

Automatic recognition: challenges and  
obstacles  
(Session Group C)

**International conference  
Automatic recognition: potential and  
challenges**

**ARCHIMEDES**

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Government regulation „Assessment and Academic Recognition of Foreign Qualifications“ (2006)

Academic Recognition Information Centre (Estonian ENIC/NARIC) – recommendation; advice

HEIs (and employers) – recognition decision

**Assessment criteria** (most important criteria taken into account for comparison)

## **Until 2006**

Duration; graduation requirements; list of courses/moduls; specialisation; practice; theory; type of institution; profile

## **2006-2012**

Workload; level; profile; quality

## **Since 2012**

Formal right (function of the qualification / competence / access to next cycle)

What it is – our understanding in Estonia

Recognition of formal academic right. What a holder of degree can do in home education system.

If a qualification gives access to a Master's programme at home, we accept the function and do the same.

Level, profile, learning outcomes, workload, quality are important elements to understand the function of qualification.

First cycle degree is recognised as a first cycle degree in Estonia, if a qualification gives access to a Master's programme at home; a second cycle degree is recognised as a Master's degree in Estonia, if a qualification gives access to a PhD programme at home.

### Several (most common) problems

Bachelor's degree is not recognised if it is **based on 11 years of schooling**

Master's degree is not recognised if it is awarded **after 4 years of study (3+1)**

Bachelor's or Master's degree is not recognised if **no thesis**

Diploma of Professional Higher Education (DPHE) is not recognised as first cycle degree, because: a) it is a **„Diploma“** not „Bachelor“, and in receiving country there are no such **type of institutions**. DPHE is often recognised as a sub-degree or a post-secondary vocational qualification.

Automatic recognition or smooth recognition is possible, but we all have to change our attitudes

Full implementation of **Lisbon Recognition Convention** and its subsidiary texts

**Recognition**, no equivalency, no nostrification

Review of **assessment criteria** used for recognition

„Substantial difference“ only in case of **substantial** difference

# Automatic recognition: challenges

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“Fast track” for recognition of applicants

No formal assessment of qualifications (Bachelor is Bachelor;  
Master is Master), less administrative work

Increase of academic mobility

Relevant, accurate and up-to-date information for competent  
recognition authorities about education systems,  
qualifications and awarding institutions

# Automatic recognition: obstacles

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In some systems various names of professional diplomas at different cycles of higher education (difficult to understand the degree) – determination of qualifications outside of Bologna structure

Professional vs academic degrees

Legal obstacles (different criteria and procedures)

Foreign diplomas and qualifications are still unknown and there is a need for evaluation

Do we all understand what “automatic recognition” means?

Do we all have necessary information available to make recognition decision automatically



## FROM THE REPORT

- Lithuanian Professional Bachelor did not give direct access to a Master's programme until July 2015, and may fail recognition in Latvia
- Legal obstacles may exist, in case the criteria are regulated at national level
- It may be difficult to determine the comparability of the qualifications outside of the Bologna B+M+D structure
- Developments and/or changes, such as introduction of new qualifications, which may affect the comparability of qualifications
- Some forms of automatic recognition may require changes in legislation, which may be a lengthy and complicated process.

# Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus (Certificate of General Secondary Education)

Can we recognise the qualification  
automatically?

What information is needed for  
recognition?



## ***Master´s degree from Estonia***

Can we recognise the  
qualification automatically?

What information is needed for  
recognition?



**THANK YOU!**

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