



REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
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# Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education on the Implementation of the European Higher Education Area

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## DECLARATION

17 - 18 October, 2013

Yerevan, Armenia

We, the Heads of Delegations<sup>1</sup> participating in the Regional Meeting of Ministers of Education on the implementation of the European Higher Education Area in Yerevan on 17-18 October 2013, organised in the framework of the Armenian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe,

- *noting* that our countries are implementing higher education reforms in line with the goals and principles of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA);
- *noting* that structural reforms - qualifications frameworks, quality assurance, the recognition of qualifications and transparency instruments - are important elements of the EHEA reform process, leading to more comparable and compatible higher education systems;
- *being aware of the fact* that higher education has multiple purposes and plays an important role in preparing active citizens for sustainable democratic societies;
- *acknowledging* that the development, self-certification and implementation of national qualifications frameworks is an important and challenging task in which the sharing of experience among countries is of vital importance;
- *noting* that student participation in higher education governance is an integral part of the EHEA reform process;
- *expressing our appreciation of* the support of the Directorate for Democratic Citizenship and Participation of the Council of Europe in exchanging experiences in the development of the national qualifications frameworks and Co-Chairing the Structural Reforms Working Group of the Bologna Process,

Adopt the following Declaration:

- We welcome the results of the meeting, organised within our Conference, of the regional network of correspondents for national qualifications frameworks, established by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Informal Regional Ministerial meeting (November 2012, Strasbourg), which enabled them to extend the sharing of experience and good practice in the development and implementation of national qualifications frameworks compatible with the overarching framework of qualifications of the European Higher Education Area as well as the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning;
- We note that our countries are well-advanced with the development and self-certification of their national qualifications frameworks and are now focusing on their implementation, while also recognising that some issues remain in developing and self-certifying the frameworks;
- We note that structural reforms should promote all major purposes of education<sup>2</sup> and in particular point to the need to strengthen the employability of our higher education graduates;
- We underline the importance of linking the implementation of the national qualifications framework to the fair recognition of qualifications and commit to full compliance with the Council of Europe/UNESCO on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region;

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<sup>1</sup> Armenia, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine

<sup>2</sup> Cf Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)6 by the Committee of Ministers to member states on the public responsibility for higher education and research.

- We are committed to promoting student-centred learning based on learning outcomes and recognise the importance of facilitating student participation in higher education governance;
- We will continue regular exchanges of information and good practice at Ministerial level on the progress of higher education structural reforms in our region and will work to strengthen transparency in providing information on our higher education systems, qualifications and policies among ourselves and to other countries of the EHEA;
- We call upon the Council of Europe as well as on the European Union and other international institutions to support and contribute to the promotion and implementation of bilateral and regional co-operation, including through the Organisation of Black Sea Economic Co-operation, in the field of higher education structural reform process.