



Malta
Further & Higher
Education Authority



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
EDUCATION AND YOUTH BOARD



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National Information Center for
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NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RECOGNITION
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Danish Agency for Higher
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MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC



Dearbhú Cálíochta
agus Cálíochtaí Éireann
Quality and
Qualifications Ireland

*Road to Automatic Recognition of Higher Education Access Qualifications (ARAQUA)
1 December 2022 – 30 November 2024*

Current practices on legally binding automatic recognition agreements in Europe

Baiba Ramaņa

Academic Information Centre



Co-funded by
the European Union

2 October 2024, Tallinn, ARAQUA final conference

Development of automatic recognition

2015

- Benelux Decision

2018

- Baltic agreement (initiated by AURBELL project – Latvian, Lithuanian and Estonian NARICs)

2018

- EC Recommendation

2018

- Benelux Decision

2019

- Declaration of Intent by Baltic States and Benelux

(2021, in force 2024)

- Baltic-Benelux Treaty

Agreement among the governments of the Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on the automatic academic recognition of qualifications concerning higher education

(in force since 07.01.2019)

1.1. This Agreement aims to facilitate **recognition of qualifications concerning higher education**, for academic purposes, and to promote exchange of information on education systems of the states of the Parties

1.2. The provisions of this Agreement shall apply to automatic academic recognition of qualifications concerning higher education **encompassing qualifications giving access to higher education and higher education qualifications**

Approach to the recognition

A qualification concerning higher education awarded in the state of one of the Parties, shall be automatically considered comparable to a qualification **placed on the same level** in the other states of the Parties in accordance with the Table of Comparability **without any additional formalities**

Provisions regarding automatic academic recognition shall only apply to **quality assured higher education qualifications**

- The awarding institution and/or the programme, which led to the award of the qualification, has to be accredited by an external QA agency, which applies the principles of the ESG, at the time of the award of the qualification

Table of Comparability

EQF level	Republic of Estonia		Republic of Latvia		Republic of Lithuania	
	Title of qualification	EstQF level	Title of qualification	LQF level	Title of qualification	LTQF level
4	Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus; Kutsekeskhariduse lõputunnistus	4	Atestāts par vispārējo vidējo izglītību; Diploms par profesionālo vidējo izglītību	4	Brandos atestatas	4
6	Rakenduskõrghariduse diplom	6	Profesionālā bakalaura diploms un augstākās profesionālās kvalifikācijas diploms	6	Profesinis bakalauras	6
6	Bakalaureus;	6	Bakalaura diploms;	6	Bakalauras	6
7	Magister; Arstikraad; Hambaarstikraad; Farmaatsiamagister; Loomaarstikraad; Arhitektuurimagister; Tehnikateaduse magister; Haridusteaduse magister	7	Maģistra diploms; Profesionālā maģistra diploms; Profesionālās augstākās izglītības diploms un augstākās profesionālās kvalifikācijas diploms (ārsta, zobārsta, farmaceita un veterinārārsta profesionālā kvalifikācija)	7	Magistras	7
8	Doktor	8	Doktora diploms	8	Mokslo daktaras Meno daktaras	8

Baltic-Benilux Treaty

Definition of automatic recognition

The automatic recognition, **without any procedure**, of a HE qualification issued in accordance with the legislation of one of the Parties and belonging to its HE system, **at the same level** of the corresponding HE qualifications issued in accordance with the legislation of the other Parties

Definitions

“Associate degree” – a **short-cycle HE qualification** issued in accordance with the legislation of one of the Parties and belonging to its higher education system, that relates to the [EQF level 5](#)

“Bachelor’s degree” – a **first cycle HE qualification** issued in accordance with the legislation of one of the Parties and belonging to its higher education system, that relates to the [EQF level 6](#)

“Master’s degree” – a **second cycle HE qualification** issued in accordance with the legislation of one of the Parties and belonging to its higher education system, that relates to the [EQF level 7](#)

“Doctoral degree” – a **third cycle HE qualification** issued in accordance with the legislation of one of the Parties and belonging to its higher education system, that relates to the [EQF level 8](#)

Table of Comparability

Level (EQF)	Title of qualifications							
	Flemish Community of Belgium	French Community of Belgium	German-speaking Community of Belgium	Republic of Estonia	Republic of Latvia	Republic of Lithuania	Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg	Kingdom of the Netherlands
5	Gegradueerde	Brevet d'enseignement supérieur	Not applicable	Not applicable	Pirmā līmeņa profesionālās augstākās izglītības diploms	Not applicable	Brevet de technicien supérieur	Graad Associate degree
6	Bachelor	Bachelier	Bachelor	Rakenduskõrghariduse diplom; Bakalaureus	Bakalaura diploms; Profesionālā bakalaura diploms; Profesionālās augstākās izglītības diploms	Profesinis bakalauras; Bakalauras	Diplôme de bachelor	Graad Bachelor
7	Master	Master; Médecin; Médecin vétérinaire	Not applicable	Magister; Arstikraad; Hambaarstikraad; Farmaatsiamagister; Loomaarstikraad; Arhitektuurimagister; Tehnikateaduse magister; Haridusteaduse magister	Maģistra diploms; Profesionālā maģistra diploms; Profesionālās augstākās izglītības diploms un profesionālās kvalifikācijas diploms (ārsta, zobārsta, farmaceita un veterinārārsta profesionālā kvalifikācija)	Magistras	Diplôme de master	Graad Master
8	Doctor	Docteur	Not applicable	Doktor	Doktora diploms; Profesionālā doktora diploms mākslās	Mokslo daktaras Meno daktaras	Doctorat (grade de docteur)	Graad Doctor

Conditions for recognition

- HE qualification issued in accordance with the legislation of the country
- HE qualification is belonging to countries HE system
- HE qualification is referenced to the EQF
- HE qualifications is included in the annex I of the Treaty

Treaty shall remain without prejudice to the relevant provisions and principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention and its subsidiary texts, the relevant provisions adopted within the framework of the European Union and the relevant provisions of the legislation of the Parties

Treaty shall not apply:

- a) to the recognition of the specific programmes of higher education qualifications in a particular field of study,
- b) to the recognition of periods of study,
- c) to the recognition of qualifications that do not belong to the higher education system of the country,
- d) to the recognition of professional qualifications in accordance with Directive 2005/36/EC

Accession

Any State that has ratified the LRC and belongs to the EHEA may apply to accede to this Treaty, on the condition that:

- it applies trustworthy quality assurance systems for its higher education programmes, which can demonstrate proven compliance with the ESG
- its higher education system is a three-cycle system in compliance with the QF of the EHEA
- it has referenced its national higher education qualifications framework to the EQF

NEWS: Mongolia, Georgia and Poland showed interest



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Project results and materials

<https://aic.lv/en/par-aic/projects/araqua>



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