

# Thematic Peer Group B on the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention

25/06/2020



Chiara Finocchietti

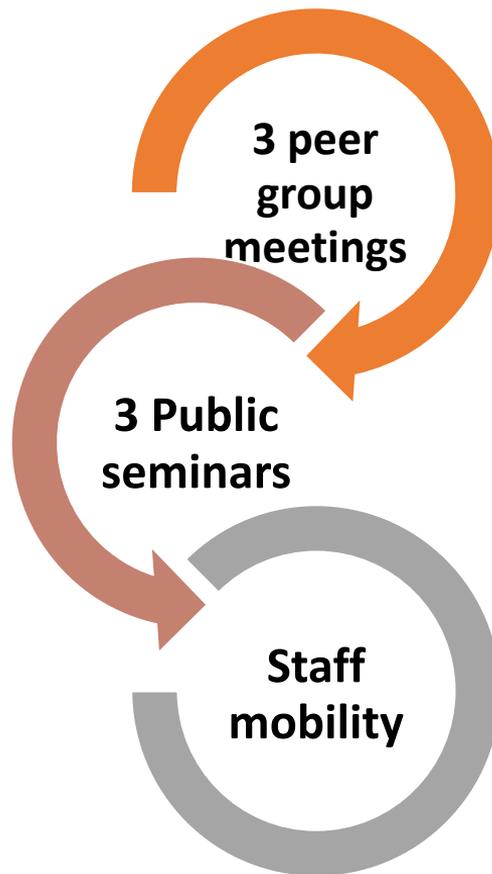


# Overall objective

Key Commitment 2: national legislation and procedures compliant with the **Lisbon Recognition Convention**.

Specific thematic indications include topics such as:

- ✓ establishing the **legal framework** to allow the implementation of the LRC,
- ✓ establishing the **distribution of work and responsibilities** among the competent institutions that have the right knowledge and capacity to carry out recognition procedures,
- ✓ achieving **automatic recognition**,
- ✓ recognition of **alternative pathways**,
- ✓ qualifications held by **refugees**,
- ✓ optimising the **potential of digital technology** for the recognition agenda and the Diploma Supplement.



# Composition

## ➤ Co-chairs

- Albania
- France
- Italy

## ➤ Members

Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium Flemish Community, Belgium French Community, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Council of Europe, Denmark, EI-IE, EQAR, Estonia, EURASHE, ESU, EUA, European Commission, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, UNESCO.

➤ 37 countries and 8 stakeholder organisations



# Meetings

- **31 January 2019, Tirana**
  - 23 countries represented,
  - 5 stakeholder organizations
  - 45 participants
  
- **24 June 2019, Bologna**
  - 30 countries represented
  - 5 stakeholder organizations
  - 52 participants
  
- **17 June 2020, online** (*postponed from 10 March, Sèvres*)
  - 30 countries represented
  - 5 stakeholder organizations
  - 60 participants

# Public seminars

- **Document fraud and digitalization, 01 February 2019 - Tirana**
  - Organised with EQAR
  - 120 participants
  
- **Substantial difference, 26 June 2019 - Bologna**
  - Organised with ESU
  - 124 participants
  
- **Information provision in the time of COVID-19, 18 June 2020 - online**  
*(postponed from 11 March, Sèvres)*
  - Organised with EUA
  - 410 participants



# Meetings and activities

## ➤ **First meeting in Tirana**

- Bologna implementation report and the indicators for recognition
- Work plan of each country and the overall work plan of the group
- 4 subthemes: LRC legal framework; automatic recognition; qualifications held by refugees; digitalisation

## ➤ **Second meeting in Bologna**

- Action plan developments
- EHEA call and on a matchmaking activity
- Tools and instruments to support portability of recognition decision

## ➤ **Third meeting online (postponed from Sèvres)**

- Impact of COVID-19 on action plan and implementation of LRC at national level
- 3 parallel working groups
- Feedbacks to be reported to the BICG



## Third meeting

- **Impact of COVID-19. Challenges, responses and good practices:**
  - access to higher education
  - recognition of qualifications held by refugees
  - digitalization
  - recognition of alternative pathways
  - automatic recognition
  
- **1<sup>st</sup> group: [results](#)**
  
- **2<sup>nd</sup> group: [results](#)**
  
- **3<sup>rd</sup> group: [results](#)**

# Staff mobility

- **Aim of the activity:** receive peer learning on the topic of recognition and implementation of the LRC
- **1<sup>st</sup> Call:** launched in October 2019
- **Applications:** 15
- **2nd Call:** postponed
- **Online peer support sessions:** 5 applicant countries organising online sessions (from a bilateral to a multilateral model of staff mobility)
- With the support of the Erasmus+ co-funded project **Thematic Peer Group on the implementation of the Lisbon Recognition Convention in EHEA countries TPG-LRC**

# Main outcomes / 1

- **Peer support activity:** effective in supporting exchanges of practices, and for finding ways to address common challenges, with a concrete approach based on results.
- **Synergies with EU co-funded projects in the field of recognition:** projects presented during the TPG B meetings: TPG-LRC (Italy); I-COMPLY (Netherlands); EPER (Croatia); DEQAR (EQAR); DEQAR Connect (EQAR); MICROBOL (BeFI), AR-NET (the Netherlands), DigiRec (the Netherlands).
- **Cooperation among the 3 TPG groups and with stakeholders:** Co-chairs of the other TPGs invited to share insights; seminars organised with stakeholders organisations.
- **Quality of the recognition process:** Recognition fully compliant with the principles of the LRC. Role of the DEQAR database to support recognition of qualifications.

# Main outcomes / 2

- **Digitalisation:** in the view of supporting mobility of students and professionals. Links with: supporting automatic recognition; application of new technology to recognition (e.g. blockchain); use of digital credentials.
- **Portability and transparency of recognition decision:** tools and instruments to support portability and recognition decisions and to improve mobility.
- **Recognition of qualifications held by refugees:** implementation of article VII of LRC has been analysed, sharing policies and good practices at national and international level.
- **Automatic recognition:** policies and practices to foster automatic recognition, discussion on different model of automatic recognition in TPGB countries.

# Recommendations

- **Foster LRC implementation:** cooperation with the ENIC-NARIC centres and the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee Bureau.
- **Automatic recognition:** further explore concept and tools to remove obstacles and advance in the implementation of automatic recognition.
- **Substantial difference:** Further analyse the different interpretations, and further define what should be considered "substantial differences".
- **Digitalisation:** support the use of contemporary technology (e.g. blockchain, etc.) and of digital student data, overcome obstacles at national level.
- **Transparency of recognition decisions:** further discuss the need for common tools and instruments.
- **Promote ethics and transparency:** minimise document fraud and fraud in education, also with the use of new technologies.
- **EU co-funded projects:** support and strengthen synergies.
- **Strengthen cooperation:** at national level between the ENIC-NARIC centre and Higher Education Institutions.



**Thanks for your attention!**

