Implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention
Regional Committee
National Information Centres and Networks

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Contents of the presentation

- Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)
- Implementation arms: regional committee and national information centres
- Main tasks
- Co-operation
- European Area of Recognition Manual: to improve implementation
- Remaining concerns
The Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region (Lisbon Recognition Convention, LRC)

- Adopted in 1997, entered into force in 1999
- Secretariats: UNESCO and Council of Europe
- Applies also outside of Europe: also non-European signatories
- Concerns access qualifications, periods of study and final higher education qualifications
- Implementation bodies:
  - Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee
  - ENIC/NARIC Network (www.enic-naric.net)
  - ENIC/NARIC Centres
Main principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention

- Recognition = formal acknowledgement by a competent authority of the value of a foreign educational qualification
- Applicants entitled to fair assessment within reasonable time
- Transparent, coherent and reliable procedures and criteria used in the assessment
- Qualifications issued by institutions belonging to the education system of other countries shall be recognized, unless a substantial difference can be shown between the qualification for which recognition is sought and the corresponding qualification in the country in which recognition is sought
Substantial Differences

- Central concept, but difficult to define
- Recognition unless substantial differences
- Basic assumption: substantial difference should be an exception, not a rule
- Is the difference substantial in relation to the function and purpose of the qualification and recognition?
- A difference merely in formal terms is not enough
- More emphasis on learning outcomes: what a person knows and is able to do (no detailed comparison of curricula!)
Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC) Committee

• Composed of one representative of each Party to the LRC
• Oversees the implementation of the LRC
• Right to adopt recommendations to guide the implementation of the LRC
• Information, promotion
Importance of subsidiary texts

- Recognition of Joint Degrees 2004
- Recognition and Qualifications Frameworks (2013)
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
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
The goal of the European Area for Recognition project
- *the recognition manual*

- Aimed primarily at recognition information centres (ENICs/NARICs)
- Contains standards and guidelines on all aspects of recognition
- Links theory to practice
- Provides a point of comparison by giving examples of the current situation in Europe
- Helps reach general agreement on how to move from the current situation towards the situation described in the manual
### Contents of the *draft* EAR manual

1. Schematic outline of the procedure for the assessment
2. Transparency and Information Provision
3. Accreditation and Quality Assurance (status of the institution)
4. Authenticity
5. Purpose of Recognition
6. Diploma Supplement (and other information tools)
7. Qualification Frameworks
8. Credits, grades, credit accumulation and credit transfer
9. Learning Outcomes
10. Substantial Differences
Contents of the *draft* EAR manual

11. Alternative recognition. Right to appeal
12. Refugees
13. Non-Traditional Learning
14. Transnational education
15. Qualifications awarded by joint programs
   Non-Recognised but Legitimate Institutions
16. Diploma and Accreditation Mills
17. Sources of Recommendations for EAR Recognition Manual
18. Glossary
The EAR manual and the LRC

- Main purpose: to improve implementation
- The EAR manual is designed as a tool that supports the existing LRC practices and recommendations
- Extends good practices to all European countries and harmonizes recognition by promoting transparency and consistency
- Besides an established tool for credential evaluators, the manual is also a source of information and good practice for all interested parties
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!
More information

www.enic-naric.net

Thank you for your attention!