



MERIC-Net - Mediterranean Network of National Information Centres on the Recognition of Qualifications

The aim of MERIC-Net project is to favour, to increase the recognition of qualifications within the Mediterranean Region, and to increase the quality of vertical and horizontal mobility in the higher education systems of the countries involved. Partners intend to improve competencies and skills of credential evaluators defining common practices and realizing common tools among European and South Mediterranean countries national bodies and HE institutions, starting from the experience of European HE institutions in relation with the Bologna Process and practices adopted by ENIC/NARIC centres. Another fundamental aim is to revitalize the MERIC network, in order to promote a better mutual understanding via the sharing of information and practices in the beneficiary countries, but also with the European ones. Recognition procedures and practices are not only related to technical aspects, but are influenced by the structure of each HE system and their cultural approach. The theme of recognition takes into consideration all the aspects of a HE system (i.e. QA; accreditation/recognition of institutions and programmes; access to courses; etc.): in order to evaluate a foreign qualification it is important to know different elements and to consider the purpose of this evaluation procedure (i.e. academic or professional recognition). The activities of the project are placed at both national (official bodies) and institutional level (HE institutions).

South Mediterranean countries do not have any structured network of national recognition centres and very few examples of national recognition centres. In this context, EU countries face difficulties in obtaining focused and relevant information on the educational systems of the southern shore of the Mediterranean. In order to have a more fluid circulation of information on these education systems, making the evaluation of credentials coming from those systems easier, the objective of the project is to create operational national recognition centres and to provide training activities on recognition practices for people working within national bodies and within HE institutions. The drafting of National Reports of each country involved in the project, in order to present their HE systems for recognition purposes, is also an important objective. All the fundamental documents to establish an operational network will be drafted. This should act as a stimulus and a contribution to the revision of the “International Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in the Arab and European States bordering on the Mediterranean”. In fact, The Mediterranean countries signed the convention in 1976; thanks to this project, the Convention should be revised following the experience of the Lisbon Recognition Convention (the most recent and innovative one). Finally, each result of the project will be disseminated through two concluding seminars organised in the two regions involved in the project, as an impulse for the official bodies and the HE institutions of both regions.