

# **Recognition of qualifications in SEE**

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Centar za obrazovne politike  
Centre for Education Policy



United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair  
in Development of Education:  
Research and Institutional Building

# ERI SEE

- The Education Reform Initiative of South Eastern Europe (ERI SEE) is a regional platform for cooperation in the field of education and training.
- Member countries: Albania, BiH, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia. Observer country: Romania.
- Memorandum of understanding, Brdo, 2010: ERI SEE Secretariat will be established as the international organisation – process is ongoing and requires diplomatic procedures.
- Interim Secretariat: Centre for Education Policy (CEP).



# Recognition

Recognition can be understood formal acknowledgement by a competent authority of the value of foreign qualification with a purpose to access (1) the education system and/or (2) employment activities.



# Approaches to recognition of qualifications

**Horizontal approach:** applies to all qualifications (although it can state exceptions e.g. regulated professions). Based on principles to recognition.

Stakeholders: Ministries of Education and University representatives, Student Unions, Teacher Unions.

**Vertical approach:** aims at recognition in particular profession.

Stakeholders: Ministries of Education, Professional bodies who set the standards for the profession, Student unions.

# Lisbon Recognition Convention

## Lisbon Recognition Convention (signed and ratified by all SEE countries):

- Access to higher education (including doctorate level)
- Use of the academic title
- “May have consequence for labour market”

## Introduced:

- Principle of substantial difference: recognition will be denied if substantial difference is proven.
- The burden of proof is transferred to the authority.
- Diploma Supplement.
- Established ENIC/NARIC Offices.





# Bologna process

## Bologna process:

- Quality Assurance.
- Diploma supplement (format, native and foreign language, automatically and free of charge).
- ECTS (ECTS linked with learning outcomes).
- National Qualifications Frameworks (ERI SEE Cluster of Knowledge lead by Croatia).

**Working group on automatic recognition in SEE co-chaired by Slovenia and Croatia, supported by ERI SEE.**






# To summarise:

## Lessons from horizontal approaches are important:

1. Involvement of stakeholders and time are essential.
2. Importance of clear procedures with clear timelines and responsibilities.
3. Principle of substantial difference. Burden of proof with the authority.
4. Use of Bologna tools in defining (and assessing) compatibility: Diploma supplements, ECTS, learning outcomes, national qualification frameworks. (And Quality Assurance!)
5. Use of existing expertise: ENIC/NARIC offices, Ministries of Education.





# Thank you for your attention!

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