The Higher Education System of the Holy See

A unique, worldwide and sectorial Higher Education System
Basic distinction:

I) „Catholic“ Universities
around 1500 worldwide
(majority in Asia and America)

II) „Ecclesiastical“ HE Institutions
around 270 + 400 worldwide
in 48 / 75 countries in all continents
Degree granting Higher Education Institutions of the Holy See
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- Africa: $14 + 73$ in $7 / 24$ countries
- Central and Latin America: $24 + 56$ in $8 / 13$ countries
- North-America: $19 + 17$
- Middle East: $5 + 3$ in $2 / 3$ countries
- Asia and the Pacific: $26 + 57$ in $6 / 12$ countries
- Europe: $188 + 190$ in $22 / 20$ countries
  [Rome: 24 Institutions with 51 Units]
The Holy See has ratified 4 UNESCO – Regional Recognition Conventions:

- Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico City, 1974)
- Africa (Arusha, 1981)
- Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok, 1983) (Tokyo, 2011)
- European Region (Lisbon, 1997)

Numerous Concordats and bilateral agreements.
Competent authorities and bodies for Higher Education

  
  www.educatio.va

  
  www.avepro.va

- Quick and reliable information - The National Information Center (2005)
  
  E-mail: enic@cec.va
Recognition of Secondary School Leaving Certificates

- Automatic recognition of all certificates which give access to University-Studies in the respective countries

Legal basis: Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia christiana* (1979)

- Art. 32 § 1: “To enroll in a Faculty in order to obtain an academic degree, one must present that kind of study title which would be necessary to permit enrollment in a civil university of one's own country or of the country where the Faculty is located.”
Recognition of Studies, Diplomas, Degrees and Qualifications

- Automatic recognition of studies of the same type worldwide for the academic as well as professional purpose
- All HEIs of cultivating “ecclesiastical studies” (in around 80 countries worldwide) award the same “Pontifical Degrees”

Recognition of Studies, Qualifications in other disciplines

- Automatic recognition in view of level, workload and quality
- Assessment necessary in view of profile and learning outcomes
Concordates and Bilateral Agreements

- Concordates = general Bilateral Agreements frequently including regulations for cooperation in Education/Higher Education (more than 50 countries)
- Bilateral agreements on Recognition, Quality Assurance and cooperation in Higher Education (6 + around 10 “on the way” ….)
Qualifications framework of the Holy See: “www.education.va”


Department for International Relations, Vatican city 2014
Ratification of the Tokyo-Convention (2011)

- The Convention has been signed by the competent authorities 26 November 2011 in Tokyo
- The procedures of Ratification have been started
- The Holy See is willing and prepared to cooperate actively with all the member States of the new Convention as soon as it will enter into force (as we have been working also for the Bangkok-Convention for many years)

- The Holy See actively cooperates and promotes all relevant initiatives for Recognition also within other UNESCO-Regions
- It is actively involved in discussions about a UNESCO «Global Convention»
Suggestions:

- Regarding the work of «national information centres and networks» we advocate for and will actively promote any collaboration with other «NICs» and «Networks» in the world, especially the ENIC-NARCI network of the European Region (for example a project for a common or interlinked website)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!