Linking Academic Recognition and Quality Assurance

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Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG-2015)

ESG 1.4 Student admission, progression, recognition and certification

Fair recognition of higher education qualifications, periods of study and prior learning, including the recognition of non-formal and informal learning, are essential components for ensuring the students’ progress in their studies, while promoting mobility. Appropriate recognition procedures rely on:

- institutional practice for recognition being in line with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention;
- cooperation with other institutions, quality assurance agencies and the national ENIC/NARIC centre with a view to ensuring coherent recognition across the country.
Academic recognition refers to a formal acknowledgment by a competent authority of the value of a foreign educational qualification with a view to access to educational activities. [LRC]

Quality assurance – an all-embracing term referring to an ongoing, continuous process of evaluating (assessing, monitoring, guaranteeing, maintaining, and improving) the quality of a higher education system, institutions, or programmes. [UNESCO]
RECOMMENDATIONS TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS
1. Policies and Procedures
2. Monitoring, Review, Acting Upon Feedback
3. Set criteria and Indicators
4. Promotion and Communication
5. Consistency within a set infrastructure
6. Liaising with ENIC/NARIC
7. Sharing and learning
RECOMMENDATIONS TO QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES
- Recognition within EQA
- Criteria for inclusion in IQA
- Capacity of peers and consultation with specialists
- Thematic analysis
- Dialogue
RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENIC/NARIC CENTRES
- Streamlining of procedures and structures
- Information provision, tools, documents and training
- Development of services
- Collaboration with QA agencies
Awareness
Transparency of systems
Review and amendment of internationalisation codes
Revision of frameworks
Support for fair recognition