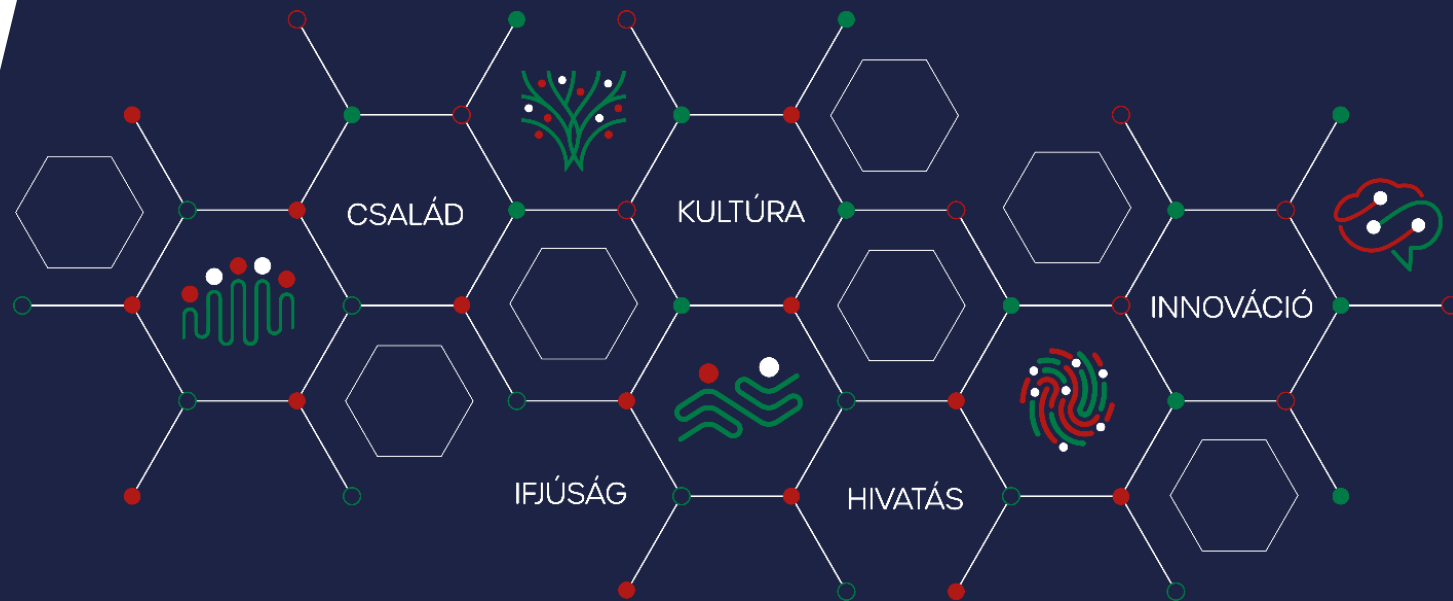


# Automatic Recognition of Doctoral Degrees

Gabor MESZAROS

29 January 2026

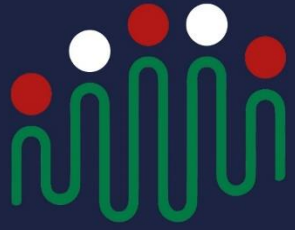


# A Brief Look Back / Automatic Recognition of Secondary School Leaving Certificates



- **2003: Automatic recognition of secondary school leaving certificates by law**
- **Applies to secondary school leaving certificates**
  - **issued in EEA countries and LRC states and**
  - **giving general access to higher education**
- **Positive experience over more than 20 years**

# A Brief Look Back / Automatic Recognition of Bachelor's and Master's Degrees



- **2022: Automatic recognition of bachelor's and master's degrees by law**
- **Purpose: further study**
- **Applies to qualifications which are**
  - **Bologna-type 1st and 2nd cycle degrees and**
  - **issued in an EHEA country after its accession**

# A Brief Look Back / Automatic Recognition of Bachelor's and Master's Degrees

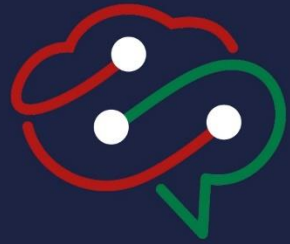


- **An opt-out possibility: higher education institutions may refuse recognition**
- **Only in strictly regulated cases**
  - **different quality assurance status within the country of origin and**
  - **difference most likely affecting the success of the further studies**

# Automatic Recognition of Doctoral Degrees



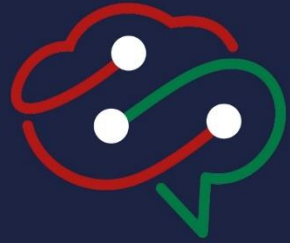
- **2025: Foreign doctoral degrees are automatically equivalent to Hungarian doctoral degrees by law**
- **Same legal standing as Hungarian PhD-holders, including the use of the Hungarian academic title**



# Automatic Recognition of Doctoral Degrees / Conditions

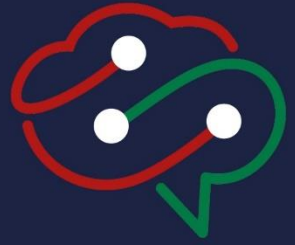
- **Minimum one-year doctoral programme (or research) based on a master's degree**
- **Awarded by a higher education institution authorized to issue PhDs**
- **The HEI is accredited by an EQAR-registered quality assurance agency**

# Automatic Recognition of Doctoral Degrees / Institutional level



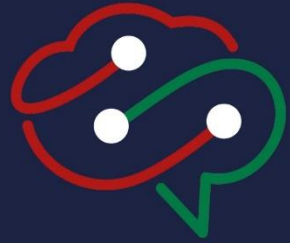
- Higher education (also research) institutions may broaden the scope of automatic recognition in their own regulations.
- Degrees from EEA and OECD countries may be declared equivalent by institutions.
- Rest of PhDs are assessed under the principles of LRC (“substantial difference”).

# Online Support for Automatic Higher Education Recognition



- **Nationwide Admissions Procedure: the ENIC/NARIC Hungary digitally supports higher education institutions**
  - **Notification occurs if a secondary school leaving certificate or a higher education degree is subject to automatic recognition**
- **Other Cases (e.g. older or third-country qualifications): ENIC/NARIC Hungary gives digital advice upon request**

# Thank you for your attention!



**Gabor MESZAROS**  
**Senior Legal Advisor**

**Ministry of Culture and Innovation, Hungary**  
**E-mail: [gabor.meszaros2@kim.gov.hu](mailto:gabor.meszaros2@kim.gov.hu)**