



Monitoring of implementation of the principles of the LRC as a tool to improve recognition

Linking Academic Recognition and Quality Assurance
Conference

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Convention

- **Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region**
(The Lisbon Convention), 1997 - *Council of Europe and UNESCO*
- **54 ratifications/accessions**

Where the competence to make recognition decisions lies with HEIs, each Party shall take all possible steps to encourage the favourable considerations and applications of its provisions. (from Art II.1)

Subsidiary documents adopted by the LRC Committee

- **Adopted to guide the competent national authorities in the implementation of the LRC**
- Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications (2001; revised 2010)
- Recommendation on the Use of Qualifications Frameworks in the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications (2013)
- Recommendation on the Recognition of Joint Degrees (2004, revised 2016)
- Recommendation on International Access Qualifications (1999)
- Recommendation on Recognition of Qualifications Held by Refugees, Displaced Persons and Persons in a Refugee-like Situation (2017)

Two key Recommendations to HEIs

Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications (2010)

- Procedures and criteria should be transparent, coherent and reliable, taking into account of developments in the education field and eliminating requirements leading to undue complications.
- The differences should be considered in a flexible way.

Recommendation on the Use of Qualifications Framework in the Recognition of Foreign Qualifications (2013)

- QFs as important transparency tools in the recognition.
- Assessment based on five key elements: level, learning outcomes, quality, workload and profile.

Obligations

- **Recognition procedures should be in line with the LRC.**
- **The LRC is applicable to the HEIs also.**
- **Recognition procedure should be a subject to regular internal monitoring at HEIs (even the HEIs have full autonomy, the HEIs have a responsibility to follow the principles of the LRC).**

Oversee the implementation of the LRC (monitoring)

The function of the LRC Committee (LRCC) is to promote the application of the LRC and to oversee its implementation.

First monitoring took place in 2015/2016 by the LRCC Bureau, and reported in 2016.

The purpose of the monitoring was to oversee the implementation of provisions determining the **obligations** of the Parties of the Convention.

Monitoring

- What and how is regulated at national level – the implementation of the LRC provisions by national legal acts;
- In case of regulation at institutional level (by HEIs), how the national authorities oversee the internal regulations and oversee the implementation.

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON RECOGNITION CONVENTION



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Main provisions of the LRC for monitoring

- Access to an assessment
- Criteria and procedure
- Time limit
- Right to appeal
- Refugees' qualifications
- Information on education system
- Information on higher education institutions
- National information centre (national ENIC)
- Resources to enable the national ENIC to fulfil its functions

Criteria and procedures

- **Regulation at national level**

- **Regulated (national legislation) – 28 countries**

- The level of regulations varies from country to country
 - Formulated in a very general way and may be a part of the universities act or a law on HE
 - Separate law or government regulation governing recognition system incl. detailed rules on criteria and procedures

- **Regulated partially – 6**

- Procedures are regulated but criteria are not
- Some criteria are regulated but procedures are not

- **Not regulated – 13**

- Full autonomy of HEIs. Usually procedures are established by HEIs themselves according to their own practice or in cooperation with a national ENIC.

Key findings

- In practice only 28 of the countries (+ 6 partially) surveyed have regulations on the criteria and procedures.
- In many countries they reported the criteria and procedures are regulated at national level, but this was not reflected in the legislation.
- In most cases procedures are regulated in detail but criteria are usually on very general level.
- **In 19 countries the criteria and procedures are autonomy of HEIs and there is no oversight the implementation of the LRC principles**

Monitoring

- LRCC can monitor the implementation at national level (legislation, ENICs, other central authorities).
- Implementation of the LRC principles at HEI should be monitored by the national authorities. A subject of the qualify of academic and administrative activities of HEI.
 - In case of **regulation at national level**, the monitoring is focused on whether an HEI implements national legislation.
 - In case there are **no (detailed) regulations at national level**, the aim of monitoring should be focused on whether an HEI implements the principles of LRC.

LRCC monitoring as a tool (I)

- LRCC monitoring is a tool to improve recognition at national as well as at institutional level, but mainly concentrating to national level implementation.
- Answering to the questions sent to oversee the implementation, is a kind of **self-analyses** of implementation. Questions are also as a reminder for implementation.
- **Monitoring report gives recommendations to:**
 - Governments (MoE)
 - National information centres (ENICs)
 - HEIs

LRCC monitoring as tool (2)

- **Monitoring report provides:**
 - The information about the actual situation of good and not so good practices;
 - Lessons learnt from own practice reflected in the monitoring report, and shown where is a need to improve;
 - Learning from other countries;
 - Recommendations to the competent recognition authorities.

Importance of monitorings

- **By LRCC** – to improve regulations at national level
- **By national authorities** – to improve the quality of recognition, and implementation of the principles of the LRC at HEIs



Thank you!