National Information Centres
- making convention “work”

Congregazione per l'Educazione Cattolica
Piazza Pio XII, 3
00120 Città del Vaticano
tel. 06 69 88 41 67
fax. 06 69 88 41 72

Fr. Friedrich BECHINA
vati745@cec.va & enic@cec.va
Main principles:

- Transparent **procedures** and **criteria** used in the assessments

- Applicants entitled to fair assessment within **reasonable time limit**
  (it is advised that it should take not more then four months)

- **Recognize unless substantial difference**
  (fully, partially, on certain conditions, non recognition in case of substantial difference)

- Possibility to **appeal**

- Burden of proof upon the host country

- **Implementation:** annual committee and information centers meeting and internal network
Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) Committee

Composed of one representative of each Party of the LRC
(50 countries)

- Oversees the implementation of the LRC
- If necessary adopts recommendations to guide the implementation of the LRC
- Coordinates information flow and promotes it in concrete ways

Links to the Bologna Process
Network of Information Centres

Established in 1994 by UNESCO and the Council of Europe to develop joint policy and practice for the recognition of qualifications

European Network of Information Centres on Academic Recognition and Mobility (ENIC)

Cooperation with the National Academic Recognition Information Centres network (NARIC), coordinated by the European Union
Network of Information Centres

Governing & Working Structures

Plenary Assembly every year + country presentation

- ENIC-Bureau (President + 2 vice presidents)
- NARIC Advisory board (+ 2 members)

At least 3 meetings / year

WORKING GROUPS
(ELCORE; Global recognition …)
Main functions of the National Information Centers

Creating knowledge, competences and mutual trust

**Provide**
- Authoritative and accurate information on the national higher education system and qualifications
- Information on foreign higher education systems and qualifications
- Information on recognition matters and assessment of qualifications

**Give**
- Advice on recognition matters and assessment of concrete qualifications
- Decision statements on recognition matters and assessment of concrete qualifications (if the proper information center is invested of such authority)

**Promote**
- Recognition tools like Diploma Supplement, National Qualifications Framework and etc.
- Good recognition practices among the HEI of the proper HE system
Examples of working parties of the Information Centers

- 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
Examples of working parties of the Information Centers

Different structures, sizes, legal basis ....
- Governmental – Department of a Ministry
- Autonomous (foundations …)
- Linked to HE-Institutions

Different competences ....
- Authoritative (binding) recognition statements
- Instance of appeal
- Advice
- Mobility promotion
Remaining concerns in co-operation

- diversity
- non formal and informal learning
- joint degrees
- learning outcomes
- Qualifications Frameworks
- mutual trust in quality and in education systems
- Fair recognition

Trans-national qualifications
The Holy See’s National Information Centre

Legal
- Part of the Congregation for Catholic Education = Ministry for Education
- Authoritative information and recognition statements (+ instance of appeal)

Size
- We started small (“one-man show”)
- Now: “one woman show” … but: collaboration and networking (HE-department, diplomatic service, partner institutions) … “small is beautiful!”

Work
- Information to other ENIC-Centers, HE-Institutions, Students …
- Networking and participation in international initiatives
- Expertise and collaboration within the Ministry
Tools for promoting the recognition and transparency of qualifications

- Web-site – data base (reliable and authoritative information)
- Diploma Supplement
- National Qualifications Frameworks (higher education)
- + overarching Qualifications Frameworks
- Quality assurance procedures and agencies (accreditation vs. quality enhancement)
- Personal contacts and networking
- Site visits and peer learning
- Good practice (WGs and sharing)
More information

- **www.enic-naric.net**

- **www.avepro.va & enic@cec.va**

- **And in the coming future**
  **www.education.va**