competent institutions that have the right knowledge and capacity to carry out recognition procedures

- Ensuring fair recognition of qualifications held by refugees

- Establishing the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC

The thematic indications are listed below in the order of preference expressed by the TPG B members

http://ehea.info/page-peer-group-B-LRC
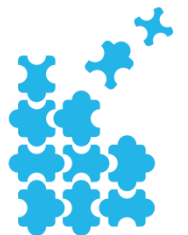
EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

Peer Support Approach

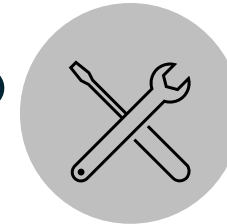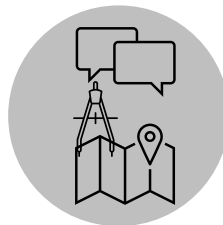All members included in decision-making processes

Exchange of practices

Information provision/ discussions in small groups

Strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation

Continuous monitoring of TPG B results

Capitalisation and dissemination of results (seminars and publications)

bologna process

EUROPEAN Higher Education Area

Supported by the Umbrella project TPG-LRC CoRE (co-funded by Erasmus+)

Monitoring exercises
TPGB members included in decision-making processes

Objectives:

✓ Highlight the actions undertaken by each member towards the implementation of the Key Commitment 2

✓ Measure to what extent the work done within the TPG B has contributed to the implementation of the Key Commitment 2

✓ **First questionnaire:** Winter 2022/23 (16 respondents)

✓ **Second questionnaire:** Spring 2024 (20 respondents)
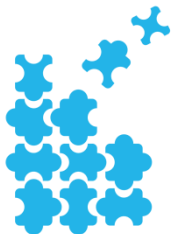
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Higher Education Area

In presence and online activities

Information provision/ discussions in small groups
Strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation
Exchange of practices

TPG B

Working Group

Working Group

Working Group

Working Group
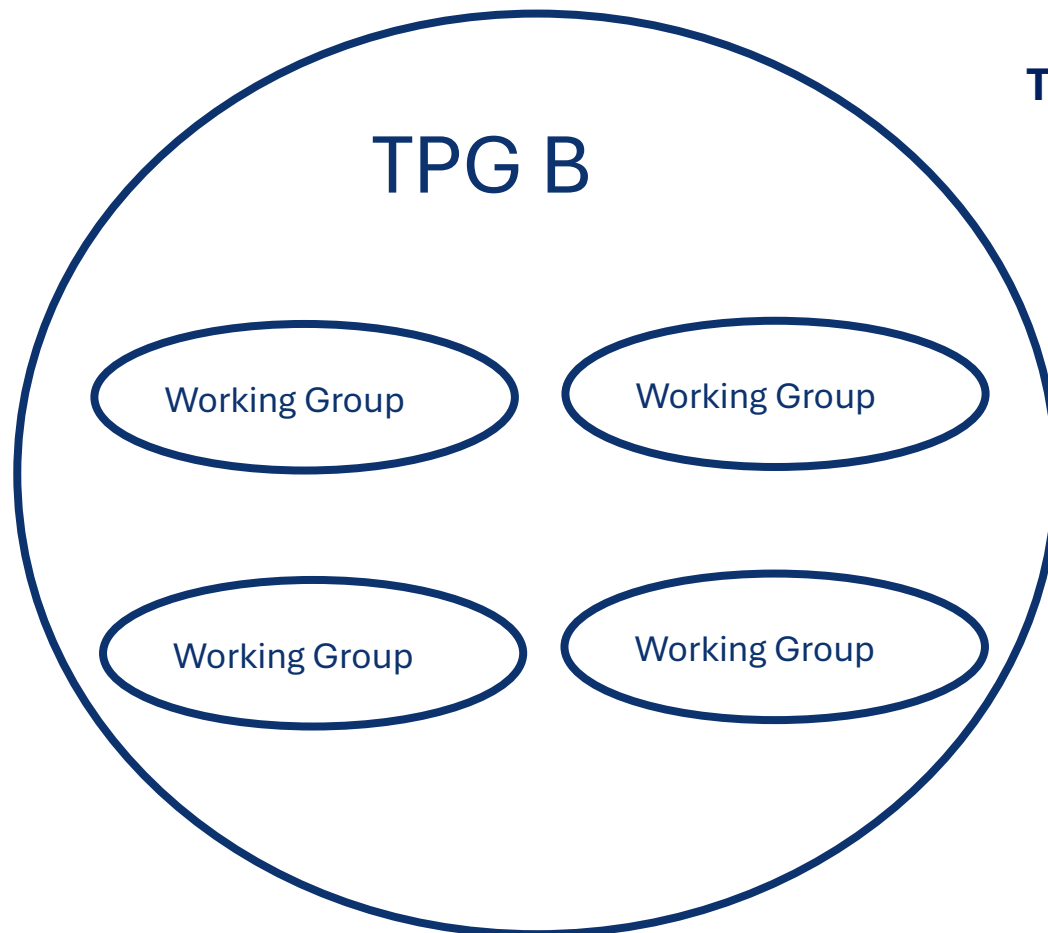
TPG B meetings

Staff Mobilities

Peer Support Activities

Peer Learning Activities

Reasearch (for publications)

bologna process

EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

4 TPG B Meetings (online)

1st Meeting - 14 September 2021 (online)

Participants: 47 (28 countries, 5 consultative members, EC)

Defining **the workplan of the group**

2nd Meeting - 18 January 2022 (online)

Participants: 55 (27 countries, 4 consultative members, EC)

Sharing experiences on digital technology and the Diploma Supplement for recognition

4th Meeting - 24 January 2023 (online)

Participants: 46 (26 countries, 4 consultative members, EC)

Sharing experiences on the distribution of work and responsibilities and on the state of art of the EU funded project TPG-LRC CoRE

6th meeting - 1 February 2024 (online)

Participants: 59 (26 countries, 4 consultative members, EC)

Sharing information on key topics related to the recognition agenda to foster the implementation of the Bologna tools

3 TPG B Meetings (in presence)

3rd meeting and peer support activity (9-10 June 2022, Sèvres, France)

Participants: 33 (22 countries, 5 consultative members)

Recognition of qualifications from Ukraine

5th meeting and peer support activity (27 April 2024, Tirana, Albania)

Participants: 39 (22 countries, 6 consultative members)

Sharing experiences on establishing the legal framework to allow the implementation of the LRC

7th meeting and peer support activity 23 April 2024, Rome (Italy)

Participants: 51 (22 countries, 6 consultative members)

Sharing new experiences, practices and initiatives developed for implementing the Specific Thematic indications for the TPG B from a national, European and global perspectives.

Enhancing cooperation within EHEA

Capitalisation and dissemination of results

Cooperation with BICG, TPG A and TPG C

Updates from TPG A and TPG C (and vice-versa); reporting to the BICG

Joint Research

Research and publications on micro-credentials co-written by the 3 TPGs including perspectives on QF and ECTS; Recognition and Quality Assurance

Involvement of Higher education institutions

Public seminars in conjunction with the TPG B meetings in presence on Alternative Pathways; Automatic Recognition; Digital solutions for the recognition agenda

Widening the audience

Publications on micro-credentials; quality of recognition; digitalisation and European Joint degree to structure and make available to a large audience the work done within the Peer Groups

...And enlarging the dialogue to a global perspective

Exchanging practices with **other regions** of the world at the VII TPG B Meeting

3 TPG B Public Seminar

1st seminar - recognition of alternative pathways (10 June 2022, Sèvres, France)

Participants: 60

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), recognition of non-traditional learning and micro-credentials

2nd seminar – automatic recognition (28 April 2024, Tirana, Albania)

Participants: 87

Setting the context on automatic recognition; Different approaches to automatic recognition; Transversal solution to support automatic recognition

3rd seminar - digital solutions (24 April 2024, Rome, Italy)

Participants: 51 (22 countries, 6 consultative members)

Proposing a holistic approach to the use of digitalization as a support to quality and efficiency of the recognition process, in line with the Bologna needs and principles.

Peer Support Activities and Peer Learning Activities

1st Peer Support Activity (7 June 2022, Sèvres, France)

- **"Optimising the potential of digital technology for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement"**

- **"Recognition of alternative pathways"**

2nd Peer Support Activity (28 April 2024, Tirana, Albania)

- **Distribution of work and responsibilities among the competent authorities that carry out recognition procedures**

3rd Peer Support Activity (23 April 2024, Rome, Italy)

- **The work done by the TPG B: main results of the TPG B monitoring and introduction to the Peer Support Activities**

Three PLAs : input, throughput and output phases of the recognition process

- First PLA input 18 September 2023
- Second PLA throughput 18 October 2023
- Third PLA output 7 December 2023

TPG B – Staff Mobility[1]

2 calls for application:
- 1st deadline 15 June
- 2nd deadline 15 September

Application received:
- 18 September

Hosting Country	Traveling Country	Date
Norway	Albania	10-13 October 2023
Sweden	Ireland	20 November 2023
Italy	Georgia	27-28 November 2023
Italy	Armenia	27-28 November 2023
Italy	France	30 November 1 December 2023
Italy	Lithuania	30 November 1 December 2023
Lithuania	Romania	6-7 December 2023
Greece	San Marino	4-6 December 2023
France	Italy	16-17 January 2024

TPG B – Staff Mobility[(2)]

FRANCE IN ITALY

MAIN TAKEAWAY

LRC is well advanced in France who is also one of the first countries to adopt the Global UNESCO Convention in 2023.
However, automatic recognition is not yet fully implemented in all French HEIs and needs further promotion until 2025.
A particular challenge for the next years is Lifelong Learning and micro-credential with regard to the NQF and the EQF.

FAVORITE MEMORY
In-person meeting is very helpful to collaborate concretely on specific aspects of recognition and to mutually share experience and potential common solutions. After the Covid period, the year 2023 allows to breathe again within the ENIC-NARIC network.

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ARMENIA IN ITALY

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Proper implementation of the LRC at the national level is extremely important for Armenian universities and the national higher education system as a whole. Recognition of qualifications is the strategic entry point for equal access to higher education. It is creating a vital link between recognized, quality-assurance, and qualifications frameworks and as such facilitates learning and working mobility

FAVORITE MEMORY
The remarkable moments of the staff mobility for me were face-to-face meetings, and discussions with colleagues from different countries, which was a great opportunity to share our experiences. We had much time to discuss different issues in detail in a friendly environment

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ROMANIA IN LITHUANIA

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Confirmation of the need to have updated digital solutions for the efficient and transparent recognition procedures and the need to maintain a close relationship with the stakeholders.

Reflections on a further integration in the assessment of the quality assurance in HEIs of the recognition procedures and to continue training with recognition officers in the HEIs

FAVORITE MEMORY
The warm welcome and interest showed in this subject by the universities that we have visited. And, at personal level, I had a warm drink it Cat Caf è Vilnius, where you can enjoy the company of real cats.
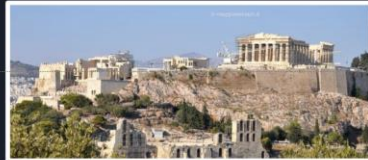
GREECE HOSTING SAN MARINO

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Fully digital recognition procedure

A Document Management System with the metadata and full content of each case in our digitalized hardcopy archive

Interoperability with Greek government infrastructure

FAVORITE MEMORY
Three days of fruitful interaction with a precious colleague

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GEORGIA IN ITALY

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Information from refugee host European countries with a huge practical and theoretical experience in this field in order to improve the legal framework of Georgia.

FAVORITE MEMORY
Visited in CIMEA and getting to know Italian colleagues up close; Talking with them about a common issue face to face; sharing experience face to face; seeing the sights of beautiful Rome and ect

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IRELAND IN SWEDEN

MAIN TAKEAWAY

The input, through-put and output of the recognition processes in the Swedish ENIC-NARIC are closer to being primarily in the digital space using well-known services such as EMREX and EDC.

from our discussions with UHR colleagues, we need to be mindful of several issues before building a new system: "every new technology requires experience which only comes with time.

FAVORITE MEMORY
The Svenska Kottbullar! (Swedish meatballs). Plus of course the opportunity to learn from such friendly and knowledgeable colleagues - it was reassuring to hear that they experience some of the same issues we do.

NORWAY HOSTING ALBANIA

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Establishing contact and learning from an ENIC-NARIC that we previously did not have close contacts with

FAVORITE MEMORY
Our own credential evaluators' enthusiasm about the visit from Albania and discovering many points in common.

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LITHUANIA IN ITALY

MAIN TAKEAWAY
The information on the tools for recognition gained during the meeting is the most important takeway for the implementation of the LRC at the national level. Discovering new sources and possibilities to improve and simplify academic recognition processes with the help of various digital tools (for example recently established automatic recognition tool ARDI (also AdReN and MAReN)) is a great contribution in the field of recognition of foreign qualifications. Also it was very useful during the discussions to discover an updated information of databases and online verification tools which are so important for the daily work of credential evaluator

FAVORITE MEMORY
A professional and friendly atmosphere. One of our favourite memories is having a guided tour at CIMEA's workplace and meeting many staff members which were very welcoming, explaining their daily work routines with great joy and warmness. We were anticipating visiting CIMEA because it is known for its status in ENIC/NARIC network and the journey of staff mobility met our expectations and proved it was like that.

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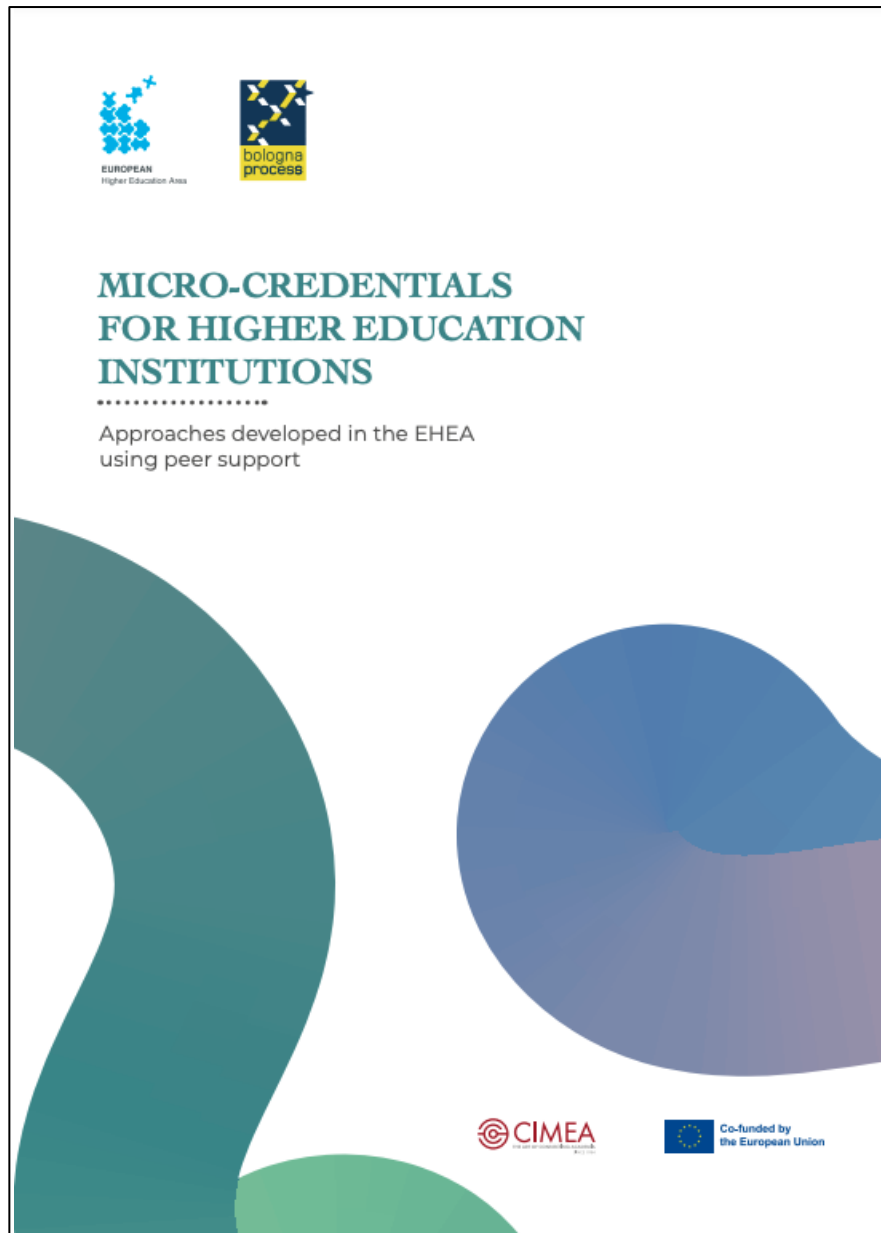
Published works

ENSURING AND ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF RECOGNITION PROCESSES

Key considerations and recommendations

Quality
in the context of

Compliance with the LRC

QA of recognition procedures aligned with ESG

Aim

To strengthen the connection between recognition processes and QA

To provide key insights and recommendations for better implementation of the LRC and ESG

Structure

Insight from the survey and focus groups

Insight from the analyses of reports by EQAR registered agencies

Key considerations and recommandations

Three key considerations and recommendations

Upscale efforts to fully implement the LRC

- Adequate allocation of resources
- Explicitly stated governmental dedication (particularly to complete execution of Article VII)
- Training and support by ENIC-NARICs (such as on EQPR)
- Improve dissemination of available tools and publications

Ensure better links between recognition and QA

- Enhance the communication and collaboration between institutional quality assurance (QA) personnel and recognition specialists at higher education institutions (HEIs), particularly by increasing the participation of pertinent staff and applicants in the feedback processes
- Ensure a closer alignment of the foundational principles and values underlying both QA and the LRC
- Improve the follow-up processes for quality assurance (QA)

Enhance support, cooperation and coordination between all stakeholders

- Enhanced and focused collaboration and interaction among HEIs, ENIC-NARIC centres, QA agencies, governments and other stakeholders
- Amplified outreach and information dissemination by ENIC-NARIC centres
- Establishment of national admissions networks
- Improved communication and coordination within HEIs
- Leveraging the potential of digital infrastructure

Thank you for your attention!

On behalf of the TPG B

Chiara Finocchietti (Italy)