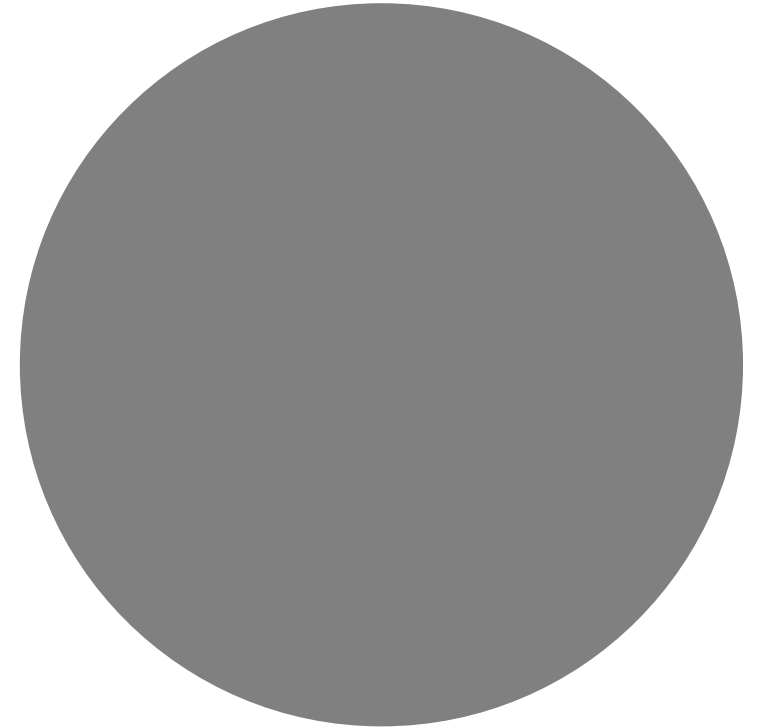


Recognition of Academic Qualifications in the Western Balkans region and database of accredited HEIs

**PROJECT *EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR
ENHANCED RECOGNITION – EPER***

KICK-OFF EVENT

20th November 2019, Mostar



**ERI
SEE** | Education
Reform
Initiative of
South
Eastern
Europe

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK – Recognition of academic qualifications

- SEE 2020 Strategy
 - Coordination by Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
 - Flagship initiative: Skills and mobility
 - Removing obstacles to recognition of professional and academic qualifications
 - Retention and leveraging of human capital for developing knowledge-based economies in the WB
 - Annual programming and monitoring of progress
- Berlin Process
 - Aims to enable unobstructed flow of goods, services, capital and highly skilled labour
 - Aims to make the region more attractive for investment and trade
 - Assists in accelerating convergence with the EU
- Multiannual Action Plan on Regional Economic Area (MAP REA)
 - Endorsed by the leaders of the Western Balkans
 - One of the priority areas: Facilitating regional mobility (high-skills mobility channels within the region, and between the region and the EU)
 - Progress monitored during regular annual summits (2019 Poznan, 2020 Skopje and Sofia)

RCC – ERI SEE WG RAQ

- MAP REA Component 3: Facilitating Regional Mobility
- Establishment of RCC – ERI SEE Joint Working group for recognition of academic qualifications (WG RAQ)
- Participating economies: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia
- Representatives of the ministries of education, ENIC/NARIC offices, QA agencies
- Key commitments:
 - Removing obstacles to the automatic recognition of academic qualifications in the WB region
 - Enhancing QA in HE systems in the region

** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*

RCC – ERI SEE WG RAQ objectives

- Draft a proposal on **procedure for fast track recognition of higher education qualifications** specifying **criteria** for fast track recognition in the region
- **Adopt and implement proposal** on procedure for fast track recognition of higher education qualifications specifying criteria for fast track recognition in the region
- Establish an operational **sub-regional network of ENIC/NARIC** centres
- Develop a **joint online system** to share information, including on higher education institutions, qualifications and decisions taken, available to ENIC/NARIC centres and Ministries in the region
- Strengthen **cooperation** and exchange of information between **Quality Assurance Agencies** in the region

WG RAQ – Progress and deliverables

- Proposal for fast track recognition specifying criteria was made in the form of:
 - **Declaration on Recognition of Academic Qualification**
 - Presented during the Berlin Summit, July 2019, Poznan
- **Sub-regional network of ENIC/NARIC centres established**
- **Joint information system facilitating recognition of academic qualifications**
 - Testing version

Declaration on Recognition of Academic Qualifications (1)

- Basic principles:

- Emphasis on **transparent and fair procedures**, in line with the **LRC**
- Emphasis on **trust**, based on **QA and accreditation**, in line with the **ESG**
- Emphasis on **cooperation** (ministries, ENIC/NARIC, QA bodies) and easy, reliable and trustworthy **exchange of information**

1st phase in the recognition of academic qualifications in the region:

- Defines recognition of qualifications issued by **public** HEIs, at what **level**, under what conditions (**duration and ECTS**), for what purposes (**employment or academic studies**)
- Focus on qualifications issued within the **Bologna system**
- Maintains the right of HEIs and competent authorities to check the **authenticity of documents and sets specific admission criteria**

Declaration on Recognition of Academic Qualifications (2)

- **Proposes further steps:**
- **Advancing regional cooperation in HE**
- Mandates the established WG RAQ
 - to report annually on the implementation of Declaration;
 - To initiate expert discussion and prepare expert recommendations on recognition of the qualifications issued **prior to the implementation of the Bologna system of three-cycle studies and third-cycle degrees**
 - to carry out a comparison of the **established qualifications frameworks**
 - discuss possibilities of cooperation and participation in on-going initiatives aimed **at ranking HEIs** or propose a model for ranking HEIs in the WB
- Commitment to align the **QA systems with the European Standards and Guidelines** and external quality assurance performed by independent agencies in line with the ESG and registered in EQAR
- Advancing **cooperation in the area of QA** (Peer learning, exchanges, informal networks, guidelines and procedures)

Joint Information System

MAIN SECTIONS:

- **Recognition** of academic qualifications
(procedures, steps, contacts)
- **Quality Assurance**
(standards, bodies, contacts, register of accredited institutions)
- Space for WG RAQ members **communication**
(information sharing, communication, alert system)
- **General** information
(overview of HE systems, news, publications)

Joint Information System

CHALLENGES:

1. POLITICAL LEVEL
2. INDIVIDUAL LEVEL
3. SYSTEM LEVEL

Joint Information System - Challenges

POLITICAL:

- Recognition of qualifications issued in the region (bilateral problems)
- Has implications on the whole Register of accredited institutions (territorial issues)
- Cooperation among ENIC offices
- Cooperation among QA agencies

- INDIVIDUAL:

- Provision of data depending on individual officers
 - Communication challenges
 - Lack of resources

Joint Information System - Challenges

SYSTEM LEVEL:

Challenges for a unified, regional Register of accredited HEIs and/or HE programmes

1. Changes in the bodies in charge of QA
 - Handover issues
 - Hard-copy documentation
 - Other issues (Incomplete data available - only the status of an institution/programme, no accompanying documents – reports, decisions, recommendations etc.)
2. Data management
 - Non-existence of procedures of data management (collection, up-dating, archiving, publicizing, monitoring): who is officially in charge, on the basis of what, substitute persons, authorizing persons, tracking...
 - No teams in charge
 - Tools – not shared among the team
3. National portals
 - Information on update of status, archive, accompanying documents – not all available
4. Language

Actions taken and ahead

15th November, Tirana: RCC Meeting of the MAP REA
Mobility coordinators:

- Further development of the JIS
- Capacity building for ENIC/NARIC officers for recognition of pre-Bologna qualifications, recognition of PhD degrees
- Launch the discussion on possibilities of ranking system for HEIs in the WB
- Strengthen the QA bodies, launch a „mock“ EQAR compliance review
- Support in the development of IT systems, provide capacity building for QA staff

7th Meeting of the WG RAQ:

9th December

- European trends in QA, in particular in connection with automatic recognition
- ESG 2015 in national contexts – practices and challenges

10th December:

- JIS:
- finalization of the public part
- Work plan and activities: timeline for 2020

2020

- Trainings on data management regarding accreditation of HEIs



Recognition of
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in the Western
Balkans 6



Recognition of
Academic Qualification.



Quality Assurance
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Quality Assurance System.

When the Bologna Declaration was signed in 1999, quality assurance systems in higher education were inexistent in most signatory countries. Today, not only is there a consensus that quality assurance is necessary to ensure accountability and support enhancement, but there are also commonly agreed standards and guidelines for how this should be achieved, and a European body – the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) – to guarantee that these standards and guidelines are respected and implemented.

Recognition of Qualifications .

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Quality Assurance Systems.

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Database of Qualifications

As a result of the Joint Recognition Exercise, undertaken by the RCC - ERI SEE Joint Working Group for Recognition of Academic Qualifications (namely ENIC/NARIC and NARIC offices from the Western Balkans 6 economies), the Database of Qualifications was composed. The Database consists of the sample cases received by the recognition officers from the region, which were then jointly processed, leading to sample recognition decisions. It must be noted that the results of this Joint Exercise serve only for information purposes and are by no means obliging. You can access the Database of Qualifications here: <https://bluecitymedia.rs/jis/live/recognition-of-academic-qualifications/databasis-of-qualifications.php>

[> read more](#)

Register of Accreditation Results

The Western Balkans 6 Economies are strongly committed to building the quality culture within the higher education systems. Accreditation processes are one of the ways the quality is ensured, measured and objectively analyzed. All of the WB6 economies have set up their accreditation procedures, however their alignment with the European Standards and Guidelines are yet to follow. Nevertheless, the register of the accreditation results (also named Database of External Quality Assurance Results), containing the list of higher education institutions accredited in accordance with the nationally adopted procedures, can be accessed on the following link: <https://bluecitymedia.rs/jis/live/quality-assurance-system/qa-register.php>

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ENIC/NARIC Contacts list

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Quality Assurance Bodies in the WB6

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Recognition of Academic
Qualifications

Albania

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Kosovo*

Montenegro

Higher education system

Recognition procedures

> For employment

> For education

Contact point

Republic of North Macedonia

Serbia

Databasis of Qualifications

Comparison of Qualifications

Montenegro

Recognition procedures for employment

The recognition of foreign higher education certificates for the purpose of employment in Montenegro is conducted by the ENIC Centre. The procedure can be initiated by a certificate holder, as well as his/her parent/guardian or any person with a power of attorney. Educational certificates issued in the former SFRY republics are not subject of recognition provided that they are acquired by the date of their international recognition. Educational certificates issued in the Republic of Serbia until 25th January 2008 are not subject of recognition.

Documents requested for recognition:

For educational certificates issued in Serbia, Bosnia and Hercegovina and Croatia

1. Request
2. Three certified copies of Diploma or Certificate of Graduation
3. Certificate of Passed Exams (Transcript of Records) or Diploma Supplement
4. Payment receipt to the amount of EUR 100,00 number of bank account: 832-3161080-65,

Recipient: Ministry of Education (Administrative Stamp Duty)

Purpose of payment: recognition of foreign educational certificates

For educational certificates issued in other countries



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Kosovo*

Montenegro

Republic of North Macedonia

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Databasis of Qualifications

Comparison of Qualifications

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Contact point

Recognition for employment

Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

Sector for Information, Cooperation and Recognition of Documents

Website: <http://www.cip.gov.ba>

Contact: Dženan Omanović

E-mail: dzenan.omanovic@cip.gov.ba

Phone: +387 36 333 980

Address: Kneza Višeslava bb, 88000 Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Recognition for education

Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education

Sector for Information, Cooperation and Recognition of Documents

Website: <http://www.cip.gov.ba>

Contact: Dženan Omanović



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Quality Assurance in Higher
Education

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Montenegro

Republic of North Macedonia

Serbia

Overview of QA System

QA Bodies

QA Standards

QA Register

Serbia

Overview of QA Standards

Quality assurance system is defined by the Law on Higher Education (proposed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and adopted by the National Assembly) and related bylaws that define external quality assurance standards and procedures for higher education institutions and study programmes (conducted separately). Bylaws are adopted by the National Council for Higher Education.

The Commission for Accreditation implements external quality assurance procedure either every fourth year or upon the request of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development and National Higher Education Council. The Commission for Accreditation sends external quality assurance report to the higher education institution and to the body that requested the external check.

External quality assurance standards defined by a bylaw and adopted by the National Council for Higher Education are as follows:

- Standard 1: External quality assurance procedure is based on the HEI self-evaluation results.
- Standard 2: External quality assurance procedure is based on the fulfilment of defined and published quality standards of higher education institution and its programs.
- Standard 3: External quality assurance includes examining the fulfilment of quality standards in pre-defined areas: teaching, teaching staff, research, student evaluation, textbooks and literature, library and IT resources, space and equipment, non-steady staff, management process, publicity.
- Standard 4: The outcome of an external quality assurance procedure of a higher education institution is based on transparent and clear criteria



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Serbia

QA Register

QA Register

Database of External Quality Assurance Results

Search QA results by accrediting body

Search

Select accrediting body



City

Select City

Institution

Select institution



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Albania	36	Kosovo*	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	29	Montenegro	50
Republic of North Macedonia	0	Serbia	0



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Serbia

QA Register

QA Register

Database of External Quality Assurance Results

Search QA results by accrediting body

Search

Select accrediting body



City

Select City

Institution

Select institution



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36 search results matching your criteria

- "Aldent" University
- "Aleksandër Moisiu" University, Durres
- "EPOKA" University
- "Eqrem Çabej" University of Gjirokastra
- "Fan. S. Noli" University
- "Metropolitan Tirana" University



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QA Register

“Aldent” University

Basic information

Economy	Albania
Website	www.ual.edu.al
QF-EHEA levels	I and II cycle
Category	University
Type	(Private)
Result of the accreditation process	HEI accreditation
Valid from	15.12.2017.
Valid until	14.12.2022.
Report / Recommendations / Decision	Institutional Review
Agency	Albanian Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (APAAL)



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Report of Aldent University



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