

Recognition of qualifications held by refugees (Art VII – LRC)

BICG Thematic Peer Group on LRC and recognition, Tirana 31.01.2019

Stig Arne Skjerven

NOKUT (Norway) / ENIC Bureau

Forced migration: Which challenges to recognition and access to higher education?

- The sheer numbers
 - 68,5 million according to UNHCR
- Undocumented qualifications
- Unfinished qualifications
- Institutions and archives no longer operating
- Notoriety of documents
- Challenging to develop recognition and admission schemes, targeting the specific aspects of forced migration
 - Fair
 - Transparent
 - Non-discriminatory
 - Demand for mobility and portability



Why does recognition play a key role?

- For forced migrants
 - Increases the possibility to get access to further education
 - Increases employment opportunities
 - Empowerment – assessment provides hope and guidance in a difficult situation
- For host societies
 - More effective use of human resources in society
 - Provides insight in refugees' qualifications
 - Might open more pathways for forced migrants
- Provides tools to seeing forced migrants as part of a solution

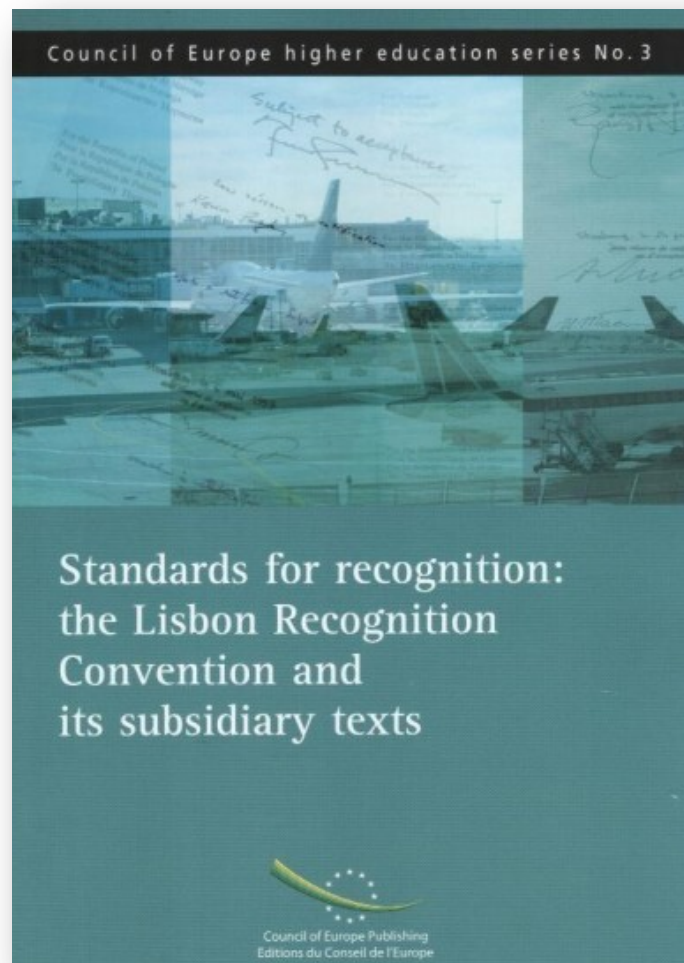
Legal obligations: Lisbon Recognition Convention



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Article VII – Lisbon Recognition Convention

Each Party shall take all feasible and reasonable steps within the framework of its education system and in conformity with its constitutional, legal, and regulatory provisions to develop procedures designed to assess fairly and expeditiously whether

refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation

fulfill the relevant requirements for access to higher education, to further higher education programmes or to employment activities,

even in cases in which the qualifications cannot be proven through documentary evidence.

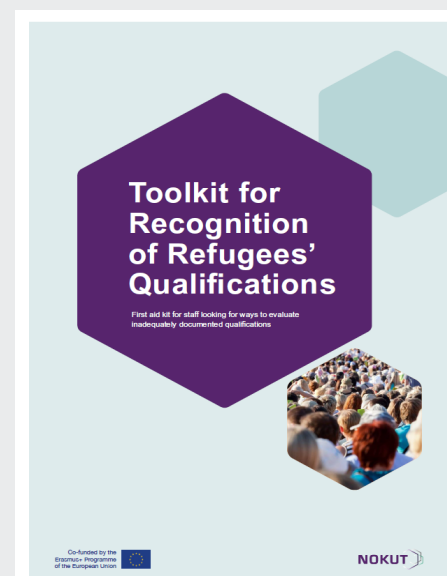
Recommendation on the Recognition of Refugees' Qualifications under the Lisbon Recognition Convention

Adopted by the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee at its extraordinary session on 14 November 2017



Examples of best practice

- European Qualifications Passport for Refugees (EQPR) – multinational project by Council of Europe (9 ENIC-NARIC offices, NOKUT as a content coordinator)
- Refugees and Recognition – Toolkit – Erasmus+, ENIC-NARIC project (8 ENIC-NARIC offices, NOKUT as a coordinator)



Principles, tools, practical examples

1 TOOLKIT

4

The Toolkit consists of three parts:

Developed by ENIC-NARIC centres of Norway, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Armenia, Germany and Sweden

8 PRINCIPLES

7

Guiding the process

10 TOOLS

12

Identified, developed and tested to constitute the parts of the procedure

2 APPROACHES 16

Demonstrate two distinct ways of combining the tools in actual recognition procedures, depending on which type of final statement / background document is to be issued





Toolkit 2 – REACT (2018-2020)

“Contribute to a better use of resources in NARICs and HEIs and facilitate efficient, fair and transparent recognition and admission processes for refugees in the EHEA in fulfilment of the countries obligations under the LRC (Art.VII).... By further development and streamlining of the toolkit for recognition of higher education qualifications for refugees, displaced persons and persons in refugee-like situation developed in the 2016 project 'Refugees and Recognition'.”



Qualifications Passport - Methodology



Written self-assessment by the individual



Analysis of the available documentation



Analysis of the qualification



Structured interview conducted by two professional evaluators

- ✓ Accessible
- ✓ Fair
- ✓ Professional
- ✓ Relevant
- ✓ Fast

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European Qualifications Passport for Refugees No. 1701¹
Assessment Part

Issued: 14.03.2017
Valid through: 14.03.2022

Personal information
Last name: [redacted]
First and middle names: [redacted]
Date of birth: [redacted]
Place of birth: Homs, Syria
Nationality: Syrian

Assessed qualifications
Highest achieved qualification: (2010) Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy, Al-Baath University, Syria²
Additional relevant information from the applicant
Languages: Arabic (native speaker), Arabic (language of instruction), English (language course)
Relevant work experience: no
Membership in professional organisations: Certificate of Membership, Physiotherapists Union, Syria (member since 2010)³

Interview and documentation assessment is conducted by credential evaluators:
On behalf of the project: Marina Malgou (NOKUT), evaluation coordinator
Kostas Papadimitrakopoulos (D.O.A.T.A.P.), credential evaluator
Rose Charles (UK NARIC), credential evaluator

For more information about the status of this document: <http://www.ase.int/en/web/education/recognition-of-refugees-qualification>

¹European Qualifications Passport for Refugees is neither a legal document nor replacement for the national recognition schemes, but a document intended to be of use in connection with applications for employment/ship and studies. The evaluation is based on available documentation and is performed in line with a professional credential evaluation. This document is only valid together with the explanatory part.
²Available documentation: Degree Certificate
³Available documentation: Certificate

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Qualifications Passport – Document

- Assesses and presents forced migrants' qualifications in a standardized and structured document
- Presents information on credible competences like relevant work experience, membership in professional organizations, additional courses (MOOCs) and language skills
- An advisory statement which aims to provide access to further education and to increase employment opportunities
- Written advice for the individual's further qualification

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE RECOMMENDATION
ON THE RECOGNITION OF
REFUGEES'
QUALIFICATIONS UNDER
LISBON RECOGNITION
CONVENTION

Council of Europe: European Qualifications Passport for Refugees – 2018-2020

- Council of Europe: Responsible for the project and the coordination
- Nine participating national information and recognition centers
 - Armenia, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, United Kingdom
 - NOKUT/Norway: Responsible for methodology, training and quality assurance
- Financial support from Norway, Italy, Greece and Council of Europe
- Interviews in Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, France +
 - UNHCR, Ministries and Higher Education Institutions provide assistance in selecting candidates for the scheme
- Digitalization of the Qualifications Passport
- Methodology of Qualifications Passport is also tested small-scale in Turkey, Lebanon, Armenia and Germany

