

**NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR RECOGNITION
HELLAS**

Hellenic N.A.R.I.C.- D.O.A.T.A.P

National Action Plans for Recognition

1. Legislation

1.1 Although the Lisbon Recognition Convention has not been signed by Greece, several principles contained in the Convention are applied in the regulations concerning equivalence (i.e. fair recognition of learner's qualifications, improvement of the quality of the recognition process, equity in equivalence, information provided to the public about study programs and higher educational institutions, the existence of an ENIC-N.A.R.I.C. centre).

1.2 Review of national legislation relevant to recognition. The legislation in force is the following:

- Law of 741/1977 (Hellenic N.A.R.I.C.- DI.K.A.T.S.A.) as amended by law of 3027/2002 (Hellenic N.A.R.I.C. - DI.K.A.T.S.A.) on equivalence of foreign degrees. This law applies only for degrees which were submitted for recognition before 01/04/2005.
- Law of 1268/1982 as amended by law of 2083/2002 on equivalence of foreign Master and PhD degrees.
- Law of 3328/2005 (Hellenic N.A.R.I.C.- D.O.A.T.A.P.) as amended by law of 3369/2005 (Hellenic N.A.R.I.C.- D.O.A.T.A.P.) on equivalence of foreign degrees.
- Law 3404/2005, Article 23 for Joint Postgraduate Study Programmes and Joint PhDs.

2. Recognition Practice

2.1 Criteria and procedures

The principle criteria for granting academic recognition are: the accreditation or/and recognition of the foreign institution, the accreditation of the program/degree obtained, the conditions of access to the program, the length of the program, the number of credits, the academic quality of the program. More specifically, according to the law 3328/1 April 2005, the recognition process requires the following steps:

1. A review of the foreign higher education institution is undertaken by the appropriate scientific committee (University Professors) to determine whether it is “essentially equivalent” to the Greek Higher Education Institutions.
2. An assessment of the particular Department and the program the student attended is made considering parameters such as admission requirements, number of professors who are PhD holders, teaching and examination procedures and degree titles awarded.
3. Following these two steps, the academic qualifications may be considered either as 1) “equivalent” or 2) “equivalent and correspondent”.

2.2 Joint degrees

The Greek Higher Education Institutions within the framework of cooperation between institutions nationally and internationally and within intergovernmental agreements are entitled to award double, multiple and joint degrees as stated in the Law 3404/2005 art.23 which supplemented Law 3255/04 Article 4. These degrees are automatically recognized as long as the prerequisites of the above Law are met. A Special Cooperation Protocol (S.C.P.) is compiled between the cooperating Institutions, which determines issues such as the language(s) of teaching and writing, the subject of the programme and the scientific fields of the doctorate thesis, the financial resources, the obligations and rights of the participants, the mobility of the academic staff or the students, the type of awarded Degree etc.

2.3 Transparency tools for recognition

The law of 3328/2005 as amended by the law of 3369/2005 defines the standards, forms and contents of degrees, which are recognized as “equivalent” or/and “equivalent and correspondent” to the Greek Higher Education Institutions. More specifically, Greece has adapted the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) in order to compare and describe student’s workload within the European Union. Therefore, Greek law is in force since 3374/2005 as approved by the Greek Parliament. Finally, credits are taken into account in the recognition process as a general benchmark for evaluating the workload dedicated by the student to a learning activity.

3. Information provision

3.1. Provision of information on recognition

1. Preparation and distribution of leaflets and brochures concerning the recognition process and consultation regarding of Recognized Higher Education Institutions to Secondary Education institutions.
2. Regular meetings and distribution of information packages to Higher Education Institutions concerning Recognised post-graduate programmes and Professional qualifications.
3. Information brochures to applicants regarding national and/or international joint degrees or interdisciplinary programmes.
4. Construction of data-base of Recognised Higher National Education Institutions, constant up-date and link to the web page.
5. Hellenic N.A.R.I.C. maintains its own web page (www.doatap.gr) and provides a link to the web page of the ENIC-N.A.R.I.C. network.
6. The time table required to envisage the above measures is 6 months

4. Structures

4.1 National information center

7. The national information center, Hellenic N.A.R.I.C is part of the Ministry of Education.
8. The Council of Hellenic N.A.R.I.C. consists of academics and it is responsible for decision making and framing of policies regarding recognition processes.
9. Hellenic N.A.R.I.C. has its own budget and employs 21 Scientific Councilors (permanent staff), who act as informateurs and together with the academic advisors (temporary staff) report their findings to the Council for approval.
10. The academic recognition has a professional outcome (“de facto” recognition) in cases of non-regulated professions
11. The responsibility for “de jure” professional recognition relating to programmes leading to regulated professions is vested with the relevant professional organizations.