

Implementation of automatic recognition of qualifications at

Algebra Bernays University

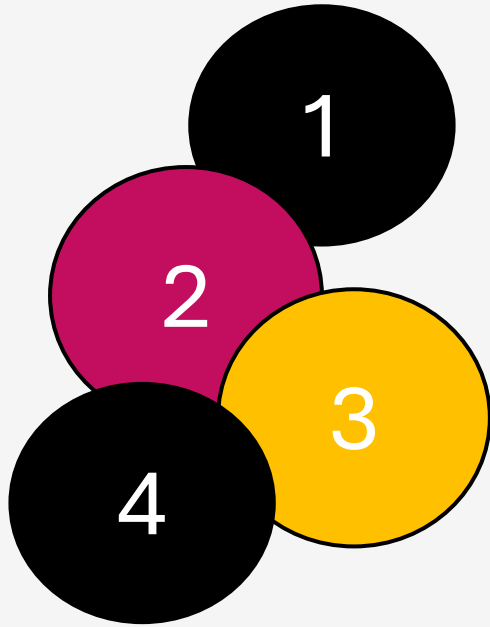
Croatia

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Outline



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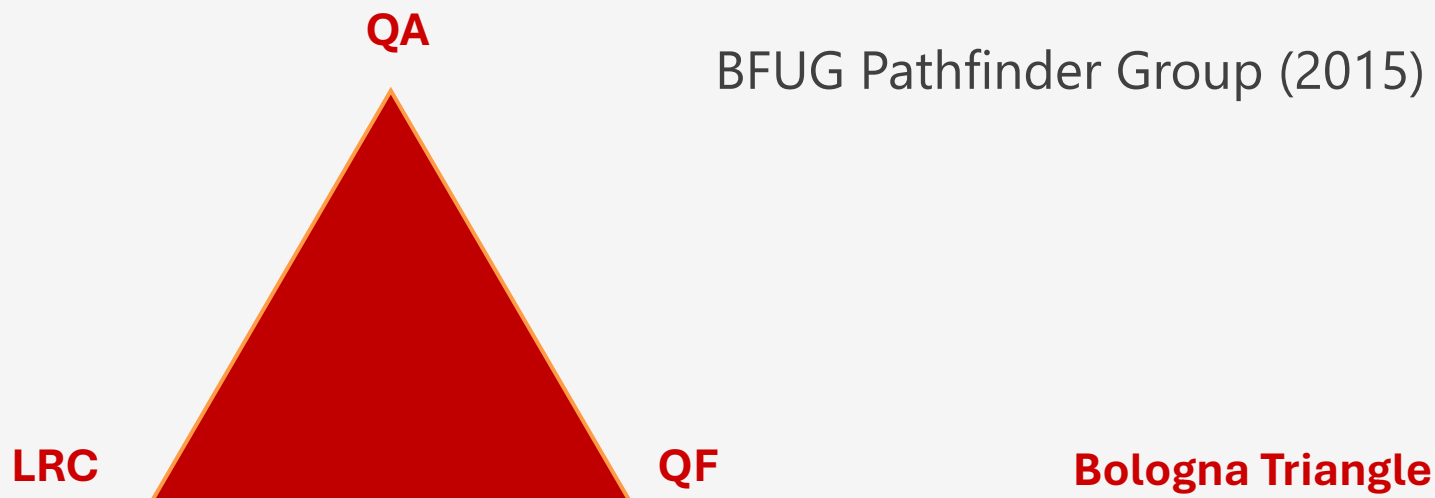
We are determined to remove outstanding obstacles hindering effective and proper recognition and are willing to work together towards the automatic recognition of comparable academic degrees, building on the tools of the Bologna framework.

Ministers for HE, Bucharest Communiqué (2012)

System-level automatic academic recognition and proper implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention: *A Bachelor is a Bachelor; a Master is a Master.*

BFUG Pathfinder Group (2015)

Three Bologna Key Commitments



Background (EEA)

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)

- **Qualifications** awarded by institutions that have been externally evaluated by an EQAR-registered QA agency should be automatically recognised at the same level, for the purpose of accessing further studies, without prejudicing a HEI's right to set specific admission criteria for specific programmes or to check the authenticity of documents.
- There is no additional recognition procedure. Automatic recognition gives a right to a qualification holder **to be considered for admission** under the same conditions as any other applicant with a domestic qualification at the appropriate level.

Law on recognition of foreign education qualifications (NN 69/22)

- **DEFINITION:** Automatic recognition of a foreign educational **qualification** means enabling the holder of the qualification to access further education at a higher education institution in the Republic of Croatia without conducting a recognition procedure.
- **PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK:** Recognition of foreign educational qualifications is conducted **within the admission** procedure for the purpose of continuing education at a higher level.
- **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY:** For the purpose of admission to graduate studies, postgraduate studies and study programmes delivered in foreign languages, a **HEI** may also independently carry out the procedure for the recognition of foreign educational qualifications.
- **NOTIFICATION:** HEIs shall **notify** the ASHE of their decision to independently carry out procedures for the recognition of foreign educational qualifications for the purpose of continuing education.

Criteria for recognition (standard procedure):

- The **level** of the qualification awarded upon completion of the foreign educational programme corresponds to the level of qualification required for access to further education in the Republic of Croatia.
- The completed foreign educational programme provides **access**, in the country in which the qualification was awarded, to further education at the level at which the qualification holder wishes to continue their education in the Republic of Croatia.
- The foreign educational institution that awarded the qualification is part of the education system of the country in which the programme is delivered (**accredited institution** listed in the national register).
- The minister responsible for education shall, following a prior opinion of the Rectors' Conference of the Republic of Croatia, adopt a **regulation** governing the criteria for recognition.

National legal framework - system level automatic recognition

System level automatic recognition is applied if:

- ✓ qualification was obtained in a country whose NQF is referenced to the EQF and the QF-EHEA;
 - ✓ external quality assurance of the HEI was carried out by an agency listed in EQAR;
 - ✓ or in the case of an international agreement on mutual automatic recognition of foreign educational qualifications.
- **Undergraduate** studies - central application procedure for enrolment (ASHE) and system level automatic recognition of a secondary education qualification;
 - **Graduate** and **postgraduate** studies (HEI or ASHE) - within application or enrolment procedures and system level automatic recognition of a foreign higher education qualification without conducting a recognition procedure.

Institutional approach - Office for Academic Recognition (Admission Office)

- In the case of recognition of a foreign educational qualification at the secondary school level, for enrolment in **undergraduate-level**, the Algebra Bernays University Academic Recognition Office refers the applicant to the Central Applications Office within ASHE (ENIC/NARIC).
- Within the procedure for recognition of foreign educational qualifications for enrolment in **graduate-level** study programs, an expert opinion from ENIC/NARIC Office may be requested.
- Recognition of a foreign education qualification at the undergraduate level includes determining the status of the qualification within the quality assurance system and assessing its level without comparing curricula.
- Decisions on recognition applications that are not automatically recognized are issued in the form of an official decision (rješenje).

Institutional approach - Office for Academic Recognition (Admission Office)

A foreign educational qualification shall be automatically recognized if:

- ✓ it corresponds to the level required for continuation of education in Croatia
- ✓ it was obtained at a HEI whose EQA was conducted by an agency listed in EQAR.
- The assessment of the level is carried out based on information about its position within the NQF, its reference to the EQF and QF-EHEA, and the corresponding level within the CROQF.
- Determining the status of a foreign educational qualification within the QA system - **DEQAR**.
- Recognition enables the applicant to participate in admission/enrolment procedures at ABU under the same conditions as holders of qualifications obtained in Croatia.
- Recognition and enrolment procedures are part of the internal quality assurance system of ABU and are subject to external quality assurance.



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