

# Automatic recognition in the Benelux

Axel Aerden

21 March 2016

## Benelux Union?



- Politico-economic union (°1944; 1960; 2008)
- Benelux Parliament, Committee of Ministers, Benelux Council, Court of Justice, and Secretariat-General

A map of Europe with Belgium highlighted in green. A red rounded rectangle is positioned in the upper right, and another larger red rounded rectangle is at the bottom containing a list of bullet points.

**There is always context**

- Belgian Constitution (1991)
- Treaty NL-FL on NVAO (v2003 & v2013)
- LU: recognition of several European degrees

A map of Europe with the Netherlands highlighted in green. A red rounded rectangle is positioned in the upper right, and a larger red rounded rectangle is at the bottom containing a list of events.

## NVAO

- 2003: Automatic recognition for access to HE
- 2007: QA as basis for trust (in learning outcomes)
- 2013: Automatic generic recognition

## Recognition issues

- Cooperation NL – BE-fl, BE-fl – BE-fr, BE-fr – LU
- “90% recognition procedures NL – BE-fl”
- Lose – lose situation

## What did they sign up to?

- legal right to each citizen (“Benelux decision”  $\approx$  law)
- automatic academic recognition
- recognition of the level of the degree (“generic”)



## What was left out (for now)?

- automatic professional recognition
- recognition of the full degree (“specific”)

An aerial photograph of a river valley. A river winds through the center, flanked by lush green hills. A town with a prominent church spire is situated on a peninsula in the middle of the river. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

## And now?

- “further incentive to study abroad”
- basis for common labour market
  - incl. North Rhine-Westphalia (?)
- towards further automatic recognition



# Thank you



Axel Aerden  
[a.aerden@nvao.net](mailto:a.aerden@nvao.net)

