

Romanian Action Plan for Recognition

1. Legislation

1.1 Council of Europe/UNESCO Convention

The Lisbon Recognition Convention has been ratified in Romania by the **Law no. 172/1998**, which contains the Convention's provisions.

1.2 Review of national legislation relevant to recognition

The new package of Laws is now under public debates and includes provisions on the Secondary Education, Higher Education, Recognition of Studies, Lifelong Learning, Quality Assessment.

The Ministry Education and Research Act no. 5820/04.12.2006 concerning the Regulations on the structure and running of the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas stipulates a simplification of the recognition procedure in accordance with the Convention's provisions.

1.3 Bilateral or regional recognition agreements

In conformity with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, until this moment Romania has concluded bilateral Conventions with **Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Moldavia, Ukraine, Russian Federation and Georgia**.

At the present, the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas elaborates a draft for a Convention which will be concluded with **Poland** by **the end of 2007**.

2. Recognition practice

2.1 Criteria and procedure

The Ministry Education and Research Act no. 5820/04.12.2006 concerning the **new Regulations on the structure and running of the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas** sets new criteria and procedures for recognition in accordance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention's provisions, as well as new shorter time for solving the recognition applications.

2.2 Joint Degrees

The **Government Decision no. 1424/2006** stipulates the organisation of integrated programs by two or more universities, which leads to obtain a joint degree. These programs deal with the 3 cycles of university studies and they must be realised for a specialisation recognised in the partner states. For recognition of a joint degree, all partner universities have to be recognised in their own countries.

In our country, joint degrees are most commonly awarded in economics/business and engineering, law and management. For example, the Academy for Economics Studies of Bucharest and Law Faculty of University of Bucharest offer joint degrees in partnership with other European universities.

In Romania, the study periods at partner institutions are often automatically recognised.

The joint degrees are automatically recognised by the partner institutions via the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas.

The joint degrees are often recognised by other institutions in the countries concerned.

2.3 Overview of institutional practice

In Romania, the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas and the universities (only for the study periods) assure the recognition of diplomas in accordance with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

The Bachelor degree will be recognised with the „Licenta” degree in accordance with Bologna Process, in this moment the Bachelor degree is recognised with a „Diploma de absolvire” degree.

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas is a member of ENIC-NARIC Network.

With the respect of the selfgoverning of each university in Romania, the Ministry of Education and Research – the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas recommends the implementation of the provisions of Lisbon Recognition Convention.

2.4 Transparency tools for recognition

The credit and accumulation system is implemented by the the **Law no. 288/2004 concerning the university studies organisation** and by **Ministry of Education and Research Act no. 3617/2005 concerning the generalised application of the European Credits Transfer System**.

Romanian universities were using ECTS since 1998 but only in their mobility schemes with the foreign partners, now this new Act stipulates a general use of ECTS. ECTS credits will be allocated in compliance with the international university practice, according to which 60 ECTS credits represent the equivalent for 1 academic year workload.

The percentage of first and second cycle programmes using ECTS in academic year 2006/2007 is 100%. It is also used the national evaluation system, marks for 1 to 10.

The Diploma Supplement is already implemented in Romania by the **Ministry of Education and Research Act nr. 4868/07.08.2006**.

In the academic year 2005/2006, all the graduates received a Diploma Supplement.

The percentage of students graduating in 2007 who receive a Diploma Supplement is 100%.

The Diploma Supplement is delivered in Romanian and English language and, upon request in another foreign language widely spoken.

The deliverance of the Diploma Supplement is free of charge, automaticaly and compulsory.

The Romanian Diploma Supplement correspond to the EU/CoE/UNESCO Diploma Supplement format.

Other transparency tools: the EUROPASS documents will be implemented in the Romanian legislation. Until this moment, the European CV has implemented by the Government **Act no. 1021/2004**, the Diploma Supplement by **Ministry of Education and Research Act nr. 4868/07.08.2006** and the other 3 documents will be implemented in 2007 by the National Agency for the Community Programs in the field od education and trainig.

2.4 Borderless/transnational education

The Government Act no. 1424/2006 regarding the frame methodology for running integrated study programs offered by two or more universities leading to obtaing common degrees stipulates franchising programs initiated and supported in Romania by accredited higher education institutions in cooperation with higher education institutions of abroad with a respect of the laws in states of origin (art. 2 and art. 9).

3. Information provision

3.1 Provision of information on recognition

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas has *modified the web-site*, the new site is www.cnred.edu.ro.

The web site of ENIC-NARIC www.enic-naric.net will contain the new changes opereted of the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas, which was sent to the board of ENIC-NARIC.

The documents of EUROPASS are translated in www.europass.cedefop.europa.eu.

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas will organise, in June 2007, the annual ENIC-NARIC Conference and for this purpose a booklet will be elaborated.

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas has its own information documents (leaflets, CD-ROM).

3.2 Information package for applicants

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas **will recommend** to all the universities without exception to provide their own information package for applicants.

4. Structures

4.1 National Information Centre

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas is set up by **Government Act no.49/1999** run as a directorate within the Ministry of Education and Research, based on the Regulations approved by the Ministry Education and Research Act no. 5820/04.12.2006 the Regulations on the structure and running of the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas.

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas is supported in its activity by a National Council of Equivalence of Diplomas (NCED), an advisory body of 38 members nominated by the new **Ministry of Education and Research Act no. 5703/21.11.2006** among the best scientists of the Romanian education system.

NCRED activity is led by a director and is composed by 15 members.

The NCRED's activities are the following:

- settles criteria of recognition and equivalence of diplomas for primary, secondary and post-secondary schools, university and post-university level;
- acknowledges and promotes equivalence of the level, profile/type and specialty of diplomas granted abroad, to the NCED;
- promotes to the NCADTCU (National Centre for Attestation of Diplomas, Degrees and University Certificates) the files for equivalence of doctor degrees;
- draws up Minister's Orders of equivalence and issues certificates;
- provides experts in negotiating bilateral and multilateral agreements on mutual recognition of diplomas and scientific degrees;
- provides validity visa for diplomas, certificates and transcripts /diploma supplements issued by accredited Higher Education institutions to foreign citizens who graduate in Romania or to Romanian citizens leaving for abroad (only for higher education);

- receives, gets systematized, processes and records the information on education systems and the legal status of educational institutions abroad, courses supply and required conditions to get diplomas, all other information coming via ENIC/NARIC networks;
- provides information, via E-mail or fax, through ENIC/NARIC networks, on the education system in Romania , its structure, education institutions, length of courses, profile and specialties, type and shape of study documents, required conditions for awarding diplomas;
- provides information, on request, to Romanian officials, Romanian educational institutions or any private persons, regarding the education systems abroad;
- issues, on request, attestations certifying the studies carried out in a Romanian educational institution, needed to further education or to apply for a job abroad;
- establishes and maintains, via study visits, direct contacts with centres for recognition and equivalence abroad and international organizations of the same type;
- accomplishes any other activities allotted in its area of competence, according to the normative documents into force;
- recognize diplomas for foreign citizens in order to obtain work permit;
- convenes the members of the National Council for Equivalence of Diplomas accordingly;
- deals with the recognition of professional qualifications and is the national coordinator for the IMI System.
- is the national coordinator for implementing the EU legislation regarding the recognition of professional qualifications in the Romanian law,
- takes part to the interministerial working groups and the international workings group for recognition of academic and professional qualifications, including the establishment of National Framework of Qualifications.

The NCRED is doubly financed, from the State Budget and from the external sources (its own funds).

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas is a member of ENIC-NARIC Network.

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas runs its activity at the central national level.

It is networking with all the national and international state or private accredited Higher Education institutions, professional bodies and another authorities involved in education and recognition.

4.2 Cooperation recognition/quality assurance bodies

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas exchanges information with both the responsible Romanian bodies like as : Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Secondary Education (ARACIP), and also with ENIC , NARIC Network, ENQA.

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas participates to the study visits, bilateral meetings and discussions for mutual recognition agreements.

In **2007**, the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas applies for participating to a TAIEX program with **Germany** and **Netherlands** (NCRED has already sent applications in connection with it).

The National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas ENIC/NARIC will participate, in 2007, to the working groups, seminars, conferences, joint meetings organised in the field of recognition, including the follow-up to Bologna Process..