



# ARAQUA 2 General principles of automatic recognition of HE access qualifications

## Yerevan 22 April 2026



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## WHERE IT STARTED?

Ad Hoc Working Group on Automatic Recognition:

Set up in 2022 - for the period from 2 February 2023 through 31 December 2024

Renewed and enlarged until 31 December 2026

to advise the Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU) on the development of a common framework for automatic recognition of higher education qualifications

## Composition of the Working Group:

- Lisbon Recognition Convention Bureau
- ENIC Bureau/NARIC Advisory Board
- Public authorities' representatives
- Stakeholder organisations in higher education (ESU, EUA, EURASHE, EQAR, EHEA, EURODOC)
- Experts in the recognition field

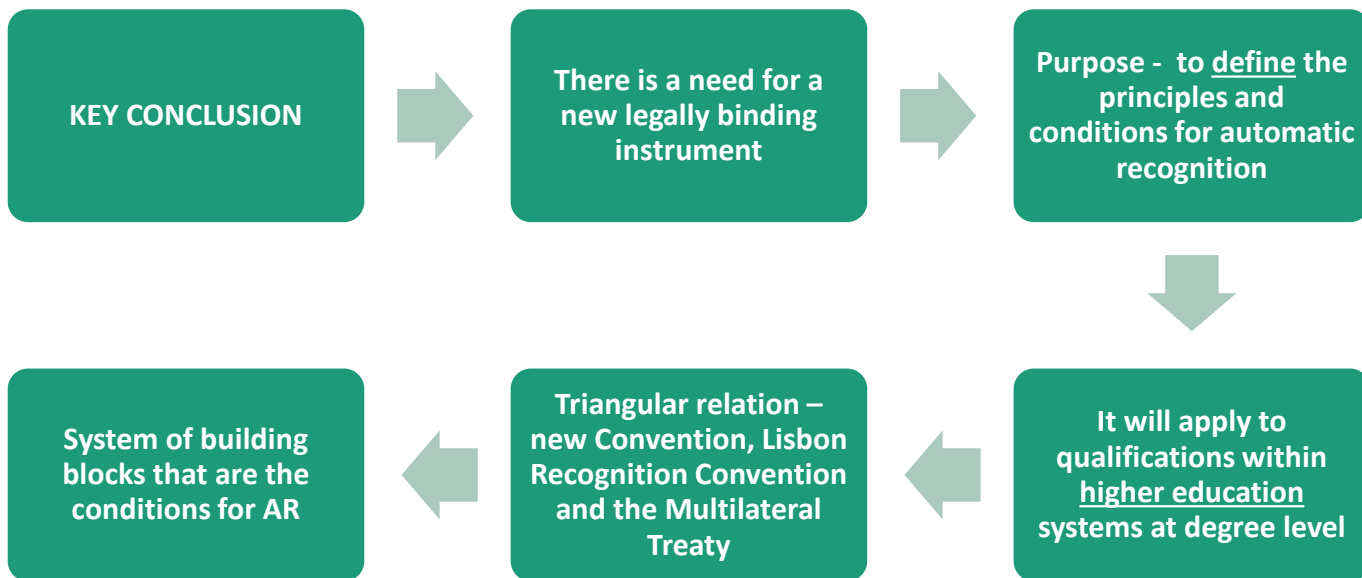
### Added to the extended WG :

- *European Commission*
- *UNESCO*
- *More member States reps*



## Activities 2023 - 2025:

- **feasibility study for a legally binding instrument**
- **consultations with students**
- **consultations with Higher Education Institutions**
- **consultations with Public Authorities**
- **dialogue with the Benelux Secretariat of the Multilateral Treaty**
- **dialogue with the Treaty Office of the Council of Europe**





## Convention on the conditions of transparency and quality assurance for automatic recognition of higher education qualifications in Europe



The scope of the Convention will be defined by the Drafting group



Automatic recognition will refer to the right of a qualification holder to have their degree recognised at the corresponding level without the need for a separate recognition procedure. Automatic recognition thus means there is no formal assessment procedure for the purpose of (generic) recognition. It promotes and facilitate student mobility and international cooperation and reduces administrative barriers for qualification holders.

## The Convention

The proposed Convention will **lay the foundations** for automatic recognition by ensuring that all Parties meet the essential standards of transparency, quality assurance and data reliability that underpin mutual trust

Will apply to qualifications belonging to the **three higher education cycles** and short-cycle of HE as defined within the European Higher Education Area, while **leaving admission decisions fully within the autonomy of higher education institutions.**

The Convention will apply **to academic recognition** and will **not extend to professional recognition or regulated professions.**



### **Building blocks**



**Ratification and implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention**, compliance with Bologna structural reforms, and full transparency of higher education systems



**Quality assurance**: full alignment with European Standards and Guidelines, recognising that trust in quality assurance is inseparable from trust in qualifications



**Qualifications frameworks**: States Parties must operate national qualifications frameworks referenced to the QF-EHEA and EQF, ensuring the comparability of levels and learning outcomes



**Transparency, participation, and integrity**. This includes the Diploma Supplement, effective credit transfer systems, academic freedom, measures against academic fraud and ethical standards in higher education management.

**Proposal approved by  
the Council of Europe  
Steering Committee for  
Education – September  
2025**



**Green light from the  
Committee of Ministers  
– January 2026**



**Steering Committee for  
Education – to establish  
an Intergovernmental  
drafting group – March  
2026**



**Draft expected by the  
end of 2026- beginning  
of 2027**



**Intergovernmental  
drafting group – to draft  
the new Convention**



To be continued...



**Thank you for your attention!**



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