



QA and Recognition in Practice: Lithuanian Experience

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SKVC Mandate

Quality assurance agency

- Institutional reviews
- Evaluation of study fields (clusters) and new study programs
- Annual monitoring

National ENIC/NARIC office

- Recognition of qualifications concerning HE
- Advice and recommendations for HEIs
- Tools, resources, and training for HEIs
- Monitoring of recognition practices

Academic Recognition in Lithuania

- Recognition of Foreign Qualification
 - HEIs for admission purposes (with an exception of a few HEIs that rely on SKVC decisions)
 - SKVC
 - Automatic Recognition (does not mean admission, but general eligibility):
 - Baltic agreement regarding automatic recognition (in force since 2019)
 - Baltic Benelux agreement (pending ratification)
- Recognition of Periods of Study
 - HEIs
- Recognition of Non-Formal and Informal Learning
 - HEIs (possible only for the purposes of credit transfer)

Tools for Academic Recognition

- Aid and consultations for HEIs setting up recognition processes (in the context of transitioning from centralized recognition of qualifications (since 2012))
- General and individual recommendations regarding comparability
- Restricted area for HEIs with country profiles and sample credentials
- Training sessions for HEIs
- Annual recognition reports prepared by ENIC/NARIC based on data and information provided by HEIs

Recognition and External QA

Institutional Review

Every 7 years

4 evaluation areas, 10 indicators, 34 criteria

One of criteria related to internal quality assurance (*Consistent recognition of foreign qualifications, partial studies and prior non-formal and informal learning is performed*)

Institutional profile based on annual recognition reports is submitted to the review panel by the ENIC/NARIC

Study Field Evaluation

Every 7 years

7 evaluation areas, 30 indicators

One of indicators under student admission and support (*application of recognition practice of full qualifications, periods of studies, etc...*)

Self-assessment reports usually include information on the principles and criteria, tools for consistency, and statistical data

Monitoring of Indicators

Continuous annual monitoring of specific indicators

No indicators related to recognition

Outcomes

- Complements our activities as the ENIC/NARIC office
- All external QA processes take into consideration recognition



- Reports focus on evidence (stating the situation), but sometimes lack analysis
- Institutional review – almost no recommendations related to recognition



- Signal when systemic issues arise:
 - Recognition processes are part of internal QA and are well documented
 - Issues with credit recognition (in some study fields)
 - Low numbers in recognition of non-formal and informal learning

Impact and Future Considerations

- External QA processes allow:
 - HEIs to reflect on recognition on institutional and programme level and encourage to include it in their QA
 - identify substantial/systemic issues related to recognition
 - bring recognition issues to attention
- Works well by complementing the activities of the ENIC/NARIC office (consultations, training, annual reports, etc.)
 - Both feed into each other
- Greater impact would require a theme based approach:
 - thematic analysis
 - as part of code for internationalization



Thank you!

