AURBELL: results and conclusions of the project

Gunta Kinta

Academic Information Centre –

Latvian ENIC/NARIC

International conference «Automatic recognition: potential and challenges»

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Erasmus+ NARIC project
«Automatic recognition between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (AURBELL)»
1.08.2014-31.03.2016

- Academic Information Centre (Latvian NARIC – coordinator)

- Archimedes Foundation (Estonian NARIC)

- Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC, Lithuanian NARIC)

Objectives of project

- To **analyse the legislation and practices of recognition** in the Baltic countries

- To **search possibilities for simplified and more efficient academic recognition procedures** between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

- To **propose necessary measures** related to the recognition of foreign qualifications to the ministries of education of the Baltic countries

- To propose amendments to the **Agreement among the Government of the Republic of Estonia, the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania on the academic recognition** of educational qualifications in the Baltic Educational Space (concluded in 2000)

Project activities

Project meetings:

- 3.09.2014 – Project kick-off meeting in Riga

- 02.2015-01.2016 – four project meetings

- 28.10.2015 – Steering Committee's meeting in Riga

Desk study

- 09.2014- 09.2015 – comparative study (desk research)

- 09.-10.2015 – preparation of the comparative study draft report

Consultations and dissemination of results

Proposal to the ministries

- 09.2015-01.2016 – preparation of the proposal to the ministries of education on automatic recognition between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

International conference

Content of study report I

1. Development of education systems (since regaining independence)

2. Legislation and recognition procedures

3. The role of NQFs for the automatic recognition

4. The role of ECTS for automatic recognition

5. Diploma Supplement for automatic recognition

6. Quality assurance for automatic recognition

7. Learning outcomes of higher education qualifications

8. Higher education qualifications and their components

9. Analysis of case studies and recognition practices

10. Analysis on feasibility, conditions and forms of automatic recognition

Content of study report II

Exploring present situation

1. Development of **education systems** (since regaining independence)

2. **Legislation** and **recognition procedures**

Content of study report III

Development of Bologna tools

1. The role of **NQFs** for the automatic recognition

2. The role of **ECTS** for automatic recognition

3. **Diploma Supplement** for automatic recognition

4. **Quality assurance** for automatic recognition

5. **Learning outcomes** of higher education qualifications

Content of study report IV

Higher education qualifications and automatic recognition

1. Higher education **qualifications** and their components

2. Analysis of **case studies** and recognition practices

3. Analysis on feasibility, conditions and forms of **automatic recognition**

*Only present **access qualifications** and **higher education qualifications** were analysed*

Main conclusions I

- Regarding the present situation of education systems, there is a great potential for implementing automatic recognition

- There is a sound legal basis for the development of common Baltic educational space

- The implementation of the Bologna process tools shows similar conditions and progress in the Baltic countries

Main conclusions II

General considerations regarding automatic recognition:

- Automatic recognition refers only to qualifications awarded in the present system

- Qualifications based on learning outcomes

- Study programmes based on ECTS or comparable credit systems

- Launched and implemented NQF which is referenced to EQF

- Quality assurance

- Formal academic rights of qualification holders

- Detailed provisions concerning the qualifications that may be automatically recognized

Main conclusions III

General preconditions for automatic recognition:

- Qualifications subjected to the automatic recognition are fully recognised on the same level

- No substantial differences exist between the countries in terms of generic principles for the automatic recognition

- The same implementation of automatic recognition (status, legal effects, provision of information, procedure, etc.) has to be ensured

- Elements of qualifications have to be comparable and no substantial differences exist

- Automatic recognition has to comply with law or if need be amendments to the legislation should be proposed

- The scope of automatic recognition should be limited to meeting the general requirements

Proposal

1. Purpose and brief background of the document

2. Conclusions of the study

3. Definition of automatic recognition in the Baltic countries

4. Proposed procedures to be used in the case of automatic recognition

5. List of qualifications, which should be automatically recognized between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania

6. General conditions concerning the recognition of qualifications

7. Further information about the automatic recognition

Definition of AR in the Baltic countries

- Automatic recognition means that **countries agree which qualifications are comparable** according to all assessment criteria and there is **no need for further evaluation**

- Automatic recognition principles refer to **qualifications in the terms of general requirements** as defined by the Lisbon Recognition Convention

- Automatic recognition will refer only to **those access and higher education qualifications**, which belong to the present national education system and are awarded according to the procedures set by national legislation

Procedures of automatic recognition

Two alternatives would be the most appropriate:

- Partially implemented automatic recognition in terms of procedure and fully implemented in terms of decisions

- Fully implemented automatic recognition in terms of decisions and procedure

List of qualifications subjected to AR I

	Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania	Notes
Access qual. (EQF level 4)	Gümnaasiumi lõputunnistus (Certificate of General Secondary Education) Kutsekeskhariduse lõputunnistus (Certificate of Vocational Secondary Education)	Atestāts par vispārējo vidējo izglītību (Certificate of general secondary education) Diploms par profesionālo vidējo izglītību (Diploma of vocational secondary education)	Brandos atestatas (Maturity Certificate)	N.A.
1st cycle (EQF level 6)	Bakalaureus (Bachelor) Rakenduskõrghariduse diplom (Diploma of Professional Higher Education)	Bakalaura diploms (Bachelor's diploma) Profesionālā bakalaura diploms un augstākās profesionālās kvalifikācijas diploms (Professional Bachelor's diploma and higher prof. qualification diploma)	Bakalauras (Bachelor) / Bachelor and prof. qualification Profesinis bakalauras (Professional Bachelor) / Professional Bachelor and prof. qualification	In Latvia – AR procedures apply to Profesinis bakalauras (Lithuania) awarded after July 2015 Qualification should provide direct access to Master's studies

List of qualifications subjected to AR II

	Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania	Notes
2nd cycle (EQF level 7)	Magister (Master) Arstikraad (Degree in Medicine) Hambaarstikraad (Degree in Dentistry) Farmaatsiamagister (Master of Science in Pharmacy) Loomaarstikraad (Degree in Veterinary Medicine) Arhitektuurimagister (Master of Science in Architecture) Tehnikateaduse magister (Master of Science in Engineering) Haridusteaduse magister (Master of Arts in Education)	Maģistra diploms (Master's diploma) Profesionālā maģistra diploms un augstākās profesionālās kvalifikācijas diploms (Professional Master's diploma and higher prof. qualification diploma) Profesionālās augstākās izglītības diploms un augstākās profesionālās kvalifikācijas diploms (Professional higher education diploma and higher prof. qualification diploma)	Magistras (Master) / Master and professional qualification	In Latvia – nominal duration of HE studies should be at least 5 years to be awarded Master's degree Qual. should provide direct access to Doctor's studies
3rd cycle (EQF level 8)	Doktor (Doctor)	Doktora diploms (Doctoral diploma)	Mokslo daktaras (Doctor of Science) Meno daktaras (Doctor of Arts)	N.A.

Points for discussion

A. Different interpretations of concept of automatic recognition

B. Qualifications subjected to automatic recognition

C. Automatic recognition: challenges and obstacles

Academic Information Centre – Latvian ENIC/NARIC
Dzirnavu Street 16 (3rd floor)
Riga, Latvia
Telephone: +371 67225155
E-mail: diplomi@aic.lv
Website: http://www.aic.lv