

Enhancing student mobility
across educational boundaries
through recognition



Recognition Culture in Higher Education. International Perspectives on Lifelong Learning and Student Mobility

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Topics & Objectives

An affirmative attitude towards mobility, permeability and diverse educational backgrounds of learners in higher education is an important requirement for facilitating individual and flexible learning paths as well as intercultural learning experiences. It thus allows for a responsive and forward-looking academic system. The recognition of knowledge, skills and competencies provides an essential foundation to translate these aims into higher education.

Amidst socio-economic challenges of post-industrial societies, such as the shortage of skilled labour and the demographic change, as well as in the aftermath of a global pandemic, academic recognition and recognition of prior learning (RPL) respond to diverse educational landscapes and the changing societal needs. In this context, it is necessary to assess which processes, frameworks, and conditions are suitable to strengthen an academic culture that is open towards heterogeneous learners and learning paths by appreciating competencies acquired outside the own higher education institution (HEI) through recognition while ensuring academic quality. The conference focuses on the development of such a positive recognition culture and its related opportunities and challenges. The following and further questions will be approached:

- How can the shared objectives of student mobility and lifelong learning be translated into a common culture of recognition and what are feasible visions for the future?
- What are the challenges for HEIs in advancing recognition practices and which (new) concepts act as possible answers?
- What support do HEIs need to put recognition culture into practice and how can international cooperation help in this task?
- Which strategies and instruments are needed for the implementation of quality-assured recognition practices of different learning experiences, including microcredentials, virtual or non-formal and informal learning?

Renowned experts will debate in two panels what an affirmative recognition culture consists of and how it could be created. They will also shed light on future developments in the topic area. Four sessions with parallel forums will highlight practice examples and current approaches concerning recognition practices in HEIs, lifelong learning and student mobility. The sessions are based on the submissions to a call for contributions. Keynotes will be given by Peter J. Wells, UNESCO, and Maria Slowey, Dublin City University.

The conference serves as a space for international exchange, networking and reciprocal learning on the subject. Although this conference emerges within the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and thus focuses on European perspectives, we are highly interested in gaining and exchanging views from around the world.

We invite the following interested parties to participate in the conference: university board members, lecturers, researchers, admissions officers as well as staff from international offices and continuing education centres from higher education institutions. Representatives from other institutions and networks in higher education and politics engaged in questions of lifelong learning, student mobility and recognition are also welcome.

Participation in the conference is free of charge, but requires prior registration. Please register on our website:

[Registration](#)

Programme

Monday, 11 December 2023

| | |
|------------|--|
| 12:30 p.m. | Registration and lunch snack |
| 01:30 p.m. | Welcome Dr Jens-Peter Gaul, German Rectors' Conference MinDirig Peter Greisler, German Federal Ministry of Education and Research |
| 02:00 p.m. | PANEL DISCUSSION Recognition culture in higher education: an empty phrase or necessary foundation? Grace Edge, Technological Higher Education Association Chiara Finochietti, Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence Italy Ana Gvritishvili, European Students' Union Prof Dr Aloys Krieg, RWTH Aachen University Gro Tjore, Norwegian Directorate of Higher Education and Skills N.N. |
| 03:15 p.m. | Coffee and networking break |
| 03:45 p.m. | KEYNOTE The mobility and recognition parallax: perspectives from beyond Bologna borders Peter J. Wells, PhD, UNESCO |
| 04:30 p.m. | SESSION 1- PARALLEL FORUMS 1.1 From culture to practice An eco-system perspective on the recognition culture in higher education Baiba Pētersone, PhD, Rīga Stradiņš University Exemption from academic studies based on non-academic studies – the case in Israel Batya Hekelman-Lev, Council for Higher Education of Israel 1.2 Reflecting institutional recognition practices From data to action: improving institutional recognition practices through self-assessment Helene Peterbauer, PhD, European University Association The ESNsurvey: analysing mobile student satisfaction with HEIs Gavin Pelan, Erasmus Student Network Germany |

1.3 Supporting students' mobility experiences at different stages

The Digital Campus – a new platform to support the mobility of international prospective and current students

Stefanie Bock and Dr Jörg Jelinski, Technische Hochschule Lübeck

Mobility maps ensuring simplified and accelerated recognition / German perspectives from EUt+

Prof Dr Monika Futschik and Martin Hofmann, Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences

05:30 p.m.

Short break

05:45 p.m.

SESSION 2 – WORLD CAFÉ AND PARALLEL FORUMS

2.1 World Café

Networking and moderated exchange in small groups on various aspects of the conference's topics.

2.2 Recognition and mobility in multi-actor scenarios

Interdisciplinarity – challenge or opportunity for international mobility?

Examples from practice at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Dr Luz Elisabeth Pacas Castro, University of Siegen

Streamlining automatic recognition within a university alliance – challenges and success factors from the perspective of ENHANCE

Julian Irlenkäuser, Technische Universität Berlin

2.3 Supporting RPL practices – data and digitisation

The use of Interaction Design in the digitisation of PLAR at the University of Oldenburg

Anja Eilers-Schoof and Dr Wolfgang Müskens, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg

If you can't count it, it doesn't count: fostering recognition culture through the development of consistent RPL data collection and reporting processes in 14 Irish higher education institutions

Grace Edge, Technological Higher Education Association, and Christine McCabe, Atlantic Technological University

07:15 p.m.

Dinner

09:30 p.m.

End of the first conference day

Programme

Tuesday, 12 December 2023

| | |
|------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. | Arrival |
| 9:00 a.m. | Welcome |
| 9:15 a.m. | KEYNOTE Higher education and lifelong learning: remaining more rhetoric than reality? Prof Maria Slowey, Dublin City University |
| 10:00 a.m. | SESSION 3 – PARALLEL FORUMS 3.1 Panel on Ukraine Student mobility in times of war Anna Pavelieva, PhD, National University Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic Prof Kateryna Skyba, PhD, Khmelnytskyi National University N.N. N.N. 3.2 Putting flexible learning paths into practice Shaping internationalization of academic continuing education: from theory to practice at the University for Continuing Education Ana-Maria Simionovici, PhD, University for Continuing Education Krems How ECSTRA we can be: Employability Competencies for Students Through implementation and Recognition of Activities Gustavo Daniel Insaurralde, Jean Monnet University 3.3 Transforming mobility through virtual exchange Promoting virtual exchange in teacher education through cooperation and training of university lecturers – the project Lehramt.International Beate Irion and Sabine Lang, University of Education Weingarten The promise and challenges of international student MVEs (Multilateral Virtual Exchange Programs) Dr Joost Kleuters, Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences |
| 11:00 a.m. | Coffee and networking break |

11:30 a.m.

SESSION 4 – PARALLEL FORUMS

4.1 Varieties of academic mobility

Flexible offers of student mobility within the framework of the ERASMUS+ project KINESIS

Prof Dr Andrea Heilmann, Harz University of Applied Sciences

Recognition, relationship and language – international student mobility in the field of tension between institutional *modus operandi* and personal suitability

Prof Dr Thomas Brunsch, University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan-Triesdorf

4.2 Quality-assured recognition of microcredentials

The Micro-Evaluator: a digital tool for the recognition of microcredentials in higher education

Merel Eimers and Evelien Willems, Nuffic

Chances and challenges of recognition standards of microcredentials to increase student mobility

Brigitte Ilg and Dr Christopher Reichstein, Baden-Württemberg Corporate State University Heidenheim

4.3 Lifelong learning – networks and platforms

From isolation to federation: the potential of a networked digital infrastructure for lifelong learning and the facilitation of individual learning paths

Julia Dinier and Ricarda Peil, German Academic Exchange Service

KI-Campus.org – open microcredentials on AI, designed with recognition and curriculum integration in mind, for use in HE, VET & LLL

Mike Bernd, Stifterverband, and Jochen Ehrenreich, Baden-Württemberg Corporate State University Heilbronn

12:30 p.m.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Outlook on 2050: building futures in European higher education recognition

Prof Dr Anne Lequy, European University Association

Gavin Pelan, Erasmus Student Network Germany

Prof Snježana Prijić-Samaržija, PhD, University of Rijeka

Nijolė Zinkevičienė, PhD, European Association of Institutions in Higher Education

N.N.

01:45 p.m.

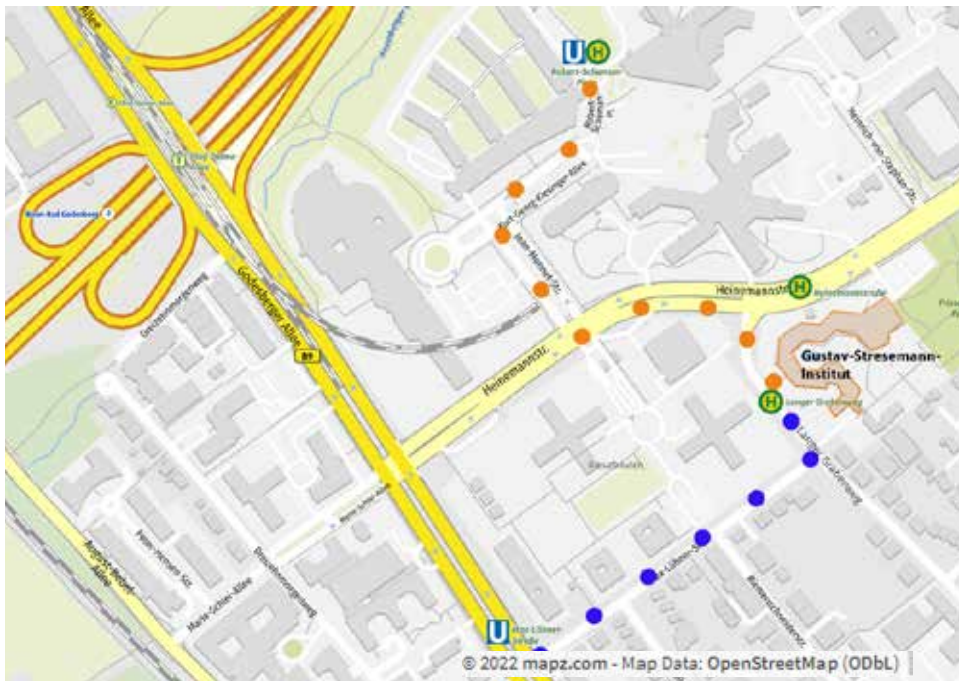
End of the conference with lunch snack

Conference moderator: Dr Jan-Martin Wiarda

Information

Location

GSI – Gustav-Stresemann-Institut
Europäische Tagungs- und Bildungsstätte Bonn
Langer Grabenweg 68
53175 Bonn
<https://www.gsi-bonn.de/en.html>



By rail

- **from Bonn Central Station**
Subway ("U-Bahn") line 16 or 63, direction Bad Godesberg
leave tram at "Max-Löbner-Straße"
walk down "Max-Löbner-Straße" to the end, turn left into Langer Grabenweg
- **from ICE-Station Siegburg/Bonn**
Subway ("U-Bahn") line 66, direction Bad Honnef
leave tram at station "Robert-Schuman-Platz"
walk down Kurt-Georg-Kiesinger-Allee, turn left to Jean-Monnet-Straße, turn left to Heinemann-Straße, turn right into Langer Grabenweg

By plane

from airport Cologne/Bonn

Bus No SB 60 to Bonn Central Station, take Subway ("U-Bahn") line 16 or 63, direction Bad Godesberg
leave tram at "Max-Löbner-Straße"
walk down "Max-Löbner-Straße" to the end, turn left into Langer Grabenweg

Accommodation near the venue

Gustav-Stresemann-Institut

Conference venue

Maritim Hotel Bonn

Walking distance approx. 10 minutes

Mariott Bonn

Walking distance approx. 33 minutes/Public transportation: 20 minutes

Tiny Twice Hotel Bonn – Bad Godesberg

Walking distance approx. 36 minutes/Public transportation: 16 minutes

Bonnox Boardinghouse & Hotel

Walking distance approx. 24 minutes/Public transportation: 20 minutes

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Programme

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German Rectors' Conference
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