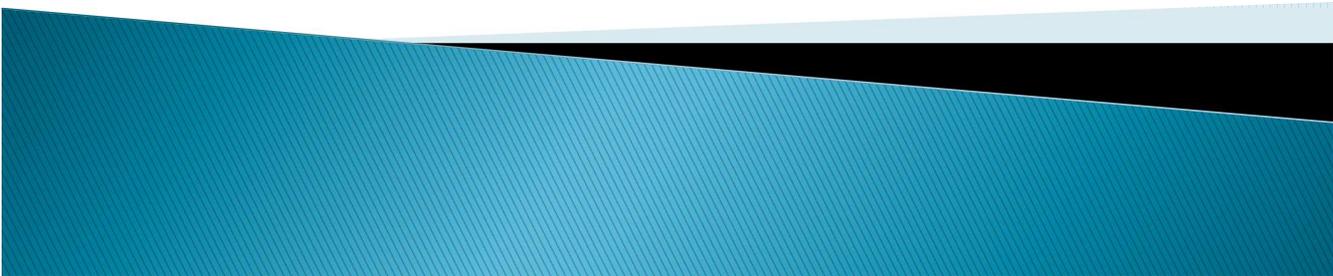


# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LISBON RECOGNITION CONVENTION

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## BACKGROUND

- ▶ First survey of the state of implementation of the LRC.
  - ▶ Adopted April 1997, entered into force February 1999 (fifth ratification)
  - ▶ 53 ratifications, 2 signatures pending ratification
  - ▶ The report shows the extent to which parties have translated the ratification into action: policy and practice
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# STRONG POINTS (MOSTLY) I

- ▶ All parties have functional ENIC
  - different sizes, strengths and competences, but no country is without an ENIC.
  - staff varies from 2 to 65
  - several ENICs derive a considerable part of their budget from projects rather than basic funding.
- ▶ A clear majority of countries (36) have national regulations covering access to assessment.
- ▶ 31 countries have regulations covering recognition criteria and procedures
- ▶ Regulations are clear on procedures but less clear on criteria – this is clearly an issue.
- ▶ Most ENICs organize national training courses and function as resources centers within their countries



# STRONG POINTS (MOSTLY) II

- ▶ 36 countries specify time limits for decisions on recognition
  - four months or less in all but one.
- ▶ In all countries, applicants have an effective right to appeal.
  - Information on this right less than good.
- ▶ The purpose of recognition is a factor in the decision making procedure.
- ▶ Most countries provide online information on their education system
  - but the quality varies
  - 20 per cent of countries provide information in their national language only.
- ▶ Most countries provide online lists of recognized HEIs
  - in 24 % of cases, this is provided in the national language only.



# WEAK POINTS

- ▶ Only 7 countries have a national definition of “substantial differences”
  - ▶ Practice nevertheless seems reasonably coherent.
  - ▶ Differences in duration, access requirements and requirements for a thesis are commonly cited substantial differences.
  - ▶ The importance of learning outcomes in the recognition process is highly diverse but generally unsatisfactory.
  - ▶ 10 countries indicate that if a similar program does not exist in their own system, they consider this a substantial difference.
  - ▶ Six countries consider rankings as recognition criterion
  - ▶ 70 per cent of respondents have taken few or no steps to implement Article VII on the recognition of refugees’ qualifications.
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# FOLLOW UP

- ▶ Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee
  - ▶ ENIC and NARIC Networks
  - ▶ Council of Europe and UNESCO
  - ▶ Nationally
  - ▶ EHEA: WGs on implementation and non-implementation?
  - ▶ Draft recommendation on ten recognition of qualifications held by refugees, displaced persons, and persons in a refugee-like situation
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