



MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

Development of automatic recognition: projects in Croatia

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AUTOMATIC RECOGNITION

- Automatic recognition of a degree leads to the automatic right of an applicant holding a qualification of a certain level to be considered for entry to a programme of further study in the next level in any other EHEA country (EHEA Pathfinder Group on Automatic Recognition, 2014)
- ...a qualification awarded by a competent authority in one Member State should be valid in any other Member State for the purpose of accessing further learning activities (Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad, 2018)



HIGHER EDUCATION & RECOGNITION IN CROATIA

- The procedure for recognition of education qualifications in line with **the Lisbon Recognition convention** as of 1 July 2004
- **The Act on the Recognition of Foreign Educational Qualifications** (OG 158/2003, 198/2003, 138/2006, 45/2011) defines competent authorities, recognition procedures, conditions for the recognition, appeal procedures ...
- The Act on the Croatian Qualifications Framework (OG 22/13, 41/16, 64/18) regulates the system of qualifications at all levels in the Republic of Croatia



HIGHER EDUCATION & RECOGNITION IN CROATIA

- Recognition for the purpose of **continuation of education** (academic recognition) under the authority of **higher education institutions**
- Recognition for the purpose of **employment** (professional recognition) under the authority of the Agency for Science and Higher Education, **ENIC/NARIC Office**
- *Recognition of professional qualifications is under the authority of chambers or other relevant institutions*



HIGHER EDUCATION & RECOGNITION IN CROATIA

- Higher education institutions have developed **their own legal provisions** in line with the Act the on the Recognition of Foreign Educational Qualifications
- Academic recognition practice and decisions are **inconsistent and often unfair** (appeal procedures)
- Clear need to provide **assistance and support** to HEI's
- The Ministry wants to help in development of academic recognition and properly implementing the LRC principles



FAIR project

- Project **Focus on Automatic Institutional Recognition (FAIR)** – Erasmus+ Key Action 3 'Policy Experimentation'
- The goal: to **improve institutional recognition procedures by implementing elements of automatic recognition**
- **Duration of the project:** January 2015 and June 2017
- Activities: assessment of existing practice, recommendations for improvement, implementation, impact assessment



FAIR project

Partners in the project:

- 6 countries: Belgium (Flemish Community), Spain, Italy, Germany, the Netherlands and **Croatia**
- 4 universities from each country - Croatian universities: **Zagreb, Osijek, Rijeka, Split**
- National authorities for higher education (ministries)
- Critical Friend': the Danish Agency for Higher Education.

Outcome: recommendations on a national and European level



FAIR project

Findings and recommendations for Croatia:

- Procedural **separation of recognition and admission** is a challenge
- **Time consuming procedures** with an uncertain outcome
- Evident **lack of information for applicant in English language** (institutional admission requirements and procedures and legal provision)
- No developed **procedures for recognition of prior learning and recognition of qualifications** without required documentation



EPER project

Project **Effective partnership for enhanced recognition/EPER**, Erasmus+- KA3 - Support to Policy Reform

Duration of the project: 1 May 2019 – 30 April 2021

Project partners: national authorities for recognition in higher education from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia



EPER project

Activities:

- Revision of legislation in Croatia (enhancement of procedures for academic recognition, enabling automatic recognition, quality assurance)
- Support to cooperation within project partner countries (capacity building, peer learning, awareness raising)
- Implementation of Council of Europe Recommendation on Recognition of Qualifications Held by Refugees, Displaced Persons and Persons in a Refugee-like Situation



Expected impact

EPER project provides support to higher education institutions:

- ✓ **HEI's self-assessment** in reference to FAIR recommendations
- ✓ **Capacity building workshops:**
 - Improve procedures for academic recognition and the use of the Bologna tools
 - Include elements of automatic recognition in academic recognition procedures
 - Raising awareness of the Lisbon Recognition Convention and its subsidiary documents



Expected impact

EPER project enables:

- ✓ Closer cooperation and building partnership between project partner countries
- ✓ Building mutual trust in quality assurance systems and implementation of Bologna tools
- ✓ Strengthening capacities for successful implementation of Lisbon Recognition Convention
- ✓ Creating mutual synergies for further development of national recognition policies.



Expected impact

Steps to introduce automatic recognition in Croatia by 2025:

- ✓ New legal framework for recognition in Croatia
- ✓ Quality use of of existing tools: NQF, Diploma Supplement, ECTS, ESG
- ✓ Creating closer networks and new joint activities in the area of recognition
- ✓ Opening discussions with project partners about the automatic recognition of comparable academic degrees



Thank you!

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