

## **White Paper – TAICEP pre-conference meeting**

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### Text of white paper proposal:

In developing electronic transfer of student data related to international credential evaluation, it would be very helpful to offer guidance from recognition experts on the type of data to include in the formats to be used in such procedures. In particular, recommendations could be made in line with the principles of the Lisbon Recognition Convention, as this is the legal (and very practical) basis for recognition in the European Region and a source of inspiration for other regional conventions as well as for the future Global Recognition Convention.

Based on our involvement with the European Area of Recognition manuals, we could use the combined experience of the ENIC-NARIC networks in smooth, efficient and fair recognition to provide suggestions on relevant information for recognition purposes and on avoiding unnecessary or complicating information.

### Two sets of guidelines to be developed: format of electronic data and addition of credential evaluation report to the application

#### **1 – transparent information to be included in student data by the sending institution**

The electronic student data available to higher education institutions may be quite different in format and content. As a minimum, it is expected that a list of subjects taken by the student will form the main part of the electronic data exchange. In addition, a few standardized pieces of information might be very helpful in evaluating the qualification. As a starting point, the format of the Diploma Supplement might be used to identify useful entries:

- 1 INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE HOLDER OF THE QUALIFICATION
- 2 INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THE QUALIFICATION
- 3 INFORMATION ON THE LEVEL OF THE QUALIFICATION
- 4 INFORMATION ON THE CONTENTS AND RESULTS GAINED
- 5 INFORMATION ON THE FUNCTION OF THE QUALIFICATION

In the current format of the Diploma Supplement, each of these entries has a few sub-entries. However, the format is currently under revision and might be simplified.

National recognition centres which are applying the good practice according to the various UNESCO Recognition Conventions are increasingly concentrating on the five main elements of a qualification in their recognition procedures (level, quality, workload, profile and learning outcomes). This helps to make the recognition procedure efficient, consistent and fair. In practice, the following information would be needed for that purpose:

- Level  
Clear information on the level of the national education system where the qualification is situated (preferably a reference to the national qualifications framework level, if available);
- Quality

Information on the accreditation status of the programme and/or institution (whatever is relevant to the national system of education) and possibly a link to the database with accreditation results;

- Workload  
Information on the amount of credits per programme and module (possibly with a link to the credit system);
- Profile of the programme  
In some cases it is helpful to categorize a programme into one or more main types of programme, such as: professional or research-oriented programme, broad or specialized programme, mono- or multidisciplinary programme.
- Learning outcomes  
The learning outcomes of the programme are considered to be the most direct type of information on the knowledge, understanding and competences of the student. If available, they might preferably be provided at programme level.

*Issues to be considered:*

What type of information should *not* be included, or do we allow any type of information to be provided in optional fields?

How to avoid that non-accredited institutions (or institutions with non-accredited programmes) get access to the electronic data exchange tools?

How to deal with countries where students have the right to select their own data to be transferred?

How to deal with applicants who have not yet completed their programme?

## **2 – credential evaluation report to be added to electronic student data**

In the application procedure, there might be an option included for an evaluation report to be added. Various options are:

- The student opts (and pays) for a link to a credential evaluation report to be added to the application file after collecting electronic data from the sending institution;
- The receiving HEI opts (and pays) for a link to a credential evaluation report to be added to the application file after receiving the electronic student data;
- A link is provided to the receiving institution, from which the databases / country profiles of the credential evaluation service can be searched (possibly paid for on a membership basis).

*Issues to be considered:*

The ownership of the credential evaluation and the visibility of the credential evaluation organisation may be safeguarded by only providing links to evaluation reports (instead of adding the reports to the application file).

If the HEI pays for the credential evaluation report, how do we deal with multiple applications to various HEI's by one student?