

**ENIC NETWORK (COUNCIL OF EUROPE/UNESCO)  
NARIC NETWORK (EUROPEAN COMMISSION)**

ED-2002/UNESCO-CEPES/ENIC.9/6  
Bucuresti, 17 April 2002  
Orig.: Eng.

**9<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of the ENIC and NARIC Networks**  
Valletta (Malta), 6-8 June 2002  
University of Malta – Foundation for International Studies

**UNESCO-CEPES DATABASE ON TRANSNATIONAL  
EDUCATION PROVIDERS - A PROGRESS REPORT**

Directorate General IV: Education, Culture and Heritage, Youth and Sport (Directorate of School, Out-of-School and Higher Education - Higher Education and Research Division) of the Council of Europe, UNESCO/CEPES and Directorate General of Education and Culture of the European Commission

**ITEM 9**

Distribution: meeting  
Document available on  
<http://culture.coe.int/restricted/ccher/eng/ecesu.ses.html>  
<http://www.cepes.ro/hed/recogn/default.htm>

## 1. Background

The project '*UNESCO-CEPES Database on Transnational Education Providers*' was initiated in the context of activities carried out in the context of UNESCO-CEPES role as a Co-Secretariat, together of the Council of Europe, of the Lisbon Convention Committee, and in particular the activities of the ENIC and NARIC Networks. The database is meant to offer a **reference tool** to all agencies/bodies involved in activities related to the recognition of higher education qualifications, particularly to ENIC/NARIC networks. On the other hand, it is aimed at making this information readable and retrievable for any other user interested in transnational education (TNE).

Transnational education (TNE) is a relatively new development in higher education, at least on a large scale; however, it reflects the clear trend of globalization of higher education as demonstrated by its rapid expansion both within Europe and in other regions of the world. Although various approaches to and analyses of TNE have been carried out in order to study this development, there is still a lack of clear conceptual framework, systematic information on the developments of transnational education at the national as well as international or global level.

It is in this context that this UNESCO-CEPES project should be seen.

## 2. Type of information to be collected

The database will offer data on:

- **institutions/organizations** directly involved in the provision of TNE (as defined in the "*UNESCO/Council of Europe Code of Good Practice in the Provision of Transnational Education*"), their legal and accreditation status, etc.;
- **types of** collaborative/non collaborative transnational **arrangements** put in place by the listed TNE institutions/organizations;
- **fields of study**, organization of study programmes in which TNE is offered and their corresponding **delivery mechanisms**;
- **qualifications awarded** by the listed TNE institutions/organizations.

## 3. Collection and analysis of data

TNE providers have been mostly identified by browsing the Internet, and also by surveying published documents. The information on each TNE provider was to be collected by using a standard questionnaire.

The first draft of the questionnaire was piloted by sending it out to a sample of 22 TNE institutions/organizations drawn out randomly from a list of 200. Only very few institutions replied.

This being the case, we had to rely on other sources of information. The main source was the web site of each identified institution. But only 20% to 50% out of the questionnaire items could be filled in with the information available from other reference materials.

At this stage, which we still consider as a **pilot stage**, the data base has information on more than 100 institutions and 140 study programmes.

#### **4. Organisational and technical aspects of collection and verification of data**

An important partner in the whole project is the NARIC/ENIC Networks. The national office of the Network is in a unique position to provide and assist in verification of the data.

Upon request, a contact person from the TNE institution that want to register in the data base will provide an operator with the complete identification data of the institution (address, web site, e-mail address, etc). The administrator of the data base will check the validity of information and provide the contact person with a password for self-registration or updating the information.

It is also foreseen to have a mechanism of encoding the obsolete information, and at the same time, the search procedure will take as reference only the information valid at the date of entry. This mechanism will be connected to the history folder (in order to find the date when a specific information has become obsolete). This is very important for future data processing (statistics, etc.). The contact person is fully responsible for the validity of information concerning the institution.

In terms of improving the interactive definition of search categories, a glossary section will be included on the web as a 'user guide'. This section will include the definitions of all the terms related to the transnational education and a short presentation of the database menu in the 'help' style.

While focusing on the Europe Region (Europe, North America, and Israel), the construction of the database will slowly progress and provide, in about one year, reference tool to the ENIC/NARIC Networks. The experience that has been acquired so far revealed both difficulties and opportunities. Overcoming the former may help us also to seize available opportunities.

# ANNEX 1

## QUESTIONNAIRE

### I. INFORMATION ABOUT INSTITUTION

1. Name of institution

In language of country: .....

.....

English translation: .....

.....

.....

Acronym: .....

2. Location and mailing address.....

.....

City: .....

Province: .....

Country:.....

Postal Code:.....

Tel.: .....

Fax: .....

Email:.....

Web Site: .....

3. Status of your institution/organization:

3.1 What type is your institution/organization?

University

Other higher education institution

(Please,

specify).....

3.2 What is the legal status of your institution/organization and its status within a

national higher education system

Public

- Private – not for profit
- Private - for profit
- Other (*Specify*):.....

**4. Accreditation status**

- 1. Institutional Accreditation:       Yes       No
- 2. Accrediting body (ies)
  - Name .....
  - .....
  - Address: .....
- 3. Normative act on the basis of which the accreditation was granted .....
- .....
- 4. Duration/validity of accreditation:
  - unlimited
  - limited duration until:      (*Specify period*) .....

**II. INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMME**

- 1. Name of programme.....
- 2. Field(s) of study.....
- 3. Organizational arrangements for the programme(s) .....

  - Branch campus
  - Corporate higher education institution
  - Franchised programme
  - Partnership (e.g. consortium)/joint or twinning programme (please indicate partners):
  - .....
  - .....
  - Other, please specify.....

- 4. Delivery mechanisms
  - Classroom/face-to-face teaching
  - Distance education
  - Online/e-learning
  - Sent out written material/courses
  - Other, please specify.....
- 5. Qualifications awarded.....

