



FINNISH NATIONAL  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

# LISBON RECOGNITION CONVENTION (LRC)

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## Lisbon Recognition Convention 1997

- The only legal text in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)
- Subsidiary texts
- Applies also outside of the EHEA , since some signatories are non-European
- Concerns access qualifications, periods of study and final qualifications
- Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee
- ENIC/NARIC Networks
- ENIC/NARIC Centres
- [www.enic-naric.net](http://www.enic-naric.net)



## Main principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention

- Applicants entitled to fair assessment of their qualifications within reasonable time limit
- Transparent, coherent and reliable procedures and criteria used in the assessment
- Recognize unless substantial differences (partial recognition)
- Possibility to appeal
- Burden of proof upon the host country/body making recognition decisions



## Substantial Differences

- Recognize unless substantial differences (partial recognition)
- Basic assumption: the existence of a substantial difference is an exception rather than a rule
- Is the difference substantial in relation to function and purpose of the qualification and recognition?
- A difference in formal terms only is not sufficient
- More emphasis on learning outcomes: what a person knows and is able to do (no detailed comparison of curricula!)



## Subsidiary texts

- Recommendation on International Access Qualifications 1999
- Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications (2001, update in 2010)
- Code of Good Practice in the Provision of Transnational Education (2001, update 2007)
- Recognition of Joint Degrees 2004
- Recognition and Qualifications Frameworks 2013?



## European Higher Education Area and the LRC

- The status of the LRC does not change with the EHEA but some developments within the EHEA are important for the implementation:
  - Relationship quality assurance/recognition on international, national and institutional level
  - Increasing amount of qualifications not linked to a national system (information concerning status of the institution is important for recognition)
  - Global dimension of the EHEA



## Implementation of the principles of the LRC

- The legal texts are mainly in place, but implementation remains a challenge
- Recommendations made to higher education institutions:
  - Make the recognition of qualifications part of the internal quality assurance of the institution
  - Draw up institutional guidelines for recognition ensuring the implementation of the LRC
  - Ensure implementation of the LRC at the level of faculties and departments
  - Cooperate with other HEIs and the national ENIC/NARIC with a view to ensure coherent recognition across the country



## Project: European Area for Recognition (EAR)

Overall objective is to produce a recognition manual:

- > Aimed primarily at recognition information centres
  - > Contains standards and guidelines on all aspects of recognition
  - > Provides a bridge from theory to practice
  - > Reach general agreement on how to move from the current situation towards the situation described in the manual
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- Will be accessible online ([www.eurorecognition.eu](http://www.eurorecognition.eu))