



# *Workshop on the International Recognition of Degrees and Diplomas in Croatia*

*Zagreb, September 20-22, 2005*

**Europe in Transition:**

**Trends in Academic and Professional  
Recognition in Europe**

7.

## *Topics*

- **Trends in Methodology**
- **Professional Recognition**
  - EU Directives
- **Academic Recognition**
  - Lisbon Recognition Convention
- **Bologna Process**



# *Trends in Methodology*

## **1950-1975: Equivalence**

- **Low mobility of students**
- **Study programmes only moderately differentiated**
- **Course-by-course comparison**
- **Programmes should be identical**



# *Trends in Methodology*

## **1975-now: Recognition**

- Increasing mobility of students
- Expansion of higher education
- Programmes should be comparable
- Sectoral Directives EU

# *Professional Recognition*

## Sectoral directives

- Harmonisation of study programmes
- Automatic recognition of diplomas
- Problem: harmonisation is very time-consuming



# *Professional Recognition*

## Sectoral directives

- 1975 Doctors (93/16/EEC)
- 1977 Nurses (77/452/EEC + 77/453/EEC)
- 1978 Dentists (78/686/EEC + 78/687/EEC)
- 1978 Veterinary Surgeons (78/1026/EEC + 78/1027/EEC)
- 1980 Midwives (80/154/EEC + 80/155/EEC)
- 1985 Pharmacists (85/432/EEC + 85/433/EEC)
- 1985 Architects (85/384/EEC)

## ***Trends in Methodology***

### **Ideal: Acceptance**

- **Globalization and internationalization**
- **Mutual trust in qualifications**
- **Availability of information, transparency**
- **Respecting the differences**
- **General Directives EU and Lisbon Convention**



# *Professional Recognition*

## General Directives

Basic principles:

- **Case-by-case evaluation**
- **Mutual trust in educational systems**
- **Reversed burden of proof**
- **Finished product meets the minimum requirements**

# *Professional Recognition*

## Three General Directives

- **89/48/EC: at least 3 years of higher education**
- **92/51/EC: less than 3 years of higher education**
- **99/42/EC: regulated activities**



# *Professional Recognition*

## **General Directives**

**Key elements:**

- Regulated profession**
- Qualified for the profession**
- Transparent procedures**
- Right to a decision within four months**
- Right of appeal**
- Substantial differences**

# *Professional Recognition*

## **General Directives**

**Compensation mechanisms:**

- **Relevant professional experience**
- **Adaptation period or aptitude test**



# *Professional Recognition*

## **General Directives**

**Actors involved in the implementation:**

- **Ministries of Education**
- **Competent Authorities**
- **National Information Centres**
- **National Coordinator**

# *Professional Recognition*

## **Dutch Information Centre General Directive 89/48/EEC (IRAS)**

### **Main tasks:**

- **Provide information on the Directive to:**
  - **Holders of EU diplomas**
  - **Competent authorities**
  - **Information Centres in other member states**
- **Refer to the right organization**
- **Assist the national coordinator**



# *Academic Recognition*

## **Council of Europe / UNESCO**

**Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications  
concerning Higher Education in the European  
Region**

**(Lisbon Recognition Convention, 1997)**



# *Academic Recognition*

## **Lisbon Recognition Convention**

Basic principles:

- **Mutual trust in educational systems**
- **Case-by-case evaluation**
- **Reversed burden of proof**
- **Respecting the differences**

# *Academic Recognition*

## **Lisbon Recognition Convention**

### **Key elements:**

- **Right to an assessment**
- **Transparent procedures**
- **Clear information on evaluation criteria**
- **Decision within reasonable time limit**
- **In line with earlier assessments**
- **Substantial differences**
- **Right of appeal**

# *Academic Recognition*

## **Networks of information centres**

- **Council of Europe/UNESCO: ENIC**  
**(European National Information Centres on Recognition and Mobility)**
- **European Union: NARIC**  
**(National Academic Recognition Information Centres)**



# *Bologna Process*

## THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

Joint declaration of the European Ministers of Education  
Convened in Bologna on the 19th of June 1999



# *Bologna Process*

## **Bologna Declaration (1999)**

29 countries, six objectives to be reached by 2010:

- Easily readable and comparable degrees
- Two cycle system (Bachelor-Master structure)
- European Credit Transfer System
- Promotion of mobility of students and staff
- Cooperation in quality assurance
- European dimensions in higher education



# *Bologna Process*

## **Prague Communiqué (2001)**

**Extension from 29 to 32 countries, extra points:**

- Lifelong learning**
- Involvement of higher education institutions and students**
- Attractiveness of the European higher education area**



# *Bologna Process*

## **Berlin Communiqué (2003)**

Extension from 32 to 40 countries, emphasis on:

- **Quality Assurance**
- **Implementation of two-cycle system by 2005**
- **Recognition of degrees (Lisbon Convention + Diploma Supplement)**



# *Bologna Process*

## **Bergen Communiqué (2005)**

- **Extension from 40 to 45 countries**
- **Stocktaking: progress at halfway mark with regard to the degree system, quality assurance, recognition of degrees**
- **Social dimension**
- **Mobility**
- **Attractiveness of the EHEA and cooperation with other parts of the world**