



Automatic mutual recognition: higher education and upper secondary qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad

Proposal for a Council Recommendation
15 November 2018

by **2025**

**the European
Education Area**

Where...

**learning
& research are
unhampered by
borders**

**mobility is
standard
practice**

**with a strong
sense of
European identity**



Because after 30 Years of Erasmus...

63%

believe that
recognition of foreign
higher education
qualifications is still a
problem

59%

believe the same of
upper secondary
qualifications

European Council Conclusions, 14/12/17



the European Council calls on Member States, the Council and the Commission...

to take work forward with a view to ...promoting cooperation on...
mutual recognition of higher education and school leaving diplomas at secondary education level."

We're not starting from scratch.

**Treaty on the
Functioning
of the
European
Union**

**1997 Lisbon
Convention on
the Recognition
of
Qualifications**

**Bologna
Process;
Paris
Communiqué
2018**

Recognition and the Bologna Process

“In order to further develop mobility and recognition across the EHEA, we will work to ensure that **comparable higher education qualifications obtained in one EHEA country are automatically recognised** on the same basis in the others.”



- Paris Communiqué
May 2018



Existing Good Practices

Higher Education

- **Benelux Union decision on automatic recognition**
- **Reykjavik Declaration**
- **Nordic/Baltic Admission Manual**
- **Baltic States Agreement on automatic recognition**

Upper Secondary

- **Qualifications giving access to higher education**
 - **Nordics**
 - **Bilateral agreement between Italy and France**
- **Outcomes of learning periods abroad:**
 - **Austria**
 - **Italy**

Proposal for a Council Recommendation on recognition:

In a nutshell:

A qualification in one Member State is automatically recognised in the others to grant access to further learning.



The outcomes from a learning period abroad are automatically and fully recognised.



Education and training institutions remain free to make independent decisions on admission to their programmes.



What does this mean for Higher Education?

Member States

Improved **transparency and trust**:

- Qualifications frameworks
- Bologna Process structures
- Quality assurance
- Transparency tools
- Support for NARICs

Commission

- Targeted support
- Digital tools
- Expansion of NARICs' role



What does this mean for Secondary Education?

Member States

Improved transparency and trust:

- exchange of information
- develop quality assurance systems,
- transparent tools for learning periods abroad

Commission

- New cooperation process for general education
- Online service on upper secondary qualifications in the EU



Thank You