



Road to Automatic Recognition of Higher Education Access Qualifications 2

ARAQUA 2 project and other European initiatives related to automatic recognition

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Co-funded by
the European Union

Peer-learning activity «General principles of automatic recognition of HE access qualifications»
22 April 2026, Yerevan, Armenia

Policy towards automatic recognition

- Bologna Process
- EU recommendations
- Multilateral agreements
- Projects supporting policy

EHEA (Bologna) policy towards automatic recognition

- **Bucharest Communiqué (2012):** The need to remove obstacles and to work together towards the automatic recognition
- **Yerevan Communiqué (2015):** It is determined to achieve the EHEA where automatic recognition has become a reality by 2020
- **Paris Communiqué (2018):** In order to further develop mobility and recognition across the EHEA, we will work to ensure that HE qualifications are automatically recognised
- **Rome Communiqué (2020):** We will ensure automatic recognition within the EHEA, so that students, staff and graduates are able to move freely to study, teach and do research
- **Tirana Communiqué (2024):** Support the recognition of qualifications throughout the EHEA by implementing the Lisbon Recognition Convention and its principles, while working towards automatic recognition in the EHEA

Main approach to automatic recognition

- Automatic recognition of a degree should lead to the automatic right of an applicant holding a qualification of a certain level
- A qualification from one EHEA country should be recognised at the same level anywhere else in the EHEA
- A Bachelor is a Bachelor is a Bachelor

❖ *EU recommendation, 2018*

❖ *CoE – Convention on the Conditions of Transparency and Quality Assurance for Automatic Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications*

EU policy developments towards AR

- Council Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad (2018)
- Report from Commission to the Council on the implementation of the Council Recommendation (2023)
- The EU system of automatic recognition of professional qualifications to facilitate labour mobility of specific regulated professions
- Study on the feasibility of a quality assurance and recognition system (2024)

Council Recommendation (2018)

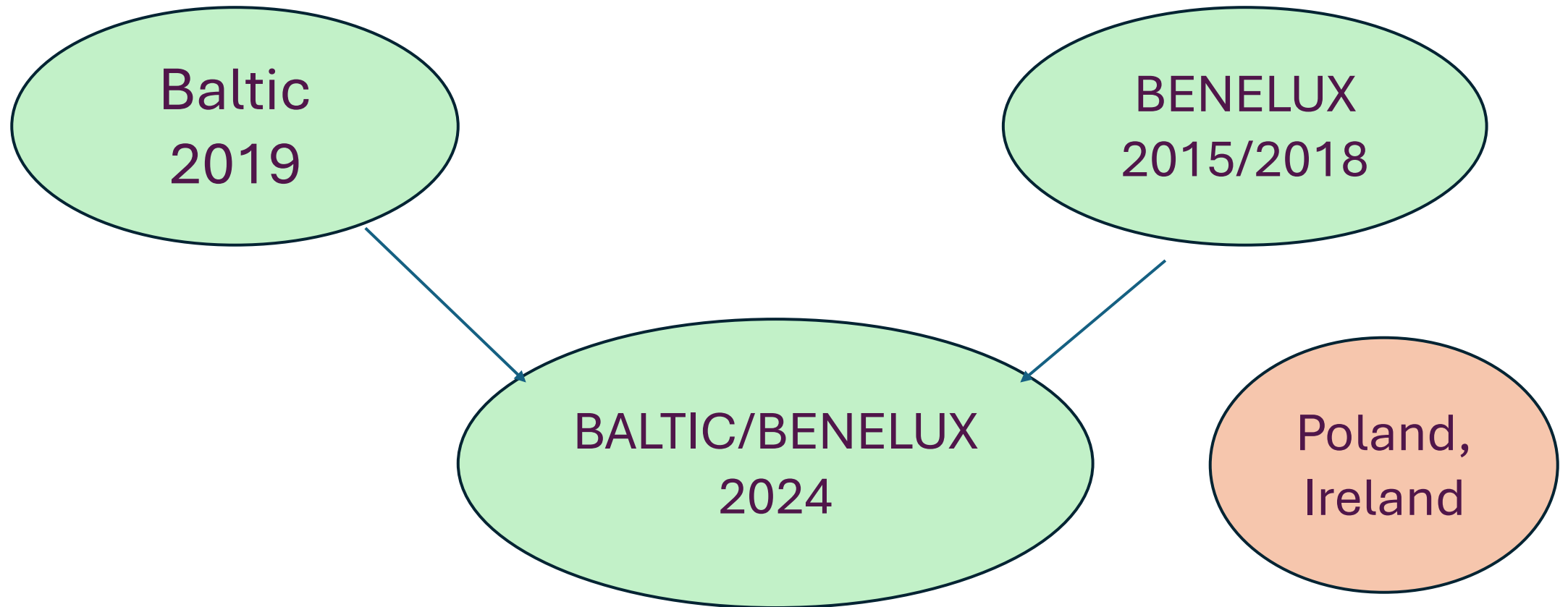
for upper secondary education

- NQFs or systems are referenced to the **EQF**
- Upper secondary education and training qualification giving access to HE in the MS where this qualification was granted is recognised, only for the **purpose of giving access to HE** , in the other MS , without prejudicing a HEI or the competent authorities' **right to set specific admission criteria** for specific programmes or to check the authenticity of documents
- **Exchanging information on quality assurance systems** in school education, while fully respecting different national approaches in quality (also for VET)

Council of Europe towards AR

- Ad Hoc Working Group on Automatic Recognition
- Convention on the conditions of transparency and quality assurance for automatic recognition of higher education qualifications in Europe

Multilateral agreements



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



Baltic Agreement (2019)

Applies to diplomas
obtained after
07.01.2019

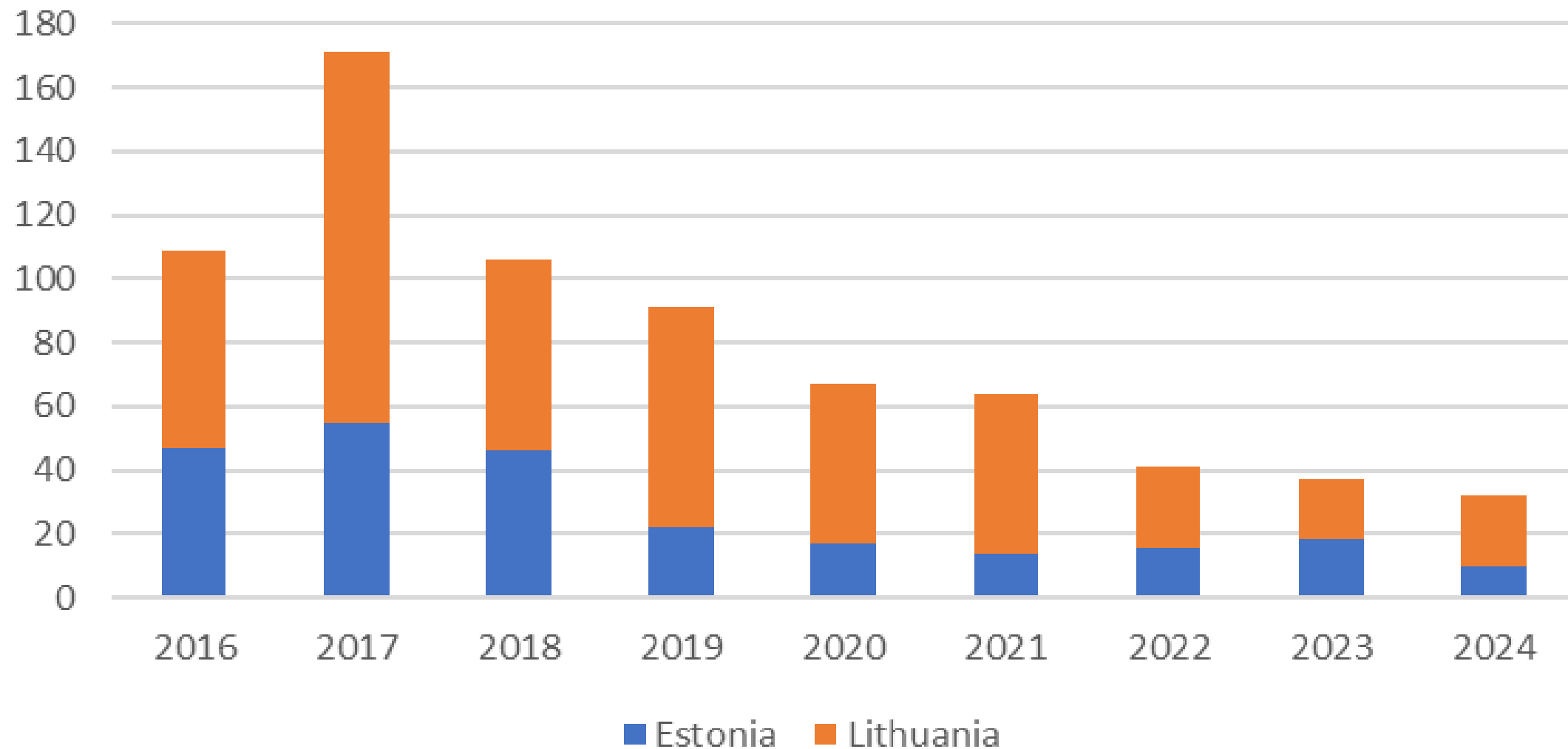
Applies to HE and HE
access qualifications

HE qualifications have
to be quality assured
according to the ESG

Applies to academic
recognition

DOES NOT
applies to basic education

Evaluation statistics from Latvian ENIC/NARIC



BENELUX agreement

- 2012 – 2014 preparation for the agreement , discussions, political awareness
- 18th May 2015 : Formal signature of the Decision on automatic recognition of Bachelor and Master
- 25th January 2018: Formal signature: extension to level 8 (PhD) and 5 (associate degree)

Baltic – Benelux Treaty on automatic recognition

- Declaration of Intent by Baltic States and Benelux (2019)
- Baltic-Benelux Treaty (2021), in force since 1st May 2024

https://www.benelux.int/files/4316/3291/1017/TREATY_14.09.2021_EN.pdf



Differences (not significant)

Baltic agreement

- In force since 7.01.2019
- **Includes access qualifications**
- Applies to qualifications issued after 1.01.2019

Baltic/Benelux treaty

- In force since 1.05.2024
- **Without access qualifications**
- No time restriction

Projects Erasmus+

- AURBELL
- ARAQUA
- ARAQUA II
- Support -AR
- DIGI-AR
- DiGI-REQA
- PARADIGM
- MAREN
- AUREA

ARAQUA project (2022-2024) aim and objectives

Aim

To **explore HE access qualifications** in the project partner countries in order to **map these qualifications and develop recommendations** for NARICs and HEIs for their automatic recognition between the countries

HE access qualifications – general upper secondary education qualifications and vocational upper secondary education and training (VET) qualifications ensuring rights to their holders to enrol higher education programmes

Main objectives

- to set **criteria of mapping** HE access qualifications
- to prepare **recommendations** for NARICs and HEIs about the automatic recognition of HE access qualifications
- to promote **discussion among NARICs and HEIs** about the procedures and criteria for automatic recognition of HE access qualifications



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
EDUCATION AND YOUTH BOARD



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

RECOMMENDATIONS

on automatic recognition of HE access qualifications in the ARAQUA countries

Road to Automatic Recognition of Higher Education Access Qualifications 2 (ARAQUA 2)

ARAQUA 2 project aims

to map higher education (HE) access qualifications in the project partner countries according to the criteria set in the ARAQUA project (2022-2024) to evaluate their correspondence to automatic recognition

to facilitate the use of recommendations for NARICs and HEIs about the automatic recognition of HE access qualifications developed in the ARAQUA and explore other tools in terms of the automatic recognition of HE access qualifications

to strengthen discussion among ENIC/NARIC offices and HEIs about the procedures and criteria for automatic recognition of HE access qualifications

ARAQUA 2 project consortium

5 NARICs, 6 ENICs

- Academic Information Centre (AIC, Latvia), coordinator
- National Information Center for Academic Recognition and Mobility (ArmENIC, Armenia)
- Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (CIP, Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science (UFS, Denmark)
- National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement (NCEQE, Georgia)
- Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE, Croatia)
- Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence (CIMEA, Italy)
- Higher Education Development National Center (HEDNC, Kazakhstan)
- Malta Qualifications Recognition Information Centre (MQRIC, Malta)
- Qualification Agency (QA, Serbia)
- UK ENIC (United Kingdom)

AUREA (AUtomatic REcognition Assessment)

European Students' Union (ESU), and the partners - Erasmus Student Network (ESN), European University Foundation (EUF), European University Association (EUA), Eotvos Lorand Tudományegyetem (ELTE), Universiteit Gent (UGENT), Philipps Universität Marburg (UMarburg), and Universiteti Publik Kadri Zeka (UZK)

assessing the state of play in **recognition for mobile students** undergoing credit mobility

creating a shared understanding of (full) **automatic credit recognition** on a European level

providing higher education institutions with the **necessary tools and information** to assess their readiness for implementation of automatic credit recognition

supporting **evidence-based policy making**



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