



NATIONAL ACTION PLANS FOR RECOGNITION

1. Legislation

1.1 Lisbon Recognition Convention

Liechtenstein ratified the Lisbon Recognition Convention on April 1st, 2000.

1.2 Review of national legislation relevant to recognition

The existing laws and regulations proved to be flexible enough to deal with the Lisbon Recognition requirements and its subsidiary texts. The universities have adapted their admission regulations in order to guarantee fair assessment. The Bologna Directives of the Higher Education institutions are in conformity with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

1.3 Bilateral or regional recognition agreements

Liechtenstein has signed bilateral recognition agreements with Austria and Switzerland. These agreements are in conformity with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

2. Recognition practice

2.1 Criteria and procedures

All competent authorities have implemented the Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications and Periods of Study. The time required to process application for recognition is one to three months depending on the responsible body.

2.2 Joint degrees

In Liechtenstein there are no specific legal provisions concerning the recognition of joint degrees. Joint degrees are not regulated in the Liechtenstein Higher Education Act. There are no legal obstacles, but in the same way there are no legal provisions favouring the recognition of joint degrees. At the beginning of next year the Higher Education Act will be revised. In this context legal provisions favouring the recognition of joint degrees, double or multiple degrees will likely be proved.

2.3 Overview of institutional practice

As Liechtenstein is a very small country higher education institutions and recognition authority collaborate very closely. Supporting and monitoring the implementation of the Convention meetings take place to discuss the recognition practices and arising problems.

2.4 Transparency tools for recognition

In the whole higher education sector the system is based on a first cycle (bachelor) comprising 180 ECTS credits, a second cycle comprising 90 or 120 ECTS cred-



its and a third cycle comprising 120 ECTS. According to the legal framework the use of ECTS is mandatory and is, therefore, applied in all bachelor, master and doctoral programmes. In the academic year 2004/05, this concerned 100% of the total student population at the higher education institutions.

The Diploma Supplement is available at all higher education institutions and for all bachelor and master diplomas and doctoral degrees free of charge. It is issued automatically to all students together with their qualification, in German and in English.

The Office of Education in cooperation with the higher education institutions is mandated to elaborate a NQF for higher education. Due to the fact that the national education system is very closely linked to the Swiss one – in general and regarding the tertiary sector - Liechtenstein is developing the NQF in close cooperation with Switzerland. The final draft is to be presented to the responsible body for approval in 2008.

2.5 Borderless/transnational education

Higher education institutions recognize a qualification if both the awarding and the providing institution is recognized or accredited.

3. Information provision

3.1 Provision of information on recognition

General information on the national education system and on recognition procedure can be found on the websites www.liechtenstein.li or www.llv.li. The relevant pages are linked to the ENIC-NARIC website. Each HEI is responsible for the provision of information on recognition criteria and procedures. The recognition authority and the higher education institutions provide information on recognition on their websites.

Information on each of the three higher education institutions, on regulations for admissions and the recognition procedures can be found on the following websites: www.hochschule.li, www.ufl.li and www.iap.li.

3.2 Information package for applicants

The recognition authority and the higher education institutions give to the applicant an acknowledgement of the receipt of their application and provide information on the rights of applicants and the procedures for recognition.

4. Structures

4.1 National information centre

Liechtenstein has an operational NARIC which is part of the Office of Education. It serves as the main information point on the recognition of higher education and higher education access qualifications at national level. It counsels the higher education institutions on questions concerning academic recognition.



The Liechtenstein NARIC collaborates with the competent recognition authorities on international level and provides information on education systems, on academic qualifications awarded abroad and their comparability to the qualifications in the home country, on officially recognized institutions and on admission requirements. It is part of the ENIC-NARIC Network and is responsible for the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention and the Diploma Supplement.

4.2 Cooperation recognition/quality assurance bodies

The government acts as supervisory body of the institutions of higher education. It is supported by the local education authority (Office of Education), particularly the officials responsible for the higher education sector. Liechtenstein has no quality assurance agency and therefore relies on international collaboration. The Office of education is responsible for the accreditation and quality assurance of the Liechtenstein higher education institutions. The Liechtenstein NARIC is affiliated to the Office of Education too. Therefore a close collaboration between recognition and quality assurance bodies is assured.

SCHULAMT DES
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