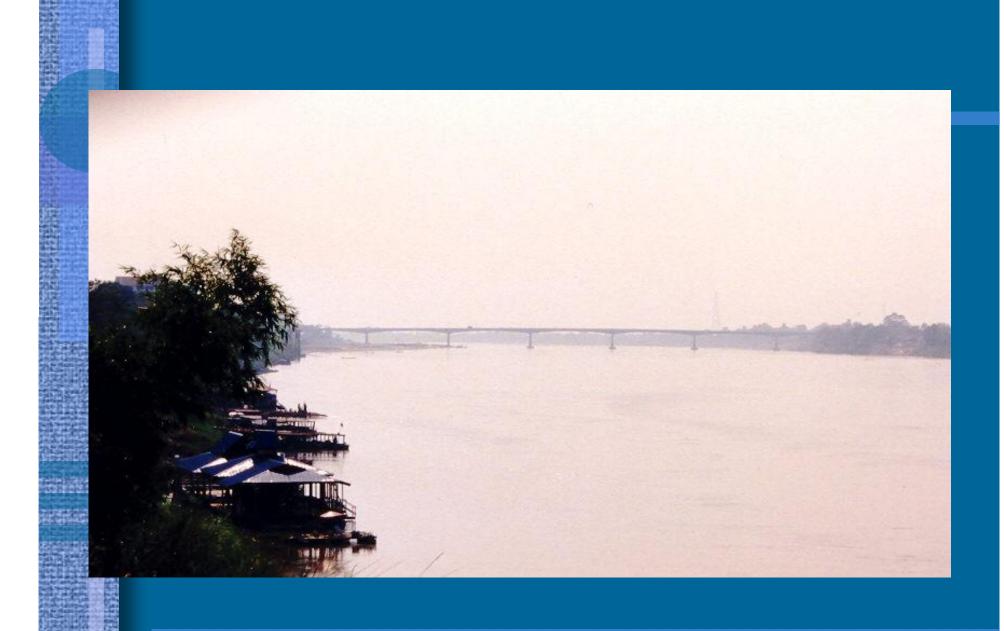# RECOGNITION OF DEGREES FOR THE LABOR MARKET

Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe

Bologna conference on employability

Luxembourg, November 6 . 7, 2008

TYPES OF RECOGNITION

- Academic
  - Higher education institutions
  - In a few countries: Ministry, Ministry commission, ENIC/NARIC
- Professional *de jure*
  - Mostly professional bodies
- Professional *de facto*
  - Employers (most often by a decision on whether to hire)

KEY QUESTIONS

˝ Is our *system* good enough?

˝ Is our *practice* good enough?

"THE SYSTEM"

˝ System development
  - . Qualifications frameworks
  - . Three tier degree system; possibilities f or intermediate degrees

˝ Legal basis
  - . Council of Europe/UNESCO Recognition Convention
  - . EU Directives for regulated prof ession

˝ Practical support

"SYSTEM SUPPORT"

- National information centers
- ENIC and NARIC Networks
- National information points for professional recognition
- ECTS
- Diploma Supplement
- QF support

PRACTICE

- ″ Understanding of the concept of qualifications
- ″ Understanding qualifications frameworks
- ″ Focus on learning outcomes or on procedures?
- ″ Transparent information
    - . By whom to whom?
- ″ Contact public authorities/ institutions/ employers
    - . Role of national information centers
- ″ Who are the right interlocutors?

WHAT IS A QUALIFICATION?

- Quality
- Workload
- Level
- Profile
- Learning outcomes