



Improving the recognition system of degrees and study credit points in the European Higher Education Area

**‘Bologna’ Seminar on Recognition,
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CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS

Ministers in Bergen are urged to:

1. Amend national legislation to incorporate the principles of the Council of Europe/UNESCO *Convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in the European Region* (1997 Lisbon Recognition Convention) and adopt effective measures to ensure their practical implementation at all appropriate levels.
2. Recognise that reaching the ambitious goals of the Bologna Process and the European Council's Lisbon Strategy requires defining 'recognition' as positioning a holder of a foreign qualification in the host country's education or employment system rather than a formal act of acknowledging his or her qualification, and therefore to:
 - emphasize the benefits of 'new-style' national qualifications frameworks and endorse the creation of the overarching framework of qualifications for the EHEA on the grounds of their positive contribution to international recognition, mobility and transparency;
 - promote an intensive national and international dialogue, informed by ENICs and NARICS, to exchange good practice.
3. As a matter of urgency, launch a campaign to convey accurate and pertinent information on the Bologna Process to other parts of the world.

At the level of ENIC and NARIC networks it is recommended that:

4. The existing cooperation between recognition and quality assurance networks should be further strengthened. It needs to be acknowledged that recognition and quality assurance are intimately related.
5. The networks further explore ways in which the emerging national and European overarching qualifications frameworks and usage of learning outcomes can be applied for improving recognition practices, including the recognition of lifelong learning and other non-



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traditional qualifications, and how they relate to the legal framework of the Lisbon Recognition Convention.

6. The networks take an active part in the information campaign on the Bologna Process in the wider world, using their long-standing contacts and information exchange channels.

At the national level it is recommended that:

7. Effective measures are taken in respect of non-traditional providers of education to offer them access to state recognition procedures and ongoing quality assurance monitoring.
8. The vital contribution of learning outcomes to recognition in higher education and lifelong learning is acknowledged and a strategy for their implementation is developed. The development of learning outcomes should take into account the four main purposes of higher education:
 - preparation for the labour market;
 - preparation for life as an active citizen;
 - personal development;
 - the development and maintenance of a broad, advanced knowledge base.
9. Steps are taken to monitor the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, with a view to encouraging fair and equal treatment of applicants within countries.

At the level of higher education institutions it is recommended that:

10. HEIs draw more on the experience and knowledge of ENICS and NARICS to support and inform recognition decisions taken at institutional level.
11. HEIs take steps to develop institutional recognition policies and practices and to disseminate information on the legal framework for recognition and best practice at the level of faculties and individual study programmes.
12. HEI leaderships, together with EUA, EURASHE, ENICS and NARICS, develop a coordinated strategy in order to play an effective role in implementing the principles of fair recognition embodied in the Lisbon Recognition Convention and reflected in the Bologna Process.
