The current state of recognition and it’s implications for Quality Assurance

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Current challenges in recognition

• Follow-up on the monitoring of the Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)

• Applying LRC principles and procedures in national legislation

• Implementing automatic recognition of EHEA qualifications by 2020

• Establishing procedures of implementing 1.4 of ESG’s
The monitoring of LRC implementation

- LRC monitoring in 2015 – 50 countries responded
- Legal implementation
- Monitoring the principles and procedures outlined in the convention – not the detailed descriptions of principles and procedures in subsidiary texts and the EAR manuals
Main provisions of the LRC for monitoring

• Access to an assessment
• Criteria and procedure
• Time limit
• Right to appeal
• Refugees’ qualifications
• Information on education system
Main provisions of the LRC for monitoring

• Information on recognised higher education institutions

• National information centre (national ENIC)

• In addition: Interpretation of substantial differences
Main findings

• Reasonably good overall implementation of LRC – especially in terms of access to recognition, recognition within a fair time limit and appeals procedures

• Weaknesses: No procedures for refugees’ undocumented qualifications + information provision on recognition procedures – little awareness of institutional recognition practices
Implementing automatic recognition of EHEA qualifications by 2020

• Automatic recognition means right to access not to admission

• Implementing faster and more efficient recognition procedures

• Developments: regional co-operation like www.nordbalt.org, Benelux co-operation + unilateral legal implementation of AR in Flanders and Portugal
The FAIR project: AR in HEI’s

• HEI’s from 6 countries applying experimental recognition procedures

• Emphasising the need for structured procedures – procedures monitored by central office – admission decisions taken by faculties/institutes

• Displaying too little knowledge of LRC

• A need for internal and external QA
The role of QAA’s

• ESG 1.4.: institutional practice for recognition being in line with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention;

• Cooperation with other institutions, quality assurance agencies and the national ENIC/NARIC centre with a view to ensuring coherent recognition across the country.
The role of QAA’s

• Evaluate if HEI’s have implemented principles and procedures of the LRC

• Special emphasis on recognition of refugees’ undocumented qualifications, information provision for recognition procedures both for admission and credit transfer decisions, appeals procedures and time limits for recognition
The role of QAA’s

- The structure of recognition procedures at HEI’s – are procedures and principles applied consistently throughout the institution?
- Is recognition subject to internal QA?
- HEI’ co-operation with ENIC-NARICs
The role of QAA’s

• Substantial differences? No LRC definition of substantial differences

• The principle of reversed burden of proof should be applied

• QAA’s should evaluate the implementation of principles and procedures and not be supreme court of recognition decisions