



Automatic recognition at the national level and experience of informal networks

Vlatka Blažević
Ministry of Science and Education
of the Republic of Croatia



Content

1. Automatic recognition at the national level
2. Experience of informal networks

- Automatic recognition of upper secondary and higher education qualifications has been implemented in Croatia since the academic year 2022/2023, following the entry into force of a [new Act on Recognition and Assessment of Foreign Education Qualifications in June 2022](#).

Article 18

- (1) The agency responsible for science and higher education is obliged, as part of the central application procedure for the purpose of enrollment in undergraduate studies, to automatically recognize the qualification level of secondary education without conducting a procedure if the qualification was obtained in a country where the national qualification framework has been referenced to the European

Qualification Framework or in the case of an international agreement on mutual automatic recognition of foreign educational qualifications.

- (2) The higher education institution or the agency responsible for science and higher education are obliged to automatically recognize the level of a foreign educational qualification in higher education as part of the application or enrollment procedures for graduate and postgraduate studies without conducting a recognition procedure if the following conditions are cumulatively met:
- the qualification was obtained in a country where the national qualification framework has been referenced to the European Qualification Framework and the Qualification Framework of the European Higher Education Area.

- the external quality assurance of the higher education institution was carried out by an agency registered in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).
- (3) The higher education institution, or the agency responsible for science and higher education, is obliged to automatically recognize the level of a foreign educational qualification in higher education, as part of the application or enrollment procedures, without carrying out the recognition procedure in the case of an international agreement on mutual automatic recognition of foreign educational qualifications.

- (4) In case of doubt about the authenticity of the document on the foreign educational qualification, its authenticity is checked.
- (5) The automatic recognition of the foreign educational qualification referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article produces effects exclusively within the framework of a respective enrollment procedure.
- (6) If the agency responsible for science and higher education or a higher education institution determines that the conditions for automatic recognition from paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this article are not met, it will carry out the recognition procedure in accordance with articles 13 and 14 of this Act.

- The Ministry has reviewed the procedure implemented by the Agency for Science and higher education - Central Applications Office which is the national centre for applications to study programmes at higher education institutions in the Republic of Croatia. The Ministry proposed the Agency to reduce the steps related to the automatic recognition in order to be fully aligned with the Council Recommendation.
- Since the Report on the Implementation of the Council Recommendation on Automatic Recognition emphasizes the importance of differentiation of bodies responsible for **access** and **admission**, I would like to report on the practice for automatic recognition of upper secondary qualifications.

- Automatic recognition of upper secondary qualifications enabling access to undergraduate study programmes is under the responsibility of the Central Applications Office of the Agency for Science and Higher Education, while admission is under the responsibility of higher education institutions.
- Automatic recognition of **periods of mobility abroad** is an integral part of the Erasmus+ Charter. All higher education institutions in Croatia have the Erasmus+ Charter. It is important to keep reminding leaders of higher education institutions who signed the Erasmus+ Charter of this commitment.

- Some ECTS coordinators at higher education institutions report to the Ministry and the national agency for Erasmus+ that they cannot resolve cases of partial non-recognition of ECTS points obtained during mobility abroad with professors who request students to take additional exams.

Experience of the informal networks

- The project MAREN– Mediterranean Automatic Recognition Network is co-funded by Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.
- It's main aim is to foster automatic recognition of qualifications in the Mediterranean region.

Project partners:

- Agency for Science and Education in Croatia;
- France Education International (FEI);
- Ministerio da educacio e ciencia (MEC) in Portugal;
- Ministerio de universidades (MUNI) in Spain.

Main outcomes:

- Table of comparison of Pre-Bologna and Bologna qualifications (academic and giving access to higher education) in partner countries.
- Match your qualifications: tool to compare the national qualifications and their correspondence with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the National Qualifications Framework of the countries of the Mediterranean area.
- Comparative study of the different higher education systems and Transnational Education in the region
 - Transnational Education in the Adriatic and Mediterranean Regions.

- As part of the sustainability and dissemination plan of the project, this website represents the opportunity for partners to share their activities, a window open to the world of Higher Education fostering Automatic Recognition in the region.



Thank you for your attention!



<https://mzo.gov.hr>



- **phone: +385 (1) 4569 000**
- **fax: +385 (1) 4594 301**
- **Donje Svetice 38, 10000 Zagreb**