



Explanatory Memorandum to THE UNESCO/COUNCIL OF EUROPE CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE IN THE PROVISION OF TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION

STATUS OF THE DOCUMENT: Adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee at its second meeting, Rīga, 6 June 2001.

1. Introduction

The Code which follows is designed to present the perspectives of both sending and receiving countries regarding the provision of transnational education. Its contents are to be seen as complementary to the **Lisbon Recognition Convention** thus providing a normative framework to be taken as reference by the national recognition bodies in their specific undertakings.

2. The objectives of the Code

In order to promote good practice in the area of transnational education - with particular reference to the quality of the provision of study programmes and the standards of qualifications issued by the Parties to the Council of Europe/UNESCO **Lisbon Recognition Convention**, the Code is intended:

- to meet the expectations of both the sending **and** the receiving countries with regard to *transnational arrangements* in higher education;
- to provide a source of reference on issues relating to the quality assurance and evaluation of programmes provided and qualifications issued through transnational arrangements;
- to offer “consumer protection” for students, employers and others who may be concerned with qualifications awarded through transnational arrangements;
- to facilitate the recognition of qualifications awarded through transnational arrangements in higher education.

Implementation of the Code

The **Code** includes a set of *principles* which should be respected by institutions or organizations involved in the provision of educational services through transnational arrangements. These principles are presented in the form of statements with a normative value. For implementing the provisions of the **Code**, mainly with regard to the recognition of qualifications issued through transnational

arrangements, the ENIC network shall apply the procedures outlined in the **Recommendation on procedures and criteria for the assessment of foreign qualifications**. Therefore, the **Code** and the **Recommendation** are fully complementary and mutually supportive documents.

4. The Scope of the Code

The Code refers particularly to those transnational arrangements which lead to the provision of study programmes and to the issuing of qualifications. Consequently, reference is made to:

- a) **institutions and programmes** involved in concluding any type

of transnational arrangement whereby an institution provides educational services outside its country of origin;

- b) **teaching staff**, regardless of their country of origin, who work in

an institution/study programme established through a transnational arrangement;

- c) **students**, regardless of their country of origin, who are registered, for a course of study or parts of it leading either wholly or in part to a higher education qualification, in an institution/programme established through a transnational arrangement;

- d) **agents**, that are third parties, acting as brokers, facilitators or recruiters in transnational arrangements;

- e) **other** stakeholders, like employers and the public at large, interested in the quality of higher education qualifications.

