Recognition of Qualifications Held by Refugees

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ENIC-NARIC Network

Two networks for the same objective → fair recognition!

- **NARIC network**
  - 1984: *National Academic Recognition Information Centres* in the European Union created by the European Commission

- **ENIC network**
  - 1997: *European Network of National Information Centres* on academic recognition and mobility; created by the Council of Europe and UNESCO to implement the Lisbon Recognition Convention and to develop policy and practice for the recognition of qualifications
Article VII – Lisbon Recognition Convention

Each Party shall take all feasible and reasonable steps within the framework of its education system and in conformity with its constitutional, legal, and regulatory provisions to develop procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously whether

refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation

fulfill the relevant requirements for access to higher education, to further higher education programmes or to employment activities,

even in cases in which the qualifications obtained in one of the Parties cannot be proven through documentary evidence.
Background paper as central element

1. An overview of the claimed educational background with the available documents and supporting evidence

2. A checklist, based upon the model of the Diploma Supplement, used by the competent recognition authorities to add more relevant information

*Revised Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications – Explanatory memorandum, paragraph 20*
Norwegian experience

Special recognition procedure for refugees - responsibility of Norwegian higher education institutions – *Background paper*

Recognition procedure for persons without verifiable documentation

UVD-procedure

- 2005
- 2011-2012
- 2013
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016

**Pilot project** on the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications for persons with incomplete documentation, commissioned by the Norwegian Ministry of Education

UVD-methodology as a crucial element in Norway’s *Students at Risk scheme*

NOKUT’s Qualifications Passport for Refugees – Pilot project

NOKUT / UK NARIC working towards an international coordinated action on recognition of refugees’ qualifications

*European Qualifications Passport for Refugees*
Let us stop for a minute … what are we actually talking about?

- Recognition is more than…
  - a technical exercise
  - a preparation for further studies or employment
- Recognition of a qualification = Recognition of the human behind the qualification

Why are we doing this?

- Key words: Inclusion. Empowerment. Participation
- Reduce risk of social, political, economical alienation
- Effective use of the resources in society

Recognition of qualifications at an early stage is a key to build inclusive societies
Important factors to consider when looking for the optimal assessment solution

- Sets in at an early stage / fast
- Effective
- Accessible
- Professional
- Fair / provides equal treatment
- Provides relevant information
- Provides feasible system for transition and easy mobility between regions, countries and educational levels
European Qualifications Passport for Refugees - NOKUT / UK NARIC

Passport No.
47XXXXXXXX

Date of issue
28.10.2015

Date of expiry
28.10.2018

Family name
M

Given name
Sonia

Previous name, if any
N/A

Date of birth
01.01.1982

Sex
F

Country of origin, place of birth
Syria, Homs

Language proficiency
Native language: Arabic
Other languages: English, French

Educational background / highest educational qualification achieved
2005: Bachelor of Civil Engineering, University of Damascus, Syria (4 years higher education)

Additional information
2005-2013: Project Assistant, Homs Building dep., Syria

National education system (description of the educational system in the country where the highest qualification was taken)

Information/guidance on further recognition procedures available from ENIC-NARIC offices. Link to the ENIC-NARIC website

Link to the ENIC-NARIC website
NOKUT’s Qualifications Passport for Refugees: Content

• Pilot project
  o February – May 2016

• First passport issued
  o 24. February 2016

• Report published
  o May 2016
NOKUT’s Qualifications Passport for Refugees: Core in methodology

- Evaluation of available documentation & reconstruction of educational background
  - Survey
  - Check NOKUT’s archive

- NOKUT’s assessment & level placement

- Structured interview with the applicant carried out by NOKUT’s experienced recognition professionals
NOKUT’s Qualifications Passport for Refugees: Experiences & feedback

• End users - employers, the integration sector, higher education institutions find NOKUT’s Qualifications Passport for Refugees an **effective tool**

• Candidates - NOKUT’s Qualifications Passport for Refugees is a **valuable offer**
  > The evaluation process - empowerment
NOKUT’s Qualifications Passport for Refugees: Benefits

• Real option for qualified assessment of qualifications
• Advice about the road ahead – positive for further integration and qualification
• Centralized scheme is an advantage
• Standardized document – standardized and quality assured assistance for the integration sector, employers and higher education institutions
• Recognition scheme is efficient and can be initiated at an early stage
• Scheme can be adapted to other relevant processes and for admission purposes
Active sharing of best practice
The way ahead

• Continue sharing our extensive experience and ideas on implementing recognition and assessment schemes for refugees

• Coordinating an Erasmus+ project on development of toolkit for recognition of refugees’ qualifications

• NOKUT welcomes a coordination action across countries action on recognition of refugees’ qualifications
Thank you for your attention!

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