

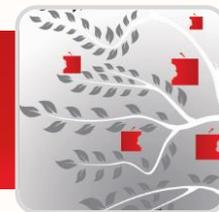
Recognition as an element of external quality assurance of higher education institutions: *External quality assurance in the area of recognition in Croatia*

Agencija za znanost i visoko obrazovanje /
Agency for Science and Higher Education

Project *Effective partnership for enhance recogniton – EPER*
Online workshop *Current trends on academic recognition of foreign qualifications*
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QA and recognition – policy framework



- ✓ Quality assurance of higher education was identified as a key instrument to help advance recognition
- ✓ Ministers of Education, by endorsing the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area – ESG 2015, accordingly, sent a clear message that there are multiple owners responsible for ensuring fair recognition going forward: higher education institutions, quality assurance agencies, various networks and organisations, not least the governments themselves which, following the subsidiarity principle, assume public responsibility over higher education in their respective systems
- ✓ Linkages between academic recognition and both internal and external quality assurance
- ✓ Strong path to the implementation of the revised ESG
- ✓ Three types of academic recognition objects are referenced in the ESG:
 - higher education qualifications
 - periods of study
 - prior learning (including the recognition of non-formal and informal learning).

ESG 2015 – Standard 1.4.



ESG 1.4. Student admission, progression, recognition and certification

Standard: Institutions should consistently apply pre-defined and published regulations covering all phases of the student “life cycle”, e.g. student admission, progression, recognition and certification.

Guidelines:

<...>

Fair recognition of higher education qualifications, periods of study and prior learning, including the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, are essential components for ensuring the students’ progress in their studies, while promoting mobility. Appropriate recognition procedures rely on:

- institutional practice for recognition being in line with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention
- cooperation with other institutions, quality assurance agencies and the national ENIC/NARIC centre with a view to ensuring coherent recognition across the country.

ASHE QA procedures – ESG 1.4. (i)



- Croatian Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE) is responsible for external quality assurance procedures in higher education and science.
- ESG 1.4. is part of national standards and criteria for external QA in HE in Croatia since ESG 2015 was publicly introduced.

During external evaluation procedure of HEI, in the context of ESG 1.4., ASHE places emphasis on the following areas:

- ✓ developed transparent recognition procedures, pre-defined and published regulations covering recognition procedures
- ✓ academic recognition procedures should be subject to regular monitoring and review as part of HEI's internal quality assurance system
- ✓ Recognition procedures based on the main principles of the LRC, its subsidiary texts, the European Recognition Manual for Higher Education Institutions (EAR-HEI Manual) and other tools developed by the ENIC/NARIC networks
- ✓ recognition processes should reflect a good practice



ASHE QA procedures – ESG 1.4. (ii)



- ✓ Recognition procedures and criteria should be transparent, coherent, reliable, with a possibility to appeal
- ✓ Recognition procedures should not be under-developed and/or not differentiated from admission
- ✓ Turnaround time of applications
- ✓ Consistency of decision-making
- ✓ Communication of substantial differences
- ✓ Public information provision
- ✓ Cooperation with other national partners and the ENIC/NARIC centre
- ✓ Databases of recognition applications and decisions



Role of HEI in academic recognition context



Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) context:

„Academic recognition refers to determining the academic value of a foreign qualification: it determines whether the foreign qualification, in principle, meets general academic requirements for a similar qualification in a host country, is comparable in the broad sense, without looking for strict equivalence; thus, it is about acceptance, not nostrification.”

Recognition of higher education qualifications and a period of study in Croatia:

- a) for the purpose of the continuation of education in Croatia (academic recognition and recognition of periods of study) – under the authority of Croatian universities, polytechnics and colleges
- b) for the purpose of employment in Croatia (professional recognition) – under the authority of the Agency for Science and Higher Education, Croatian ENIC/NARIC Office.



ASHE & HEI's further steps



- Encourage cooperation between higher education institutions, ASHE and ENIC/NARIC centre in the field of recognition
- Promote interactivity with other partners and networks in recognition
- Revision of recognition procedures to ensure that they reflect good practices
- Thematic analysis across the higher education sector on topics chosen with the aim of identifying and promoting good practices in recognition and addressing areas of difficulties
- Digital networking between academic recognition offices in HEI's and ASHE (Croatian ENIC/NARIC office)



Topics for discussion



- Information tools at HEI – clear and easily accessible information and communication with the applicant during the recognition process
- Concept of substantial difference
- Focus on learning outcomes during evaluation of foreign qualification
- Shared database of previous recognition decisions, samples of documents and other relevant information
- Recommendations for further improvement of quality of recognition procedure in HEI's

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