Recognition of prior learning - formal or informal
European perspective since 2015
PLA in Brussels in May
Networks between various stakeholders
Information in the arrival phase
Better cooperation between relevant actors
OLS (for refugees)

100,000 licenses 2019
Recognise qualifications held by refugees – guide for credential evaluators

Large numbers of individuals of all ages are fleeing conflict zones, and relocating in other bordering countries in search of a better future. Many bring with them competencies and skills acquired through studies and work experience in their country of origin and intend to seek opportunities to commence higher education, continue further studies and join the labour market.

Institutions responsible for the recognition of qualifications may face key challenges in the evaluation and recognition process. These are often associated with the lack of established recognition procedures and policy for undocumented qualifications, documentary evidence of academic credentials and qualifications from the applicant and information on legal obligations.

What do you do if you should receive an application from a refugee with or without documentation of the qualifications obtained? Below you will find advice on how to determine whether the person – and potential student – meets the main requirements to enter a programme, how to communicate to potential students arriving as refugees and where to find more information on your legal obligations.

1. Set up a fair and transparent recognition procedure and policy within your institution
Most applicants appear to bring documentation on previously obtained qualifications. Applicants holding valid diplomas might contact the admission officers at the higher education institution they wish to seek admission to for more information on requirements and the regular application procedure. The institution might deem it necessary to contact the national ENIC NARIC centre as part of the credential evaluation process.

In some cases, applicants are unable to provide documentary evidence to support the evaluation process when seeking recognition of their qualifications. The standard
Opt-in/opt-out possibility for NAs
● Around 100,000 licences for language assessments and language courses (€4M budget) for 3 years
● HE, VET and Youth Erasmus+ beneficiaries with 2016 OLS approved project