National Information Centres
Main tasks and co-operation

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Lisbon Recognition Convention
UNESCO/Council of Europe (1997)

• Applicants entitled to fair assessment within reasonable time limit
• Transparent procedures and criteria used in the assessments
• Recognize unless substantial difference
• Possibility to appeal
• Burden of proof upon the host country
• Implementation: Committee and Information Centres
Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) Committee

- Composed of one representative of each Party to the LRC (almost 50 countries)
- Oversees the implementation of the LRC
- Right to adopt recommendations to guide the implementation of the LRC
- Information, promotion
- Link to the Bologna Process
Network of Information Centres

• European Network of Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility (ENIC)
• Established in 1994 by UNESCO and the Council of Europe to develop joint policy and practice for the recognition of qualifications
• Cooperation with the NARIC network (National Academic Recognition Information Centres), coordinated by the European Union
Main functions of the national information centres

• Facilitate access to authoritative and accurate information on the national higher education system and qualifications
• Facilitate access to information on foreign higher education systems and qualifications
• Give advice or information on recognition matters and assessment of qualifications
• Promotion of the use of the Diploma Supplement
Examples of working parties of the information centres

- Criteria and procedures for the assessment of foreign qualifications and periods of study
- Transnational Education
- Diploma Supplement
- Joint activities with quality assurance network
- Substantial differences
- Information strategies
- Recognition issues in the Bologna Process
Remaining concerns in co-operation

- Face the challenge of diversity
- Recognition of qualifications earned through lifelong learning
- Mutual trust in quality and in education systems
- Qualifications Frameworks, learning outcomes
- Trans-national qualifications, joint degrees
- Fair recognition!
Tasks of the Finnish national information centre

-Authoritative tasks: administrative decisions (based on legislation) on the competences conferred by foreign qualifications in Finland

-Eligibility for a public post or right to practice a profession, e.g. teachers, social workers, social instructors, qualifications in the field of law

-Advisory statements on foreign vocational education and Finnish qualifications
Representing Finland in international information networks

- NARIC/ENIC (academic recognition, higher education, Bologna process)
- NRP (National Reference Point for Vocational Qualifications)
- Directive 2005/36/EC on professional recognition
- European Qualifications Framework
- National Qualifications Framework (work in progress)
Tools for promoting the recognition and transparency of qualifications: Europass

- Europass Mobility
- Europass CV
- Europass Language Passport
- Certificate Supplement (vocational education)
- Diploma Supplement (higher education)
More information

www.oph.fi/recognition
www.oph.fi/examenserkannande
www.oph.fi/tutkintojentunnustaminen
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Thank you for your attention!