

ASIA-EUROPE MEETING (ASEM)

Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM1)

“Asia and Europe: Reboosting Interregional Cooperation on Education”

Location: Radisson Blu Resort, Malta, St Julian's STJ 3391, Malta

Dates: 22nd- 23rd May 2023

WORKSHOP A

Why Recognition Matters?

Moderator: Ms. Marina Malgina, Co-chair of the Expert Group on Recognition and Balanced Mobility

Rapporteur: Mr. Giannandrea Guglielmi, Senior Credential Evaluator, CIMEA-NARIC Italia

Participants: ASEM DUO Secretariat, Belgium – Flemish Community – Brunei Darussalam, CEDEFOP, EQAR, Estonia, ETF, France, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Lithuania, Malaysia, Romania, SEAMEO RIHED, Thailand, UNESCO, UNESCO Bangkok.

Objectives:

- Initiate the discussion about the state-of-play for the issues related to the field of recognition in the respective countries, while keeping in mind the importance of developing common vocabulary.
- Develop common understanding and identify common areas for discussion in the field of recognition for the years to come.
- Discuss the role of the governments in establishing and implementing efficient, transparent and fair recognition procedures in their respective countries.
- Identify mechanisms for trust building and mutual understanding across ASEM countries, within the field of recognition of qualifications.

Part 1: What is recognition and how do the participants contribute into this field in their respective roles?

The participants were asked to introduce themselves and to reflect on their roles in the field of recognition within their respective national contexts and organizations they represent. Further on, the participants were given an opportunity to share their experiences with the implementation of the principles of the regional recognition conventions (Lisbon Recognition Convention and Tokyo Convention) at their respective national levels and give updates on recent initiatives and projects

related to the implementation of the national and international tools, like for example NQFs. The group expressed their support and enthusiasm for further steps towards ratification and implementation of the Global Convention, as an instrument supporting national and regional initiatives and as a global legal treaty providing a common direction for recognition.

Part 2: Nostrification, equivalence, automatic recognition... What is the state of play?

The participants were invited to share examples of recognition services in their countries (current and desired) and to place their country according to where they see it between nostrification and automatic recognition.

Greece recently signed an agreement on automatic recognition with Cyprus, it is not fully applied at European level, however it is strongly desired. The intention is to incorporate all processes from quality assurance to recognition.

Italy: the AdReN regional recognition network could be mentioned as an example of good practice in the region among others, and it would be desired to have automated recognition.

Lithuania: current recognitions – comparability statements, desired: automatic recognition within countries which share principles of conventions and a full implemented global convention.

Belgium: procedural recognition, still limited regional automatic recognition, desired: full automatic recognition, time efficient, more contacts within quality assurance agencies and recognition centers, developing good practices and inspire.

Thailand: desired regional automatic recognition.

India: desired automatic recognition to support mobility, developing the system.

Malaysia: recognition of qualifications recognized in the country, issued for professional programs which are not recognized in all countries of origin, recognition of prior learning, desired: professional recognition, sharing database, in some countries online learning is not recognized.

Part 3 Well-functioning, fair and transparent recognition. Roles of policy makers and competent recognition authorities

What is the role of the competent recognition authorities/credential evaluators in your country/region? How do you ensure effective policy implementation? What do you expect from the competent recognition authorities/credential evaluators in the countries where the qualifications obtained in your country will be evaluated?

Why and whom recognition matters?

How can your organization contribute to the well-functioning, fair and transparent recognition solutions?

Part 4 Supporting mobility and interregional cooperation: Role of ASEM Education

Finally, the participants discussed the role of ASEM Education in achieving smoother, fair and more transparent recognition solutions. Participants see the role of ASEM Education as a **facilitator** for mutual understanding and a **coordinator** of certain initiatives, supporting a **common approach to recognition**, encouraging **exchange and knowledge sharing**, while keeping in mind **possible synergies of the existing tools**. **Trust and transparency** were identified as important preconditions for the success of the activities.

