

National Action Plan for Recognition

Outlines	Item	Stage of Implementation	Steps envisaged	Period for the implementation
1. Legislation	1.1 Ratification of the Lisbon Convention on the recognition of foreign qualifications	The Armenian Parliament ratified the Lisbon Recognition Convention on December 14, 2004.		14 December, 2004
	1.2 Review of national legislation	In November of 2006 the Government of Armenia has approved a timetable for implementation of reforms according to the Bologna action lines. Working Groups will be formed in the Ministry of Education and Science according to the priority issues of the Bologna Process and Strategy for Higher Education approved in 2002. The Working Groups will also carefully study the legal issues and propose amendments if necessary.	- Create clear and transparent normative-legal base stimulating the Recognition process in Armenia.	2007-2008
	1.3 Information provision on the outcomes	The Armenian version of the legislation will be published in the official periodicals, on the web-site of the Ministry of Science and Education as well as in a separate volume. Both the Armenian and English versions of all the documents will be published on the Armenian ENIC official web site.		2008
	1.4 Bilateral or regional recognition agreements	The bilateral and regional agreements on recognition that are in force were mostly signed	- Review all the existing bilateral and regional agreements on recognition.	2007-2008

		before the ratification of the Lisbon Convention; therefore they need to be reviewed accordingly. In few cases the parties of the agreements have already proposed changes according to the Lisbon Convention. The changes are in the process of introduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reach an agreement with the parties of the agreement. - Introduction of changes in conformity with the principles of Lisbon Recognition Convention. 	
2. Recognition practice	2.1 Criteria and procedures	<p>Due to lack of national recognition legislation the ArmENIC acts in line with the Lisbon Convention Recognition procedures and criteria and local legislation.</p> <p>The time required to process the application is up to four months as defined in the European Recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and adopt the National recognition legislation; - Raise the awareness among the stakeholders. 	2007-2008
	2.2 Joint degrees	There are no national regulations for joint degrees since it is an emerging field. Recently, Yerevan State University and Yerevan State Engineering University launched a joint degree pilot project with one of the US universities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of a joint degree programme as a mobility instrument at national level; - Introduce legal amendments correspondingly. 	2007-2008
	2.3 Overview of institutional practice	After the establishment of ArmENIC it became the sole authority for recognition. The HEIs are also eligible for recognition in case a potential student with foreign qualification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regularly monitor how the recognition procedures are implemented in HEIs; - Organise short trainings on 	2007-2010

		applies to continue his/her study.	<p>recognition procedures and criteria;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular update of information. 	
	2.4 Transparency tools for recognition (ECTS, Diploma Supplement etc.)	<p>ECTS initially was introduced in 2003 as a pilot project in State Engineering University funded by Open Society Institute. In 22.12.2005 there has been a special decree of the Government “On implementation of Credit System” according to which all HEIs have to start introducing credit system.</p> <p>The European DS is not yet officially introduced in our country. Presently, the country is using the old-existing DS which is issued automatically and includes information on the courses taught with in-class hours, summative grades, the results of state exams or/and defended thesis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ministry of Science and Education has created a WG that will develop ECTS on national level, prepare guidelines on how to implement the system and organize trainings. - The ECTS guidelines were translated and published. - The Armenian version of the European DS was developed by ArmENIC, and is currently under discussion. It is planned to introduce the DS in 2007. 	2007-2008
	2.5 Borderless / transnational education	Armenia while ratifying the Lisbon Recognition Convention reserved the right not to apply the Article IV.8.		
3. Information provision	3.1 Provision of information on recognition	As one of the first tasks the ArmENIC prepared and disseminated information	-Improve information provision on the Recognition Procedures and Criteria by	2007-2008

		<p>regarding its mission, goals and functions to the stakeholders and end-users. Short presentations were made during educational meetings. A special package was prepared for applicants. ArmENIC has prepared a booklet with information on the professional and academic recognition of higher education qualifications and is developing its own website.</p>	<p>accomplishing the development of the website;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminate the booklet; - Organise workshops on the issues of recognition and mobility; - Assist universities in preparing Student Handbook in order to raise their attractiveness. - Advise the Ministry of Science and Education to update the information on recognition issues on their website; - Prepare “Guide to University” publication series. - Provide links to the main internet resources on the ArmENIC website. 	
	3.2 Information package for applicants	The ArmENIC developed a full application package including an application form, list of required documentation, guidelines on how to fill the application and information on the professional and academic recognition of higher education qualifications.	- Provide the possibility for electronic application on the website of ArmENIC.	
4. Structures	4.1 National information centre	The ArmENIC was created by the Government of Armenia as a Fund and is financed by a grant from the Government of	- Promote the legal field for the professional recognition (de jure and de facto);	2007-2010

		<p>Armenia. As defined in the Charter the ArmENIC has both advisory and decision making functions. The professional recognition is carried out by the ArmENIC.</p> <p>The staff comprises of six people. The first year budget is about 50 000 USD.</p> <p>The expertise of the staff is gained through on the job training, communication with other members of the ENIC/NARIC network, trainings and participation in the international meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise regular trainings for the staff; - Strengthen cooperation both on national and international levels. 	
	4.2 Cooperation recognition/quality assurance bodies	The ArmENIC regularly refers to the information provided by the Licensing and Accreditation Agency.	The cooperation with the Licensing and Accreditation Agency should be improved.	2007-2010