

**Impact of Globalisation on Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of
Qualifications in Higher Education
(UNESCO, Paris, 10-11 September 2001)**

**TOWARDS AN ACTION PLAN: SOME CONCLUSIONS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Some outcomes of the meeting

- discussion of global issues in a global forum;
- exchange of information;
- identification of similarities and differences and specific regional needs;
- identification of the missing partners
- recommendations for action

Consensus

- new demands on higher education
- emergence of competitors in knowledge provision
- challenges to access and equity
- need for new QA approaches

Debates

- erosion of role of nation state
- private HE -threat/ /opportunity/norm?
- Mobility v 'brain drain'
- Unbundling of academic functions

**Towards a new regulatory framework or frameworks? - the challenge of
transnational education and new modes of delivery**

What is needed?

- An international regulatory framework(s)
- glossary of terms
- code(s) of good practice
- partnership between providers
- information and understanding

Some resources to draw on

- Unesco/Council of Europe Code of Practice
- existing work on glossary of terms
- existing & emerging national codes and legislation
- networking in QA and recognition

Towards a new regulatory framework: transferability and recognition of qualifications and credits

What is needed?

- More transparency and information on systems, qualifications and competences?
- Data on recognition problems and mobility
- Clarification of roles in recognition
- New tools and approaches?

Some available resources

- Good practice at national, regional & professional level
- Conventions/Directives/other Instruments
- Emerging cooperation between QA and recognition networks

Some suggestions for an action for an action plan

- A laboratory of ideas
- A standard setter
- A clearing house
- A capacity-builder
- A catalyst for international cooperation

Some suggestions for a possible action plan (1)

- Clearing house functions in partnership and through interactive website development; directory of 'trustworthy' accreditation agencies and quality assurance agencies worldwide especially those dealing with new modes of provision;
- Compiling an inventory of specific regional needs and existing expertise (specifically inter-regional recognition issues and or QA matters that could be benefit from inter-regional cooperation eg ODL;

Some suggestions for a possible action plan (2)

- Capacity building at regional level through seminars using the above;
- Promotion and codification of good practices
- Development of policy guidelines to Member States in the form of international codes

- or other internationally accepted norms
- Development of information tools for learners including the UNESCO publication *Studying Abroad*

Some suggestions for a possible action plan (3)

- UNESCO to act as a facilitator - broker by developing international frameworks bringing together the different actors and stakeholders from the higher education sector, many of who are attending this meeting
- establish a Task Force to develop the Action Plan and report on its implementation.

Paris, 11 September 2001