

EAR Manual

Chapter on Substantial Differences

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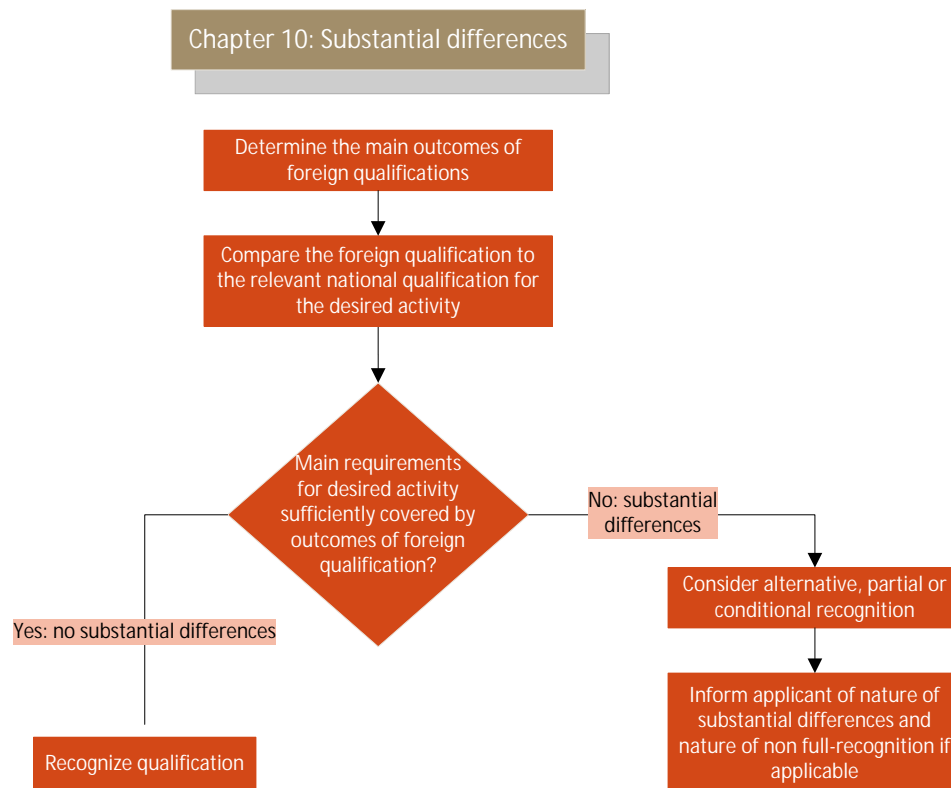
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Structure of EAR Chapters

- Flowchart
- Introduction
 - Definition of the topic;
 - Why is this topic important?
- Recommendation
 - Practical instructions on how to deal with this topic;
 - Examples;
- Sources and References
- Relevant Articles RCP

Flowchart



Introduction

Definition:

- Substantial differences are differences between the foreign qualification and the required qualification that are so significant, that it would be prevent the applicant to succeed in the desired activity such as further study, research activities or employment.

Recommendation

Practical instructions:

- The essential question to answer is: does the qualification that the applicant has obtained enable him to follow a given study programme or take up a given employment?
- Five key elements of a qualification should be taken into account: level, workload, quality, profile, learning outcomes;
- If no substantial differences exist, full recognition should be granted;
- In case of substantial differences, the applicant should be informed of the nature of the substantial differences (and possibly be offered alternative recognition).

Recommendation

Examples

Example 1

An applicant has obtained a qualification in engineering, which prepares for admission to PhD programmes in engineering, and also provides professional rights in the field of engineering. If the purpose of recognition is admission to a PhD programme in engineering, the qualification should be evaluated only on the basis of the outcomes required for admission to the PhD programme, and not on the basis of the professional rights.

On the other hand, if the applicant seeks recognition for professional purposes, the evaluation should be based on the outcomes required for entrance into the profession.

Sources and References

- *Developing attitudes to recognition: substantial differences in an age of globalization*, by E. Stephen Hunt and Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe, 2009.

http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=2478

- *Recognition issues in the Bologna Process*, Council of Europe, 2003

http://book.coe.int/EN/ficheouvrage.php?PAGEID=36&lang=EN&produit_aliasid=1618

Relevant Articles RCP

- 36.** Qualifications of approximately equal level may show differences in terms of content, profile and learning outcomes. In the assessment of foreign qualifications, these differences should be considered in a flexible way, and only substantial differences in view of the purpose for which recognition is sought (e.g academic or de facto professional recognition) should lead to partial recognition or non-recognition of the foreign qualifications.

Workshop

Points for Discussion:

- Is the EAR Manual a useful tool for recognition in general?
- Is the EAR Manual a useful tool for the admissions officers of HEI's?
- What could be changed or added to the structure and contents of the EAR Manual to make it more useful for HEI's?