



# Digital Transformation at the Service of Recognition. A Holistic Approach

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Luca Ferranti  
Project Manager, Digital Transformation Unit of the Credential Evaluation Dept.  
CIMEA-NARIC Italia



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# The Evolution of the Species

The Unaware Forager



The Analog Archivist



The Nostalgic Typist



The Digital Pioneer



The Digital Savvy



The Collaborative Innovator



Up to 1970s

The Prehistoric Era  
The Ignorance of Recognition

International Student Mobility is still limited. The concept of recognition of qualifications is almost absent. No established agreements between countries regarding academic or professional credentials.

1980s- early 1990s

The Ancient Age  
Analog Bureaucracy

- Recognition of qualifications begins to emerge, but it is heavily reliant on paper-based processes and slow, **demanding bureaucratic procedures** such as **nostrification** and **legalization**. The process is time-consuming, inconsistent, and vulnerable to forgery.
- Bilateral agreements** between countries form the primary framework for recognition. Mobility is slow, and cross-border recognition is cumbersome.

Mid-late 1990s- Early 2000s

The Medieval Era  
Digital Introduction

- The introduction of personal computers marks a significant shift. PCs are used for limited administrative purposes, like basic communication or maintaining rudimentary databases. Despite this, **paper-based processes and traditional bureaucratic procedures** remain dominant.
- The **1997 Lisbon Recognition Convention** introduces groundbreaking principles for mutual recognition, paving the way for modern approaches. Recognition starts becoming more accessible but remains tied to analog methods.

Late 2000s-2010s

The Digital Renaissance  
Digital Transition

- Widespread adoption of technology** revolutionizes communication. Paper use is reduced, but it still dominates verification processes. **Emails** become the norm for communication between institutions and authorities, but recognition procedures often require **physical submissions** or reliance on **paper-based qualifications**. A full transition to digital methods is yet to be achieved.
- Further **regional recognition conventions** are adopted, building on the LRC.

Late 2010s-2020s

The Modern Era  
Digital Transformation

- Profound shift brought about by **digital transformation**. Institutions, countries, and stakeholders embrace **digitally verifiable documents, secure digital sharing, and comprehensive databases**, fostering greater global collaboration. The rise of technologies such as **blockchain, and automated systems**—especially during pivotal moments like the COVID-19 pandemic—has made recognition procedures faster, more secure, and globally accessible.
- The **2019 Global Recognition Convention** is adopted. Automatic Recognition is being implemented in the EHEA.

2025 onwards

The Future  
Human-AI Collaboration

The future of qualification recognition may lie in the **collaboration between humans and AI**. Automated systems assist credential evaluators, reducing human error, increasing efficiency, and contributing to fair and faster recognition. **AI-powered tools** can support in **detecting fraud** and **verify qualifications** seamlessly.

# CIMEA Digital Transformation Pathway



2019 DIPLOME 1.0  
First digital platform for  
blockchain-based statement  
service

2022 WIKI  
Internal information  
management system

2023 ARDI  
Automatic Recognition  
Database - Italia

2024 DIPLOME 2.0  
Renewed digital platform for  
blockchain-based statement  
service

2025 DTU  
Digital  
Transformation Unit  
2025 DIPLOMECHAIN  
New blockchain  
infrastructure owned  
by CIMEA

2018

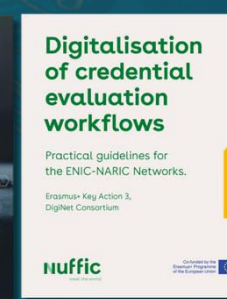
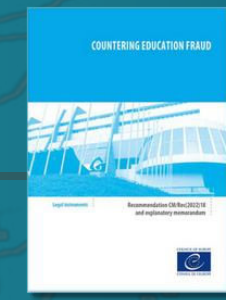
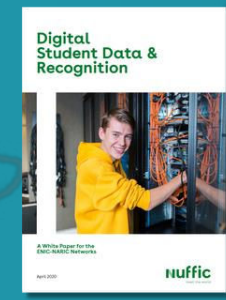
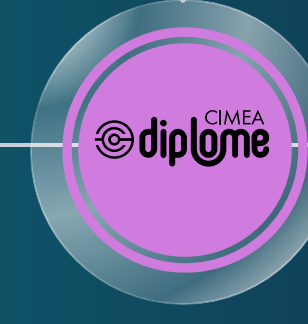
2020

2020

2022

2023

2024



Statements Requests

Information Management

Workflow Management

Initial restructuring of information architecture

Input and output phases completely digitalized  
Throughput phase partially digitalized

Consolidation of information architecture

Throughput phase further digitalized

Enhancement of data models and analysis capability

Enhancement of user-centricity and complete digitalization of the throughput

# Goals for CIMEA's Digital Transformation

Compliance with International Standards



User-centricity



One-Stop Shop



Data Privacy & Security



Inter-operability



Information architecture



Staff Management



Efficiency



Consistency

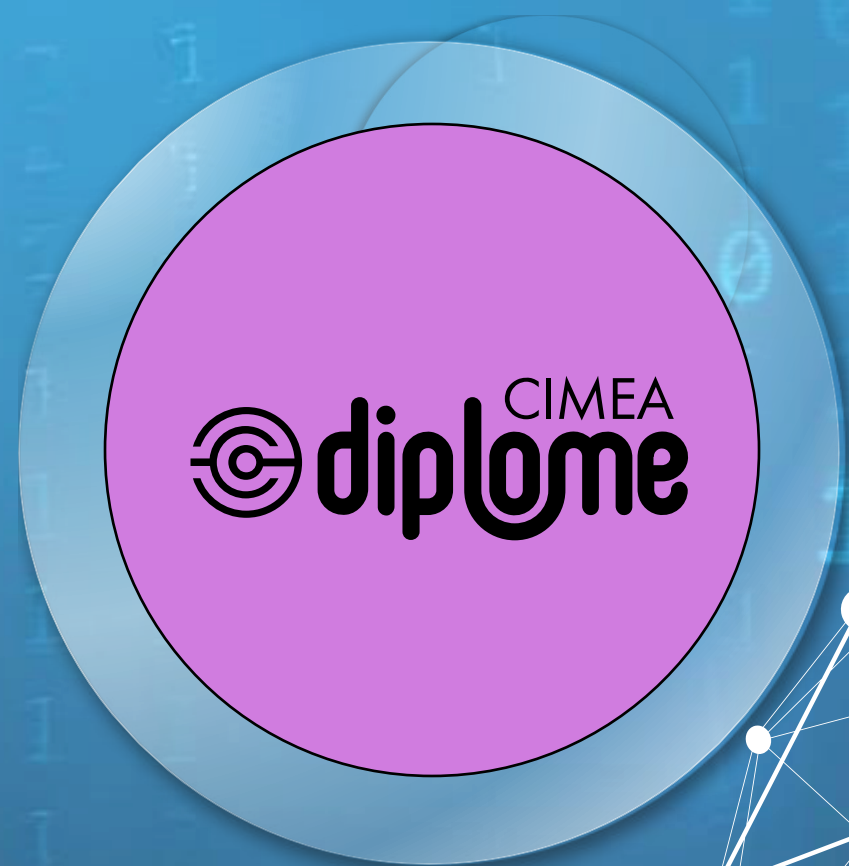


Delineating the objectives driving the digitalization of credential evaluation workflows is paramount. This entails defining specific goals that encompass both the center's overarching mission and the digital transformation agenda. By establishing these objectives, the center sets a clear direction for enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility within the evaluation process. These goals serve as the cornerstone for aligning technological initiatives with the center's strategic vision, ultimately ensuring the successful integration of digital solutions into its operations.

# CIMEA's Digital Ecosystem

## CRM for Statement Requests Management

- User-centricity (students, credential evaluators, HEIs)
- Data privacy & security
- Information saved automatically in structured DBs
- AI-ready



## Knowledge Management System

- Repository of more than 40 years of CIMEA's knowledge
- Structured information
- Supports CIMEA's mission as NIC



## Automatic Recognition Database

- Automatic Recognition
- Compliance with the 2018 Council Recommendation on Automatic Recognition
- Compliance with EHEA policies



## Blockchain infrastructure

- Countering fraud
- Building mutual trust
- Fostering cooperation



# Thank you for your attention!

[l.ferranti@cimea.it](mailto:l.ferranti@cimea.it)  
[info@cimea.it](mailto:info@cimea.it)



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