

ENIC-NARIC ANNUAL JOINT MEETING 2023 WORKSHOPS

Introduction

12 workshops will give participants the possibility to catch-up on developments in the recognition landscape, with the goal to discuss the role of the ENIC-NARIC Networks and their centres in the light of these developments. The workshops cover different topics such as recognition conventions, digitization, automatic recognition, capacity building and much more.

Duration of each session: 90 minutes

Format

The workshops generally start with an introduction by the chair, followed by two or more presentations. Participants are encouraged to take active part in the following discussions, which are moderated by the chair. The workshops serve as fora to exchange ideas and good practice.

To promote the sharing of information, there will be an appointed reporter for each workshop who will write a summary of what was discussed. The reports will be distributed to the Networks after the Annual Meeting.

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Workshop 5.1: The ENIC-NARIC Charter, a framework for the Networks

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

This session aims to discuss more in depth the update of the ENIC-NARIC Charter with the ENIC-NARIC Networks. It will provide an update of the process and is specifically geared to collect feedback from the ENIC-NARIC Networks on the work done so far and inspire the work ahead.

The “Joint ENIC-NARIC Charter of activities and services” has been first published in 2004. It describes the remit of tasks, activities, resources, and expertise of the centres in the ENIC-NARIC Networks. Despite the many developments in higher education and the Networks since, the Charter at its core is still applicable. However, there are a few areas that need reviewing and possibly updating. Therefore, at the eve of its 20 years birthday, the EB/NAB and the LRC Committee are jointly working to update the Charter. To this purpose a special working group has been established consisting of 7 members from the three Co-Secretariats and two experts each from the EB/NAB and LRC Committee. Yet, any update can only be achieved with input from the ENIC-NARIC Networks. Please come and join this session!

2. Panel

Chair: Villano Qirazi, Head of Education Department, Council of Europe

Speaker 1: Luca Lantero, President of the LRC Committee

Speaker 2: Jenneke Lokhoff, President ENIC-NARIC Networks

Workshop 5.2:
Digital Transformation & Automatic Recognition:
how new innovative digital solutions improve
quality, transparency, and accessibility of information provision
at national and institutional level

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

The new development and implementation of innovative digital solutions in the field of recognition of qualifications has become more and more crucial at both national and institutional level in order to allow both individuals and institutions to facilitate the portability, transparency and reliability of information as well as the verification of authenticity, in line with the standards and criteria set by the LRC. The implementation of digital solutions at national level has become increasingly important in recent times, especially considering the recent crises, created mainly by the COVID-19 emergency and the recent conflict in Ukraine.

In this context the workshop will present the pilot project recently launched by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education and Science together with Ministry of Digital Transformation which aims to ensure the portability of educational credentials for Ukrainian citizens through the Diia (Дія) online government services portal. The platform will include data contained in the Unified State Electronic Database on Education (EDEBO), which includes information for credentials awarded at all levels of education in Ukraine (basic secondary education, general secondary education, vocational and technical education, professional preliminary education and higher education). At institutional level, the workshop will demonstrate the impact of digital solutions inside a National Information Center, in the form of CIMEA, the Italian ENIC-NARIC centre, and its new data WIKI, illustrating how such digital solutions contribute, on one side, to boosting efficiency, transparency, speed, smoothness and fostering quality in assessment and evaluation procedures, but also, on the other hand, how it guarantees the provision of information about foreign and national HEIs, as well as increasing the rationalisation of work-flow, new credential evaluator training and upgrading the availability of information at both Credential Evaluation and the International Project Department.

The presentation and in-depth examination of the two practical case-studies will lead to an illustration of the impact that the adoption of digital solutions has in both dimensions, national and institutional. The workshop will therefore naturally emphasise the message

contained in the “Monitoring report in the implementation of the Lisbon recognition Convention, Paris/Strasbourg 2022”, which encourages “the adoption of new digital solutions” that allows “both individuals and institutions to facilitate the portability, transparency and reliability of information as well as the verification of authenticity”. The workshop will also accept the challenge from the “Guidelines For National Online Information Systems” approved in 2019, that invited the promotion of “new innovative approaches for ENIC/NARIC centres in dissemination of information, data collection, its processing and storing”.

2. Panel

Chair: Erik Johansson, ENIC-NARIC Sweden

Speaker 1: Kateryna Suprun, Ukrainian BFUG Representative

Speaker 2: Serena Spitalieri, ENIC-NARIC Italy

Speaker 3: Elisa Petrucci, ENIC-NARIC Italy

Workshop 5.3: Capacity building through participation in projects

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

Thematic area:

- Getting ready for your next ENIC-NARIC project: mastering the portal for a successful proposal preparation & submission
- Results of the first Council of Europe support for the ENIC Centres call and presentation of the next call.

This workshop has been proposed with the objective to increase the participation of NARIC centres in response to the Erasmus+ Invitation to submit a proposal.

The workshop will be organised in the form of a hands-on training, so that all NARIC centres can be guided throughout the submission process while getting more acquainted with the technical requirements of the Funding & Tenders portal.

Do's and don'ts will be shared together with some case examples based on the previous round of selection, taking advantage of the presence of the NARICs that were involved in a higher number of projects. Experience sharing among the participants will be encouraged. The expected outcome for the participants will be a better preparation in view of the next Invitation to submit a proposal (foreseen in 2024 - tbc).

This workshop will also present the results of the first call organised by the Council of Europe to support ENIC centres in the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention. The centres are welcome to provide feedback on the process and content of the call. The Council of Europe representative will provide information on the future call.

2. Panel

Chair: Angela Lambkin ENIC-NARIC Ireland

Speaker 1: Faidra Diona, European Commission

Speaker 2: Kinga Szuly, European Commission

Speaker 3: Katia Dolgova-Dreyer, Council of Europe

3. Structure:

1. Overview of the submission environment of the portal & practical advice when preparing and submitting your NARIC project proposal.
2. ENIC FUNDING - Overview of the submission environment of the organisation arrangements & practical advice when managing, preparing, reporting about your ENIC project proposal/call.

Workshop 5.4: Recognition and Integration in the Labour Market, Studying the Effects and Associations

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

Does the recognition of foreign qualifications and other credentials contribute to integration in the labour market and, if so, how? The Lisbon Recognition Convention states one of the possible outcomes of recognition to be facilitation of access to the labour market. However, few studies have been made in this regard. Recently, both the Norwegian and the Swedish ENIC-NARIC offices have carried out rather comprehensive studies among the users of our services. This workshop aims to provide information about these surveys and our motivation, experiences and findings, as well as making reflections of how information collected in such surveys can contribute to ensure relevancy of our services in the future. In addition, the workshop will present the state of play of EU initiatives to improve the recognition of foreign qualifications and skills of qualified workers. Improving the recognition of qualifications and skills of non-EU workers is one of the objectives of the European Year of Skills 2023.

The purpose of this workshop is to inspire the audience to make reflections of matters like:

- Who is your defined target group(s)?
- To what extent do you reach out to this group?
- Do you know to which extent your services are beneficial? And to whom?
- Is the recognition statement enough? Are other factors just as (more) important?
- To what degree have you been adjusting your services in order to meet the wants and needs of the society?

Hopefully our experiences can motivate colleagues to conduct similar surveys, and by this contribute to enhance our general insight of the effect of our work. And thereby, make us better equipped to shape the future of the field of recognition.

2. Panel

Chair: H  l  ne Bekker, ENIC-NARIC France

Speaker 1: Rwa   Ishak, ENIC-NARIC Sweden

Speaker 2: Marte Haugerud Moe, ENIC-NARIC Norway

Speaker 3: Koen Nomden, European Commission

Workshop 7.1:

What's up with the diploma supplement

Two current areas of development and a possible future network

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

The overall aim of this workshop is to approach and share experiences on current issues that are vital to the diploma supplement and its use as a recognition tool. The focus will be on digitalization and well-defined learning outcomes. The workshop will give information and insights that can be useful when approaching these challenging issues at home. Finally, the session will look at the possibility of creating a network that will enable professionals working with diploma supplement to discuss common issues.

Digitalization of credentials and the Europass platform are developments strongly advocated by the EU Commission. Well-defined learning outcomes are emphasized in the revised template for the diploma supplement. Its digitalized version, in line with the Paris ministerial agreement, has now been added as a credential type of the European Digital Credentials for Learning infrastructure and is ready for use.

Both areas are of increasing importance and have been covered by projects like QUATREC and ADDS UP. These recently finalized projects, as well as the EU Commission (DG EMPL), will have speakers represented at the workshop.

2. Panel

Chair: Susanna Kärki, ENIC-NARIC Finland

Speaker 1: Koen Nomden, European Commission

Speaker 2: Baiba Ramina, ENIC-NARIC Latvia

Speaker 3: Peter Wood and Katherine Latta, ENIC United Kingdom

Speaker 4: Yolanda Brännström and Petra Nord, ENIC-NARIC Sweden

3. Structure:

The EU Commission will present the digitalized version of diploma supplement, now added as a credential type of the European Digital Credentials for Learning infrastructure and ready for use.

Latvian ENIC/NARIC will present findings from the QUATREC (2018-2020) and QUATREC II (2020-2022) projects, focused on learning outcomes and the use of learning outcomes for improved recognition in line with qualification frameworks.

ENIC United Kingdom: Highlights of the ADDS UP project, including statistics on HEI usage of the diploma supplement, challenges faced by HEIs, and the main points of the guidance from the project on what HEIs should consider when looking to implement a digital solution for issuing the diploma supplement.

The Swedish ENIC-NARIC will give a brief insight into the Swedish context regarding diploma supplement, digitalization and learning outcomes.

The participants will then be invited to take the floor and share experiences and thoughts and reflect upon the possibility of an international network for diploma supplement.

Workshop 7.2:

Credential evaluators community of practice: a way forward for academic automatic recognition?

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

Everything seems in place to guarantee a fair recognition of qualifications, in line with LRC, but we see that ample space for improvements is still possible. Furthermore, new trends – micro-credentials, digital credentials, new forms of document fraud – challenge credential evaluators. How is it possible to further support credentials evaluators working in Higher Education Institutions?

The workshop will discuss if it is possible to outline knowledge and skills of a credential evaluators, as a tool of transparency and consistency regarding the profession, and if and how a professional association and/or networks can support the creation of a community of practices as a way to exchange cases, trends, issues and possible solutions in the daily job of credential evaluation.

Goals:

- Is it possible to define knowledge and skills of a credential evaluator? If yes what they are?
- Can networks of admission officers and professional associations of credential evaluators support quality and consistency of the daily recognition job?

2. Panel

Chair: Andreas Corcoran, International Association of Universities (IAU)

Speaker 1: Chiara Finocchietti, ENIC-NARIC Italy

Speaker 2: Serena Spitalieri, ENIC-NARIC Italy

Speaker 3: Karin Sikström, Mälardalen University, Sweden

Speaker 4: Nathanaël Poli, ENIC Canada

Speaker 5: Peggy Zhu, Comparative Education Service (CES) and Vice-Chair of the Alliance of Credential Evaluation Services of Canada (ACESC)

Workshop 7.3: The New Regional Convention of Buenos Aires – implementation, challenges and opportunities

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

The aim of the workshop is to present the challenges connected to the work with the implementation and set up of a new regional convention. The New Regional Convention for the Recognition of Studies, Degrees and Diplomas in Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (The Convention of Buenos Aires) led by UNESCO was adopted by 23 signatory states and entered into force on October 23rd, 2022. This instrument seeks to harmonise the regulatory frameworks for recognising academic degrees among ratifying states to promote academic mobility and regional integration in higher education. The Convention of Buenos Aires is a new effort that involves a revision of the previous Convention 1974. The new convention emphasises the necessity to include provisions in order to improve reliability and quality and to reflect the new dynamics that are impacting the higher education sector. The Convention of Buenos Aires serves as a key tool for enhancing student mobility and connecting higher education systems in the region.

This workshop provides an overview of the new Regional Convention of Buenos Aires, discusses the implementation and highlights both challenges and experiences from working with the Convention. This session will share experiences from the constitution of the New Regional Convention Committee, the rules of procedure that will regulate its operation and the 2023-2025 work plan that will impact the full development and implementation of this convention. The participants will have the opportunity to share and discuss insights, practices and developments connected to the launch and implementation of a new regional convention.

2. Panel

Chair: Andreas Snildal, UNESCO

Speaker 1: Francisco Contreras, Swedish Council for Higher Education, currently working with UNESCO IESALC on the implementation of the Convention

Speaker 2: Carlos Romero, Responsible for Higher Education Area, Ministry of Education and Culture, Uruguay

Speaker 3: Dhana Mc Quilkin, Accreditation officer, Grenada National Accreditation Board, Grenada

Workshop 7.4:

Practical compliance: the role of the recognition infrastructure

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

ENIC-NARICs are tasked under the LRC to promote its implementation in the national context. The way recognition is nationally organized – and the stakeholder collaboration it requires – plays an essential role to fulfill this treaty role.

This workshop focusses on the role of ENIC-NARICs and initiatives to strengthen recognition in the national context.

The workshop starts from the main outcomes of the I-Comply project, which focused on the practical implementation of the LRC. The project collected good practice, such as a re-visit to the discussion on substantial differences and the mapping of national stakeholders to enhance academic recognition procedures.

Next, the “SPOT” quality assurance tool for admissions offices will be presented. This hands-on tool supports HEIs in achieving LRC compliant recognition practices (and comply with ESG 1.4).

Third, the role of students and their collaboration with ENIC-NARICs will be discussed.

In general, the session aims to create an exchange on how to further strengthen collaboration between national stakeholders in recognition, based on the presentations available.

2. Panel

Chair: Allan Bruun Pedersen, ENIC-NARIC Denmark

Speaker 1: Bas Wegewijs, ENIC-NARIC Netherlands

Speaker 2: Hanna Reczulska, ENIC-NARIC Poland

Speaker 3: Helene Peterbauer, European University Association (EUA)

Speaker 4: Tanguy Guibert, European Students’ Union (ESU)

Workshop 11.1: Implementing the Global Convention – what's new for LRC signatory countries?

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

The Global Convention entered into force on March 5th, after 20 countries had ratified the convention. We expect that the work on implementing the new convention will start in 2023. But what are the implications for the state members who have already ratified and implemented the Lisbon Recognition Convention? In this workshop we explore the differences between the two conventions, and what is new in the Global Convention. We present a comparison between the two conventions that highlights which areas need further clarification, before opening up for a discussion between participants on how these issues can be tackled.

The workshop will be a mix of introductions by speakers followed by discussion and reflection among the participants. This will ensure that different perspectives are reflected, and that country-specific variation that should be considered is brought into the light.

Goal:

- Individual countries that have ratified/are in the process of ratifying the Global Convention get an overview of what actions need to be taken to be in line with both the LRC and the GloCo.
- The ENIC-NARIC network will get valuable input on what areas are the most challenging for their member countries in implementing the GloCo, and how the members of the network can support each other.
- UNESCO will get valuable input on what areas of the GloCo (potential) member States find difficult/challenging to implement and can use this as a guideline for future work on the implementation process.

2. Panel

Chair: Helén Haugen, ENIC-NARIC Norway

Speaker 1: Andreas Snildal, UNESCO

Speaker 2: Gunnar Vaht, ENIC-NARIC Estonia

Speaker 3: Jenneke Lokhoff, ENIC-NARIC Netherlands

Workshop 11.2: **For a quality education free from fraud and corruption: the role of ENIC-NARICs**

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

Context: In July 2022 the Council of Europe published recommendations on education fraud. The recommendations constitute the culmination of work by the Council of Europe Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED) since 2015. ETINED's mission is to share good practices in the field of transparency and integrity in education.

In this context, the workshop will focus on awareness-building and the role of the ENIC-NARIC network in monitoring and countering diploma mills. To achieve this, the workshop will feature a presentation on recent developments in the diploma world with a special emphasis on the modus operandi of the Pakistani degree mill Axact.

Finally, the workshop will discuss fraud prevention and the special role of digitalisation as a tool to counter fraudulent credentials.

Structure: The workshop will start by a general introduction to ETINED platform, and the abovementioned recommendations followed by the role of monitoring, awareness-building and prevention in combating education fraud.

The workshop will provide presentations as well as an interactive part.

Goal: The workshop aims to inform and engage the participants in the work of the ETINED platform and its practical implications for the ENIC-NARIC network.

2. Panel

Chair: Luca Lantero, ENIC-NARIC Italy

Speaker 1: Alessandra Ricci-Ascoli, Council of Europe

Speaker 2: Erik Johansson, ENIC-NARIC Sweden

Speaker 3: André Hesselbäck, ENIC-NARIC Sweden

Workshop 11.3: Automatic recognition – ready, set, ignition...!

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

Automatic recognition is buzzing in the ENIC-NARIC Networks ever since the pathfinder group was established over a decade ago. AR is an ambition of the EHEA and the EU alike, with 2025 as the next mark for AR having to be a reality in all EU countries. While the concept of AR is no longer perceived as rocket science, its “launch” (read implementation) seems more complex.

Therefore this session shares with you the latest developed good practice and tools and new initiatives to support the implementation of recognition. This includes the outcomes of the AdReN and I-AR project, as well the upcoming Digi-AR project. We will also get information about the new Western Balkans database on recognition decisions, and how it can contribute to enhanced recognition in the region.

In addition, the session presents the outcomes of the report published on 23 February 2023. On 23 February 2023 the Commission has published an assessment report that presents the progress made on the automatic and mutual recognition of qualifications from higher and upper secondary education and training, four years after the adoption of the Council Recommendation. The report also presents the progress towards automatic recognition of outcomes of learning periods abroad. During the session we will discuss the challenges that countries encounter when implementing automatic recognition and what are the remaining steps needed to ensure the necessary framework conditions, trust and transparency within their education systems for the implementation of automatic recognition.

The goal is to reflect together on the outcomes and its wider application in the Networks through interactive presentations and discussions.

2. Panel

Chair: Allan Bruun Pedersen, ENIC-NARIC Denmark

Speaker 1: Dženana Omanović, ENIC Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speaker 2: Aurelija Valeikienė, ENIC-NARIC Lithuania

Speaker 3: Bas Wegewijs, ENIC-NARIC The Netherlands

Speaker 4: Kinga Szuly, European Commission

Workshop 11.4:

The drive towards Digitisation and improved Information Management in National Information Centres:

1. Overview and context of the workshop:

The drive to improve, digitise and automate working practices is one of the greatest challenges currently facing National Information Centre. This workshop introduces digitisation projects being undertaken in the network, followed by a summary of the outcomes of the information management survey conducted in the spring, and then an opportunity for participants to reflect on the challenges they face.

The project Digital Innovations in Credential Evaluation and the Networks (DigiNet), which reported its conclusions in late 2022, supports the implementation of efficient and transparent digitisation strategies for credential evaluation. Implementing its recommendations will lead to faster and more consistent recognition practices, automatic recognition and less paperwork for applicants. DigiNet followed on from DigiRec, which considered how digital student data solutions impacted the recognition process.

The workshop will run through DigiNet's recommendations in detail and offer participants the chance to feed back on the feasibility of implementing its conclusions.

The workshop will also provide feedback on the recent network survey on Information Gaps and Needs. This survey focuses on:

- The methods by which NICs store reference information on international education systems
- Where NICs have specific issues accessing high quality information about international education systems
- If the centre is currently considering developing an information management tool and whether coordination with other centres would help support this work

The goal of the workshop is two-fold: firstly, to consider how digitised credential evaluation processes can be introduced in centres; and secondly, to report back on the findings of the survey, which considers how centres can collaborate to develop best practice information management tools. Both strands support the need to adapt well-established processes in the centres to reflect changing technology and increasing automation.

Structure: After these introductory presentations by the speakers, delegates will be arranged into groups to discuss their approaches to digital credentials and improvement of processes – the best features of their current approaches and areas where they feel assistance would improve their operational output.

Each group will present their findings to the full workshop, and in particular the challenges to full implementation. This process will be used to see how centres with similar wishlists could be connected, and with the objective of presenting best practice developments to the network.

2. Panel

Chair: Cecilia George, ENIC-NARIC Sweden

Speaker 1: Evelien Willems, ENIC-NARIC Netherlands

Speaker 2: Paul Norris, ENIC United Kingdom