

Recognition of Academic Qualifications

WESTERN BALKAN PLATFORM ON
EDUCATION AND TRAINING,
BELGRADE, 3rd – 4th June 2019



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK – Recognition of academic qualifications

- SEE 2020 Strategy
 - 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
- Multiannual Action Plan on Regional Economic Area (MAP REA)
 - Endorsed by the leaders of the Western Balkans
 - Represents a joint approach to furthering economic cooperation in the Western Balkans in the context of the 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
 - 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)

Key commitments

- MAP Component 3: Facilitating Regional Mobility
- Key commitments:
 - removing obstacles to mobility of professionals, through regional mutual recognition agreements of professional qualifications in sectors of mutual interest (doctors of medicine, dentists, architects and civil engineers);
 - removing obstacles to mobility of highly qualified workforce, in particular through joint standards and procedures for automatic recognition of quality assured academic qualifications;

Recognition of academic qualifications – Progress and deliverables

- Established sub-regional network of ENIC/NARIC centres
- Regular communication and cooperation
- Developed internal communication system
- Implemented regional exercise on recognition of academic qualifications
- Agreed Principles on Recognition of academic qualifications
- Agreed structure and content of the IT system supporting and facilitating recognition of academic qualifications

RESULTING IN:

- **Declaration on Recognition of Academic Qualification**
- **Joint information system facilitating recognition of academic qualifications**

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)

Declaration on Recognition of Academic Qualifications (2)

- Defines:
 - Recognition of short cycle qualifications, first cycle academic qualifications, second cycle academic qualifications, integrated second cycle degrees and study periods abroad
 - From what institutions, to be recognized at what levels, under what conditions (duration and ECTS), for what purposes (employment or academic studies)
 - In compliance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention
 - 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:**
- 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 pre-Bologna academic qualifications
 - 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 - supporting the recognition of academic qualifications

Purpose:

- Overview of the:
 - HE systems
 - QA systems
 - Recognition procedures
in the WB region
- Facilitation of the recognition process by enabling information sharing and communication
- Register of accredited institutions and programmes
- Comparison of qualification levels

Joint Information System - supporting the recognition of academic qualifications

Testing version:

<https://bluecitymedia.rs/jis/live/>

Available: information on

- Higher Education Systems
- Recognition procedures
- Contacts for recognition
- Quality Assurance Systems
- Quality Assurance Bodies
- Register of accredited institutions and programmes (data collecting)
- Related documents and news
- Internal communication among WG RAQ members

Joint Information System – next steps

- Preparation for Poznan Summit
- Data collecting for the Register of accredited institutions and programmes
- Register of accredited institutions and programmes (data collecting from participating economies)
- Upon the exercise on comparison of the established qualifications frameworks and qualifications – data entry on qualification levels



Recognition of
Academic Qualifications
in the Western
Balkans 6



Recognition of
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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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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>

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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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Overview of QA Standards

Quality assurance and improvement in higher education are achieved through **accreditation, self-evaluation and reaccreditation.**

Accreditation

Accreditation procedure is in the responsibility of the Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education. An institution submits a request for accreditation of a study programme to the Agency, at least six months before submitting a request for licensing. Within the procedure of study programme accreditation, the quality of study programme, its compliance with professional needs and adopted standards, and its comparability with the same or similar programmes abroad are assessed, as well as the presence of practical training and the number of ECTS credits assigned to it. Accreditation of a study programme is issued for a period not longer than **five years**, while accreditation of study programmes which take longer than five years is issued for a period equal to the duration of the relevant study programme.

The Agency forms a **Commission** to conduct accreditation of study programmes. The Commission is formed from among independent Montenegrin and foreign experts, chosen from a list of experts. The list of experts is drawn up by the Agency after conducting a public call. Costs of study programme accreditation are covered by institution. The procedure for study programme accreditation, contents and form of accreditation certificate is prescribed by the Ministry of Education, upon the proposal of the Agency.

Self-evaluation

At the end of each academic year, an institution conducts a self-evaluation procedure related to **quality of study programmes, teaching and working conditions**, in compliance with statute of the institution. Within the procedure of self-evaluation **student surveys** concerning study programmes, teaching,

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Republic of North Macedonia

Serbia

QA Register



Academic
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Univerzitet u Zenici

Basic information

Economy	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Website	https://unze.ba/
QF-EHEA levels	I, II and III cycle
Category	University
Type	(Public)
Result of the accreditation process	Accredited
Valid from	29.03.2019.
Valid until	29.03.2024.
Report / Recommendations / Decision	Decision on the appointment of the Expert Panel (BiH); Recommendations of the Expert Panel (BiH); Registration Decision (BiH)
Agency	Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (HEA)

Documents

-  [Izvestaj Komisije strucnjaka_Univerzitet u Zenici.pdf](#)
-  [Preporuke o akreditaciji_Univerzitet u Zenici.pdf](#)
-  [Rjesenja o imenovanju Komisije strucnjaka_Univerzitet u Zenici.pdf](#)
-  [Rjesenja o upisu u Drzavni registar.pdf](#)

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