

# CARDS 2002

**Higher Education Mobility:**

***Diploma Recognition Policy and  
Legislation***

**Recognition issues**

Zagreb Seminars – Studio Based: 5-7 October 2005

Zagreb – UniZ – Faculty of Fine Arts



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# Prague communique:

... **facilitating**

**academic and professional recognition,  
so that citizens can effectively use their  
qualifications throughout the EHEA**



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# Some features of the desired EHEA:

- degrees/diplomas earned in one part of the area  
are accordingly recognised in other parts
- graduates are employable in the European labour market
  - obstacles for free mobility of students and teachers are removed
  - European higher education is attractive in the World market



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# Recognition

*Role of recognition has changed from just a procedure of acknowledgement of diplomas to an essential component necessary to ensure reaching the goals of the Bologna process*



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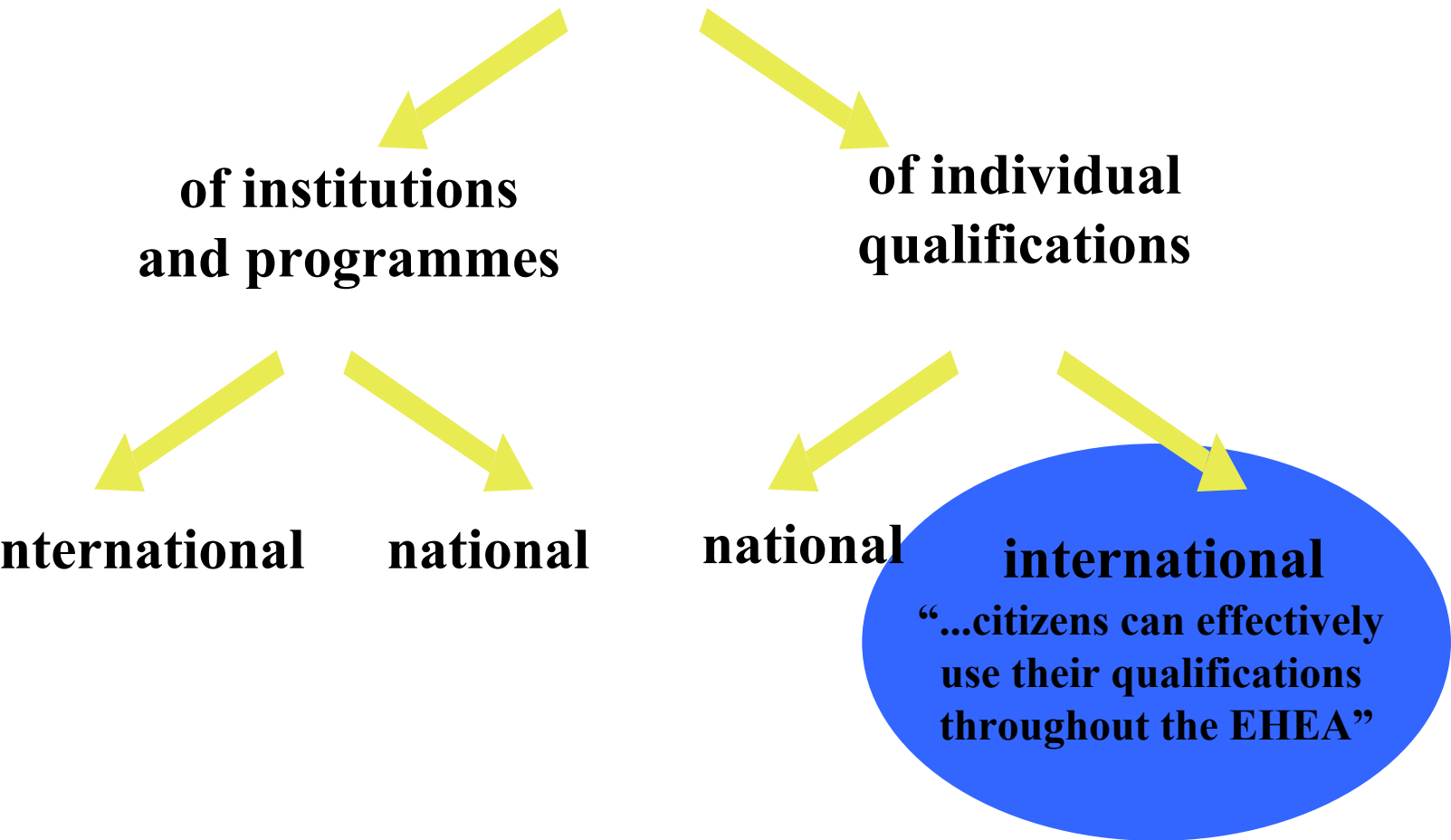


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# Recognition



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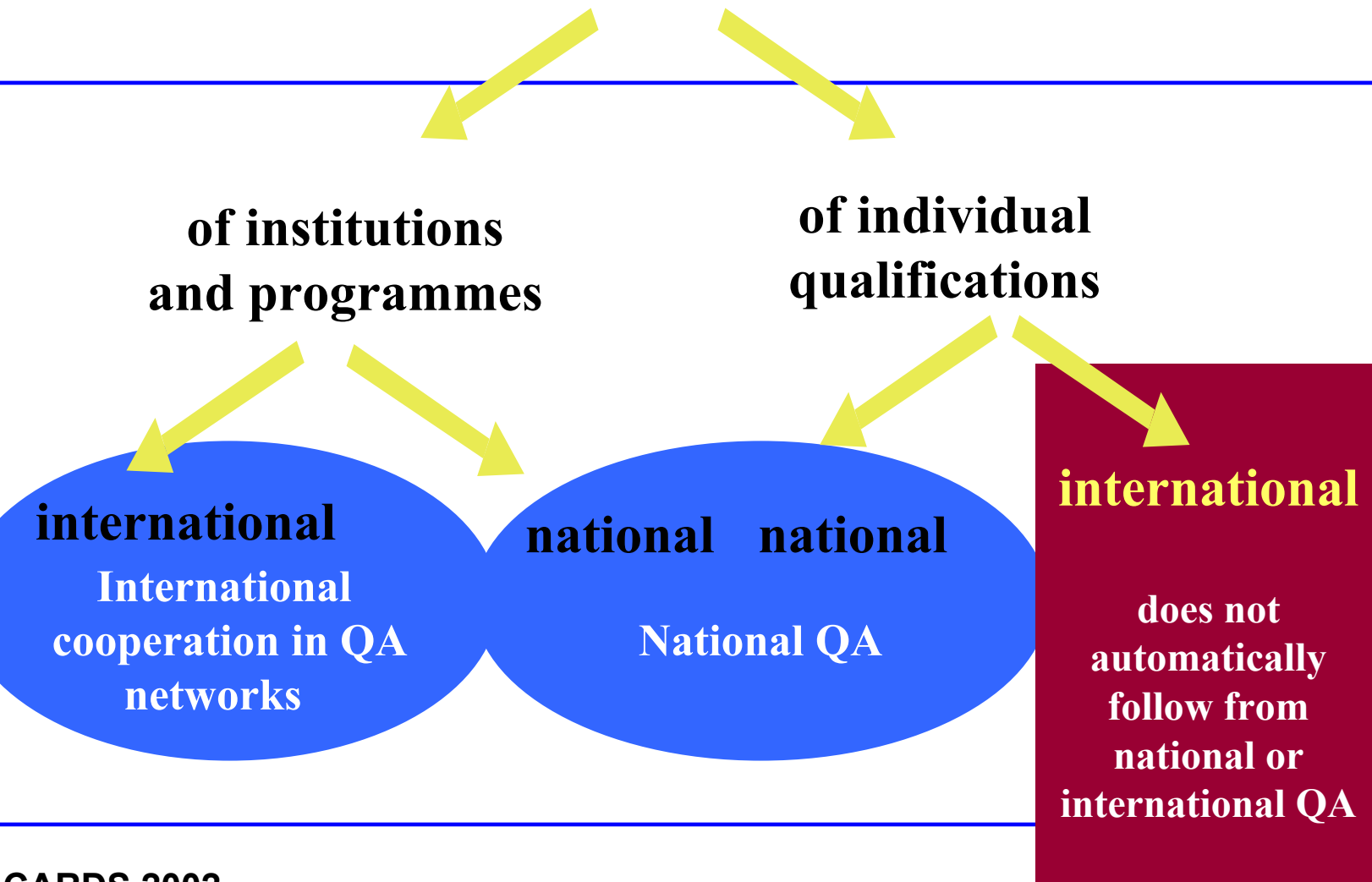


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# Recognition and QA



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# A working definition

## ***Recognition is***

evaluation of a foreign qualification  
with a view to find it's right pathway  
in the host country's

- education system or
- employment system



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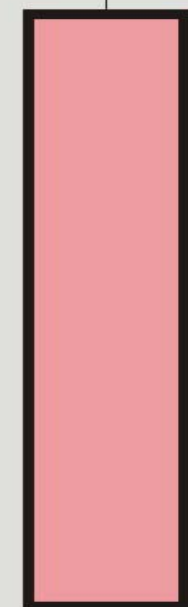
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# Typology of education

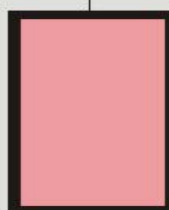
Admission to doctoral studies



One-tier  
unitary



One-tier binary



Two-tier  
unitary



Two-tier binary

Secondary education qualification



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# N.B.

even within a given education system  
Qualifications may vary in their

- orientation,
- profile and
- workload



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# What is it about?

- **Academic recognition:** is the holder of a degree qualified to **continue studies** in/for the next stage as he/she requests?
- **Professional recognition:** is the holder of a degree/qualification qualified to **pursue the professional activities** as he/she wishes?



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# Lisbon Convention

## Preconditions

- the qualification must belong to a national system and
- it has to be *recognised* in that system

## Recognition

- ***equal level*** qualifications are recognised if there are ***no substantial differences***



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# Directive 89/48/EEC Article 4 b)

A foreign professional has to complete aptitude test or adaptation period is applied:

“where the... education and training received ... **differ substantially** from those covered by the diploma required in the host Member State”



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# What if differences are substantial?

***alternative or partial* recognition should be considered, e.g.**

- recognition of the foreign qualification as comparable to another qualification, but not to that indicated by the applicant;
- recognition partial of the foreign qualification as part of the national qualification in question



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# Where are substantial differences?

- learning outcomes and competencies,
- access to further activities
- key elements of the programme,
- quality of the programme



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# Central focus of recognition

- Understand the learning outcomes,
- Compare them to the ones of the national qualifications (NQF)

BUT

- credentials' evaluators could only try to estimate learning outcomes knowing the duration and contents of programmes



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# Therefore

- Describe levels (level descriptors:Helsinki, Dublin descriptors)
- Define learning outcomes (benchmark statements, TUNING program)

Directly support RECOGNITION



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# The relationships

## National Qualifications' Frameworks

- describe qualification level and
- learning outcomes

## Quality assurance mechanisms (not accreditation!)

- confirm that the desired learning outcomes are really achieved

## EA Qualifications' framework (future)

- accommodates the national frameworks,
- is used to translate information between national QFs



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