Towards Automatic Recognition in the EHEA

Perspectives from credential evaluation

EQAR Members Dialogue. November 27, 2018
Jenneke Lokhoff
Senior Policy Officer, Team International Recognition
Credential evaluation in 1980

Credential evaluation in 1980...
**Advisie diploma-vaardering toelating hoger onderwijs**

Dit diploma-vaardering is opgemaakt met het doel een vergelijk te maken met de meest overeenkomende Nederlandse kwalificatie (of een gecodificeerde ervaring). Dit adviseert over het relevante informatie over de nominatie en de authenticiteit van het diploma. Nuffic en Nuffic Nederland hebben besloten dat er geen overeenkomsten zijn in de gegevens en dat er dus geen aanbeveling kan worden gemaakt. Dit adviseert over het relevante informatie over de nominatie en de authenticiteit van het diploma. Nuffic en Nuffic Nederland hebben besloten dat er geen overeenkomsten zijn in de gegevens en dat er dus geen aanbeveling kan worden gemaakt.

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<th>Gegevens aanvrager</th>
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<td>Datum ontvangen Nuffic: 20-10-2018</td>
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<td>dossiernummer: 906</td>
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<th>Gegevens diploma-vaarder</th>
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<td>Naam:</td>
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<th>Onderwijsprogramma betrekkingen</th>
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<td>Land van diploma: China</td>
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<td>Naam onderwijsinstelling: gao du zhong xue (senior middle school)</td>
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<td>Studierichting: -</td>
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| Nominale studieduur: 3 jaar |
| Jaar van afronden: 2018 |
| Jaar van diploma-uitreiking: 2018 |

| Vraaglijst: |
| Kwalificatie: havo diploma |
| Studierichting: - |

Advisie aangegeven door Nuffic op 20-11-2018
Bologna Implementation Report 2018 on AR

‘.. still considerable effort required to:
- Agree on a common understanding of AR, and to,
- Make it a reality
Towards Automatic Recognition in the EHEA?

1. What is Automatic Recognition in credential evaluation?
2. What are models of implementation?
3. General considerations?
I. Automatic Recognition?

- EHEA definition
- AR in credential evaluation
“EHEA” definition

Pathfinder group:

'Automatic recognition of a degree leads to the automatic right of an applicant holding a qualification of a certain level to be considered for entry to a programme of further study in the next level in any other EHEA-country (access)' (EHEA Pathfinder Group on Automatic Recognition, 2014).
5 elements of qualification

1 - Quality

2 - Level

System

3 - Workload

4 - Profile

Programme

5 - Learning Outcomes

AR in Credential Evaluation

General
✓ Lisbon Recognition Convention
✓ Purpose
✓ Recognition should be granted unless there is a "substantial difference"

Automatic recognition
✓ = on system level
II. Models for Implementation

1. 4 Models for AR
2. Close Up: De Facto AR
3. Recommendations for Implementation
4. Action Points for authorities
4. Models of Automatic Recognition in EHEA

1. Legal bilateral and multilateral agreements;
2. A legally binding unilateral list of countries and qualifications;
3. Non-legal bilateral and multilateral agreements;
4. ‘De facto’ automatic recognition
Close Up: the “De facto AR” model

1. Quality assurance system based on ESG

2. Three-cycle system of higher education – undergraduate, graduate and doctoral studies

3. A NQF referenced to QF – EHEA

-> further testing in AR-NET project
Close Up: Examples of “De facto AR”

- According to internal instructions/guidelines/databases, qualifications from certain countries are always compared to national qualifications at the same system level;

- The centre publishes country profiles on their website with comparisons at system level, which forms the basis of their evaluations;

- Evaluations/statements in terms of the EQF level
i. Recommendations implementation AR

1. Transparency to all stakeholders of procedures and criteria used is key, regardless of model

2. Different models can be applied simultaneously

3. When opting for a legalistic approach, agree on general principles and leave details to the competent recognition authority
ii. Recommendations for Automatic Recognition

4. Important for all models, implementation of:
   1. a three-cycle system of higher education with reference to the QF-EHEA Frameworks
   2. QA system based on ESG

5. Some ENIC-NARIC centres already apply automatic recognition without requiring that they meet formal criteria.
   -> there is no reason to alter these policies.
Action Points for authorities

- At national level the main stakeholders in recognition should start a discussion what strategy fits the (further) implementation of automatic recognition best

- ENIC-NARIC centres: offer transparency about the conditions for AR to all relevant stakeholders and follow LRC
3. Considerations

“No AR without LRC compliance”
Some Challenges with LRC compliance

- Legal LRC compliance does not equal practical compliance
- Most recognition decisions made by HEIs, but not always aware about LRC

- FAIR project:
  - Recognition landscape highly diversified in EHEA
  - Lack of familiarity (practical implementation) LRC
  - Little systematic quality assurance of recognition and admission practices (!)
Summarizing remarks

1. Agree common concept
   - AR definition

2. Make it a reality
   - Different models for implementing AR
   - Recommendations how
   - But: Practical compliance LRC key
     -> strengthen national infrastructures
     -> QA: ESG 1.4!